

Doctrine of Spiritual Waiting

1. One of the negative characteristics of man since the Fall is that of impatience, especially in relationship to spiritual matters.
2. Abraham and Sarah did not wait upon the LORD to keep his Word regarding the birth of a child. They became impatient, took matters into their own hands and the result has been meanness, bloodshed and violence since the day Hagar conceived by Abraham and gave birth to Ishmael. The story is told in Genesis 16.
3. It is possible to grow weary of waiting upon God.
 - *2 Kings 6:33 And while he [Elisha] yet talked with them, behold, the messenger [of the king of Israel] came down unto him: and he said, Behold, this [penal] evil is of the Lord; what should I wait for the Lord any longer?*

Special Note.

“When Eli, and David, and Job, said, *It is of the Lord*, they grew patient upon it, but this bad man grew outrageous upon it: “I will neither fear worse nor expect better, for worse cannot come and better never will come: we are all undone, and there is no remedy.” It is an unreasonable thing to be weary of waiting for God, for he is a God of judgment, and blessed are all those that wait for him” (Matthew Henry).

4. Waiting on the Lord will bring peace to a crisis and allows time for passions to subdue. Those who wait upon the Lord will not be ashamed of acting foolishly or in a hasty manner.
 - *Psalms 25:3 Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.*
5. While a person waits on the Lord, prayer should be made for truth and knowledge, integrity and righteousness.
 - Truth and knowledge. *Psalms 25:5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.*
 - Integrity and righteousness. *Psalms 25:21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.*
6. Wonderful blessings accompany those that wait upon the Lord.
 - Personal encouragement. *Psalms 27:14 Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.*
 - A Physical inheritance. *Psalms 37:9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.*

- Personal exaltation. *Psalm 37:34 Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.*
 - Divine deliverance. *Proverbs 20:22 Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord, and he shall save thee.*
 - Spiritual renewal. *Isaiah 40:31 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.*
7. The concept of waiting on the Lord and waiting for Him is a divine imperative. There is no need to get angry or frustrated at the person who seems to prosper in evil or is capable of bringing wicked plans to fruition.
- *Psalm 37:7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.*
8. The person who has the Lord has everything and does not need to wait in anticipation for anything else.
- *Psalm 39:7 And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in thee.*
9. The psalmist found several motives for waiting on the Lord and praising Him.
- Because of past blessings. *Psalm 52:9 I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints.*
 - Because God is able to defend His own. *Psalm 59:9 Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defense.*
 - Because God answers prayers. *Psalm 62:5 My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.*
 - Because God providentially provides. *Psalm 104:27 These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.*
 - Because of God's divine attributes. *Jeremiah 14:22 Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Art not thou he, O Lord our God? Therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.*
 - Because of anticipated blessing. *Lamentations 3:25 The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.*
 - Because God hears the petitions of His people. *Micah 7:7 Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.*

- Because God will keep His word. *Habakkuk 2:3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.*
- Because faith will one day be vindicated and all injustices will be avenged. *Zephaniah 3:8 Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.*

10. Waiting on God may elicit an emotional expression.

- *Psalms 69:3 I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God.*

11. While waiting for the Lord, comfort and hope can be found in His word.

- *Psalms 130:5 I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.*

12. Waiting upon the Lord takes mental stamina and emotional commitment.

- *Isaiah 8:17 And I will wait upon the Lord, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.*

13. Sometimes the Lord waits to bless.

- *Isaiah 30:18 And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.*

14. The nations of the earth wait for the righteousness of the Law of the Lord.

- *Isaiah 42:4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.*

15. No one who waits upon the Lord will ever be ashamed for doing so.

- *Isaiah 49:23 And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.*

16. While waiting for the light of gospel truth, individuals walk in darkness.

- *Isaiah 59:9 Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness.*

17. In a fast paced and self-absorbed world, it is good for a person to hope and quietly wait upon the Lord.

- *Lamentations 3:26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.*

18. While waiting on God it is important to practice mercy and render righteous judgment.

- *Hosea 12:6 Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.*

19. The Christian waits patiently for spiritual realities.

- Christians wait for mercy. *Psalms 123:2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that he have mercy upon us.*
- Christians wait for the promise of the Father. *Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.*
- Christians wait for the redemption of our bodies. *Romans 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*
- Christians wait to exercise their spiritual gift. *Romans 12:7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;*
- Christians wait for entire sanctification. *Galatians 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.*
- Christians wait for the Second Advent. *1 Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*