

Learning How to Wait on the Lord
6-15-14 PM

Psalm 27:14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

In Navajo culture, it is customary to wait before answering a question. In our culture, such a wait would be what we call an "awkward silence". We hate such pauses, and seek to fill them in with chatter or meaningless words. Perhaps this speaks to why it can be hard to wait on the Lord.

As we saw in a previous lesson, there are some great "Waits" in the Bible: Noah waited in the ark; Abraham waited for Isaac; Moses waited to lead Israel; Jacob waited for Rachel; Israel waited in the wilderness; Saul (was commanded to) waited for Samuel. Some of these examples though are not of successful waits, but failed ones.

We have some great waits too: We wait today for Jesus' return; we wait for the recovery we need – Jas. 5:14; we wait for spiritual recovery in others – I Jno 5:16; we wait for the right person in our life – Gen. 2:18; we wait for the job we need – II Thes. 3:12; we wait for spiritual growth – II Pet. 1:5-11. Such requires us to learn HOW to wait.

In Matthew 25:1-13 Jesus gave an important teaching in parable on waiting for Him. In this case, it was in regards to waiting for His return. He taught that we need to be prepared to wait. What is it that we need most of all in waiting? Faith. When we wait, we need to be working to grow our faith.

This is clear when we consider some of the failed waits of the Bible. Abraham in Genesis 16:1-5, after ten plus years of waiting, accepted Sarah's offer of a simple solution. His impatience led to strife, division. Moses, in Acts 7:23-25, was prepared at age 40 to free his brethren. However, his brethren were not ready. Too, Moses had not yet been fully trained as a Shepherd for his work (Numbers 27:17). Israel failed to wait in the wilderness, and they lost everything. Finally, there is the example of Saul, who was told to wait for Samuel to offer sacrifices to the Lord in I Samuel 13:8-13. Saul let others make him impatient, he then acted foolishly, and ultimately, Saul lost his kingdom.

What These Failures Teach is that God acts in HIS time, not ours. We must be prepared to wait. We must NOT act outside His command. Finally, we need to grow our faith when we are waiting, or we will not be successful in the wait.