



# Waiting on the Lord part 2



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**“[LORD] ... What is man that You are mindful of him?”** Psalm 8:4a

We concluded last time with a look at the omnipotence of God. He is our Creator, but He is also our Sustainer, and He deals with His people with compassion. We see that in the text of Isaiah 40:

***He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young*** (verse 11).

How does this sovereign, omniscient, omnipotent Lord treat His people, specifically? God is like a shepherd carefully and gently leading His people. And notice what it says in verse 29: ***“He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength.”***

Isn't that amazing? This great and awesome and incomprehensible God, this God cares about us. He cares about us intimately. He is gentle in His dealings with us. He sees our weaknesses and gives help to those who have no might. To those who are feeble, He increases strength.

We read in Psalm 46:1b ***“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”*** Our temptation is to think that in the time of trouble, God is not present. He has vanished. *What's going on? Why am I going through this? If God is really with me, if He is present, why are my circumstances the way they are?* We don't always understand, and God doesn't always give us an explanation. But what He does tell us is that He's in control, He knows everything that's going on, and He is considerate of us.

## God Is Faithful

The next point is that God is faithful. He will keep His promises. Recall Isaiah 40:29: ***“He gives power to the weak, and to those***

***who have no might He increases strength.”***

This is an absolute declaration that God gives power. He increases strength. We can depend on Him. And we see the result of His power in verse 31:

***But those who wait on 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.***

He doesn't just see you in your weakness and say, *Oh, that's too bad. Look how weak they are.* He says, *Oh look, they're weak. I need to strengthen them. They're feeble; I need to empower them.* And because He's the faithful God, He comes alongside and does these very things for us. This is a great and glorious promise.

Notice, ***“Those who wait upon the LORD ...”*** So put your name in that spot. As you wait upon the Lord, this is what God promises He will do. No one is excluded.

## Learning to Wait

Now, what does it mean to wait? This is probably where the greatest difficulty comes in because we do not like to wait for anything. Human beings, in general, are impatient by nature. You find a few patient people here and there, but most of us want things to happen quickly. We especially don't like to wait through trying, difficult circumstances.

Let me give you a picture of what waiting does not look like. If I'm in a state of panic, I'm not waiting. I'm not in a frenzy if I'm waiting on the Lord. Second, if I'm waiting on the Lord, I'm not striving. I'm not forcing my will: *It has to happen now, and it has to happen this way.* Neither will I be fighting for my rights nor will I be scheming—plotting and planning in my mind.

But, as opportunities come to wait on the Lord, you can be sure that we'll be tempted to panic, to strive, to fight, to scheme. We

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have to resist that because waiting is basically trusting. And those who are waiting and trusting the Lord are resting in Him and depending on Him to do what He has promised.

This is the place of peace. We are liberated from all of that stress when we come to the place of saying, “Lord, I'm waiting on You in faith.”

Waiting on the Lord is faith. Trusting God is faith. It's saying, “Lord, I believe You. Even though the circumstances seem to indicate something else, I believe You and am going to stand on Your promises.”

Over 20 years ago, I remember a very vivid moment of being weak and powerless, and in many ways, hopeless that things would ever change for the better. But I remembered in my frailty the promise of Isaiah 40:31a: ***“Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength.”*** I grabbed hold of it and said, “They means anybody, and I'm going to take hold of that promise. Lord, I'm going to wait upon You and I'm going to trust You.” And today I can tell you that God did exactly what He said He would do. It wasn't in my timeframe, and it wasn't immediate, but He renewed my strength. He was and is a faithful God.

He has all power, He knows everything, and He is in control. And He says to us today, Those who wait upon Him shall renew their strength. Believe it and rest. ✨