

WAITING ON THE LORD

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1. THE PURPOSE OF WAITING

We will look at waiting on God. What does it mean to wait on God and why do we need to wait on God.

Isa. 40:28-31 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for 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.

In verse 30 he speaks about how that even natural strength can not compare to the strength that people will receive when they wait on God. The youths shall fail. Young men shall also fall. But those who wait on God, God seems to give them a supernatural strength.

Notice here that there is a cycle when we look at waiting on God. It says in verse 31 that those who wait on God shall mount up with wings like eagles. Then you shall run and not be weary. You shall walk and not be faint. Wait, mount, run and walk, these 4 are a cycle by itself. It starts with waiting.

Waiting speaks about being stationary, not doing anything but just waiting on God. Then from that stationary position suddenly you take off like an eagle. You are flying under the wings of the Holy Spirit.

Then your actions slow down. From flying you go to running. Running is slower than flying.

Then afterwards you go to walking. Which is slower even than running.

There are different speeds involved in this particular verse and all are important. If an eagle wants to catch a prey, the eagle would have to slow down and then swoop and then catch the prey under his talons and go off. Any of you tried to drink a cup of tea while you are running would fail. Does anybody eat sandwiches while doing the marathon race? When you want to eat you have to station yourself in one place to really enjoy your meal.

Then we talk about walking that is different from running. When you are running you can not be a tourist. When you do your shopping you have to slow down to examine those items. So there are various speeds that we move along in life according to the need of the situation.

Sometimes you need an eagle's vision. But looking will not feed you. You need to come down and look around and pluck the different fruits from those trees etc. There need to be different speeds in our life. What the bible is giving here is a cycle. From waiting you go to flying. From flying you go to running. From running you go to walking. And let me connect it from walking you go back to waiting. It's a cycle that you repeat over and over again in life. That from time to time God calls on you to wait. And after you wait you receive an impetus where you fly. Then as you fly you

need to do something. Sometimes you need to come down to run. Then sometimes you need to walk. Then from walking you need to wait again. The cycle keeps going on over and over again in our lives.

If you are sensitive to that cycle in your life then you will know when to wait, when to fly, when to run, when to walk. Sometimes the Holy Spirit say fly, sometimes the Holy Spirit says wait. Some times the Holy Spirit says run and if you don't run you are finished. Sometimes the Holy Spirit tells you stand, that's waiting on God. Standing on the promises of God. We need to be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is telling us to do. Sometimes He gets us into a position where we have to do what He wants us to do quickly. Other times He tells you wait. Sometimes there is an urgency of matter, where He may send you to do something and He may say to you to speak to no one along the way.

These are cycles that are repeated in our lives. When I preach I don't run. If I fly when I preach you can't see me. We slow down at different areas. That's the reason why God tells us to wait.

Waiting for God's Cycles and Dispensations

The first reason I bring before you is that God has planned things by dispensation. God has a cycle in history. Sometimes you are born at a moment where you have to do your part in that cycle and wait on God for the other cycles to take place. In the first category you are ready. God is ready but the timing is not right.

Let me give an illustration of people waiting on God.

Lk. 2:25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, (What was he doing? He was waiting like an eagle. And it was a long wait.) looking for the consolation of Israel and the Holy Spirit was upon him. Let me assure Simeon was living in the perfect will of God. Simeon was doing all the right things. He was righteous and devout. Simeon knew the timing of God. He knew that God was going to restore Israel. God was going to send the Messiah. Simeon knew all these things. The Holy Spirit was upon him; the anointing was upon him. But I don't think many people know about him in those days. He may have lived and died and nobody knew he existed. He lived at a time when the Messiah was not yet to be manifested. He lived just before Jesus was born. He had his part to do. I believe he did his part in intercession. Probably before Jesus came on the scene, before John the Baptist came on the scene there were a lot of devout men and women whom God called to pray for the nation of Israel. Among them would be Anna the prophetess. Among them would have been Simeon.

What was wrong at this moment? Nothing wrong except that the dispensation and the timing of God was such that the Messiah was to come at around zero A.D. or actually about 4 B.C. That was the time of the manifestation of the Messiah coming forth. And Jesus died at about A.D. 27. Our calendar was slightly messed up. It was not exactly zero A.D. that Jesus was born. All historians point to about 27 A.D. And here was Simeon he was living in the B.C. He was born in the B.C. living in the B.C. looking forward to Jesus coming. In fact if he had lived as an adult around Jesus' time, he would probably qualified to be a disciple of Jesus. If he had lived in the time of Samuel under king Saul, he would have been qualified to be a prophet. He was born

for a destiny. He was born for a purpose. And his purpose was to just welcome the Messiah. When Jesus was born the Holy Spirit was upon him who told him, "Go to the temple today." And in the temple there was Mary and Joseph dedicating Jesus on the eighth day which is the day that the Jews dedicated newborn babies. It was a day that the newborn babies were circumcised.

See how perfect his timing was. His role was very simple. He was just to come in and welcome Jesus. Jesus couldn't talk yet. He even couldn't say to Simeon, "Come and follow me and I will make you a fisher of man." And when Jesus was there Simeon saw the child and the anointing fell on him. He got hold of Jesus and started prophesying.

Anna the prophetess was another woman who was perfect in the will of God. They lived in the perfect will of God. Let me assure you that it is not how demonstrative or how public God wants you to be a disciple. The most important thing is to do the perfect will of God. Simeon and Anna may not have a chance to be disciples of Jesus. Simeon and Anna may not have a chance to be one of those great prophets of the Old Testament. But Simeon and Anna lived in the perfect will of God.

I read about the gospel of Nicodemus. What was the response of Nicodemus? You remember when Jesus Christ died on the cross. And the tomb was opened and Jesus was raised up and all the dead rose up also. Then those dead who believed in Jesus woke up and they went about Jerusalem. One of them was Simeon. That is in the gospel of Nicodemus. After welcoming Jesus, the first thing he said was, "Lord let me die now." Jesus was just only 8 days old and he just saw Jesus and he said, "Let me die now."

I guess when he went down into Hades he saw David there. He saw Samuel the prophet. He told all those guys and said I saw baby Jesus. In Hades I could imagine he said to all those waiting there with him, "Just wait a little while long. Wait till He grows to be 30 years old and then He got 3 years' ministry and then He will come down for us." But the fact of it is God has His timing in the way things take place in the events of life.

Jesus was born in what we called the fullness of time. Jesus was not born later or earlier. Just as He was about to come forth from Mary's womb God ordained a census. In that census it caused Mary who was pregnant to come into Bethlehem and that's where Jesus was born to fulfill the prophecy in the Old Testament. This is where we see the hand of God on the events of this world. God is controlling world events. God is in control right behind the European scene. Causing it to come to pass of what He wants in the prophecy of Daniel. Causing the rising of those 10 nations to come forth in the fullness of time. God has His timing.

That's the first reason why we had to wait on God. We had to wait on God and flow in what God is doing in any generation. If you and I were living in Martin Luther's time. the reformation was the move of God at that time. They haven't exercised the gifts of the Spirit yet. Why, because they didn't even know what it means to be born again. So when those things happened you will move in to the move of God when you were there. God has His timing and His dispensation. That He is doing things all over the world. You have to discern the timing of God. We may be ready; God may be ready, but the timing of God was not yet ready.

When we were praying about starting a church, one of the things the Lord spoke was it's not the time yet to manifest this kind of ministry. God was saying in my heart and saying that the 1950s was the decade of the evangelist. The 1960s was the decade of the pastors. The 1970s was the decade of the teachers. The 1980s is the decade of the prophet. And the 1990s is the decade of the apostles. So God said wait until that decade come. We could say we got the technology. But without God you will utterly fail.

King David had the technology. He could have built the temple. God said I didn't choose you to do that. He flowed with the dispensation of God. He didn't argue with God. He knows where God has placed him. So we must know the dispensation of God and flow along. We are signs and wonders to the world. We are to fulfill our part on the historical face of this planet. Everything we do must flow with God's perfect timing, His dispensation that He has ordained. That is the first thing why we must wait on God. God has His dispensation. He who is wise in the Lord discerns the times of God. Don't get in a hurry. Just learn to wait on Him.

Waiting to Get Ready Ourselves

The second reason why we have to wait on God is sometimes the time is ready but we are not ready. We are not ready because our faith level is not there to do the work of God. We are not ready because we are not trained and prepared to do the work of God. There is some thing interesting about the law of faith. The law of faith has to do with the law of patience. Faith works with patience. The reason is that faith has an incubation period. When you exercise faith for some thing you will find that it has a period of pregnancy and a period of incubation. Even when you sow the seed, the seed that you sow needs time to grow in the ground before it can be harvested. There is a sowing time. There is a waiting time like a farmer. And there is time to receive.

Jesus has always illustrated faith as a mustard seed. Jesus said that if you have faith as a mustard seed you can say to this mountain move into the sea and the mountain will move. He mentioned that in Matt. 17 and in Mk. 11. Why does He have to compare that to a mustard seed? A mustard seed has to be planted to be a great plant. Faith needs to be planted and it needs an incubation period.

That is why some cases of healing and miracles there are 2 streams that you can receive. You can either receive by the anointing or you can receive by faith. If you want to receive by the anointing, you need to hear the voice of God. We call that the rhema of God. If you want to receive by logos which is by faith, you must be sowing the logos before the crisis occur. You don't wait until the crisis occur and start planting the seed. You don't have enough incubation periods to harvest what you need in that crisis. For that reason we should be sowing the word of God in times of plenty. So that when the times of need come you have the right to make a withdrawal from the deposit that you have placed into the spirit realm.

The spirit realm operates in symbolic form as you can see in the natural realm. You don't go to the bank to draw money unless you have deposited the money in. In the same way you have no right to withdraw something you have not sowed. The harvest needs time to grow and to ripen. So right now if you could see in the future, God began to show it to your spirit a crisis or a need coming. You have to start sowing

now. You don't wait until that thing comes and hits you and you start sowing. It's too late.

