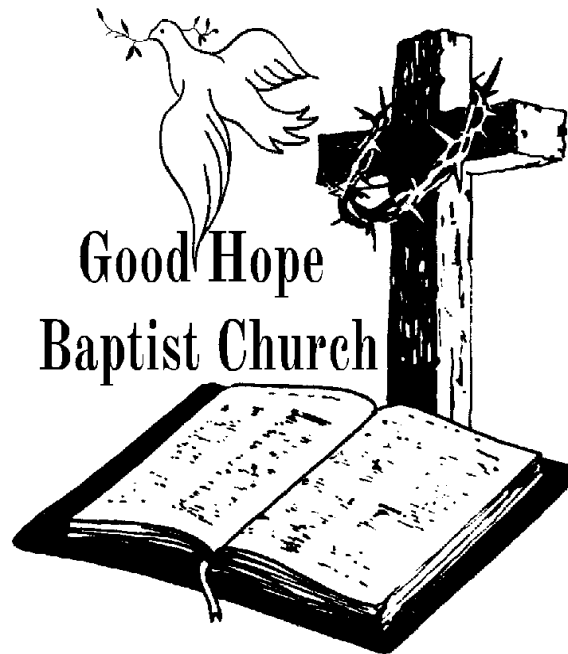


The Best Resolution: I Will Wait On The Lord

Psalm 27:14



Living Together In The Love Of God

**4038 Graham Sherron Rd
Wake Forest, NC 27587**

Pastor David Buffaloe
Home 919-562-9456 Cell 919-600-4925
online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Responsively Psalms 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: **wait, I say, on the LORD.**

America is a consumer driven society in which businesses rise or fall based on their customer base. Communism and Socialism demands that the income of every citizen be determined and controlled by the state. Capitalism, the system we operate under, demands that businesses compete for customers. The business that attracts the most customers wins at the end of the day. It is a good system for an economy, but like most man made things it has its drawbacks. Capitalism puts "me first". I am the center of the universe, the center of the stage. Some Churches have begun to use capitalistic techniques to attract new members called "seekers" (really, "customers"). Pastors at these customer driven Churches rarely dress up, but they dress down. Their messages do not use the Scripture except incidentally, and the Bible is never seen unless broadcast on a wall. In many seeker sensitive consumer driven Churches "services" are not what people attend, but are offerings made to the members of the Church. It is not a "sermon", but "messages are unpacked" in "conversations" that are "all about you".

Dear friends, capitalism is a wonderful system for the economy, but local Churches are not to model capitalistic businesses.

We do not make ourselves the center of the stage of life. In the Church and in the Christian life - just like in Heaven - God is the center.

If you want to have a life that matters God must be the Center of it. As a Pastor I've ministered to many who are now in Nursing Homes. Too many of these people look back over their wasted lives and wish they had done something significant. I was intimately acquainted with two pastors - very good preachers - who died relatively alone and unloved. I have walked through now abandoned houses filled with possessions left behind, mute testament to a consumer driven life that was no more than mere existence. God wants better for your life.

You merely *exist* when you wait on yourselves, but you *truly live* when you **wait on the Lord**. Only by waiting on the Lord will you ever see Jesus in this life.

I know of two old saints who are now with the Lord. I never met them personally, but I know all about the greatest moment of their lives. Their story was told to me by an unimpeachable Source, Someone Who has never lied to me from the day I first met Him.

First, there was an old man named Simeon. I really don't know how old he was before he passed into glory, but He was well advanced in years. The man was a Jew, but he was a believing Jew. He had studied the Scriptures, and read the prophecies that told him Messiah was coming. Simeon was saved by believing on the Coming Messiah. He was **indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Luke 2:26)** just like every believer is. But Simeon wanted something more than all else - he wanted to see Jesus. He wanted to see the **"the Consolation of Israel"** and **"the Light Who would bring Light to the Gentiles"**. Simeon wanted to see the Savior - just one

time - before he died.

God spoke to his heart. **"Simeon, if you will wait on Me, then you will not see death until you see the Savior's face"**. Where shall I wait, Lord? **"Follow Me"**. So Simeon followed the Lord, and **"he came by the Spirit into the Temple" (Luke 2:27)**. There God left Simeon, and there Simeon waited. And waited. And waited. Every day Simeon waited, and he watched. God has promised him that he would see Christ if he waited - and he focused like an eagle on the field, seeking the Messiah. Child after child was brought into the Temple to be circumcised on the eighth day according to Jewish Law.

