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Waiting for the Lord

"Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord" (Psalm 27:14 NASB).

As Believers, we know that "many are the afflictions of the righteous" (Psalm 34:19a). There are times in our lives when we have all said, "I expected good, then evil came; when I waited for light, then darkness came. I am seething within and cannot relax; days of affliction confront me" (Job 30:26-27). "I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; My eves fail while I wait for my God" (Psalm 69:3). And in desiring relief, we have prayed, "Oh that my request might come to pass, And that God would grant my longing!...What is my strength, that I should wait? And what is my end, that I should endure? Is my strength the strength of stones, Or is my flesh bronze?" (Job 6:8; 11-12). In these moments, days, or years, we ask, "Doesn't God know my weakness? Why is He allowing this to happen! Why am I expected to wait? How can I endure this? Where is He?" In response, Elihu told Job, "Surely God will not listen to an empty cry [or falsehood]...How much less when you say you do not behold Him, The case is before Him, and you must wait for Him!" (Job 35:13-14). Elihu means that when we say, "I don't see God" in trials, temptations, and afflictions, we are saying something that is worse than a lie. God knows-wait for Him to act!

Even in his earthly despair, Jeremiah said, "The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him. It is good that he waits silently for the salvation of the Lord" (Lam. 3:19-26), and Job said, "All the days of my struggle [or posting on earth] I will wait until my change [resurrection] comes" (Job 14:14). David affirmed, "None of those who wait for You will be ashamed" (Psalm 25:3a).

"You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day" (Psalm 25:5b). We must remind ourselves that no matter what the world does, "as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me" (Micah 7:7). Yes, "wait for your God continually" (Hosea 12:6b). It is true that "many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19), for "the Lord is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). That salvation, change, or deliverance may not be in this shadow of a life, but it is eternal.

Our purpose in the world comes down to waiting for the salvation of the Lord, and not acting in our own strength to save ourselves. God wants us to wait for Him. We are to be "waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life" (Jude 1:21). "For in hope we have been saved...with perseverance we wait eagerly for it" (Rom. 8:24-25). "For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness" (Gal. 5:5). "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels. so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed...For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh" (2 Cor. 4:7-9; 11).

"Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it... You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near" (James 5:7-8). "My soul waits in silence for God only; From Him is my salvation" (Psalm 62:1), "which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). Even so, Amen.

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