So the second reason we have seen is that the world may be ready. The call is there. God is ready but we are not ready. So God tells you to come into His presence to learn of Him. To be trained of Him. To be prepared by His Spirit. The reason behind that is that your faith is being built. Faith works with patience. Paul says in II Thes. 1 your faith grow exceedingly and then he goes on and say that your patience have been made known to all men. Faith and patience goes together. Heb. 6 He talks about following the man of God. The man that goes before you who has set an example who through faith and patience obtained or inherit the promises of God. Faith and patience goes together. You exercise faith with patience. Faith has an incubation period. Give time for that. Learn to wait on God and let faith sink into you.

One of the wonderful thing about faith is that how it gets into you; how it gets a hold of you; how it grows all these are mysterious. We know faith comes but we don't understand the fullness of how it grows within you and at which point faith takes place. If you give it enough time it does take place and grow. The bible call that the mystery of faith.

In the qualification of the deacon he mentioned that they are to hold the mystery of the faith. Why does he call with a good conscience? Why does he call he mystery of the faith? Sometimes mentally you think you have faith. But in reality it is not in you yet. All you have is information and knowledge. It is not going to produce anything. It is not just mental ascent.

So the second reason why we should wait of God is we are not ready. Sometimes we are not ready not only because of faith but because of character. So God never trust you in the limelight. Sometimes man does. It's very seldom that you are ready and there are no doors open. But there are sometimes when you are not ready and the doors are opened. Man knows how to open doors for you.

Early in my ministry I was only about 20 and I started operating the gifts of the Spirit and those people who are interested haven't seen that in those days. So when they saw the gift of God operating, they began to take me around and bring me to big meetings. Doors began to open all over in this country. The only problem was the gift was there. The people saw the gift but I was not mentally and socially and character wise prepared for that kind of pressure, that kind of fellowshiping, that kind of relating with people yet. All I knew was how to operate the gifts and the word of God. But it was insufficient. My character was not prepared and ready to move into the public realm. All I know was preach the word and that's it.

But there is more to ministering to people than just giving the word and operating the gifts. You have to have an understanding of human relationship and how to relate to other human beings and different types of Christians. What happened was that human beings open the door for me and throw me into the limelight. I was not ready to face it. And as a result of that I went through things that I should not have gone through. My character was not prepared. Now I am ready to face the limelight. I am better able to deal with human relationship than I was before. Young people usually have the ability but have no art in diplomacy. As you grow older you get mellower. You learn how to say no with a smile. When you were young you say no with a grunt. That is

the difference in whether you are young or old. I was like a Roman soldier attacking the walls. There was no art to relate to another human being. What was happening was that I was not ready.

There are very few times when you are ready and the doors are not opened. Usually when you are ready the doors are opened. But there are many times when you are not ready and the doors are opened. Human beings could open the door. Doors were opened all over the world five years ago to me. But I have learned my lesson and I said no. So that's the second reason for waiting on God. God is ready, the world is ready for you, you are not ready. So you wait on God; you prepare yourself for the timing of God.

Gal. 1:14-18 And I advance in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles. I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas.

Paul who was more educated than Peter. But as far as the things of the Lord was concerned he was a baby when he was born again. As far as the natural things were concerned he was probably ahead of Peter. Peter was a fisherman. Gamaliel never brought him up. Paul was; Paul was a scholar. When Paul was born again on the road to Damascus, God told him about his call. He knew he was not ready. He went away for 3 years. He didn't go to a bible college. There was none in those days. He went to Arabia. That is why in Acts 9 between verse 25 and 26 he slotted Galatians 1 in. Look at Acts 9 in verse 25 it says that at Damascus they let him down in a basket. Verse 26 and when Paul had come to Jerusalem. It looks as if he was let down in a basket and he went straight to Jerusalem. But in Galatians 1, it tells you that when he was born again and God revealed his Son to him, he did not go to Jerusalem. He did not meet the apostles. He did not meet Peter at all. He went to Arabia. If you accept Galatians 1 you have to slot that verse there. Between Acts 9 verse 25 and 26 is Galatians 1 verses 14 to 18. And after 3 years then only he saw Peter. So by the time verse 26 has taken place between verse 25 to 26 is a period of 3 years. That is the second reason why we should wait on God. We are not ready. And it takes maturity to say no. One of the things that you learn to say when you grow up is to say no with a smile. Do you know there are men of God have worked themselves to death because they never learn to say no.

The first is the dispensation of God, or the cycles of God. Everybody is ready but God says the timing is not ready. You are ready the world is ready but God says His timing. There is a timing and season for nations to come and to go; for manifestations to come and to go. The second reason is when the world is ready, God is ready, but you are not ready.

Now the third reason you are ready, God is ready but the world is not ready yet. One example we can have is Jesus. You can see that Jesus was ready when He was twelve. He knew the Holy Spirit. He knew the scriptures. He could ask and answer questions which the Pharisees could not understand. They were astonished, surprised at His answers. Jesus was waiting on the timing of God. And the timing of God was not so

much because of God. It was also partly to do with the dispensation that was there. God knew the time to manifest Jesus to Israel. Now in Jesus manifesting as a Messiah also has a little bit to do with the first reason. The 70 weeks of Daniel has to be fulfilled exactly. If God fulfill earlier you will miss one year. If God fulfill later the last 7 years of Daniel will become less. So the Messiah has to be manifested on the 69th week. So the timing of God was such.

Here is another example where God is ready, we are ready, the world is not ready.

Acts 16:6-8 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so passing by Mysia they went down to Troas.

They tried to go to two places Bithynia and Mysia. The Holy Spirit said no. Paul and Silas could have said but the Lord Jesus said go. Remember Jesus had already sent, God was already ready. Jesus had given the great commission in Matt. 28:19-20 and Mk. 16:16-18. Jesus had said in Matthew go and preach to all nations which includes Bithynia and Mysia. In Mk. 16 He had said go and preach to every creature. The commission had been given. God was ready. Paul and Silas were ready. This is their second missionary journey. But Mysia and Bithynia were not ready. There is a time and a season for all things. What did Paul do? They went to Troas and waited. And instead of sending them to Mysia and Bithynia he sent them over to Philippi in Macedonia. God knows the hearts of men. There is a time and a season to harvest them. So sometimes you are ready. God is ready but the world is not ready. Do you know you still had to wait. And sometimes while you are waiting He asks you to do some other things. Like He told Paul how long you have been in Mysia. Don't go to Bithynia. Go over here to Macedonia. That is God's instruction to them. Apparently later on the gospel did go to Bithynia and Mysia.

In Acts 19:10 This continued for 2 years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. Did you know that in Acts 19:10 included Mysia and Bithynia. All of Asia included the mainland. Bithynia and Mysia are part of the continent of Asia. Not Asia today but Asia in those days. Now all these were pointing to the fact that there was a time and a purpose for God to minister to Bithynia and Mysia. Paul was ready, God was ready but it was not ready for Asia.

Finally in his third missionary journey headquarters in Ephesus he ministered to all of Asia. This explains the third reason why we have to wait on God. That you are ready, God is ready but the people are not ready. You have to learn to wait on God. It takes great patience when you know the truth and you want to give the truth but people are not ready. There is a time and a season of God for your life. Flow with the times and the seasons of God. We are all like trees planted by the river of water which will bear its fruit in its season, Ps. 1 whose leaves also shall not wither. There is a season for bearing fruit. There is a season for God to do something in your life. There is a season to be prepared.

I remember when we started a church in 1981 God said for 3 years you don't go anywhere. But in the fourth year God said I am going to send you to another country just for a while. And God open just one door. Before that we had a few invitations that we just ignored. Right now I have never been to East Malaysia yet. I have many

invitations there. But I wrote back to them and said I will wait on God's timing. It is important for us to search the seasons of God. His general presence may be with you. But you can't do much with His general presence.

We follow the pillar of cloud and where the pillar of cloud goes you go. When the pillar of cloud does not go and you go you are by yourself. And sometimes the pillar of cloud goes and you said no not again. The Old Testament folks in the wilderness live by the Spirit. Everywhere where the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night move they got to move. That means that if today it moves you got to move. Sometimes the pillar of cloud will stop in a place for a month. Sometimes one day. Sometimes two months. So every morning the first thing you do when you rub your eyes you look up to see if the pillar still there. If you see it begins to move you got to say guys get packing we are moving again.

There is a time and season of God in our life. Follow the cloud of pillar; follow that fire. Where is it now? It is not on the top of your head. It is inside your spirit man. That same Holy Spirit is now placed in your spirit. You can follow the leading of the Spirit in your life there is a season and a timing of God. Now all this also has to do in the business realm as well as in the ministry. There is a time and a season to do something. There is a time and a season for God to publicly show you and promote you.

See Paul was hidden for the first 10 years of his life. He was born again in Acts 9 he was commissioned in Acts 13 as they fasted and ministered to the Lord. The Lord said separate Paul and Barnabas for the work which I have called them. Between Acts 10 to Acts 13 is a period for about 10 years. Acts 9 when he was born again it was about A.D. 35 and Acts 13 was about A.D. 45 ten years have passed by. God has His time. God has a season and time to promote you whether in the ministry or in the secular realm. God has His time and purpose. Learn to wait on God; don't go ahead of what God did not ask. Examine it in your heart and in your life. There is a time and season to do things. I know what the Holy Spirit tells me to do year by year. I focus on that. And I know if I don't do these things I will be disobedient. We have to discern the times and seasons of God. We are all taking orders from Him. So God will tell you if you have a company or a business God will say this is what you will do for this year. Sometimes the worldly opportunities tell you something else. But if God tells you something else you follow God. God is always right. And all the time learn to do it; He is smarter than us.

2. THREE REASONS TO WAIT ON GOD

Isa. 40:28-31 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for 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.

This morning we are going to touch on 3 reasons to wait on God. Last week we have shown the purpose of waiting on God. There are 3 basic reasons that we can find as to why we should wait on Him. What does waiting on Him cover?

Lets look first in Isa. 64:4 From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides thee, who works for those who wait for him.