Simeon positioned himself where the children were, then he waited like a child on the Lord. Simeon was a **good waiter**. He waited on the Lord.

ILLUSTRATE Adrian Rogers once said **"You can save a lot of time by waiting on God"**. Sometimes when God doesn't move right away, then we begin to think we *misheard* Him, or else we need to *help* Him. One of the greatest lies Satan ever inflicted on us is **"God helps those who help themselves"**. That's not Scriptural, and it's not true. Waiting on God doesn't mean to be a lazy slug. Waiting on God mean to let God lead you, and act when God says act. Just as a good waiter comes to your table and stands at attention, waiting for your order, so should we wait on God. It is the poor waiter who will not listen. It is the poor waiter who brings you what *he thinks* you need. God wants to bless His people, and His people must learn to be good

waiters. Simeon was a good waiter.

The one day Simeon's wait was over. He was able to do something none of us who believe will ever be able to do. A humble man and his wife came into the Temple. The Spirit of God whispered to Simeon, "**There is Jesus**". Simeon took Jesus into his arms. Simeon proclaimed:

We who believe have rested in the arms of Jesus, but Simeon had a once in a lifetime experience - he held the baby Jesus in his arms!

Luke 2:29-32 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Kill me now, O Lord! It just doesn't get any better than this!

Right after we read about Simeon, we see **Anna the Prophetess**. Anna was a widow who - for *eighty four years* - "**departed not from the Temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day**" (Luke 2:37).

Anna had many options available to her in life. She could have remarried; after all, she had only been married seven years when her husband died. Anna was from the **Tribe of Aser**, one of the wealthiest tribes of

Israel. She could have followed the money back to her home town and done quite well. But Anna **served the Lord day and night**. Her life was devoted to waiting on God. Because Anna was faithful in waiting on God, she came into the room while Simeon was praising God for letting him see the Messiah.

ILLUSTRATE The good waitress is faithful in attending her table. She carries the order from the table, and brings the completed order back. She stays faithful to the Client. When we wait on God and glorify Him and not ourselves, God blesses us. Oh how many blessings are lost in life because we will not wait on God! Oswald Chambers writes, "**Wait on God and He will work, but don't wait in spiritual sulks because you cannot see an inch in front of you! Are we detached enough from our spiritual hysterics to wait on God? To wait is not to sit with folded hands, but to learn to do what we are told.**"

The first word Jesus preached is "Repent" - stop following the world. The second part of His message was "Come, Follow Me". Wait on God.

Jesus said:

Mark 8:34-36 ... Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

If you want to have eternal life then you have a choice. Be waited on, or wait on the Lord. If you want to have a significant life, a life that matters, then you have a choice: be waited on, or wait on the Lord. Simeon and Anna waited on the Lord and are forever blessed for it. This is why ...

1. If I Want To Leave Egypt and The Wastelands And Enter Canaan, I Must Wait On God

FOCAL Psalms 27:14 **Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.**

WORD STUDY The word translated "wait" is the Hebrew Piel Imperative of QAWAW (קוּוּ Pronounced *kaw-vaw*'). The Piel Stem refers to an action that is **calculated, continuous, and concentrated**. It says **"waiting on the Lord should be foremost in my thoughts, no matter what state I find myself in"**. David said:

CONTEXT Psalms 27:1 The **LORD is my light ...**

When the lights go out, the LORD is my light.

Any time you see the name LORD in all upper case letters in the King James, it is the most Holy and Eternal Name of God YAHWEH - **"I AM that I AM"**. It is this name that God gave to a Hebrew slave called **Moshe** - you know him as **Moses**.

Moses was a man who never should have been born. Israel had been among the Egyptians for years, and prior to his birth an enslaved Israel was told **"every son that is born - abort them - cast them into the Nile to drown. But every daughter shall be kept alive"** (Exodus 1:22). When Moses was born **"he was beautiful to God"** (Acts 7:20). God didn't want Moses, nor His people, to be enslaved to Egypt. So God does what He always does - He moved hearts.

