

ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL

The Foundations of Our Faith

Discussion Guide
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Sermon **Walking By Faith; Waiting On God** by Paul Martin

Isaiah 40: 27-31

Introduction: In the last study we looked more closely at the invitation to come and lay our burdens on Jesus and to come alongside Him in His yoke. We discovered that this invitation was particularly directed to those weighed down by religious duty. In this study we want to develop more carefully the reciprocity between ourselves and Jesus and the practical experience of the daily walk with Him in His yoke.

Sermon Outline

I. You Have Left Your First Love

- A. The Ephesian church at the end of the first century was characterized by passionless orthodoxy. While they believed and did all the right things, they had no heart.
- B. The solution was to *remember* their former life of passion and to *do the deeds* they had done at first in order to recover their *first love*.
- C. In the yoke with Jesus is not a passive way of living, it even demands initiative: *come, take, learn* are the active verbs Jesus uses in the invitation. We are not robots, we are in a relationship of love that is both giving and receiving for both.
- D. The motivation for the relationship with God is love, based on having been loved, having been forgiven, and having been restored to fellowship with Him by Him.
 1. Do not over-analyze or make this life overly complicated
 2. Do not worry about your motives—it is God's job to purify them
 3. Do not worry about the flesh—it is God's job to triumph over it
 4. Do not be afraid of sin—it is God's job to make us holy
 5. Passionately pursue Jesus Christ out of a heart in love with Him

II. The Steps [and the Stops] of a Good Man are Ordered by the Lord; Learn to Wait Upon the Lord

- A. A life of inner peace and restfulness that is free from anxiety and worry is a life characterized not only by walking in the yoke with Jesus, but also learning to wait upon the Lord—to wait for His timing, His purposes, His promises to be fulfilled.
- B. Most of the passages about *waiting upon the Lord* are found in the OT. The Hebrew word means not only to *wait*, but also to *look for* or to *watch*. In the NT the Greek word is derived from the root *meno* which means to *remain in place, to dwell, live, or lodge, to abide, to continue to live and to endure*.
- C. All of the Old and New Testament passages can be divided into at least four categories:
 1. Waiting on God in times of trouble (example: Psalm 37:7, 9; Ps 62:5)
 2. Waiting on God for wisdom and direction (example: Psalm 25:5, 21)
 3. Waiting for God's promises to be fulfilled (example: Acts 1:4, Hab 2:3)
 4. Waiting for the return of Jesus Christ (I Co 4:5; Phil 3:20; I Thess 1:10)
- D. In our walk with God we must develop a larger perspective learning to see what God is about, and trusting in the ultimate and perfect fulfillment of all His plans. This is a life of faith, a life that not only walks with, but waits upon the Lord. (Examples: Abraham, Joseph, David, Daniel, the upper room, etc.)

Conclusion: Walking with God is an active, reciprocal relationship based upon love in which there is give-and-take, initiative-and-response in both directions. It is an active life of both walking and waiting: doing in His power, resting in His peace.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God"? 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. 29 He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. 30 Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, 31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

Isaiah 40: 27-31
(NASB)

Knowledge results in arrogance; the goal of our instruction is love.

Discussion Questions

1.) Describe what a *normal, healthy* relationship looks like between good friends, or a dating or married couple:

2.) In what ways is our relationship with Jesus Christ like a healthy relationship between two people who have a good friendship?

3.) In what ways is our relationship with Jesus Christ different? What makes it different?

4.) What kinds of initiative can we take in the relationship without turning our walk with God into a religion?

^{NAU} Genesis 49:18 "For Your salvation I wait, O LORD.

^{NAU} 2 Kings 6:33 While he was still talking with them, behold, the messenger came down to him and he said, "Behold, this evil is from the LORD; why should I wait for the LORD any longer?"

^{NAU} Psalm 25:3 Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed; Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.

⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day.

²¹ Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You.

^{NAU} Psalm 27:14 Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.

^{NAU} Psalm 37:7 Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.

⁹ For evildoers will be cut off, But those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land.

³⁴ Wait for the LORD and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

^{NAU} Psalm 39:7 "And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You.

^{NAU} Psalm 52:9 I will give You thanks forever, because You have done it, And I will wait on Your name, for it is good, in the presence of Your godly ones.

^{NAU} Psalm 62:5 My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him.

^{NAU} Psalm 69:3 I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; My eyes fail while I wait for my God.

⁶ May those who wait for You not be ashamed through me, O Lord GOD of hosts; May those who seek You not be dishonored through me, O God of Israel,

^{NAU} Psalm 104:27 They all wait for You To give them their food in due season.

^{NAU} Psalm 106:13 They quickly forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel,

^{NAU} Psalm 119:43 And do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, For I wait for Your ordinances.

⁷⁴ May those who fear You see me and be glad, Because I wait for Your word.

⁸¹ My soul languishes for Your salvation; I wait for Your word.

5.) What does it mean to *wait upon the Lord*? What do you do when you are waiting?

NAU Psalm 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope.

NAU Psalm 147:11 The LORD favors those who fear Him, Those who wait for His lovingkindness.

NAU Proverbs 20:22 Do not say, "I will repay evil"; Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.

NAU Isaiah 8:17 And I will wait for the LORD who is hiding His face from the house of Jacob; I will even look eagerly for Him.

NAU Isaiah 40:31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

6.) What are some things in your life for which you are waiting upon the Lord? How long have you been waiting? Has God given you any promises concerning His ultimate work in these areas?

NAU Isaiah 49:23 "Kings will be your guardians, And their princesses your nurses. They will bow down to you with their faces to the earth And lick the dust of your feet; And you will know that I am the LORD; Those who hopefully wait for Me will not be put to shame.

NAU Jeremiah 5:26 'For wicked men are found among My people, They watch like fowlers lying in wait; They set a trap, They catch men.

NAU Lamentations 3:10 He is to me like a bear lying in wait, Like a lion in secret places.

7.) How can waiting upon the Lord be both an active and a restful behavior. What parts are active and what aspects involve restful waiting? How does one *watch*?

²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.

NAU Hosea 12:6 Therefore, return to your God, Observe kindness and justice, And wait for your God continually.

NAU Micah 7:2 The godly person has perished from the land, And there is no upright person among men. All of them lie in wait for bloodshed; Each of them hunts the other with a net.

⁷ But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of

MEMORY VERSE

Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

Isaiah 40: 31 (NASB)

God's Vision and Mission for the Alliance Bible Church

The Alliance Bible Church is a multi-cultural church celebrating the life of Christ in us by:

- Proclaiming the full message of God's Good News to the diverse cultures of McHenry and surrounding communities,
- Discipling believers in living the deeper Christian life,
- Equipping His people for the work of ministry, and
- Demonstrating the unconditional love of Jesus to our community through meaningful acts of service.