God acts on the behalf of those who wait for Him. I remember how a minister of God who read these verses on waiting on God said, "Lord I want to learn to wait upon you." So every night from about 12 onwards right up to one, he consecrated one hour just to wait on God. He would enter his prayer closet and kneel before Him saying, "Lord I wait for you." Many months passed and after many, many months one day he came to God and he said, "Lord this is the last night that I am waiting on you." And towards the end of his waiting he felt the presence of the Lord standing behind him. He did not dare to look around. He wondered what to say, what to do. Before he could say anything he felt the Lord putting His hand on his shoulder. And he felt that the hand was wet. He said, "Lord why is your hand wet?" The Lord said, "I am weeping because many of my people did not wait for Me. They always rush ahead of Me. They always do things by themselves. And my people did not wait for Me." When he heard that he started crying and he started weeping. And that experience changed his whole life.

To Show God We Love Him

There is an importance in learning to wait on God. And one of the first reasons is that waiting on God is our way of saying we love Him. Waiting on God is coming into His presence to be with Him. Not just for what He can do. Not just because we want Him to do for us. But waiting on God shows that we love Him. We love to be in His presence. Its just like we can not wait to be with Him. When we have finished our time with Him we go out and we finish all those things that are required of us in both our earthly duties and spiritual work. Or whatever else He asks us to do. Then when we finished we just can not wait to get back to His presence.

If you stop waiting on God you have stopped loving God. Waiting on God shows forth that you still love God with your first love. The day you stop waiting on God you have stopped loving God with your first love.

The apostle Paul in I Cor. 2 quotes this very passage in Isa. 64:4 again but he has put an additional revelation when he quoted that.

In I Cor. 2:9 But as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him.” He quoted the same passage Isa. 64:4 but this time he replaced the word wait with the word love. In Paul’s understanding when he read the Greek bible Paul understood that when God say those who wait on Him He would act on their behalf. Paul understood that God was referring to loving Him. Those who wait on God are equivalent to those who love Him. Paul replaces that very word. He does not mentioned anything about waiting in I Cor. 2. However he mentioned about loving Him. God will do great things for those who love Him.

How do we love Him? You love Him by loving His presence. By learning to come into the closet where you could be alone with God. If you just love Him with your work, it is at the second level. The first level is to love Him as He is, to love His presence.

Revelations 2:4 Jesus in talking to the Ephesians church said, “Repent for you have lost your first love for Me.” You must understand the Ephesians church was one of the most powerful churches. It was in Ephesus that the whole gospel went out to Asia Minor. Paul was there for a period of about 3 years. Two of those years were in the school of Tyrannus. And in that church that brought revival to that whole land. This is the same church that the apostle John brought a message to. Its the same church that he said by the revelation of Jesus Christ to him to the church said that repent for you have lost your first love for me. They were zealous in their works. They did a lot of nice things but they don’t love Him as they ought to. Rev. 2:2 Jesus said I know your works, (they were hard working for God) your labor, your patience, you endure and that you can not bear those who are evil. They were righteous. They seek to purge unrighteousness from their midst. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them to be liars. And you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. They have all these qualities that some Christians don’t even have.

If you stop right there it looks as if these Christians are the first class Christians. These are the Christians that everybody should follow. However the Lord said in verse 4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. You don’t love me like you used to. The word first love is significant. It gives a picture of how when a person first fall in love. You love the presence of the one you love. You want to be with him or her all the time. That’s the illustration that is used of the Lord. You just want to be with Him. Want to wait upon His presence. Make this a goal of your life.

Have you ever heard of David Brainerd? He has a book that is actually his diary on his work among the North American Indians. A lovely man of God who died early. He finished his work early, and went home to be with the Lord. There is one sentence in his diary that touches me very much. He mentioned that he makes it a goal that he wants to be the man on earth in his generation closest to the Lord. So that in his generation when God looks down God will say like He says of Job, have you considered my servant Job? He is the one that is closest to Him in his generation. Some of the people in the bible who are leaders of their generation walked the closest with God in their generation. Of course comparatively speaking to Jesus, they don’t meet His standard.

Why did God deal with Abraham? It is because of all the people on the earth Abraham was the one who was the closest to Him. Why did God deal with people like Noah? In all the earth millions of them there was one that stood above the rest. Right now upon this earth there are nearly about 5 billion people. Lets say about one third of them are born again Christians. And among the millions of born again Christians there is one that is closest to God than the rest. These are areas where we should aim and run the race. Don't complete for the wrong thing, complete for the right thing. Aim for that, that in your generation you are the closest to the Lord. We all have to aim for the A1 for the Lord.

First love for the Lord. You show God how much you love Him but show Him how much you love to wait on Him. Just whether an hour or two hours just spending time in His presence saying Lord I love you. Here we are looking at reasons for waiting on Him. The first reason is waiting is loving. To wait on Him is to love Him.

To Show God We Need Him

The second reason is in Isa. 40 waiting on God shows God that we need Him. That sound very insignificant such a simple statement. But the basis of all of creation and the basis of all of Christianity is that we are the creation He is the Creator we need Him. Although we need Him not everybody acknowledge we need Him. There are people in this world who are atheistic who don't believe that there is a God. So there are people out there in their action and in their mind saying I don't need God. I could do it by myself. Every place where God has intervened in the cycle of this earth there has been a man or a woman who has reached out to Him and said, "God we need you."

God never respond unless we acknowledge our needs. He only responds to our needs. That is the way He created us. He never created us to be independent by ourselves. He created us to be dependant directly on Him. However we have a free will and we don't acknowledge all the time that we need Him. That is among those who do not know Him. Even among those who know Him sometimes there is no acknowledgment that we need Him. We could do it by ourselves. We could do it by our intelligence. We could do it by our education. We could do it by our training. We never say, "Lord we need you." We become self-confident.

It is all right to have a good self-image. But it is wrong to be self-confident in a sense that you are self-confident without God. You should be Christ confident. That Christ in you could do it. When we know God fresh, we usually depend a lot on Him. For example, I see some people who are new in the Lord and I enjoy seeing them praying. Some of you when you began to learn to teach the word of God or you went out on your first evangelistic campaign, you really prevailed and travailed as you came before God and said, "God go with me Lord. I can't do it Lord please Lord you got to go with me." God loves that. God loves to hear you acknowledging how much you need Him. Sometimes along the way as that person gets more confident they don't come to God any more. Take it for granted God is always with me any way. So there is no expression of the need of God.

What about worship and song leading? I remember the first time some of you lead songs, you come before God and say God, "Please anoint me." You go on a 3 days and nights of fasting. Their dependence on God need to be felt all the time. However

as you mature in the Lord you may be more confident in what the Lord can do through you. That is fine. However the heart felt dependence on Him must never be yielded. It must be maintained.

Every time I minister for God even though I have ministered for 13, 14 years and I know the bible at the back of my hand, yet before I minister I come before God and say, "Lord I need you. I need you as much as when I first started ministering. I need you even more O my Lord." That acknowledgment must be made. Without acknowledgment there is no grace given onto you.

That is the second reason to wait on God. By waiting on God we take our position before the Creator. How much we need Him. How much we depend on Him. How much we can not do without Him. That acknowledgment must be developed all our life.

One ministry I admire very much is Kathryn Khulman's ministry. Every time before she minister her miracle services, she would be in her prayer closet walking up and down praying in tears. Some men of God have come nearby and heard her praying. She always prays the same prayer before her miracle service. She has seen thousands healed. Yet before each service she come before God and she say, "Lord if you don't go with me I can not do it Lord." She said that before she went into the miracle service she died a thousand deaths. She had to learn what it is to depend on God. That key to maintain our dependence is done through waiting spending time waiting on Him.

Some times some of those ministers who have been very long in the ministry I notice they lost this. They just go about their ministry as a professional. They don't wait on God any more. Because they have preached many sermons thousands of time they could preach anything. But the acknowledgment is not there and the ministry also feels and sounds different. The knowledge is imparted because they have the experience but there is something that seems to be missing. What is that missing element? The love for the Lord does not come through.

When people share a word or when people teach or whatever people do you could tell whether they love the Lord. You could tell they are just sharing because of their knowledge or they are sharing out of their love for God. When you have a love for God you inspire love for God in other people. You can't give to others what you don't have. It is like a resonance if you resonate with love for God. The resonance will be transported in an invisible way to others, inspires others to love God.

Waiting on God tells us we need Him. Jesus said in Jn. 15:5 I am the vine you are branches; you abide in me my word abide in you; you shall bear much fruit. Without me you can do nothing. The Christian life and the Christian ministry is interesting in that we have to at the time know that we can do everything in Jesus. And have full confidence of what He can do through us. At the same time we have to have full consciousness that we can not make it without Him.

We have to combine these 2 principles together. On one hand is the acknowledgment that you are nothing. On the other hand is the acknowledgment that He is everything in you. When you could combine that 2 together, that's where the Lord could flow beautifully through your life. You are confident, you have a good self-image yet at the

same time there is an internal softness that says, "I need you God." On the outside everything says He can do it Jesus in you can do it. The 2 are combined together beautifully.

The key to maintain this is learning to wait on Him. Learning to come before Him and say, "I need you Lord. I worship you I can't live without you." He wants us to acknowledge that all the time. That is something you can not do for this year or last year. You have to do it fresh.

The first reason in waiting on God shows you love Him. The second reason shows the acknowledgement of your need. Every answer of God to His people in this bible has been when there is an acknowledgement of need. This is the most powerful principle.

I have a book "You Can Know God" After all his teaching on the presence of God, the author conclude how you can get into the union with God in fullness. He summarizes with this one principle: That is every case where God has revealed Himself to people; it has always been when there was an acknowledgement of need. All through this bible the reason why Abel's sacrifice was acknowledged and Cain's was not was Abel recognized the need for the covering of the blood. The reason why Abraham was chosen was because Abraham realized his need for God. He reached out to the Lord. He needed the Lord. The reason why God answered the Israelites was because every time they have problems they cry to Him. He worked because they acknowledge their need. The reason why God sent Moses was because the Israelites when they were being persecuted for many generations the cry went out to God. Every bible incidence here has always been a revelation of God meeting the needs of men.

There are many types of needs, not just healing needs in our life. It says God shall supply all your needs. If you don't acknowledge your need you can not acknowledge His supply. If you don't acknowledge that you need to be saved you can not acknowledge His salvation. If you don't acknowledge that you need a healing you won't even be in a position to receive the Healer. If you don't acknowledge that you need a provision then He can not be the Provider for you.

