



CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Waiting on the Lord
By Becky Ramsey

Waiting.....at a stop light, in a grocery line, in the doctor's office—each of these activities and more are not something we enjoy doing. If the truth were known, waiting is an activity that we try to avoid at all costs. Who does not analyze the line at the grocery store to try to determine which line will take the least amount of time? Then we find that it is impossible to pick the right line. We have to make an appointment to see the doctor only to spend more time in the waiting room than in the office.

Yet we are repeatedly told in scripture to wait on the Lord. Psalm 27:14 (NIV) commands, "Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD." Why is a state that we try so hard to avoid something that God tells us to pursue? The only answer is to search His Word for the purpose.

Why should we wait on the Lord? Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV) gives one excellent reason. "But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." In my jobs that I face in teaching, I always need more strength, need to avoid weariness, and want to finish the job at hand before fainting. Teaching is not for the weak if we are doing it the way it should be done. Too many give up before they see the reward of their students achieving the goal at hand.

Galatians 6:9 (NIV) instructs, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Teachers cannot give up on students. We must keep working until the proper time of learning comes for that struggling student.

Waiting is not an easy task. It is often one that consumes us, especially in the classroom. When I am tempted to give up and go on without seeing a student master a task, I reflect on Lamentations 3:22-24 (NIV), "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail..." I must love my students enough to keep trying. "...They are new every morning..." I must remember that a new day is another chance to try again. "...great is your faithfulness..." I must be a faithful teacher as He is faithful. "...I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him.'" I must realize that anything worthwhile will be accomplished in Him, not in my strength. His guidance is needed for He is my portion especially in the task of teaching.

How do we wait on the Lord, especially when waiting is not our chosen chore? Habakkuk 2:3-4 (NIV) speaks to this need. "For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay."

We forget that God has an appointed time for everything. There is a purpose in His timing. Many times it is the process that refines us--not His answer. In the refining of any precious metal, the metal must be put in the fire.

There is another important aspect to the how of waiting. We must wait eagerly. I know that no one readily awaits the fire or enthusiastically endures the flames, but we can fervently face the flames if He is there with us.

Romans 8:18 (NIV) gives us the reason for this willingness to endure the flames of refinement. "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." We must realize that God will sacrifice our comfort for our becoming more like His son.

I heard that the way the silversmith knows that the silver has been refined is when he can see his reflection in the vat of silver. God knows that when He can see himself in us, the refinement has done its job.

The greatest question to answer is what will happen when we choose to wait on the Lord. I have learned that we will be BLESSED—blessed with His direction, blessed with His strength, and blessed with His answers. Psalm 84:5-7 (NIV) promises, "Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage...they go from strength to strength till each appears before God in Zion."

Traveling with the Lord is much better than meandering off on our own journey, because we can rely on His unfailing strength.

If we journey with Him, even those paths that seem difficult or even impossible to cross are accomplished with purpose and victory. Psalm 84 ends with a tremendous promise, "For the Lord God is a sun and a shield, the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless." (Psalm 84:11, NIV)

I want God to be my light and my protector because that is where we find favor. He is a God who does not withhold what is best for us. Instead He will bring about what is for our good even in the difficult experiences we face.

When we wait on Him, He will help us up and carry us on His wings. As a mother eagle stirs up the nest and makes things uncomfortable to get her eaglet to the point of desiring to fly, she is also there ready to spread her wings and to carry her prized possession through the process. God will stir up our nest; He will often make us uncomfortable. He will even require us to wait.

When we wait on Him, we give Him the ability to create in us His beauty, His refinement, His purpose. So as you wait for the end of this school year in whatever your circumstance---WAIT WITH HIM AND THEN EXPECT HIS BLESSINGS.