



Lighthouse Beacon

May 2011

WAITING FOR GOD

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Waiting for God to respond to our prayers is always a challenge for our patience. But it is even more challenging when we believe the Lord has told us what He is going to do, but He hasn't told us *when* we can join Him in accomplishing the task. To put it another way, once the Lord reveals the task He wants to accomplish, we often want to immediately start doing it for Him. But Scripture teaches us obedience is more important to God. So, let's see what it means to wait for God, so we can truly.....*Let Him Shine!* ~Kim

I have the privilege of doing my tent-making work (Acts 18:3) for a wonderful company whose leadership has a passionate desire to serve the Lord. They are actively involved in Fellowship of Companies for Christ International (aka Christ @ Work) and firmly believe our Lord owns and is in charge of our company.

We are now faced with a major decision that will significantly impact the future of the company and we believe the Lord may have revealed which direction we are to take. However, it has also been made clear to us that we are not to rush ahead of the Lord. So our leadership team is getting a wonderful object lesson in how to wait upon the Lord even though we believe we know what we should do.

One thing we sure don't want to do is repeat the mistake made by King Saul. His problem began when Samuel gave Saul some very specific orders from the Lord:

“Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do.” 1 Samuel 10:8

Saul knew what he was supposed to do, so let's see how well he obeyed:

“He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. So Saul said, “Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings.” And he offered the burnt offering. As soon as he had finished

offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him. Samuel said, “What have you done?” And Saul said, “When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, I said, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the Lord.’ So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering.” And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which He commanded you. For then the



“Let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matt 5:16

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world." —John 8:12

Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue." 1 Samuel 13:8-14

Saul knew the sacrifices had to be made and he knew how to do them. And there was a lot of pressure on Saul to get things moving or the army might start falling apart. Saul felt fully justified to do what needed to be done and to get everything moving. The only thing Saul didn't consider was the value of being obedient to God's command. This sin ended up costing Saul the throne, his family's future, and even his own life.

"Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the LORD." Psalm 27:14

Saul's mistake is one that is common to Christians, even today. When God isn't moving fast enough, we begin to believe it is up to us to move forward, even when He told us to wait for Him. Sometimes our Lord will give us a direction and, like Abram, expects us to get up and get going immediately. However, at other times He will reveal what needs to be done or what He is about to do, then tell us to wait until He releases us. These are often challenging times that revealed the true depth of our patience and our faith. But these are also times that can and should grow us in our walk with Him.

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disap-

pointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love." Romans 5:3-5

Many times Christians miss the opportunity God gives us to develop our strength of character, build our faith, and deepen our walk with him because we don't see the value of the trials that come into our lives. In James 1:2 we are told to consider the trials as an opportunity for joy, but instead we usually view them as obstacles to be overcome. Christians do not have an

instinct to wait upon the Lord, this is a character trait that must be developed.

"Once when He was eating with them, He commanded them, 'Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift He promised,

as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'" Acts 1:4-5

The apostles learned when Jesus commanded them to wait for the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The disciples did wait patiently in the upper room, believing that God would protect them and fulfill His promise. Their obedience was rewarded with their transformation.

"Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for Him to act." Psalm 37:7

"Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in Him." Psalm 62:5

Be still and wait quietly. Christians are not to behave like immature children who



"...you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." —Ephesians 5:8

whine and cry and fuss as they try to get their way— right now! If we have faith, we can trust Him to do what He says and be patient and quiet as we wait for Him to accomplish His work. Our humble, obedient behavior is a living testimony to a world that has no patience and has not

learned how to trust God.

"The LORD is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for His help." Isaiah 30:18

"The LORD is good to those who depend on Him, to those who search for Him." Lamentations 3:25

Gwen's Corner

When we had those bitter cold temperatures in the winter, I was longing and daydreaming for spring to arrive. Well, spring has arrived—and is quickly passing. The daffodils have bloomed and are gone, and so are the tulips and lilacs. Another Easter has come and gone. And even some dear friends have gone away this spring. I attended the funeral of one last week, and one this week for my former employer who I worked for 30 years ago. I think when we get to Heaven, God will give us understanding of time—why when we are walking through it, the days and weeks seem to pass at a somewhat normal pace, but when we look back, it seems like 30 years ago was just a blink of the eye.

And how much more in eternity will all of our life seem like a blink. What will that blink testify of our life? Will it say that--he (she) loved Jesus? Jesus said in John 14:21, "Whoever has My commands and **obeys** them, **he is the one who loves Me.**" And what are His commands? Jesus says in Matt. 22:37-39, "You shall love the Lord your God with all you heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself." I think we all understand why God would want us to love Him so much, but why does He put so much emphasis on loving our neighbors? We may have to ask Him that in eternity as well. But meanwhile, we need to love God by obeying His command to love our neighbors.

My iris are blooming now. In about 3 weeks though, they will all be gone for another year. Time keeps passing on. Are you loving your neighbors?

So teach us to number our days . . . Ps. 90:12

"You are the light of the world." —Matthew 5:14

Have you come to the point in your Christian walk where you can tell your family and friends that you have been blessed every time you waited for the Lord to help you? Do you live your life in such a way that others believe you really do depend on Him, that you seek His input for your decisions?

"For since the world began, no ear has heard, and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for Him!"
Isaiah 64:4

A Christian's growth is directly connected to their obedience and their obedience is connected to their ability to wait upon the Lord. How well a Christian waits upon the Lord can be measured by the peace, patience, and tranquility in their lives. These qualities have nothing to do with their circumstances. These are character traits that are exhibited in spite of circumstance because they have come to believe God is always working for them, in them, and through them.

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33

Christians who have learned to wait upon the Lord will, by their very nature, also seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. These are qualities that cannot be separated because they are traits that develop together. If a Christian wants to seek first His kingdom, they will have to learn to wait upon the Lord. Therefore, we really should embrace the trials and tests that help us learn patience and learn to wait on Him. And that's when we'll realize these tests are opportunities for blessings.

"But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD." Micah 7:7

This is what our leadership team is doing. May we all learn to pay close attention to the Lord, wait patiently for His directions, expect Him to be active in teaching us, leading us, blessing us, and using us. Then we will*Let Him Shine!*

LightShine's Praises & Prayer Requests:

PRAISE! For progress on our website redesign.

PRAY for God to put it in our hearts to love our neighbors. How do You want us to love our neighbor on the right, Lord? Our neighbor on the left? Our neighbor across the street?

PRAY for God to open doors for LightShine for ministry growth and opportunities.

Who Is LightShine Ministries?

LightShine is a faith-based ministry, supported by gifts from individuals like you. We work with many ministries, churches & denominations at local, state & national levels. If you want to help support LightShine, with your prayers, time, resources, or finances, contact us at 505-293-0743 or write to us at LightShine Ministries, 2039 Virginia NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110