All the names of God have to do with a need in our life. Every name of God has to do with the need of men. And when we acknowledge our need we are acknowledging His name. We are acknowledging that God can meet our needs. That is the way God is. God has always been there to be God to human beings. Think about the word God. The word God means some one who will always be there when we need Him. Some one whom we can not do without. The word God speaks about a being who loves to minister to our needs. The word God speaks about some one whom we are dependant upon. The very name of God in the English expresses the fact that He is a being whom we have to learn to depend on.

Men being the way he is don't like to depend on God. Our own nature always says you can do it without God. Humanism says the same thing. But Christianity teaches us to depend on God more and more. Solomon depended on God for wisdom. David depended on God to fight his battles. The Rock is my salvation He trains my hand for war. Noah depended on God for salvation from the flood. Abraham depended on God to lead him. Every man of God depended on God. And after David died some of the evil things came out. But when the good kings came out they said Lord we need you.

Why is it that when the good king like Hezekiah said Lord I need you and God was there. Two generations ago a bad king was there and God was not there. What brought God there? It was the acknowledgement of our need. God manifest when we acknowledge our needs. And the greatest need you can ever acknowledge is you need Him. You show that by waiting on Him. That is the second reason. Waiting on God shows our acknowledgement of God acknowledging our need for Him.

To Bring Us To God's Plans

The third reason is that waiting on God brings us God's plan. You can also put the third reason on waiting on God is to hear Him, to receive His plans and purposes for our lives.

Acts 13:1-3 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Symeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid hands on them and sent them off.

Waiting on God ministering unto the Lord tunes our spiritual ears to hear Him. Some of the things of God that we need to hear, His voice, His wisdom, His plans do not come in a split second. They take long hours on waiting on Him. There is no short cut in this area. Christians who have been brought up in short cut all the time have to learn the experience of just sitting and kneeling in His presence and ministering to Him in an attitude of waiting.

If you know God He will sometimes test out your very patience to wait for Him. For example one of you comes to wait on God. You kneel down and the hours pass by. And you set a schedule of 2 hours where you have to decide to do something about some situation you are in. I am not talking about something that is normal. I am talking about something urgent that you just need to do. And you are seeking God for His voice on that matter. Time passed everyday; you wait on Him and as the days pass by, the matter gets more urgent. You can't stand it. In the end you went ahead and do what you can. What happened is you have not died to self. When you have died to self you could not even go out and do it yourself. But at the back of your mind you have not died. You say let me see what He says. He doesn't say anything I am going ahead. You haven't died.

The day you could come to God and say, "God if you don't do anything I can not do anything either." That's when He answers. That's when you have died. And when you acknowledged you got nothing and you can not do anything. You have died. And say, "God if you don't do anything I am finished." You have acknowledged a complete death of your own plans and acknowledged your need of Him.

Let see an illustration of people who tried to hear God and could not.

1 Kings 17:8-14 Then the word of the Lord came to him, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he arose and went to Zarephath; and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, "Bring

me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in you hand.” And she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a cruse; and now, I am gathering a couple of sticks, that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” And Elijah said to her, “Fear not; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel, “The jar of meal shall not be spent, and the cruse of oil shall not fail, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.”

And he goes to this widow of Zarephath didn't even greet her. Didn't even say God bless you. He says give me some water. And the widow goes and get water and as she was on her way to get water. He said by the way get some bread too. The woman said we got nothing. We only got a little bit of flour. She said today we are celebrating our own funeral. We had a little flour we intend to eat it and die. Elijah said give it to me first. Then the prophecy came forth that the flour shall not run out; the oil shall not run out. God actually sent Elijah to save them. God could have provided in some other way for Elijah. But the timing of God was so nice. He went when the widow was having her last meal. Had he came a bit late it would have been a different story. Think about it here the widow said we are having our last meal.

God had spoken to the widow and she did not hear. Look at chapter 17:9 God told Elijah, arise go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you. God said to Elijah, “I have commanded, (past perfect tense) I have commanded a widow to feed you.” Imagine when Elijah went there, there was no widow to feed him. The widow wanted to feed herself and die. That widow didn't hear God. If the widow had heard God, if that widow had waited on the Lord, she would have heard the Lord saying, “Fear not I am sending you a man of God. Feed him and I will take care of you.”

She did not hear that. God commanded but she did not received. She was deaf to God. Why was she that way? She saw her needs, she saw her problems but she never acknowledge God could meet her needs. She never went to God to wait on God. That was her problem. That is the reason why it is so important to wait on God. God had commanded many people in many ways. God could have spoken to each one of you in many ways. But it is no guarantee that you will hear God if you didn't wait on Him. God could have spoken things in your life. If you have waited on God, God would have spoken to you.

However God's voice is heard only in the spirit realm. If you dwell in the natural realm or in the soul realm, you will not hear God's voice. Today our ears are not tuned to hear short waves or radio waves. Our ears can't hear that. Our nerves have no capacity to pick up radio signals. We need an instrument called a radio receiver. The radio receiver could detect and contact that invisible natural realm of radio waves. And convey it into electrical signals. And the electrical signals convey it into sound waves. And we hear the sound waves. God speaks only in the spirit realm. If you try to hear God with your natural ear, you can not. It is like trying to hear radio waves with your natural ear. Neither can you hear God with your soul; with your intellect; with your mind. God is a spirit and spirit speaks to spirit. You need a spiritual adapter.

Now that adapter can be built into you. That adapter is a renewed mind. Your mind was originally created to function in the spirit world. Today your mind has a remnant of that. I prove it to you. When satan tempts you, you hear it as a bad thought. When satan deceive or try to tell you a lie, you hear it as a thought, an evil thought, an evil imagination. Satan is a spirit being. A spirit being is affecting your soul; your mind; your intellect. Your mind was originally created to function as one with the spirit. But ever since Adam and Eve fell the mind was no more subjected to the spirit. It tries to go on by itself. And in that way it is unprotected from the onslaught of the enemy. God wants to bring our mind back to function as a servant to our spirit man, so that our spirit could communicate to our mind. It is not enough just to receive in the spirit. Our spirit needs to communicate to our mind otherwise we can not take action. Our mind is a part of our being of our soul that controls this present life. However our mind was originally made to flow with the spirit man.

Sometimes when you receive something in the spirit, but because you couldn't understand it with your mind you could not do any thing about it. I am trying to show the importance of the mind. Without a renewed mind your spirit can not move. What you receive in the spirit needs to be communicated to your mind. You only are able to do what you understand or perceive. For example when God started working the gifts of the Spirit in my life I didn't understand the spiritual signals. And because of this my mind didn't understand it. I couldn't operate the gifts. They were virtually useless to me until God began to show me what those signals mean.

Let me illustrate and give a few examples. For example, when I lay hand and pray for people I used to get a bout of sensation in my hand. I didn't understand what it was for. So I couldn't make use of its manifestation. The spiritual communication that God is trying to speak to me is not working properly because my mind didn't understand it. Only the day when my mind understands could it work for me.

That is why Paul prayed in Eph. 1:17-18 that the Ephesians may receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation that the eyes of their understanding may be opened. The Greek word actually says be flooded with light. Renewal of the mind is an important aspect. No matter how strong your spirit is, it still works through your mind. You can have a strong spirit and a weak mind. It is like a weak link in the chain. Your chain has many links, but it is as strong as the weakest link. It is just like the traffic system. You can have all the all the traffic coming down the highway. But if it is a 3-lane highway coming into town and all going into one lane, can you imagine the fantastic traffic jam that will be there. You can increase your highway to 7 lanes but right at the end they all come to one lane. Your highway is virtually useless.

In the same manner the strength of your spirit, the training of your spirit must be developed in proportion to the training of the mind. That is where the renewal of the mind comes in; and learning and studying the word of God. As your spirit develops you have a bigger channel to come through. And the channel is your renewed mind.

Continuing my illustration, the Spirit was trying to communicate some thing to me and I have that sensation in my hand but I didn't understand what it was. The Spirit can't do any thing unless I cooperate with Him with my understanding. Until one day I began to wait on Him and that is the key. I waited on Him and say Lord, "Will you please teach me what these are? There are no books on these areas." So I waited on God and said, "Lord teach me." Then the Holy Spirit began to show me that the

sensation in my hand has to do with my spiritual detection. Every time somebody has a charm on his or her body, when I touch him or her that is the signal. When you understand the spiritual signals, then you can operate the gifts. So when I touch somebody I would say, "You got a charm there; remove it." If I have the spiritual manifestation without understanding it is virtually useless to me.

There are many things in the spirit that try to operate. Unless you understand the signals you can't operate them. Another one is that when I pray sometimes for people or when I visit some homes sometimes, I had a certain sensation on my mouth; a sort of a bitter taste. And I know it is not something natural. When you have a body manifestation the first thing you have to check is whether it is a natural cause. A smart Alec can come and try to cook up the meaning by saying I think that this person talks too much. The only way you can find that out is by waiting on the Lord.

That is the purpose of waiting to hear Him and the revelation begins to unfold. So as I wait on Him, He began to show me that the bitter taste in my mouth was a taste of death. So I know that the spirit of death is around. Either I have to confront it or God is speaking to me that that is going to take place. I was not sensitive to that in my early days in my ministry. As a result of that every time people call me, usually they call you at the last minute, so in my early days of ministry I would just pray, "God if it is your will..." A man of God will not pray that way. A man of God will always pray answers. That is what he is supposed to do. He can't go and pray, "God he has spend his time, it time to go." You can't pray that way. In my early days I used to pray, "Thank you Lord, thank you for your resurrection power." Some of them died and some of them got healed. So the next time when I go I have to sense it. When I have that taste I wouldn't pray any resurrection power. I will just pray for salvation, pray for peace.

How you operate the gift is also important. For example, God may reveal to you the sin of somebody in the congregation and you thunder, "You sinned." If you operate that way everybody will run from you. So when God reveal to you that way, you can not say this person is going to die. Sometimes the knowledge that the Lord gives it to you, you have to know when to give it at the right time. Sometimes when I know that they are able to receive the fact of the person's death I would say, "God is saying that this person is going home." Later when that person goes home they are not discouraged because they know the Lord has spoken in advanced.

