

WAITING ON THE LORD.

"They also serve who only stand and wait."

We are living in an age of hurry. The spirit of the age is robbing too many of those who profess holiness of the secret chamber of prayer. We must learn the secret of waiting in order to be of the most service to our Master. We must understand what is meant by waiting on the Lord, or we will not receive its benefits. Waiting must be connected with service. Simply waiting while opportunities pass by, or blindly trampling them under our feet is not service. Failing to take time to wait upon God because of the many duties that press into the life, is not true service to the Master.

If we take time to pray and wait upon God, it is possible that many things which come into our lives, which take our time and energy can be done in less time with greater skill. Prayer saves time. Prayer makes us more capable of performing our duties. To drag out a day's work with little or no prayer is very taxing, and a drain on both body and soul. Prayer is like the oil in the machine; it lubricates. Lubrication in the spiritual life is a wonderful assistance in the routine of the day. The praying preacher is the best preacher; the praying merchant is the best merchant; and this is true of every vocation.

The Scriptures say, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary and they shall walk and not faint." We read of one man whose name was Simeon, who was a just man, and he waited for the consolation of Israel. God can talk to such men. It was revealed to him that before his death he should see the Lord's Christ. One day a Babe was brought into the temple, and immediately he recognized Him as the Son of God. He took Him up in his arms and blessing God, said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

Waiting on God is a wonderful blessing to the children of the Lord. The Lord verifies His promise to those who wait upon Him, whether it is in the secret chamber of prayer, or waiting for some promise to be verified, or waiting for some new development which will enable them to go forth in the full confidence of his will. God is not in a hurry, neither should His children be. So long as there is a question as to the right thing to do, it is better to hold still and wait on God. When men get in a hurry to jut things through without taking time to wait on God, they will lose.

"Take time to be holy,

Speak oft with thy Lord,"

is an admonition that we will do well to carry out in every-day life.

Prayer will avail nothing unless one is in readiness to carry out his part of the petition. Those who pray that the Lord will send forth laborers into the vineyard of the Lord, may be the first to be called out into the great harvest field, Africa, India, China, Japan, or the islands of the sea. Pray that the Lord will supply the needs

of the laborers in the field with a portion of his gold or silver in the earth, or some of the cattle on a thousand hills, make it very probable that he who offers the petition will be called to give some of that which he has. Some mock God by their petitions, because they do not mean what they say. Nehemiah prayed with weeping that some one would be sent to Jerusalem to build up the broken walls, and God sent him to do the work.

"Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." It is certain that whatever work we do, waiting is an important factor in developing that work. Moses was called to deliver Israel out of the hands of the Egyptians, but before he was successful in the task, he was called out into the desert and the mountain for forty years, following the vocation of herding sheep. Simply because God calls to a certain service, one can not always jump up and do that thing immediately. He may accomplish as much as Moses did when he killed the Egyptians with the object of delivering the Hebrew. Moses was soon on the run, and so will those be today, who run ahead of the Spirit of God. Hurry leads to actions which bring bitter regret.

Waiting ceases to be a virtue at the point where souls fail to fulfill the Divine call. At the end of the forty years of preparation, Moses felt himself unequal to the task before him. So long as men are self-confident, so long will they need to stay in the school of preparation. God must be the sole confidence of His people.

Prayer is the only thing that will develop in men the grace of patiently waiting. Prayer is the only means that will enable men to carry the will of God into effect after the waiting time is over, and the mission entered upon. The need and value of prayer cannot be overestimated. Effectual, fervent prayer is necessary and must become a part of the daily program. If the secret chamber is neglected, its effect will soon be manifest, in the spiritual life and work.

Let us pray systematically. Let us pray with a vision. Let us ask God to give us a part in carrying out His great program of evangelism. I have heard it said that there are three things that we can do to get the Gospel to the heathen—pray, give, go. Some of us have had a part in carrying out in part all of these. I am personally glad that they who wait upon the Lord, do get renewed strength from day to day to mount up on the wings of faith, and run the race that is set before them with patience; and walk on the Royal Highway of Holiness without fainting.

"There is a place where thou canst touch the eyes

Of blinded men to instant, perfect sight;
There is a place where thou canst say,
Arise!

To dying captives, bound in chains of night;

Where is that blessed place? Dost thou ask where?

O soul, it is the secret place of prayer."

I. E. Dayhoff in Good Tidings.

"The best sermon is that which prompts the hearer to do the most right thinking for himself."

GOODBYE

(Continued from Page 3)

Our chests must have fresh air. Our bathing suits need to be only a foot square. We are becoming economical. See! No, we do not know what shamefacedness and sobriety mean. Goodbye to Your straight-jacket ways of long ago. We have more liberty and freedom, we will paddle our own canoe, if You will just please to let us alone."

Is it not an awful thing to say Good-bye to God? I want you to let me alone? And it is more than awful when God does let a soul alone. He called, but they would not hearken. God hath said that they will call, but He will not hear them. Oh, how very sad! Souls forever sinking down. Calling, calling, calling, but receiving no answer, because they would not listen when God was calling them. God is ever saying, "Today is the day of salvation." "Now is the accepted time." When ye hear His voice, harden not your hearts. There were those who did so in the wilderness, and they were destroyed. But who fears and recognizes the judgments of God in these days? So-called science attributes every catastrophe and calamity to other causes.

God is fast overtaking this pleasure-loving, grasping, sinful and adulterous generation, and will allow each one to have the reward they have lived for. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, with all the nations that forget God," to those who have said, "Good-bye God." With God's judgments falling thick and fast, the reward is only part now. The final reward will begin in the ending of all that is called good and great by this pleasure-loving world, in the never-ending eternity.

Word has already come back from hell, "Send one from among the dead back to yonder world, and warn my brethren lest they also come into this place of torment." But, Ah! the answer! "They have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them." If they will not hear the Word of the Lord, neither will they be persuaded though one arose from the dead. They say, "Good-bye, God, I will risk it!" Risk what? The eternal damnation of the soul? Oh, you cannot afford to do that. Salvation has been given at such a great cost. God wills that you turn today, and live. See, your so-called pleasures are fleeing from you. They are as bubbles on the stream. Touch them, and they are forever gone!

Change thy last salutation, "Goodbye, God," to "Yes, Yes, God, I want You, and do now turn to You!"—D. S. Devore.

The Bible is remarkable in its use of expressive words and phrases. In the story of the Prodigal Son it says he "began to be in want." Why does it not say, "He was in want?" For the simple reason that the want created by sin is only a beginning. It will be an endless poverty unless the sinner returns to his heavenly Father's house. Again, when the reconciliation was effected, it is written, "They began to be merry." The joy of salvation has a beginning but it has no ending if the forgiven prodigal remains obedient.—Free Methodist.