



# *The Christian Life Institute*

Wednesday, April 22

Thank you for joining us today, as we continue our series, at the Christian Life Institute, presented through 15-minute encouraging messages three times per week, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 12:45 Central time, on practical ways to grow forward in Christ in uncertainty, unpredictability, and upheaval.

This message is entitled: Waiting on God

The Lord placed this message on my heart, yesterday, before the Shelter-in order was extended for Dallas, County. I am not familiar with all the shelter-in orders or other county or State mandates, but I am familiar with the challenge of waiting on the Lord. Many of us may be discouraged as we continue to wait during these unfamiliar times of physical separation but I hope we are familiar with Isaiah 40:31, which reads “But they who wait for 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.” As we have been reminded during these last few weeks God is sovereign, God has a plan, God loves you and me and God is at work. We, today, as in all days have the opportunity to learn to and continue to learn to wait on Him as we know “and we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). Waiting on the Lord requires trust and places us in absolute and unceasing dependence upon God. We have shared previously that God’s utmost concern is our spiritual well-being. He desires to guide us, direct us, work in and through us. God formed you and me to be a vessel in which He can show forth His power, love, mercy, forgiveness, and goodness, among so many other attributes.

Psalm 27:13-14 states, “I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD! Our expectation is from God alone.” We can, right now, choose to believe and look upon the goodness of the Lord. We can, right now, choose to recognize that there can be no good but what God chooses to work in us, around us, and through us. Lamentations 3:25 says,

“the LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.”

Now is a great time to check in with yourself? How are you, in these uncertain and unpredictable times waiting on the Lord? Are you waiting on the Lord with a heart filled with faith, knowing that He is at work (He is sovereign God) and trusting in His working?

Waiting on the Lord provides us with the space to let go, surrender and pray that the eyes of our heart will be opened to see God working in ourselves and in others. Ephesians 1:18-19 says, “having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might.” Let us pray for His mighty power so that we may standfast, firmly rooted, and confident in our God. As we wait, we are reminded that God will supply our needs according to what He determines is best for you and me. He knows every tear, every fear, every need. Psalm 56:8 says, “you have kept count of my tossing; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?” In Luke 12:7 we are assured, “why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.” In Ephesians 3:20 we are also reminded “now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.”

In waiting on Him we shall find rest, and joy, and strength, and the supply of every need but let us remember that our greatest need is spiritual growth – molded more into the image of Christ. There is nothing so needful than to cultivate a spirit of dependence on God and confidence in Him. Let us resolve to continually, humbly, truthfully wait upon God – He never disappoints. We need the faith and courage to believe that God will hear and help us in His perfect timing according to His perfect will. We have the living assurance that waiting on God can never be in vain as we stabilize in His humility – to be still and know that He is God (Psalm 46:10).

Our whole being must wait on God as we choose to rest in the Lord, in His will, His promise, His faithfulness, and His love. It is very hard for us in our humanness to wait at times, particularly in uncertainty; but it is in uncertainty that we can remind ourselves nothing is uncertain to our Lord! We can remind ourselves that His eyes are upon us. It is His peace that keeps the heart and mind anxious for nothing because we have made our requests known to Him (Philippians 4:6).

It is waiting upon God that our eyes are opened to believe in His wise and sovereign will. Waiting is an opportunity to surrender in full obedience to all His will desires - to draw near into the fullness of His fellowship. He is teaching us to leave all in His hands and to wait on Him alone. To wait requires patience, which as we shared is really hard and it is easy for us to become lost in our fears and worries; yet this is where we choose to anchor into the truth of Christ. He knows and He cares about your every thought and your every need. If we can choose to make patience our highest priority and learn to wait then we honor God in that process by allowing Him to be the potter as we are the clay.

As we shared on Monday, we are the branch. We are not the vine, Jesus clearly states “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” Christ makes it clear that our connection to Him is our only way for life and function. He states clearly that if we are disconnected from Him, not abiding in Him, we can do nothing, as he reminds us when He says, “abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself.” That is a powerful statement which we must digest. In challenging times of unpredictability and uncertain we are more prone to wander into self-will and control because of fear, worry, anxiety when what we need the most is a deeper, stronger, richer connection to withstand, standfast, and endure, as we shared on Friday, Christ is concerned about our spiritual well-being and in such He desires that we bear fruit. As Christ-followers, our purpose is to glorify our Father. Our position is to be that of waiting for His counsel as the only guide of our thoughts and actions.

Our waiting on God will depend greatly on our faith of Who He is - simple faith in God’s word and love - the opening of our eyes, the opening of our heart, to receive and enjoy the unspeakable glory of His grace. To choose to abide in the light of God and let His light fill us with the power of the resurrected life and the brightness only He can provide – to embrace the spirit of the crucified Christ. Our waiting can become the spontaneous expression of Who we know God to be - a God most worthy of our waiting - allowing Him to be Jehovah-Jireh, our Provider, carrying us as we ride upon the wings of His omnipotence. He will reveal Himself as the God who will mightily fulfill His promise.

It is easy to feel sometimes that patience is a struggle and not a gift, but in those moments we can remember that God is ever patient (“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance,” 2 Peter 3:9) and pray that He gives you and me the ability to patiently wait. As we read in 2 Thessalonians 3:5, “may the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.” Let every exercise of waiting, let our whole habit of waiting on God be pervaded by abounding hope - a hope as bright and boundless as God’s mercy

We can choose during disruption, discontent, upheaval, unpredictability – in every circumstance and season to live more consciously of placing God in His place of honor and of power and to have a confident expectation of His saving power. If we are to have our whole heart turned toward God, we must have it turned away from man, from all that occupies and interests, whether of joy or sorrow so that we can receive the fulfillment of the precious promise that all of self and self-effort will be humbled by our loving Lord and Savior. We can choose to have our minds focused on Christ. Colossians 3:2 reminds us to “set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” As we open His Word, rest with Him prayer – share our deepest thoughts and needs with our Savior, with its desires, hopes and fears, we still wait on Him in a quiet reverence, an abiding in His Spirit.

We wait on God in the full power of His redemptive grace reminding ourselves that it is God alone who provides a rich, deep, and meaningful spiritual life – a transforming work through His Holy Spirit. As we wait and allow His healing work, we find nourishment, refreshment, and strength. As we read in Micah 7:7, let us “look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.” To grow in our faith, we need more of God and less of self. We need as Paul exhorts us to die to self with its own will and wisdom, its own strength and energy and come to a place of rest in Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit is the real, living presence, and the power of the Father working in us and we, too, can be strong in this life of faith, as we are in direct communication with God and Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. His power which brings the unexpected - the impossible. So, let us not limit God

but place Him first and say, “God works continually; every moment I may wait on Him.” Let us pray, Psalm 25:5 “Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.” Let us enter deeply into a relationship of dependence on God, to receive from Him every moment what He chooses and rest and wait in the fullness of His perfect love and His perfect way.

We are loved, and in His love, as we are connected to Him, we can and will bear fruit. Love is a fruit of the Spirit. In Galatians 5:22-23 we read, “but the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

We have the opportunity to share our testimony of how we are turning into Christ and not pulling away because of fear and external factors. There is a ripe opportunity to share how you are surrendering to Christ, turning deeper into His word, praying more fervently, choosing to look upward by your words and actions. Let us choose to wait in His love and allow His refreshing, nourishing water to flow over us and through us. “But they who wait for 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 this season, and life which is a journey of seasons, we as Christ-followers, have opportunities to, through His strength and His power reflect Him to a broken and hurting world – so, let us persevere and come together, even when technology weary.

Let us agree together to:

“Walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

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