

MEDITATION ON THE COURAGE TO WAIT

Psalm 27:14

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

This specific command to wait on the Lord is found eight times in the Bible. The Bible also promises blessings upon those who follow this command and punishments to those who act with haste and without prayer. It is without question a concept worthy of our attention.

In our day, with our culture of instant gratification, there is no thought of waiting. I was recently amazed at a commercial that asked the question, “Why wait?” I learned that it was possible for those who couldn’t wait to see the Super Bowl commercials, to download them days ahead to their Ipods. Technology is certainly feeding our inability to wait. Our desire “to have” is immediately gratified by available credit. Our desire “to know” takes only a minute on the internet. Our desire for “connection” is conquered by the ever-present cell phone, and we have innumerable ways to satisfy our lust for entertainment, with no waiting. We no longer have to wait to have our meals cooked, wait to receive a letter, or wait to know the sex of our baby. When the technology is available to immediately satisfy our every desire, as the commercial says, “Why wait?”

A Christian is to develop and practice the habit of waiting. The prophet Isaiah writes, “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. (Isa 40:31) Solomon tells us that waiting on the Lord will save us (Pro 20:22) and David tells us, “Those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. (Ps 37:9) What awesome promises are made to those who wait.

So, how do we wait? What does that word mean? Incredibly, the word, wait, is a very active word. We wait expectantly for the Lord to reveal His will. We wait enthusiastically because His ways are always exciting and promising and marvelous. We gird our loins and wait eagerly for His command to go, and we pray fervently as we wait on His perfect timing.

The verse I am meditating upon reveals that it takes courage to wait. One of the greatest examples from the pages of history concerning the courage it takes to wait is found in the account of the battle of Bunker Hill during the Revolutionary War. The British attacked with 5,000 troops and the Americans were reportedly running low of ammunition. To save their remaining gunpowder, an officer by the name of William Prescott is said to have issued an order not to fire “until you see the whites of their eyes.” The British suffered in excess of 1,000 casualties during this attack and two weeks later, George Washington secured enough ammunition to fully conquer Bunker Hill.

Sometimes it takes more courage to wait than it does to act. We are ready to annihilate the enemy using our own power. We are ready to accomplish great things for God with our own innate abilities. Our culture ridicules the idea of waiting and rewards incessant activity. But, there are blessings for those who wait. Waiting brings reinforcements from the hosts of heaven. Waiting brings strategic effectiveness from the One who has designed the battle plan. Waiting brings unlimited ammunition and unsurpassed power from the One who has all power. So, why wait?

Waiting brings the Lord!