

Wait

Isaiah 40 v 28 – 31 “They that **wait** upon the Lord shall renew their strength;
they will rise up with wings as eagles.” **v 31**

The act of **waiting** is not a parenthesis,
but a significant part of the whole journey.

Waiting can become a time-wasting nuisance, or it can be a useful comma.

- i) **Rest** – wait upon the Lord
Matthew 11 v 28 – 29 “Come to Me all you who are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.”
- ii) **Renew** – revive, build up, recharge our strength
Titus 3 v 5 – 6 “He has saved us through the washing of rebirth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he has poured out
(lavished) upon
us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour...”
- iii) **Rise up** – continue on the journey
Malachi 4 v 2 “For you who revere and honour My name, the
Sun of Righteousness will rise up with healing in its wings; and
you will go forth
and gambol like calves and lambs released from their pens, you
will be
leaping for joy.”

Prayers of Intercession – St Mark’s Church

We have all, as drivers, encountered the dreaded Traffic-lights. I don’t know about you, but for me they always seem to turn **RED** when I get there!

So, we all know the law of the lights – when they’re **RED** we have to stop. We cannot go. It is telling us that it may be dangerous, so not in our best interest to proceed. **RED** means **NO**!

Eventually, after what may feel like a life-time, the lights turn **GREEN**. We can proceed on our journey. The way is clear. **GREEN** means **YES**!

But, of course, between these two definitive instructions, we are advised by the **AMBER** light, to **WAIT** for what seems like an eternity. Do we pull up the hand-brake? Do we put the vehicle in gear? Do we relax and switch off the engine? Do we rev the accelerator in readiness to pull away? **AMBER** means **WAIT**!

In our prayers, God sometimes makes it very clear to us that His answer is **NO**. We may not like it. It may be inconvenient. It might make us late for what we want to do. But God says “**NO**”!

At other times, when we pray, God clearly gives us ‘the **GREEN** light’. He says, “**YES**”, it is safe and right for us to go forward in His will. And so, with thanksgiving, we proceed.

But what do we do when God’s answer is neither “**NO**” or “**YES**”? We learn the most about prayer and communication with God when He says “**WAIT**”. There can be many reasons for us to have to **WAIT** on the Lord: maybe we are not yet ready. Maybe the way is not yet clear. And maybe our timing is not God’s perfect timing.

Isaiah 40 v 31 “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall rise up and soar on wings like eagles; they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not be faint.”

The reprise to our intercessions, after each prayer is:

“And so as we wait upon the Lord”.....

Response:- “**So Lord, renew our strength.**”

Father God, the Lord of all things, we are just learning how to wait upon You and Your perfect will. When we pray to You, we confess that sometimes we are impatient, and we surge forward in our own strength. We are sorry for those times when we have failed to wait on the guidance of Your Holy Spirit.

Response

You know the desires of our hearts, and the concerns we have for this world in which we live. We struggle to understand Your plans, but we come to You, now, and ask that You would work in the lives of those who would be making decisions both in our nation and in our community, that Your will would be done.

Response

And, in our own personal lives, that You would have Your way, that we would be ready to hear Your voice, and do Your bidding, in Your time. Teach us to wait on You and so have our strength renewed.

Response

We ask all these things in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.