

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG78 – What Is Waiting On The Lord?

In this podcast, I want to talk about waiting on the Lord. Many people have asked, "What is waiting on the Lord?" I think that is a really important question, because it is something that we need as believers and as Christians, really walking closely with the Lord, to have in our lifestyle of relationship with Him. If we do not know how to wait on the Lord, it is like not knowing how to pray. In fact, waiting on the Lord is really to be considered a part of our prayer life. It is something that we need to do constantly, and we need to practice, and we need to grow in our ability to wait upon Him; just as we need to have a prayer life that is really something that we learn and grow in, and try to exercise more consistently as we go along in our walk with God. So let's talk about waiting on the Lord.

One of the first things I would say about waiting on the Lord is that you can't wait for nothing. By its very definition, to be waiting is to be anticipating something to be delivered, or something to come through or be given to you. I think a lot of times when people in Christianity refer to waiting on the Lord, it is like a form of meditation. It has an aspect of meditating, but it is a meditating on the Word; it is not just trying to clear your mind. This is not some Buddhist look-alike. This is something that is completely different, and it has a great deal of intensity required in our spirits in order to wait upon the Lord. We must recognize first and foremost that we are waiting for something, and we are believing for something in that waiting to transpire. There is something real that is going to happen. So you must connect your waiting upon the Lord with the Word of God, with the Lord Himself, for the Word gives us the truth of what is going to happen in the world around us. Therefore, when we connect the Word of God with our waiting, we find an ability to have an earnest expectation – in other words, a moment-by-moment anticipation for that Word, the Word of God, to manifest. We are waiting for the Word to appear in the physical world.

This is a real aspect of waiting upon the Lord, because so much of what we are dealing with at this time frame in God are those things which are invisible. And so part of the reason, of the importance, for waiting upon the Lord and understanding how to wait upon the Lord is that we see the bridging between the invisible world and the visible world. When we are waiting upon the Lord, waiting upon the Word to appear, we are looking for these things to transpire in the physical world that we are in; to see physical fulfillment before our eyes of what God has spoken will transpire. We are waiting for the Word to come off of the page and to manifest the things that prophetically have been promised by the Scriptures. Our waiting on the Lord as an important part of that which makes the invisible become visible.

Remember, the most important promise that we have in the Scriptures, for us as believers in Christ, is the physical return of Christ Himself out of the invisible heavens and into the physical earth, in order to establish His physical, visible Kingdom on the earth out of His heavenly invisible Kingdom. That gives you probably the most important aspect of what we are doing as we wait upon the Lord – those things that have been proclaimed and promised by the Word, by the Lord Himself to us, we are looking to see them finally manifest in front of us. Another thing that happens in our waiting on God is that it produces for us a process of preparation, which really enables us to receive what has been promised. Many times, the

things God has said and promised to be done are those things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man; so it is difficult at times to receive what it is that God has spoken in His Word or promise to us. As we wait upon the Lord, our hearts literally go through a preparation process that enables us to embrace and accept and receive that which God is looking to do.

To get the beginning of "why do we wait on the Lord," "where is the instruction to wait on the Lord," I want to go back to some of the Scriptures where God directs us, where Yeshua directs us in the Gospels, about being on the alert and waiting upon the Lord. It is this waiting upon the Lord that we want to understand and begin to perfect in our walk with the Lord. To grasp the necessity of waiting on the Lord, we have to remember the instructions that Yeshua gave to us in this generation. I'll start in Matthew the twenty-fourth chapter at verses 32-34: "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place." Yeshua is teaching them that there are signs. We may not know the day or the hour, but we certainly are to know the seasons and the time frame in which the fulfillment of the promises and the Word of God are going to happen. And it is to this generation that begins to see this parable of the fig tree, because He is saying you actually see the leaves being put forth; and we likewise are seeing prophecies literally manifesting on a physical realm before our very eyes in this generation in which we live. One of the greatest examples, of course, is with Israel itself. We see Israel becoming a state. For the last seventy years, we see the Jewish people being re-gathered out of the Diaspora back into the land of Israel. See, these are leaves; we are watching prophecies fulfilled as though they are leaves springing forth onto the branch of the fig tree. Therefore, we recognize that we are the generation that will not pass away until these things take place.

