

1 **WAITING ON THE LORD**

Isaiah 40:28-31

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► *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, 31 But those who wait on 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.*

3 **Background**

- Chapters 1-39 of Isaiah are chapters filled with the judgment of God against the sins of Judah.
- Captivity for 70 years by the Babylonians
- In chapters 40-66 Isaiah gives prophecies of comfort, hope and deliverance for God's people.
- Isaiah 40:28-31 is a beautiful passage of comfort--God's people must wait upon Him for deliverance--When God's time comes, deliverance is sure.

4 **1. WAIT ON THE LORD**

- "those who wait on the LORD"
- The Phrase Explained:
 - Meaning of Hebrew word: "wait," "wait for," (BDB)
 - Word originally meant "twist, stretch, then of tension of enduring, waiting."
 - A plural participle = those waiting for Yahweh = The Yahweh Waiters
 - Yahweh!!

5 **Who do we wait for? Yahweh!!**

► Last week's sermon: Behold Your Incomparable God – v. 28: *"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth."*

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6 **Why do we wait for HIM?**

- Because He "neither faints nor is weary"
- Because "His understanding is unsearchable"
- Because "He gives power to the weak"

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7 **Those Who Don't Wait**

- The difficulties of waiting:
 - The twisting, stretching, tension of life and waiting to attain goals becomes too much--they become impatient with God's timetable, plan--make their own--always ends in disaster.
 - Waiting is difficult--few enjoy waiting--We live in an instant society--people have become accustomed to getting what they want immediately

8 **Those Who Don't Wait (2)**

- Bible Examples:

- Moses
- Sarah
- King Hezekiah

9 **Everyday examples:**

- Installment plan buying
- Athletes resorting to steroids
- Pastors who want to build instant churches
- Missionaries: Not willing to wait through the hard work of learning the language

10 **Those Who Do Wait:**

- Waiting on God is waiting in hope! Titus 2:13: *"Looking for that BLESSED HOPE and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."*
- Like waiting for Christmas to come as a boy. It was joyous waiting!
- Waiting on God is joyous waiting, too!

11 **Bible examples:**

- Moses: Endured forty years in wilderness--hot, dry, miserable, a shepherd--used to palace life--now just a common shepherd--God's time finally came when he saw the burning bush.
- Paul the Apostle: Saved. Natural inclination to immediately go out and do a good work for God--God sent him into Arabian desert for three years to wait on God and be taught by God.
- Many other examples: Joseph, Jeremiah, etc.

12 **2. THE GRACE EXCHANGE**

- V. 31 - *"shall renew their strength"*
- "The phrase translated 'they shall renew their strength,' properly means 'they shall exchange strength.'
- Hebrew word for 'renew' means exchange.
- Application: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10: *"And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

13 **Examples:**

- David,
 - Psalm 51:10, 12: *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit."*
- Peter – Confession – Over-confidence – Failure – Restoration

14 **3. FLYING HIGH BECAUSE OF GRACE**

- "They shall mount up with wings like eagles."
 - Speaks of Victory.
 - Christian life is to be a life of victory
 - As we exchange our strength for His
 - As we abide in Christ.

15 **Ephesians 2:4-7**

- "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

16 **4. RUNNING FOR THE FINISH**

- "They shall run and not be weary."
 - They wait for God's time:
 - Illustration: Like runner in starting blocks
 - Christian waits for God's time, then accelerates toward the goal.

17 **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

- *24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

18 **5. WALKING WITH DETERMINATION**

- "They shall walk and not faint."
- Philippians 3:13-16: 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.
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