Before God moved Israel out of Egypt, He spent 80 years moving hearts. He moved Moses' mother to not abort her son. He moved the Princess of Egypt to take Moses in as her own son. He moved the King of Egypt to give this Hebrew boy an education, and to let him grow up in the palace.

Our God guided Moses' mother to take him at 3 months old, build a little boat, and put him in that little boat on the Nile. Down Moses floated, right into the waiting arms of Pharaoh's daughter! She looked at this little Hebrew baby boy, and *knew* he was a little Hebrew baby boy. Yet God moved on her heart. Our God is able! The Princess looked at Moshe and said, **"I will call him Moses, for I drew him out of the water"**. The Name "Moses" means "Drawn Out". The Princess took little "Drawn Out" into the Palace, and he became like her son. Moses was given an education that no other Israelite slave had. As he grew to manhood, he discovered that he was not Egyptian, but an Israelite.

Charles Stanley said **"When we become impatient,**

and take matters into our own hands, we step out of God's Will. Failing to wait on the Lord delays His blessings for us and can bring about pain and suffering. The cost of this mistake shows up in finances, relationships, and lost opportunities".

Waiting on God means trusting that He is working even though we may not see it. Our good ideas are the worst and most devilish ideas when they are not God's ideas.

The Bible doesn't tell us how Moses discovered he was an Israelite and not an Egyptian, but we can imagine how that might have been. Can you imagine growing up one way, but at the age of forty years old learning that your whole life was really something else? At the least Moses was shocked. As he's walking down the street one day in his Egyptian clothing he sees an Egyptian Taskmaster beating a Hebrew, a Levite. The Bible says:

Exodus 2:12 {Moses} **looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.**

Oh Beloved, how often has something looked like a good idea until after you've done it? When we keep on waiting on God, letting Him be our Light as the Psalmist said:

CONTEXT Psalms 27:1 The **LORD is my light ...**

then we will be blessed. But when we step away from the Light that God gives us and start doing things *our way*,

then we will bring misery on ourselves. **Wait on the Lord - the Lord is your Light!**

Moses found himself with blood on his hands and his picture on the "Ten Most Wanted List" on the wall of the Egyptian Post Office. He should have waited on the Lord!

To Moses it looked like a good idea. Kill the Egyptian, save your brother. But it wasn't a good idea because God wasn't in it. The man that Moses saved went back and told everybody else what Moses did. Pharaoh heard about it, and issued an arrest warrant for the murderer Moses. And Moses ran away from home - and stayed gone for *forty years* before the Lord could use him. The Bible says:

Proverbs 20:22 **Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.**

Wait on the Lord. The Psalmist said:

CONTEXT Psalms 27:1 **The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

When the Lord, the Great I AM is our Light, then we shall never walk in darkness. When the Lord, the Great I AM is our salvation, then there is no one we need fear. When the Lord, the Great I AM is our strength, then we will not grow weary. The old time preacher **George Whitefield** said:

"How weak soever the believer finds himself, and how powerful soever he perceives his enemy to be, it is all one to him, he hath no more to do but to put faith to work, and to wait till God works."

We cannot do the work of God by the power of man. No matter how we calculate, we cannot move the mountain, nor change the human heart. The work of God must be done by the power of God according to the Word of God. If we will see Christ's Kingdom advanced, we *must* wait on the Lord!

As great as Moses was, look at his wastelands. He wasted *forty years* in Midian tending sheep because he didn't **wait on God**. Moses wasted *another forty years* wandering with Israel, just to die in sight of the Promised Land because he didn't **wait on God**. Are there *wastelands* in your life? **Repent, and wait on God!**

God's Israel underwent civil war, dividing into North (Jacob) and South (Israel). Because they would not wait on God the Lord scattered Jacob under Assyria, and Israel under Babylon. The Lord plead with His people:

Isaiah 40:27-31 Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God? 28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. 29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he

increaseth strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 31 But 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.

If you want to come out of the wastelands and into Canaan, you must wait on God!