Matthew 24:42-44 goes on to say, "Therefore be on the alert" – if we see these things taking place, then we need to be on the alert – "for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will." That is a clue about His coming – He will come when you do not think He will. Therefore, what Yeshua, what Jesus was teaching was that if we are in this season, we must always be on the alert. We can never let down this alertness. And part of this alertness is tied to our waiting upon Him.

Luke 12:35-37 says, "Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them." So again, Jesus, Yeshua is saying, "You must be on the alert. You must be waiting. You should be waiting right at the door." There is something about this waiting that brings us up to the actual place or moment at which Yeshua will appear, at which the prophecies will be fulfilled. It engages us into the moment that these things take place. That is one of the key issues about our learning to wait upon the Lord: It positions us, it moves us into the place, the location, both spiritually and physically, where we need to be in order to engage and receive the Master at His coming.

Once again, we see by the parables that Yeshua is teaching a key in waiting – what are we waiting for? Like I said in the beginning, you can't wait for nothing. You don't wait for nothing. You are waiting for something. The greatest thing we are waiting for is the appearing, the return of Jesus, Yeshua, into this

earth out of the heavens. It is the greatest promise that we have of all the promises, that He will return physically to this earth. We are to be alert for that, and we are to be waiting for that. As we exercise this process of learning to wait upon Him – keeping our focus on the alert, keeping our spirits at the ready and at the alert of what He is doing – this is what we are looking to perfect in our relationship to Him; which is a part, again, of our prayer life. And one of the differences is that we are not necessarily asking for a lot of things in this part of our prayer life; this waiting is looking and anticipating, with earnest expectation, those things which we know by the Word are to happen.

Paul connects this basic salvation experience of ours with the primary fulfillment, which is looking for the return of Christ. In First Thessalonians 1:9-10, he says, "For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come." Great verse here, because it gives you the sense, again, that you are waiting for something. And Paul is tying it to the very root, basic salvation experience. He is saying, "You went from serving idols to serving a living God, waiting for the Son to return from heaven." That is a beautiful picture of how this is not some strange add-on to our walk with God. It is not something we inculcate later, after we have been saved and walking with Him for a long time. This should be a very beginning reality for us as we come to know the Lord.

Philippians 3 emphasizes a similar point, starting at verses 20-21. It says, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself." So here we again see that we are not just waiting; we are not even just waiting for the Savior, for the Lord, to appear out of the heavens. We are actually waiting for those things which are going to transpire and were prophetically promised to transpire when He returns. And here, in Philippians, Paul is saying that when He returns, we know He transforms our body from its humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. So again, we are not waiting for nothing. We are not even just sitting, waiting for the Lord to return to the earth. We are waiting for all of those things which transpire at His return; and we need to know what those are by studying the Word, getting into the Word, and really making sure we know what it is we are waiting for. Because without that, we cannot have this earnest expectation that Paul is going to talk about.

In Titus, I want again to link the fact that the return of Christ is this blessed hope of our faith in Christ and our believing in God. Titus 2:11-14: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in this present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds." He is preparing a people for His own possession; He is not merely appearing. We know He is appearing to be seated upon the throne of David, and to establish the Kingdom of David once again on the earth. But also, that is connected with the people that He is purifying and bringing to Himself as His own possession. The promise we see through the Hebrew Scriptures constantly is, "They will be My people, and I will be their God." This is what He is looking to accomplish.

Let's look at some Scriptures now that emphasize this point to us about our waiting upon the Lord. In Second Peter 3, verses 1 through 13, he talks quite a bit. I'll read the first four verses: "This is now,

beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder." It is good that we be reminded of these things; and that is what I hope this podcast will do, is to remind us that one of the greatest focuses that we need is our waiting upon the Lord, and being on the alert. Verse 2, "That you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles." As we get into this idea of waiting on the Lord, we must really grasp the fact that it requires a remembrance, a knowing of the Word which has been spoken by the prophets, the commandments that have come through the Scriptures, and through the Lord Himself to us, and by the apostles. So this idea, if we are going to wait upon the Lord, it throws us into a reading and studying of the Scriptures in order, once again, to what? to know what is it we are waiting for. We have got to attach this alertness. We have got to attach this waiting to something very specific to know what it is. So, yes, we know that we are waiting for His return from the heavens to the earth; but there are many more things than that.

