



Wait

When we were children we often found it difficult to wait when our parents and teachers told us to. It was hard to wait for recess, to wait for Christmas, or to wait for dessert. Well, now as adults we also sometimes find it difficult to wait. We have to wait in line at the bank, wait for payday, and wait for our ship to come in.

So when God tells us that it is not our time yet, it is can also be challenging to wait for Him. But in Isaiah 40:31 we are told that our strength is renewed by waiting upon the Lord:

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31 (KJV)

“Wait” Defined

A closer look at the word *wait* reveals some interesting insights. In the original Hebrew text the word *wait* was **qavah (קָוָה)**, #H6960 in the *Strong’s Concordance*.

There are two basic meanings for **qavah** are:

- 1) to wait, to look for, to hope, to expect
- 2) to collect, to bind together

Now we will use what I call the “substitution principle” – that is, we substitute the meaning of the word for the word itself. Thus, the scripture would read as follows:

1) ***But they that*** [wait for, look for, hope in or expect] ***upon the LORD shall renew their strength.***

Or

2) ***But they that*** [collect, bind together] [with] ***the LORD shall renew their strength.***

When we combine the two of these meanings together we get:

But they that [wait for, look for, hope in or expect] ***upon the LORD*** [and] [collect, bind together] [with] ***the LORD shall renew their strength.***

But, stop for a second, the first definition (to wait, look for, hope, expect), gives the impression of someone waiting around for the Lord to show up, an almost impatient wait as if to wonder when He will get here. The image is like we have to wait for God and then when He finally shows us we can bind together with Him.

But, since God is always here (and everywhere), we don't have to wait impatiently for Him to arrive – we can just to bind with Him at any time. Our strength thus comes from binding - not (necessarily) from waiting.

Bound Together Like a Rope

The *Thayer Dictionary* offers an even stronger second definition for the word **qavah** (*wait*) - to be gathered together or wound together. This is like the Lord walks in and then grabs us up and wraps His arms around each of us and holds us close to Him and we wrap our arms around Him and get all bound together. Well, the enemy cannot penetrate that togetherness.

It is like when individual strands of twine are bound together in a cord and then several cords are bound together into a mighty rope. The rope is strong and unbreakable by human hands. That is what it is like to bind together with the Lord, unbreakable and powerful.

How Do We Bind Together With the Lord?

Binding with the Lord is really what waiting is about. We *wait* on the Lord, as in to look for or to seek. Waiting is not a passive process. It is an active process, a proactive endeavor – to pursue Him diligently. We are told that if we seek the Lord we will find Him.

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13 (KJV)

We Must Be Willing

When we seek God we cannot be stiff and un-yielding. A fixed, stiff or hard thing cannot get intertwined with the Lord as in the example above of the strands of twine being intertwined to make a rope. If we are stiff and un-bendable then we are seeking ourselves – but not the Lord. The Lord needs us to be malleable – that is mode-able. We have to be willing to be re-made by the Lord so that we can be intertwined or interwoven with Him. This is the waiting process. It is we who are waiting to arrive where the Lord is – NOT us waiting for the Lord to arrive where we are.

Some Examples of Waiting and Binding

1. Mary, Martha's Sister

When Jesus was on His way to visit Mary and Martha after Lazarus died Martha went running out to meet Jesus and complained about Jesus not getting there in time to save her brother. Mary, on other hand, *sat still* and waited for Jesus to arrive. Mary was praying.

Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

John 11:20 (KJV)

Mary, as usual, was sitting at the feet of Jesus (Luke 10:39). This time it appears she was in prayer, preparing herself for the Lord. When Jesus did call for Mary, she was ready. She went to see the Master. She said almost the same words that her sister Martha had said to Jesus. But, Mary fell at His feet first – then Jesus ***groaned in the spirit, and was troubled*** (John 11:33 KJV). He then went to raise Lazarus.

Mary gives us a good example of waiting while Martha is a good example of impatience.

2. The 120 in the Upper Room Waiting for the Holy Spirit

Scripture tells us that they were all together in prayer - waiting:

And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room ... continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Acts 1:13, 14; 2:1-2 (KJV)

Because they were all in one place, praying, and in one accord together, preparing themselves for the Holy Spirit and calling out to God, the Holy Spirit could come – at that time. They had set aside their former differences to pray together. If they had been scattered and running around and impatiently questioning when the promise of Jesus would be realized, it is doubtful that the Holy Spirit would have come into that kind of chaos – at that time.

Their waiting was a time of preparation prayer and worship.

3. The Israelites in the Wilderness

The nation of Israelites that emerged from the wilderness and entered the Promised Land was not the same nation of people that had left Egypt and wandered in the desert for forty years. God had cleaned them up and gotten them ready to possess the land. A whole generation of men

had to be eliminated. The stench of Egypt and the slave mentality that accompanied it had to be washed away. When they came out of the desert they were ready to possess the promises of God.

... that entire generation of fighting men had perished from the camp, as the LORD had sworn to them. The LORD's hand was against them until he had completely eliminated them from the camp.

Now when the last of these fighting men among the people had died, the LORD said to me, "Today you are to pass by the region of Moab at Ar.

Deuteronomy 2:14-17 (NIV)

The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD ... And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you.

Joshua 5:6, 9 (KJV)

Israel had to be cleansed of the *reproach of Egypt* before they could move forward.

When we wait on God there are things we have to give up so that we can be intertwined with Him.

4. Abraham was the Great Example of Faith

Abraham waited on the promise of God and was rewarded for his faith. Although not a perfect man, his faith in God's promises sustained him.

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

Romans 4:20-21 (NIV)

While Abraham waited on God, he praised Him and he was strengthened in his faith. The Amplified Bible gives us a good look at this:

... he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God ...

Romans 4:20 (AMP)

Abraham showed that praising God will strengthen oneself. Praise God while you wait on Him, while you are being refined and you are binding to Him.

It is called a "Yet Praise" from the example of David. As David hoped – he praised.

But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more.

Psalm 71:14 (KJV)

These four examples above, two from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament, clearly demonstrate that waiting on the Lord and binding with Him are one and the same process. We are strengthened through the process of binding and being intertwined with Him.

One more from David:

I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.

Psalm 63:8 NIV