So these are some of the signals; there are much more. I am talking about the realm of the spirit is limited by your mind. The only way to receive more from God is by waiting on Him, hearing from Him and letting Him teach you. Open the way and let Him speak to you through His word. That is the third reason for waiting on Him to hear His voice and He will tell you of many things. A lot of the things He speaks to me about how to do the work in the ministry, how to organize the church and lot of other ideas that He gave could not be obtained from books. Some of the ideas He gives are so revolutionary that we got to implement it a bit at a time. But all those plans and purpose and ideas come during times of waiting.

3. DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF WAITING

Isa. 40:31 But they who wait for 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.

The word wait in the English bible comes from different Hebrew words. Only one of them is the word wait as we read in Isa. 40:31. The word wait is from the Hebrew word “qavah”. The word qavah is a Hebrew word that has been translated wait in Isa. 40:31 and in Isa. 49:23. It has a special meaning by itself.

There are many Hebrew words for wait while the English bible has only one word. There is a Hebrew word wait from the word “chakah”. That Hebrew word chakah means to look earnestly towards something, earnestly expecting. However that is not the word wait in Isa. 40:31.

Then there is another word wait in Hebrew “dumiyyah”. The word dumiyyah means to wait silently. Obviously that is not what the Lord meant in Isa. 40:31. Otherwise He would have used the word dumiyyah. Some people when they read Isa 40:31 in English they have the word dumiyyah in mind. They think that God means to wait on Him silently. That is not what the Lord talks about waiting quietly. He used the word qavah.

The other word for wait is the word “daman”. That word means to stand still.

There is a Hebrew word for wait “psaba”. The word psaba means to serve like a waiter waiting to take orders. But that is not the word for Isa. 40:31.

The Holy Spirit have chosen only one qavah. The word qavah as we have it in Isa. 40:31 is only used in other places in a strong sense of being gathered together onto God.

Let me give an illustration of 2 verses to bring forth the meaning of the word qavah.

Jer.3:17 At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the Lord, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem, they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil hearts.

All the nations of the world shall be gathered together qavah onto Him. So the word wait is used to mean gather together. It is not an ordinary gathering. It is a gathering where you are brought into oneness together. When you come together to worship the Lord today, you are qavah before the Lord. As we gathered in oneness together is qavah. It is a Hebrew word that means stronger than gathering. In the English when you talk about gathering it could be gathering loosely. For example, I could gather some bricks and put them together, the bricks will still look horrifying. It will be one big pile of bricks. But I could take those bricks and gather them together in order where I could build a wall and put one brick on the top of the other in a systematic order. Then the bricks are gathered together in an orderly form. They are gathered in a kind of bond together.

The word qavah in the Hebrew means to gather together in oneness, to be bound together. Whenever we gather together as one we are qavah before the Lord. It expresses a greater sense of gathering than just coming together. It expresses union. People can be gathered together but have no unity. This gathering expresses union.

In Gen. 1:9 And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God said let the waters be bound together, be brought together in one place. That is the word waiting, the word qavah express. When the bible says but those who qavah before the Lord, the expression is being gathered in oneness with the Lord. We may be qavah together but for you to be qavah with the Lord is something else. So Isa. 40:31 takes place when you are bound together with the Lord. The Hebrew word expresses like a vine or a plant that is twined together in the Lord, like the ropes that are twined together until it becomes one solid rope.

That is the fullness of the word waiting. It not just coming to serve Him. I believe in serving the Lord. But I believe we are called to just be His. The most important in Christian life is not just doing; its being. We are called to be a witness and just to do witnessing. The problem is people catch the doing part without the being part. We must remember that every disciple of Jesus has 2 commandments. The first commandment is come and the second is go. When the young Christian comes to know the Lord, they think that there is one commandment: go, go. The first commandment is come and follow Me. The first call is to come, come and be with the Lord. Come and be in His presence. Then you have a testimony to share. Then you have something to witness to.

So when we wait on the Lord is not just to serve Him. It is to come and say, “Lord what are we to do next? Please speak to me; I love to serve you.”

Neither did God ask us to come and wait on Him earnestly expecting something. That is Heb. 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him. The word for looking earnestly upon God and expecting something is more in our English sense found in the word seek rather than in the word wait. There is a difference between coming to seek the Lord and coming to wait on the Lord as Isa. 40:31 says.

To wait earnestly is the Hebrew word chakah. It expresses earnestly waiting for the things of the Lord. This is found in Isa. 64:4, Hab.2:3, is to look earnestly to the Lord. Expecting something, looking to Him with hope. Seeking Him; expecting His reward.

What we want to see in Isa. 40:31 is that they use a special word qavah which means that you do not come to God to serve Him. Neither do you come to Him to expect something. The word qavah means to wait on Him in order to be bound together with Him. That is the reason you came. In Isa. 40:31 is to come to be bound with Him.

I read a lot of the early saints who lived about 200 years ago. Those olden saints have developed the art of waiting. They would come to God and would wait for hours. Their focus every time they come before God was to allow God to transform him and let him be transformed into the image of God. That expresses the fullness of the word

wait. It is to be transformed to be like Him so that you are like Him and His image is in you. That is the purpose of waiting: to give Him time to form us.

Another old saint expressed it this way. Coming to God to wait on Him is like the clay coming to God and being pliable allowing Him to mould you in any way. The moulding does not take place outside in the circumstances of life. The moulding takes place in His presence. That is the purpose of waiting to allow Him to mould you, to sharpen you. And through waiting on Him you are transformed into the perfect image that He can be one with. He can be bound to you. When you wait on God the next time seek to do that. Seek to be bound, entwine together with the Lord. That is all we should seek.

The strongest mode of the whole ministry of Jesus is His union with the Father. Everything else proceeds from God. All His teaching came from His union with the Father. He said that the word that I speak onto you are not my word but the Father who speaks in me. All His works including the marvelous miracles that He performed came out with His union with the Father. He said that the works that I do is not I who do it but the Father in me. It is His union with the Father that is unique in His life and ministry. Unless we emphasized union with God we will have a shallow type of Christianity. Modern Christianity has emphasized on the doing part.

Few hundred years ago the Christianity emphasized on the union part, the going deeper into God part. That is where Christian monarchy flourished hundred of years ago. What we need is a combination of both. We have an equal emphasis on union with God and the clearcut teaching on how to do His work.

The disadvantage of the earlier Christians is that they got the wrong teaching. They thought sickness was from God. And they don't understand much about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which were rarely operated. And a lot of teachings that we have today were not available to them. However that God is perfecting the church. Every truth that He has brought throughout the corridors of time in church history needs to be brought into the fullness in the last days. They did discover some things too. They discovered deep things in the Lord like contemplation. Things that you never heard of today. Some of them could contemplate for hours. They just sit in a dark room and contemplate things that modern Christians do not know. We seek to combine all the fullness of it.

The key to waiting on God is to be bound to Him. You seek nothing else but to be one with Him. It is like tuning our spirit, soul and body to Him. Every musical instrument needs a tuning once in a while. In the process of use it gets slightly out of tune. And so you need a regular tuning. In the same manner we all need to be one with God. We need to learn the secret of union with Him. From time to time during the affairs of life you may forget about Him. Then you have to recall again the word of God.

The other word we have to look very carefully in Isa. 40:31 is the word renew. That those who qavah on the Lord will renew their strength. Something takes place at the renewal. I have listed 4 things that take place under the word renew. The word renew is from the Hebrew word "charath". The word charath has 4 different meanings. When you think of renew you just think give me more strength. There is more to that. The word charath has been used in Isa. 2:18 And the idols shall utterly pass away. But the idols he shall utterly abolished. The word abolished is the word charath.

In Jud. 5:26 She put her hand to the tent peg and her right hand to the workman's mallet; she struck Sisera a blow, she crushed his head, she shattered and pierced his temple. The word pierced and struck to his temple is the word charath.

That is the first aspect of what God does to you when you wait on Him. He abolishes the idols in your life. He removes, He cleanse, He breaks all those thing in your life that need to be broken away from you as you wait upon Him. The word of God is like a hammer. And as you wait upon Him He takes a hammer. And here you are saying, "God I love to be one with you; its lovely. Lord I want to be bound." God replies, "Before you can be one with me lets get rid of those things."

One aspect of the word renew is that you have to get rid of all those wrong things. God pierces your inner most being. One of the things that a sinner finds very hard to do is to sit alone. Whenever they sit alone their conscience is too loud for them to bear. One of the things that waiting on God does is that it builds an inner strength in your life. People who can not sit down quietly alone are people who are very insecure themselves. They are like a building who have not gone through reinforcement. All structural engineers will tell you that before they allow a building to come up, they have to calculate the stress and strain that the building will go through. So basing on their calculation, they will have to reinforce the concrete. Sometimes if it is a concrete structure, they put steel bars inside and pour the concrete in according to the estimated stress and strain. In the same way people who have no reinforcement within them need to go through some spiritual restructuring. They need to engineer something into their spirit and soul by the Spirit of God.

People with strong spirit are one with the Lord and they are able to dwell alone. Not many people can stand being alone. So whenever there is any incidence that can hurt other people that will cause them to reject you, you go overboard to try to please them. Or the other way happen that when people hurt you, you feel rejected. You can't stand rejection because you are afraid of being alone.

Why are you afraid of being alone? Because you have to face up to your own self. You need some hammer to break you. You need something to be broken in your life. Jesus could stand rejection without any problem. He was rejected by the Jews. He was rejected by His disciples who forsook Him. He was rejected by the Roman people. He was rejected everywhere. He went right to the cross and at the cross His love was poured out.

To be alone is not necessary to be lonely. Loneliness is a melancholy of your soul. But alone is a strength that you need. Lets look at the positive aspect. If you have an inner strength in you and you know how to stand alone, you could approach people man to man woman to woman, eye ball to eye ball and you are not afraid if they reject you. Neither are you afraid if they hurt you. So what kind of relationship will you go for? You will form a better kind of relationship. You will be able to relate with people the way God wants you to relate. It is an unhealthy relationship if someone dominates you or if you dominate someone. People who do that are insecure with themselves.