As he goes on in verse 3, he says, "Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.'" And again, if we are in these last days, and if we are part of this generation that is beginning to see these things come true, it also means that we are in the time, living in a generation that is constantly mocking the very thing that we are doing and exercising in our alertness and by our waiting upon the Lord. We must recognize that there is this constant force against what we are trying to do; because the mocking spirit of this age says, "Well, the Word hasn't happened for 2,000 years now. Oh, well let's go back to the Hebrew Scriptures – maybe 3,000, maybe 3,500 years – all these things have been spoken, we don't see them happening." Okay. Well, we will live amongst mockers. But as for us, we will remember the Words spoken beforehand by all the holy prophets, by the commandments of the Lord and through Christ Himself, as well as the apostles. We will give ourselves to know what has been spoken, and we will absolutely maintain this readiness and waiting upon the fulfillment in total hope and trust that these things will take place.

Jumping down to verses 10-12, he says, "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God." Now, we may live in a generation of mockery. But we also live in the day where the Word says these things will happen. And of course people won't notice it, because He has already said it will come like a thief in the night, so we don't expect everybody to see it. The only people that will see it are the ones that have given themselves and disciplined their hearts and spirits to be on the alert, and to be waiting and knowing exactly what they are waiting for in the fulfillment of God's Word.

This is an interesting promise in verse 12 itself, saying that we are "looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed." Now listen to this language, because it is saying that by our waiting, by our anticipation, by our alertness, we literally are hastening the coming of the day of the Lord. The Scripture says, "Unless these days be shortened, no flesh will be saved alive." And some question how we can say, "Well, how will they be shortened? Is it just a divine act on the part of God?" I don't think so. I think it is a working together, it is a synergy between Christ and His saints. It is between heaven and earth – this bridge; this bridge of waiting, this bridge of anticipating, being on the alert, looking for and hoping in the fulfillment of these Words. And we must

understand that according to this verse 12, this way of life on our part has the ability to hasten the coming of the day of God. And we say, "Come quickly, Lord. Come quickly, Yeshua, in our time."

I want to go to Romans 8, because again, we see this anticipation, both in creation and in the sons of God. Starting at Romans 8, verses 18-19, it says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God." Now we have to understand this. All creation has been subjected to futility; but again, according to Romans 8, it was subjected in hope. And so the creation itself is waiting. What is it waiting for? It is waiting for the sons of God who will be revealed according to the promise of God; and through their revealing, all creation will be set free from futility. So, even if we don't understand what we are waiting for, creation does. So the next time you look at that tree or that rock, the river, the beautiful mountain out there, they are not as passive as they may seem. They are anxiously longing and waiting eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. And we should follow that example.

Romans 8:23-25 goes on to say, "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it." Again, as I said in the beginning, there is something in this waiting upon Him that connects the visible realm and the invisible realm; and it draws that invisible realm into its fulfillment and manifestation in the world in which we live. Remember, ultimately the Kingdom of God is a physical and visible Kingdom that dwells in this world that surrounds us. That is why Yeshua said, when He was teaching the parable about the fig tree, the generation sees the leaves sprouting forth. We will see these things as they begin their fulfillment. And we should be waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, crying with this first fruit of the Spirit, groaning within ourselves, waiting, anticipating, being on the alert and on the ready, because His Word will not fall to the ground void. It will accomplish what it has been sent to do.

In Philippians 1:19-20, Paul says, "For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death." We saw in the verse before this idea that there is this hastening that begins to take place. Paul had that same understanding of his waiting, his alertness, his waiting on God. He said, "According to my earnest expectation and hope, these things will happen." So his earnest expectation manifested the very thing he was expecting to take place. Let it be for us. Let us learn, like Paul learned, how to reach in hope that is waiting with an intensity of spirit, an earnest expectation that literally begins to manifest through faith that which the Word of God has promised us will take place. We exercise this waiting first towards God. Again, it is not some nebulous meditation. We exercise the hope, the faith in God, as we wait.

