

Cross-Cultural Perspectives from the Director



Wait!

We are born with an innate distaste and disgust for waiting. Perhaps, it's an allergy. Babies enter the world insistently crying when they want to be fed, "I refuse to wait. I want food. Now!" We wait on our kids. We wait on our spouses. We wait in traffic. We wait in airports. We wait for church services to begin. We wait on latecomers for appointments. We wait!

Studies have determined how many hours or years of life we spend sleeping, eating, working; but I wonder how many hours or years, accumulated over a lifetime, that we spend waiting. Even now as I'm typing, my left foot is tapping the floor, as my toes wait for my fingers to catch up with my brain.

With overcrowded schedules and an endless list of things to do...TODAY...we rush through the day. Occasionally revelation grips us. If only we had waited on the Lord in morning prayer, He would have ordered our footsteps. The day would have turned from fruitless and futile into fruitful and fulfilling. We sprint through life, in such a hurry to live in the future, that we fail to wait for it.

Reading through the Psalms, it was as if a light bulb was turned on, illuminating the word "Wait." Noticing it first in Psalms 27:14, it kept cropping up over the next dozen or so chapters. Could it be a sign? Probably not! More like a gargantuan thump on the side of the head.

"Wait for the LORD! Be strong, and let your heart take courage: wait for the LORD!" (Psalms 27:14). "Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!" (Psalms 31:24). "Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him" (Psalms 37:7). "But those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land" (Psalms 37:9). "Wait for the LORD and keep his way, and he

will exalt you to inherit the land" (Psalms 37:34). "But for you, O LORD, do I wait!" (Psalms 38:15). "And now, O LORD, for what do I wait?" (Psalms 39:7)

I've waited on a lot of things. Sometimes; patiently. More than sometimes; impatiently. Regardless, Scripture shouts, "Wait!" "Wait on the Lord!" For what do I wait? Sounds like a reasonable question that longs for an answer.

1. As we wait, we stop all activity, focusing our undivided, undistracted, total concentration and attention on God. He is bigger than all of our problems and circumstances. He comes with His still, small, voice and speaks into our situation.
2. Isaiah tells us when we wait on the Lord, we renew our strength (Isaiah 40:31). I don't know about you. I get tired. I get tired of being tired. I reach the end of my rope and my abilities. It's there that I stop, and wait on Him to renew my strength.
3. Become united-in-heart with God (Psalms 25:21). The Hebrew word for "wait" means to bind together, as in twisting the strands of a rope. We become stronger when we wait on Him and incorporate His divine resources and power into our lives. When we refuse to wait, we run out of patience. It is there that we sadly lose trust in Him.
4. David confessed He waited upon the Lord for deliverance to come. A couple of times in the past week, meditating on this Scripture, e-mail advertisements have come through, with the following words in the subject line, "The Battle is Not Yours! It Belongs to the Lord!" I've started getting the point! Especially when my name is inserted right before those words. To wait is to fix one's hope on God and anticipate His aid.
5. "I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning" (Psalms 130:5-6). I like that. God's Word is jam-packed with promises. You could claim one promise per day, for each day of your entire next term of missionary service, and not exhaust the long list of God's promises.
6. Waiting is part of every missionary's or minister's ministry. We all are longing to "**inherit** the land." Don't be weary! Be faithful. You will reap a harvest. Faint not! To wait is defined as staying in a place of hope until something expected takes place.

Today I want my testimony to be, "I waited patiently for the LORD!" (Psalms 40:1).