Where do we get that inner strength? Waiting on God. And God will abolish all those things from your life. That is the first thing that takes place. That is not renewal yet.

The second thing that takes place is the word change. The word renew has a meaning of the word exchange. For example, from the word just restored. The word renew does not convey the meaning of restore. In our English vocabulary and definition of the word renew, the word renew has a stronger meaning of restore rather than to renovate or to replace. And the Hebrew word kalak means to exchange. That is stronger than the ordinary use of the word refresh. It is just like you send your car for servicing. What the mechanic does is just change the oil and makes sure that every thing is clean and then he will send it back to you. What do you have? You just had a good service.

Renew is not sending your spirit, soul and body for servicing. Renewal is stronger than that. It is just like your car is old and the engine is wearing out. Then you send in your car for a brand new engine. What you did is give your car a heart transplant. That is what the word renew is. It involves an exchange. The word renew involves you exchange your strength for God's strength. That is why the word in Isa. 40:31 tells us they shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. Why, they are not going by ordinary strength. Even the young run and are weary. If you refresh your strength, when you run you can still be weary. But if you exchange your strength for the Lord's strength you will run and never be weary because God's strength never runs out.

Let me give some scriptures for the word exchange. It is from the same word that is used to change clothes kalak. Gen. 35:2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, and purify yourselves and change your garments, (or kalak your garments). Jacob was having a spiritual household cleaning. There was a revival taking place in his household. He told all of them. If there are any idols in your house get rid of them. Change your clothes, clean yourselves up and put on new clothes. That is kalak. When you change your clothes you are not going to have your clothes dusted. You take off your old one and you put on a new one. That is what the word renew or kalak means in Isa. 40:31. Take off your strength and you put on God's strength.

Gen. 41:14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon; and when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh.

In II Sam. 12:20 Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the Lord and worshipped; he then went to his own house; and when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate.

Ps. 102:26 They will perish, but thou dost endure; they will all wear out like a garment.

Thou changest them like raiment, and they pass away.

The word change always speaks of replacing a garment. In Psalms it talked about the replacement of a spiritual garment, spiritual strength. One aspect of the word kalak is changing into special clothes. For example, every day before you go to your office you do change into your working clothes. And when you come back you may change from your working clothes to your house clothes. That is a daily affair that you do. But when there is a wedding or some big occasion, you change but you do more than

change. You have an extra shave, ladies have an extra perm. You change but your change is extra special. The word kalak refers to that second type of change. It is not just that ordinary change that you do everyday.

Look at all those verses that I have given you: the change is a special one. Jacob spoke to his whole household. It was a special occasion. He was bringing the people back onto God. Look at people like Joseph. Everyday while he was working in the prison he still changed his clothes. But that day he was called before the Pharaoh it was a special day. He had to come before Pharaoh. So when he changed it was a real special change. He can't put on his prison garment and come before the king. He had to take off all those and put on a real nice set of clothing. And one of the factors is usually it's new. This is before Pharaoh. They specially get new clothes for him. Look at king David there was contrast. He did a special change. He washed himself and anointed with oil and he changed his clothes. Then he went to worship the Lord. It's a special change not an ordinary change.

And the word renew means to exchange. Exchange in a very special way where God gives you a special new garment. There is one species of eagle that has to change its feathers as a snake change its skin in cycle. So when the cycle come you renew yourself like the eagle. What the eagle does is that it usually flies up the mountain. And it takes its beaks and he pulls his own feathers. It is very painful, that is the first part of kalak, it is very painful. He will do that until he looks like a turkey ready for cooking. Then he will rest and he will wait. Then through time a new set of feathers would grow. When he had finished that waiting period, the new feathers had grown. This is not just old feathers being washed and cleaned. This is new feathers being grown. And he will take off in his new wings.

That is what its like. You exchange new strength. You don't just refresh yourself with the waiting on God. You exchange your weaknesses for His strength. You exchange your old ways for His new ways. You exchange your old thoughts for His new thoughts. You exchange your old vision for His new vision. You exchange all your weariness for His supernatural power. You exchange all your limitation for His supernatural infinity. The key word is exchange. When you qavah with the Lord you get kalak with the Lord. When you wait on the Lord you renew your strength.

Number 3 the word kalak means to go forward. There is a fresh impetus in your life. You are able to go forward with new vigor.

That is found in I Sam. 10:3 Then you shall go on from there further and come to the oak of Tabor; three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three kids, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine.

This is the story of Saul and Samuel. Samuel the prophet was prophesying that Saul would be king. And as a confirmation of that prophecy he was saying Saul along the way you will see something. He described all those things in verse 2 you will see some men coming to you and all those things shall happen. He says when you have departed from me you will see 2 men and afterwards you shall go forward, you shall change in such a way that your direction is a different way. That is the word wait. For that reason I described in my book on The Anointing of the Holy Spirit how God works in phases. He does not reveal everything to you otherwise you can not take it. And in every phase there is a change. It may change because God may have a

different way for you to move in that anointing. Or God may want you to operate different gifts in your life.

For Kenneth E. Hagin he changed from his hands to his eyes seeing in the spirit. So we have to be sensitive to the change of direction. And the only way you can change is by spending time continually waiting on God. The Lord also spoke to Kenneth Hagin and said many of His people do not wait on Him. That is in his first vision. He saw the Lord in his first vision that is about after 15 years in the ministry. Then the Lord told him you will enter the first phase of the ministry. He said first phase I have been 15 years what have I been doing. 15 years he has not even entered the first phase. Then the Lord said many of my people, some are my ministers leave and die without entering the first phase, because they don't wait on Him.

When you learn to wait on Him. He could speak to you. When you are bound with Him, He could whisper to you. The reason why people are not obedient to the Lord is because they don't wait on Him. This is not only applicable in ministry. If you are a child of God you have God's plan for your life whether in the ministry or in the business world outside or in your working place. Your life is planned by phases. You have to all the time keep coming to God and bind yourself with Him to be on track in what you are doing. Even in the business there will be phases. The only way you will detect the change and the change of faith and the direction is by binding yourself with the Lord and waiting on Him. And that is one of the word kalak you will renew yourself. You will have a new sense of direction to go forward to.

Ps. 90:5-6 Thou sweep men away; they are like a dream, like grass which is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. The word grow up in verse 5 and 6 is the word kalak. The grass that grows up. The word kalak speaks about growing.

The word renew take place in 4 areas; 1, abolishment, removal; 2, exchange changing of your strength for His strength; 3, new direction going forward; they shall mount up their wings like eagle. Eagle has an eagle vision. If you wait on God you can mount up. If you don't wait on God you are tied to this earth. You are a chicken; chicken can't fly. When you are an eagle you could fly up the mountain.

Number 3 was in vision and Number 4 is to grow up. We all continually grow in Him. And the time that you spent in being bound to the Lord, Jesus said if you abide in me and my word abide in you, you shall bear much fruit. As you abide in Him you could draw more nourishment. And by drawing more nourishment you could bear fruit.

Even Ps. 1 talked about a tree planted by the river of waters. The remarkable thing about the tree is that it is planted by the rivers of water it will grow further than the tree that is planted in the rocky ground. If you are a tree planted by the water you have resources in God. You can grow further. You have seen the Japanese miniature tree called bonsai. They take a huge tree whether from the seed or the branch and they plant it in those pots. That tree doesn't have a chance. It could have been meant to be a hundred feet tall. But some joker has planted it in a tiny pot and keep cutting away its taproots. And it grows up into a dwarf. It was not meant to be. It was meant to live in the forest tall and mighty. One of the art of growing bonsai is they have to trim the roots once in a while. They trim the roots so they can't draw nourishment. When you can't draw nourishment you will be a bonsai Christian. You are meant to be in the

forest of God and there you are sitting in a tiny pot. In a worldly pot and the world looks at you and say, “Cute little Christian never make us angry, never witness to us.” You are not meant to be that. You are meant to be in the forest of God mighty with your branches stretched out so that the birds of the air could find refuge in you. That is what it does to you: it makes you grow up. That is in the word kalak.

4. RENEWAL OF THE MIND

Isa. 40:31 But they who wait for 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. We have seen how in Isaiah chapter 40 verse 31 that the word wait comes from the word quavah in the Hebrew, which means to be bound. It is the same word that means to be gathered together in unison.

In Gen. 1:9 we see how the word quavah has been used to refer to the gathering of the water together. So waiting on God is not just to receive some thing neither is it to just give some thin although both of these aspect are important. We need to learn to come to God to receive; we need to learn to come to God to give onto God and surrender onto God service too. However, the pure sense of waiting means to come into God's presence to be one with Him, to be entwined with Him and to be bound together in unison with Him. That is why we spend our time with God waiting on God.

There is a New Testament aspect to that, which we are going to look at today. It is comparative to Rom. 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Paul starts off by saying present your bodies as a living sacrifice onto God. It's the act of presenting ourselves to God, that God may be in us and that we may be in Him. There is a sense of bringing ourselves to unity with God.

Verse 2 Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The word renewal of the mind refers to being made new. It is from the Greek word anakainosis. Anakainosis is the combination of two Greek words. The Greek word for new is the word kainos. All things have been made kainos. And the word ana means again. In church history, you will read about a denomination called the Anabaptists, which emphasize re-baptism or to be baptized again. When you add those two words together anakainos it means that it is to make new again. It is not just to clean up. Today in the English the word renew means to make it as good as new. But in the Greek word, it is to take away the old one and replace it with the new one. Some thing takes place, which is why the bible on one side talks about the carnal mind and on the other side talks about the renewal of the mind, Christ like mind, being of one mind with the Lord and the Spirit of the mind. There is a creative force being put upon our mind and our soul.

Kenneth Hagin speaks about that how before he was born again he was quite dumb. He never made the grades; in fact, he always fails in all his exams. I am talking about in the natural failure not just failing in the things of God. He could not do well in his studies. But the day he got born again some thing started happening in his mind. To make it understandable in layman's terms, intelligence seems to be imparted upon him. And when he went back to school after he was healed he made straight "A"s. God did some thing to the mind. Sometimes it is hard for us to understand that because we are looking from an imperfect perspective. We are looking at the world from our perspective, as we have known it. We have known the world as it is, a fallen

world. We have lived in it; we have grown up in it. And we think that this is the normal.