I want to read some Scriptures that really make this clear for us. Psalm 33, verses 20-22, "Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. For our heart rejoices in Him, because we trust in His holy name. Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in You." Our waiting is with the hope of His fulfillment of what He has said, and our anticipation because of His lovingkindness that He will do all things which He has spoken.

Psalm 62, verses 1-2, says, "My soul waits in silence for God only; from Him is my salvation." We may wait in silence, but we are not waiting like a meditation that tries to just clear our mind and be thinking of nothing. We are thinking and focused with an earnest anticipation on the things we wait for. It does not necessarily require words – that is our prayer. But waiting is an intense laying hold by our spirit, our soul, and our mind, to those things which God has said would happen. "My soul waits in silence for God only; from Him is my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken." One thing you will find as you learn to wait on God, you won't be shaken as easily by your circumstances and life around you as you were. There is always something you are going to receive out of this waiting on the Lord. That is why you must study the Scriptures of it, to know what you are waiting for.

"Lord, I'm waiting for You. And I'm waiting to see my life change so that I am not shaken. I live in a time, according to Your Word, Lord, when You said You would shake all things – except those things which cannot be shaken. I want to be one of those. And according to this Word, as I wait upon You, I will not be greatly shaken."

Psalm 25, verses 4-5, "Make me know Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day." We wait for His teaching, "Make me know Your ways, Lord." See, we want to know the ways of the Lord. Moses knew the ways of the Lord. It says the children knew the acts – in other words, they saw what God was doing – but Moses knew His ways. And in this Psalm, it is saying that as we wait all the day long, we are looking for God to make us know His ways, as Moses knew His ways. "O Lord, teach me Your paths. Instruct me, lead me in Your truths." You see what you are waiting for; you are waiting for these things. Yes, you are waiting for the return of Yeshua from heaven. You are waiting for the King of kings to establish His Kingdom, just like Yeshua taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on this earth as it is in heaven." So this waiting goes along with the prayer that He taught us to pray. You could say it is a prayer of waiting. It is a prayer of silence before Him. But you are waiting for these things to take place.

Psalm 37:34, "Wait for the Lord and keep His way, and He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it." That is a good reason in this generation to be waiting on the Lord. Number one, we want to inherit all of the things that God has promised; and we want to see the end of wickedness as it exists on this earth. We want to see with our eyes the cutting off of wickedness in the land. Lord grant it. And as we wait on the Lord, it says we will see it.

Proverbs 20:22, "Do not say, 'I will repay evil'; wait for the Lord, and He will save you." Are you being pursued by the enemy? Are you surrounded by evil in your circumstances, or in this life in which we live? Don't repay evil with evil. Don't come against it in your own strength. Wait on the Lord, and He will save you.

Isaiah 40, verses 30-31. "Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary." This is obvious. As we wait upon the Lord, these things are ours. We appropriate the strength of the Lord. We appropriate His enabling and His ability for us. So let us learn to wait upon Him that we might mount up with wings like eagles and run and not get tired; that we might walk and not become faint. We believe for these things to happen for us.

Well, I was looking for this whole podcast to cover the drive of my heart about these Scriptures of why we wait on the Lord, and what we are waiting for. And alas, we have gone almost thirty minutes here, and I think what I better do is end this in another podcast. So I am going to come back and pick this up. But let me give you a few ending thoughts before I do that. Just remember, the Lord instructs us in this generation to be on the alert. He instructs us, He commands us to wait for Him; to be at the door, like the servant, waiting for His appearing. We are to live in earnest expectation of Yeshua's return as we meditate on and wait for the fulfillment of God's Word.

Lord bless this to your heart. I hope this helps you, that you may take this into your own life and exercise and learn by faith how to wait on Him, and release the power that is promised to us as we do. God bless you as you grow in your relationship and your walk with Him. Amen.