2. I Will Wait On The Lord, And Will Not Be Distracted By My Emotions

FOCAL Psalms 27:14 **Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:**

WORD STUDY Once more, the word "wait" in the Piel Stem is *intensive*. **I will wait on the Lord, and not on my feelings.**

Like catnip to a cat, human emotions can lead us to do foolish things. **Wait on the Lord, not on feelings.**

In his book *The 77 Habits of Highly Ineffective Christians* Chris Fabry talks about some of the bad habits that destroy our walk with God. In Habit #6, "Base Your Faith Solely on Feelings and Experience", he states:

"{If you want to be an ineffective Christian} It is important to base your spiritual condition not on the finished work of Christ, but on feelings and experience. Base your salvation on any dream you

have, particularly when you eat a pepperoni, anchovy, and peanut butter pizza just before going to bed. Listen to the still small voice that comes from a can of tuna You'll make much less of an impact on the world if you base your spirituality on feelings Do not cultivate a depth to your Christian life. Instead seek warm fuzzy feelings toward God Always say you believe the Bible, but trust in your experience and feelings."

So many times believers lose blessings because they trust in their feelings or their experiences, and not on the Lord. There are many temptations to not trust in God. The Devil took Jesus Christ ...

Matthew 4:8-9 up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

The Devil did this to Jesus, and does it to the saints of God today. **Look at it! Look how beautiful this world is. Worship me, submit to me, and I'll give you all this.** Jesus had one answer - the best answer - for Satan. He said "**It is written**". Here is what God's Word said, Satan. I'm going to wait on the Lord!

Just like Satan took Jesus to a mountaintop, he can do the same thing with you. Don't be deceived. Wait on the Lord, worship Him only.

The Psalmist said, "**Be of good courage, and He (God)**

shall strengthen your heart". Take your emotions in hand. Do not allow your emotions to lead you away from waiting on the Lord.

ILLUSTRATE King David became the King of Israel when he was just a boy, but it was a long time before he got to sit on that Throne. The story goes this way ...

Saul was the King of Israel, but *Saul refused to wait on the Lord*. Finally the Lord said "**I've had enough**". God went to His Prophet Samuel. "**Samuel**". Yes Lord? "**Get some anointing oil, because it's time to pick another King. Get To Bethlehem to the house of Jesse. There you will anoint a new King over Israel.**" So Samuel headed out to the house of Jesse. After trial and error, God rejected *seven of Jesse's sons* - and settled on the eighth, a young Shepherd by the name of **David**. The Lord said "**anoint David - he is My choice to be King**" (1 Samuel 16:12).

What did David do after he was chosen King by God? Did he march to Jerusalem and demand his rights? No! He went back to his sheep, waiting on the Lord until the Lord opened the door.

Sitting in the fields watching sheep every night is tedious work. David could have started a conversations with himself - you know the kind I'm talking about. "**I'm anoint to be King of Israel. Why am I stuck out here watching these stinking sheep? You know, I bet I could get a few men together, and we could head to Jerusalem**". But he didn't do that. David waited on

the Lord! The wisest man who ever lived was David's son **Solomon**, and he said:

Psalms 127:1 ... Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

The Lord must build the house. The Lord must keep the city. If the House of David was ever going to reign as King over Israel, God would have to put him in place. Almighty God the Son told the Church of Philadelphia:

Revelation 3:7-8 {I Am} he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; 8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

While waiting on the Lord David tended sheep, delivered lunch to his brothers, fought a giant called Goliath, became a court musician to entertain his rival Saul, led troops into battle, and played hide & seek in the caves of Engedi.

1 Samuel 24:1-2 And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi. 2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.

ILLUSTRATE David was anointed King of Israel many

years before by Samuel. It is his right to sit on that Throne. A disobedient a deposed Saul is chasing him through the wilderness with the equivalent of three thousand crack troops - Marines if you would. David and his men hide in a cave and guess what happens.

In walks Saul to take a nap!

1 Samuel 24:4 And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee.

David's companions tell him, "Hey David - this is what the Lord promised. He said that He would deliver your enemy into your hand, and here's Saul fast asleep - what more proof do you need. Let's kill him and get out of here!" That sounds reasonable, doesn't it?

Even if a good friend or a companion suggests that you get ahead of the Lord, don't do it! Wait until the Lord tells you what to do - then do it with all your heart.