But if we look at the bible in the original plan of God, God made Adam without sin and with a perfect mind. It was when sin came in that man's mind was darkened. When man's mind was darkened, that was the beginning of the sub-conscious mind. Today all men use even geniuses use only about 5 to 10 percent of their mind. Scientists have agreed that we have never and we could never be able to tap the vast resources of our mind. For that matter when a person has a brain operation and in the brain operation some cells get destroyed, that person can still come back and live a normal life because they have enough cells inside there that could be trained to take over the work of the old cells. Brain cells are strange in that you can not replace them. We received a set number of brain cells when we are born. All the other cells in our body can change and new ones are poured about. But once you lose the brain cell that's it. They are not renewed or replaceable. However, when you lose some of the brain cells, those brain cells that have not been used at all seem capable to take over the work of the old ones. So man is only using about 5 to 10 percent of their mind. And today all of us understand the concept of the conscious and the sub-conscious mind. We understand that our conscious mind is only about 5 to 10 percent. The rest of our mind 90 percent of that is all in the sub-conscious mind. And most of our decision seems to be made from the conscious mind but a vast influence is from the sub-conscious level.

So let's build a basis on that background first. In the book of Eph. 4:17-18 Now this I affirm and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds; they are darkened in the understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. The bible here talks about the fallen nature and the fallen condition of men. When Adam fell, he was cut off from the life of God. He was alienated from the life of God. The moment he was alienated from the life of God something happened in his mind - darkness reign. And it has been in that way throughout all this generation from Adam till now. Because of that, man could not know the full capacity of what God has made him to be. It takes a long time for us to learn something from this earth.

But in heaven, it is different. In heaven, there is no time. But should there be measurement of time. Percy Colette went to heaven for six hours earthly time. He couldn't play any musical instrument and he saw some huge musical instrument there in heaven, the heavenly type of piano comparatively speaking. So he went there and the moment he sat down on it he knew how to play. What takes a person eight years to master takes just a moment of time in heaven. Anything can be learned very fast in heaven because we are redeemed and God restores us to the stage before the fall. That was the original plan of God.

When Adam saw the animals, he knew their names. That is a marvelous intelligence. Do you know that today there are zoologists who study one animal their whole life and still they don't understand every thing about that particular animal? Some of them study bears for their whole life. Their whole life is spent on one animal and they don't understand the animal fully. When God brought every animal to Adam, he took one look and that's it, he knew it. So there is no comparison to what was available before the fall. We have established the fact that when Adam fell part of his mind could not be available for us to use in the way that Adam has used it before.

In order to understand the soul part let me use the natural understanding too. Today scientists say that the tiny little organ called the appendix (which lies on the junction of the small intestines with the large intestine) is of no use. Some scientists have made a research on that and found that in herbivorous animals, the appendix seems to process substances that come from a solely vegetarian diet. So it is possible that man was created originally a vegetarian. In the Garden of Eden God told Adam that He gave to him all the fruits of the trees and all the herbs of the field as food. No animals were mentioned. Meat is permitted today.

The reason is after Noah's flood four things happened. The first thing is the rotation of the earth around the sun. We have proven from the bible the calculation of the days of Noah. We have calculated and we showed that the earth went round the sun about 360 days. Their months is exactly 30 days. Their year is exactly 360 days. After the flood, some events happened. And the earth was shaken and that is how the rotation of the earth was affected. At the same time, the geographical axis of the earth was affected. And the earth tilted. If you study geography, it is the tilt of the earth that causes the four seasons. If the earth doesn't tilt it wouldn't have the four seasons. And notice that when the earth tilted, the magnetic pull did not tilt. So the magnetic North and the true North Pole are different.

Another change that happened after Noah's flood was the life span of man. You notice man's life was shortened significantly after the flood. The reason is the covering of water above the earth was removed. If you read Genesis 1, God made the waters above the earth and the waters on the earth. When the water of the earth is separated from the land, there was land and there was sea. But there was a layer of water around the earth. The earth was like in an air-conditioned atmosphere. Some people ask, "What happened to the waters up there?" After the flood, all the waters from on high poured down. Look at the North Pole and the South Pole. If the ice in the North Pole and the South Pole were to melt, we all would be submerged. So we realized that a lot of things have happened. And so, under what I call "hostile conditions," God permitted the eating of meat to survive. But I do not advocate that we all go back to be vegetarians. If you ever do that for religious reasons, please examine the bible in Romans chapter 14. Under hostile conditions, you need a different diet to adapt to the new condition after Noah's flood. So from Noah's time God said it is permitted to eat meat. If you ever stayed in a cold country, you realize that when you eat a piece of steak it keeps you warm.

Lets get back to our original topic. We were talking here in reference to the condition that happened. We were talking about the original function of the appendix and according to my theory man was made a vegetarian. And possibly, there were organs within him to take care of this full vegetarian diet. But through time when man began to eat both herbs and plants, fruits as well as animals, slowly the organ becomes disused. And today all you have is a tiny little sticking hook that people say I wonder what is it for. So we see even in our physical body there are organs that are no more in use or underused. How much more? There are four organs within our sub-conscious mind called the dialogismos (the reasoning part of the brain) and its subconscious part called the enthumesis as well as the dianoaia (the visualizing part of the brain) and its subconscious part called the ennoia. They are still usable to a certain extend since they are a part of us that affects our dream life. In Adam's time, there was no sub-

conscious mind. Imagine that kind of mind that he has. It was only after the fall that darkness came in.

For that matter Paul prayed in Ephesians 1 that their minds be flooded with light. When the light of Christ comes into your spirit, there begins a renewal process in your mind. That renewal process is creative. Paul is speaking about the same thing about the mind in Ephesians 4:17-18, This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.

Then he concludes on the tiny sub-section of the mind in verse 23 and 24, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

What is the spirit of the mind? Do you notice that our brain is connected intricately to our body? Every nerve system ends up connected to the spinal cord and the spinal cord is connected to the brain. We could naturally say that there is the body of the brain in a sense that the brain is connected to all our bodily organs. Anything that affects the spinal cord affects your bodily organ. Anything that affects the brain will affect a part of our bodily function. That is in the natural.

There is another part that is unseen and very hard for man to conceive. There is a connection between the spirit and the mind. If you could understand that there is a connection between the brain and the body, I want you to stretch your imagination a little bit and see that there is a connection between your spirit and your mind. Spirit influences the mind. There is an intricate link between the spiritual world and the mind. I purposely use the word mind instead of brain. The mind is more a concept. You can't see it; you can't look at it through a microscope. You could look at the brain but you can't look at the mind. So, the spirit is connected to the mind in some way. The devil is a spirit being. He puts evil thoughts into your mind. So definitely, on the negative side, you could see that there is a cause and an effect ratio between spirit realm and the mind. The mind is the battlefield. We also know that for God's Spirit to work, He needs to affect the mind. We can prove it from Romans 8 where Paul said if your mind thinks about things that are wrong they will produce death. If you stay your mind on the spiritual things, they will produce life and peace. If you think your mind on carnal things, it produces death. If you think your mind on the things of the Spirit, it produces things to do with the spirit realm. I have given enough scriptures to describe what I propose to you this statement that the spirit is connected to the mind. And on this side, the body is connected to the brain.

We can not tell how the mind and the brain are connected because it is an invisible connection. But let me tell you scientists find it difficult to deal with things that are invisible. But knowledge has abounded to the extent that today they realize that the brain seems to be connected to some invisible force. In the book "Hand on the Helm," the author mentioned some experiments that they have conducted. Today scientists can measure the electrical activities of the brain by means of an instrument sensitive enough to measure the amount of current, which is actually very minute. They connected some instruments to the brain of somebody who was an unbeliever and an infidel. An infidel is not only an unbeliever but is some one who curses God. Just before he died, he cursed and the needle of the instrument shows to the negative. They

said that it was interesting. Then they put it on a dear lady. This dear lady also was going to die. And she praised and worshiped the Lord. The needle not only moved to the positive side but the needle hit the edge of the positive side. Because of that, the scientist who conducted this experiment accepted Christ and was born again. So, they realize that the mind is connected to the brain in some invisible ways.

Thoughts affect your brain signal. I am giving as many natural things to illustrate as much as possible to understand this concept. About six months ago, it came out in a popular science magazine that somebody invented a powerful machine that could detect tiny little magnet signals by using a super magnetic that have just recently been discovered. We all know that electricity produces magnetism. All magnetism can be harnessed to produce electricity and it's a reversible law. Somebody thought of this and he said if the brain has electric signals (which it has) they could measure it. They even examine how the nerves communicate and they found that the nerves make use of sodium and potassium ions that have electric charges. So there are electric signals going through your nerves. So this person said if there are electric signals there must be magnetic signals. The only drawback is that since the electric signal is so tiny, to see that magnetic signal is even more difficult. Its just like look for a needle in a hay sack. In the end, there came a very powerful magnet that could detect tiny magnetic signals. They saw for the first time that when a person is thinking about something there were signals all over a certain side of the brain. Then when the person thought of something they could see the pattern of activities. We have tried to use natural illustration to show that there is connection between magnetism and electricity. Electricity is tangible. But magnetism is intangible and you need to use some thing to see it. The magnetism is related to electricity so is the mind related to the brain. What the mind conceived produces electric signals on the brain. And for the soul area and the brain the reverse is not true. It is more the mind controlling the brain. So there is this intricate connection.

So lets go to understanding bible verse in Ephesians 4:23-24 Paul concluded by saying, be renewed in the spirit of your mind. He is telling us to let the spiritual force in our mind area to be renewed and produce in us a new mind. And then your new mind begins to affect your body. Immediately he tells us in the next verse that you put on the new man. So, the new mind is connected to the new man. There is such a thing as a spirit of your mind, where the spirit takes control of a part of your mind where before your mind was all isolated and alienated from the life of God in the spirit realm. Now the spirit that belongs to you began to put forth spiritual nerves into your mind so that the spirit within you could control your mind. As the spirit puts forth its tentacles of spiritual nerves, that part of your mind becomes a spirit of your mind. There is a renewal process, where your mind is touched in the realm of the spirit. When those cells become yielded to the spirit realm, it becomes a part of the new function. Paul says be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

Now lets see the whole process in Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. Your thoughts will produce a change in your body. In fact, today scientists admit that over 90 percent of sickness and disease are psychosomatic. Even the immune system can be affected by your thoughts. A negative person, a depressed person is more vulnerable to sicknesses and disease because their body hormones are affected. So their resistance lower all because of a thought. Definitely, your thought affects your very body.

