



Life Principles Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God

GOD ACTS ON OUR BEHALF

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 64:1-4 | **SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:** Philippians 4:6-7 | Psalm 25:3; 27:14; 37:7, 34

SUMMARY:

Waiting is uncomfortable.

Most of us hate lines, stop lights, and other delays. We want *what* we want—and we want it *now*.

Our heavenly Father has created our spiritual lives to function differently. In order to grow as believers, you and I must learn to wait on Him. When we surrender to His timing, the Father can do mighty things in us and for us. *God acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.* In other words, we must allow His schedule—not our own agendas—to guide our lives. Then we can experience His very best.

SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES:

What is God's role in our waiting?

The Father is involved as we rest in Him. His job is to give us clear direction—in other words, to reveal His will. The Lord also guides our choices and protects the outcome of our obedience. When we obey Him, we are shielded from all kinds of negative situations and circumstances—many of which we may never realize. As we wait, the Lord heals, comforts, teaches, and empowers us. He encourages us, answers our prayers, and gives us peace (Phil. 4:6-7). We may rest, but God continues to work.

What does it mean to wait on the Lord?

To rest in the Lord requires patience, which is simply the will to wait. You and I must also listen

for further instruction, instead of rushing ahead with our solutions or agendas. Waiting requires us to calmly accept what the Lord is doing in our lives. We have to trust Him to fulfill His will for us. Some may have to surrender what seems like an immediate need and resist the temptation to set their own timelines. However, waiting on Him doesn't mean we take a fatalistic attitude. It's purposeful anticipation that God will accomplish what He has promised.

Psalms speaks of waiting on God.

Depending on the Father instead of taking action can be difficult. Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage." When you and I obey Him, we never have to worry about what others think of us. Reliance on God protects us from experiencing shame (Ps. 25:3). Notice that resting in the Lord is not passive, but active—you and I are commanded to wait patiently for Him (Ps. 37:7). As a result of faithfully surrendering to His timing, we can expect His very best. *The Living Bible* puts it this way: "Don't be impatient for the Lord to act! Keep traveling steadily along His pathway and in due season He will honor you with every blessing" (Ps. 37:34).

Why do we have to wait? God is...

■ **Arranging circumstances.** The Israelites marched around Jericho many times prior to attacking the city. Anxiety and fear crippled the enemy, preparing the way for victory. David was selected as the next king of Israel years before he took the throne. But he waited on God's timing

and refused to take the life of Saul, the Lord's anointed leader.

■ **Purifying our motives.** Instead of acting out of lust, greed, or pride, we should be stirred by love, service, and obedience. When our motivations aren't right, God will often wait to bless us.

■ **Teaching us to rely on Him.** If every prayer were answered immediately, we might never learn to trust God. That's why sometimes He promises to provide, then asks us to wait.

■ **Protecting us from unseen danger.** The Father sees all things and knows what is best for each person. Those who rush ahead of Him run into unexpected difficulties.

■ **Preparing us to make the greatest impact on others.** When you and I choose to wait on God's provision, our lives can be awesome testimonies of His faithfulness.

What are our choices?

Whenever God asks us to wait on Him, we have three options. One is to manipulate circumstances. Doing this will forfeit the Lord's best and may even result in disaster. Second, you and I can walk away from Him. In other words, we can allow disappointment to destroy our relationships with the Father. The third choice is to wait on the Lord, watch Him work, and reap the reward. Whenever God calls us to a season of rest, we can either work against His purposes for our lives or decide to surrender to His will.

The Requirements

Waiting on God requires four specific qualities. First—faith. It's easy to trust Him when life is going well. Can you rely on Him when things get difficult? Second, waiting on the Lord requires patience. We must set aside our own agendas and allow Him to work. Third, you and I need humility. Proud people often disobey God: they might believe their plans are better than His or worry too much about what others will think. Fourth, we must have courage. There are three ways courageousness plays a role: we need it to resist the temptation to do it our way, to disregard

negative peer pressure, and to stand firm against the fear of failure. It takes determination to wait for God to work when nothing seems to be happening.

The Consequences of Failing to Wait

■ **You and I will be disappointed.** Regardless of how wonderful your plans seem in comparison with anticipating God's best, disobeying Him ultimately leads to disappointment.

■ **We will step outside of the Lord's will.** By manipulating circumstances instead of depending on God, we find ourselves in a dangerous place outside His perfect plan for our lives.

■ **God can't give us His best.** Why would anyone want the Father's second choice for his or her life? Yet that's exactly what you and I get when we fail to wait on Him.

■ **We bring hurt, pressure, and suffering on ourselves.** Although following God's will is no guarantee that everything will go perfectly, resisting Him always has negative consequences.

■ **Others are hurt.** Disobeying the Lord usually results in harm to others. Selfishness, addictions, and outright rebellion affect those around us.

CONCLUSION:

Believers often grow impatient while waiting on God to work. We believe the lie that He is unaware of our struggles or will fail to deliver us. Acting on human wisdom, you and I rush ahead of our heavenly Father.

My prayer is that we would learn to anticipate His answer—and do it joyfully. Why? God's Word says that He acts on behalf of those who trust in Him. No, He doesn't promise to give us all we want. But when you and I watch for His provision, it will come—every time. ✨



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