David refused to get ahead of God regardless as to how he felt. He said:

1 Samuel 24:6 ... The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.

David was quoting what God told him in **1 Chronicles 16:22 "Touch not Mine anointed, and do My Prophets no harm"**. Saul was anointed King by God - God would have to remove Saul. David waited on the Lord, and when the time was God's time he ascended the Throne of Israel according to the will of God. **Greg Laurie** said in his book *Losers and Winners, Saints and Sinners*:

"Ultimately {Saul} died a pathetic death on the battlefield - realizing he was defeated, Saul committed suicide. His life had so much promise, potential, and talent, and it ended like that. God had blessed him. He had everything he needed, but he threw it all away."

Saul lost it all because he did *not* wait on the Lord. David gained it all - and has a Throne that Jesus Christ will one day sit on - because he waited on the Lord.

3. What Will Waiting On The Lord Do For My Life?

a. Waiting on the Lord increases my faith, while at the same time makes me aware of God's Presence.

God is always with us. But when we run about operating in our own power we are often unaware of His Presence. Let waiting on the Lord be your desire, and you can say with David:

CONTEXT Psalms 27:4 **One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his**

temple.

b. Waiting on the Lord places me firmly in the hand of and under the protection of the Father. A young deer is safest when it hides in the tall brush, waiting and unmoving, trusting to its Creator. In the same way the believer is to **"be still, and know that He is God"**. Wait on the Lord - trust in Him - and He will protect you.

CONTEXT Psalms 27:5-6 **For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. 6 And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.**

Living in the will of God waiting on God brought David *future protection* from harm, present stability in his life, and helped him to overcome the enemies of life. While all others were crying and suffering, David said **"My head shall be lifted up above my enemies ... and I will sing praises unto the Lord"**.

c. Waiting on the Lord is always the right thing, and prevents me from doing the wrong thing. While waiting on the Lord David *prayed*

Psalms 40:1 I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

and *asked God for the right direction to take*. When we do it our way we continually are going down the wrong

path. But when I wait on the Lord I am always in step with God - and ahead of those who do not wait on the Lord.

Psalms 25:4-5 Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. 5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

Some of you have never learned to wait on the Lord. You have never made the first step toward Him, for you have never trusted in Him for your salvation. You're wearing yourselves out running to and fro. Why not rest in Jesus? Jesus said:

Mark 8:34-36 ... Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

God wants you to have an abundant and blessed life. He wants you to have eternal life, to walk as a Child of the King of Heaven. Yet you resist. Why? Oh Beloved, come unto God wholly. Trust His provision in this coming New Year. Believe that His Word is true, and that His salvation is for you.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.



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We do not make ourselves the center of the stage of life. In the Church and in the Christian life - just like in Heaven - **God is the center.** (Luke 2)

Simeon's Life Lessons _____

Anna's Life Lessons _____

**1. If I Want To Leave Egypt and The Wastelands
And Enter Canaan, I Must Wait On God**

Psalms 27:14; Psalms 27:1; Exodus 1:22; Acts 7:20; Exodus 2:12; Psalms 27:1; Proverbs 20:22; Psalms 27:1; Isaiah 40:27-31

WORD STUDY The word translated "wait" is the Hebrew Piel Imperative of QAWAW (קָוָה Pronounced *kaw-vaw*). _____

Charles Stanley "When we become impatient, and take matters into our own hands, we step out of God's Will. Failing to wait on the Lord delays His blessings for us and can bring about pain and suffering. The cost of this mistake shows up in finances,

relationships, and lost opportunities".

**2. I Will Wait On The Lord,
And Will Not Be Distracted By My Emotions**

Psalms 27:14; Matthew 4:8-9; 1 Samuel 16:12; Psalms 127:1; Revelation 3:7-8; 1 Samuel 24:1-2; 1 Samuel 24:4; 1 Samuel 24:6

Like catnip to a cat, human emotions can lead us to do foolish things. **Wait on the Lord, not on feelings.**

David's Life Lessons _____

3. What Will Waiting On The Lord Do For My Life?

Psalms 27:4; Psalms 27:5-6; Psalms 40:1; Psalms 25:4-5; Mark 8:34-36

a. Waiting on the Lord _____

b. Waiting on the Lord _____

c. Waiting on the Lord _____