Now let us give you the goody grace. The word transform is from a Greek word metamorphoomai where you get the word “metamorphosis”. Metamorphosis speaks not of a physical change but to use the language of chemistry it talks about a chemical change. A physical change is like when you hit an iron rod it turns red. But when you cool it down it goes back to normal. It is only a physical change. But a chemical change is irreversible. Metamorphosis speaks about a change within our mind that is permanent. You never see a frog going back to tadpole. But you do see a tadpole going to a frog. Metamorphosis is one way and is not two ways. So the mind is being renewed and it is true when you look at your own self today. Look at the way you think. When you were just born into this world, you didn't have the kind of mind that you have. You have the potential but look at yourself today. Your thoughts, your ideas, your desires, your conceptions, your abilities, have been the result of years of patterning your thought life so that your thoughts move into a certain direction.

The way you think is also a habit as much as the way you brush your teeth in the morning. We can train our mind to be positive or we can train our mind to be negative. That is a fact. We can choose our thoughts. Satan may offer his realm of thoughts but we can choose our thoughts just as we can choose how we develop our habits. When you get up in the morning, it's a habit for you to brush your teeth. It becomes a physical habit of doing things. How come you like certain colors? When you were born as a baby, you don't know anything about colors. But as you grew up, things developed in your sub-conscious. You associate colors with different things. Then you began to like certain colors. Your conscious mind has lost memory in that. It is still in your sub-conscious. Maybe something sad happened to you when your house was all red in color. And your conscious mind forgot but your sub-conscious mind remembered why you never like red and you don't understand why you don't like red. Things like that happen. You are your personality, your being is where your thought pattern has been trained today. A negative person is a person who has a negative thought pattern. And it takes training to every day to reject negative thoughts and take on positive thoughts until your mind becomes positively geared. And when your mind becomes positively geared, it affects your brain. When it affects your brain it will also affect your body. When it affects your body, it affects your health also. It affects your body and it affects your performance. When it affects your achievement, it affects your income. It affects your income it affects your success. Every thing starts in the mind. Metamorphosis is an irreversible process. There is one time when the bible uses this word metamorphosis.

Lets turn to Mark 9:2 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves; and he was metamorphoomai. The bible use the word transfigured. He was transfigured or metamorphoomai in the Greek.

In case you didn't know why the translators were not consistent in their translation, it is because when they first translated the Greek bible and the Hebrew bible they divided it into sections. Each section was taken by a different group of translators. As a result, sometimes one section uses a different English word for the same Greek word.

So here is the word metamorphoomai translated as transfigured. The actual happening was this: Jesus' skin began to change. Even His clothing began to respond to that whatever process was taking place.

And if we apply that same translation to Romans 12:2 we could have translated it this way. And do not be conformed to the world but be transfigured by the renewing of your mind. Just putting these two scriptures together, we can make this third conclusion. If Jesus' transfiguration equals to His glory and His kingdom and if Romans 12:2's transfiguration equals to the renewal of the mind, then we see that being renewed in your mind equals to the transfiguration in your body.

Now we understand how people like Enoch can walk with God and be taken up to heaven. Whether you recognize it or not, whether the scientists recognize it or not, the bible recognizes that your mind controls every cells in your being. All things are possible to those who believe if they doubt not in their heart. These are conditions of the mind too. They are spiritual forces no doubt. Faith is a spiritual force but faith affects your mind. Mark 11:23-24 tells us that if you say to this mountain be removed and be cast into the sea and believe in your heart and shall not doubt. Doubt has to do with your mind. And faith and belief has to somehow cause a renewal of your mind too. It starts in the spirit but it has to get a hold of your mind. Your mind, your thought life, holds a tremendous power to healing, to miracles, to signs, to wonders, to controlling this whole world. If your mind is linked up to God, it can produce any thing that you can conceive. Think about it, no sickness can stand your thought. No situation can withstand your thought. For that matter whenever you are tired and you need energy you know where to tune in. Tune in your thought.

I used to sleep very few hours. I said, "Lord teach me how to sleep less, please." Then the Lord said, "The first thing you need to do is to get rid of what you have been educated." I said, "O God that's no problem. I am willing." God said, "You are normally educated that you need about 7 to 8 hours of sleep." I said, "Yes that's right." God said, "The first thing you have to do is to throw that out of the window." I said, "O.K. I throw that out of the window." God said, "You only need whatever sleep I tell you, you need." So, if your mind is trained to accept that you need 7 to 8 hours of sleep I can guarantee you that if you don't have that 7 to 8 hours of sleep you will feel tired. You told yourself that; somebody also told you.

People talk about averages but let me tell you that there is no such thing as average. An average is just a statistic. For example, they will say an average child will reach puberty at such and such an age. It is only a statistic, But each child body has its own biological clock. And if the child reaches puberty lets say three years later, is that child abnormal? No, that child's biological clock was working in that child normally. But when that child compares with 90 others then you say she is abnormal. Average is merely a statistic. It is not something that should put condemnation on you.

This is why for example if a woman's pregnancy period is supposed to be nine months, some could be perfectly normal. There is this lady Nora Lam who is in the United States bringing a lot of missionaries to China. She was pregnant and expecting a child and she was imprisoned in China. Do you know how long God made her keep that child? I remember it was throughout the 15 months and the child was still normal. It is all what we have been told. Averages are O.K. if you understand its limitation because statistics can be used against people too. If I want to prove to you that the average income of people in this country is very high, I take a survey of one thousand people living in that posh Kenny Hill area. But if I want to prove to you that average income is very low, I do a survey of one thousand people living in the squatter area. So, you must judge all things that you hear. Don't get blocked by statistics. Examined

how they got that statistics. The how is important. Nobody takes statistic of a million people. You know why. They can't handle it. Even Time magazine statistics are limited to thousands of figures, that's all. Only God knows the real average. We have sometimes wrongly educated the mind.

That's how God dealt with me. God said, "O.K. you got to renew your thinking." I said, "Alright Lord." And God said, "You flow with your biological clock in your body. I have ordained that my people rest once a week. If you go for long periods without that rest, you will need to take it too." I am not advocating pushing your body beyond proportion. But I am saying that there are times when God requires of you hard work maybe for four, five days. You need a truth a revelation from the Word to push you through. What kind of truth will help you? You put aside what you have been educated in and then you say, "Whatever sleep I require will be what God tells me I require." And you tell your mind, "Mind you can rest later. But mind now you work." And you will be able to refresh yourself like the morning dew everyday and your body responds too. You re-educate your mind.

Many times before, it can bring healing to people who face impossible situations. When I visit them in hospital the biggest battle that I face is to get them to believe. Because the doctors have told them this, friends have told them this, uncles and great aunts have told them this, and it is all in their mind, "You are going to die." The doctor says that you got a hundred days to live. So everybody tell them that. Their mind accepts it. And they die exactly. They accept the fact. It all has to do with the mind and the pattern of your thought. The awesome power can be released in the mind.

I remember in one of Sadhu Sundar Singh's conversations with the Lord Jesus, He told him this, "The capacity that I have placed in the human mind is beyond what man has ever consumed. If any man or woman could gear all the energy of their desire to what they set their mind to and not doubt they will get whatever they want." We got a nuclear reactor in us and we are using it for torchlight. Your mind is the atomic nuclear reactor and you are using it for torchlight. You can do more than torchlight. Tremendous resources. The only problem is this: a nuclear reactor needs tremendous resources to control. It is not easy to control a nuclear reactor. And there is only one force I know that can control the mind: the Word of the living God. That can touch the fullness of the mind's potential. This is why I delight to meditate on the Word since I know that the Word does some thing to my soul. It does some thing to my mind. The thoughts that the world gives you may be positive and good but they can never be as good as what the Word gives you. Meditate on the Word of God. For this Word can do some thing in your mind that no education system can do. This Word can do some thing in your soul that no teaching or discovery and principles good though they may be can not compare with what the written Word can do to your life.

So I will conclude with two major keys to renew the mind. No. 1 is the Word of God. The Word gives you a new way of thinking and a new way of understanding. The Word is the only philosophy if you are intellectual that you should have. Philosophy is man's conception of life and what life is about; its beginning and origin of life. If you are someone like that, get all your philosophy in the Word. The Word contains all the laws of success that are necessary for any business. It tells you things and principles that the world only touches on. But here it is completely given. The Word tells us about the family life. The Word tells us about the thought life. The Word tells

us the thought that we should think. The Word warns against fear. Fear is always a thought. All fear is in thought. Think about the things you are afraid of. What was it that held you, a thought. Isn't it marvelous that sometimes we see a big size fellow afraid to swim? By all scientific analysis, he has the capacity to do it. He has the muscles power to do it. He is not sick. He is not crippled. But he said, "I can't swim." What held him? Fear in his thought life. He never ventures into the water to learn. He is capable but the fear held him. It is in the thought. All of us go through life with fear thrown upon us because this is the world system. Fear comes some times through the lips of your own parents. You can't do this. You will never succeed. And you are afraid. What will you do if you fail? You got nothing to eat. You will be a road sweeper. Fear, so we are afraid. Small little children we tell them the wrong teaching. We put fear into the children. So the children learn to fear. They are crippled. In the end, you cripple their ability to relate to people. Fear is in the thoughts.

Faith starts in the thoughts too. You can not do what you can not do because somebody said you can not do. And because you discover you can not do and because your failure has crippled you, you say, "I can not do it." But with God, all things are possible. The Word of God tells you in Joshua 1:8 if you meditate on the Word of God day and night and let not the law of God depart from your mouth, you shall prosper and have good success. People are not doing what they should because they are afraid.

The second way to renew the mind is by prayer. In Luke chapter 9:28-29 Now about eight days after these sayings He took with Him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And as He was praying the appearance of His countenance was altered. Prayer is an important key.