

## **WAITING ON GOD (III)**

### **+ MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENTER INTO GOD'S REST**

*<sup>10</sup> for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. <sup>11</sup> Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience. (Hebrews 4:10-11)*

- Story: A foolish man wanted to be smart. A fish seller told him to buy a fish head every day. The foolish man did this daily for six months. One day he finally realized that the whole fish only cost \$5 but he was buying the head for \$6. The moral of the story is when we do things persistently like the foolish man, eventually we will get a breakthrough.
- The Holy Spirit reminded Brother Fu of this story during his time of waiting upon God. The Holy Spirit let Brother Fu know that if he believed and waited upon God every day like the foolish man, he would eventually have spiritual results.
- Brother Fu diligently practices Wait Upon God every day. Overtime, Brother Fu has seen results. He was able to enter into God's peace and receive spiritual gifts. With more practice, it was easier for Brother Fu to focus on God.

### **+ THE ESSENCE OF WAIT UPON GOD**

- Waiting upon God means to put down our work and set time apart for God. During this time, we only think about Jesus and meditate upon God's grace and love.
- Waiting upon God is different from daydreaming. We do not allow our thoughts to roam freely; instead, we focus on God and earnestly seek God's face.
- When we come into God's presence, we receive an exchange of life—ours for His, and we take on God's character.

### **+ MANY TEMPTATIONS DISTRACT US FROM WAITING UPON GOD**

- Waiting upon God is a simple concept, but there are many temptations that distract us from waiting upon God consistently.
- When we don't "make every effort" we may be tempted not to wait upon God. When we are unable to enter into God's rest, we miss out on the good things God wants to give to us.

*<sup>15</sup> As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." <sup>16</sup> Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? <sup>17</sup> And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose*

*bodies perished in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup> And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief. (Hebrews 3:15-19)*

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- God's heart was to bring out the Israelites into the Promised Land. However, the entire generation (except for Joshua and Caleb who had faith) was not able to enter the Promised Land because of their unbelief. They rebelled against God and disobeyed Him with their old habits of complaining.
- The Israelites were hopelessly chained to their identities as slaves and were unaccustomed to become warriors. In the same way, God has given us a new identity to be His chosen people, but our worldly habits often distract us. As a result, we are unable to calm down and wait upon God.
- In today's modern world, we have many temptations around us that distract us from waiting upon God. Brother Fu's impromptu skit of temptations mentioned music choices, internet surfing, shopping online, and social networking.
  - We can learn to remove the temptations around us. An example is to avoid using the computer by playing music with an mp3 player. Brother Fu's 13 year old son uses a hardcopy dictionary to avoid the apps on his iPad.
- Satan often tempts us with worldly things so that we will not seek God and continue to live like a slave.
- If we don't make an effort to stand up against these temptations and wait upon God, we will lose the opportunity to enter into God's rest.

**+ SANTIFY TIME TO WAIT UPON GOD**

*<sup>15</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength in rest and repentance is your strength. (Isaiah 30:15)*

- We must make an effort to recognize that our waiting upon God time is sanctified. No matter how busy we are, we must come to God with faith that we will be able to do what we are tasked to do after waiting upon God.
- Brother Fu is a highly efficient person. A competitive person by nature he was high-pressure to co-workers. His spirit was also tense and burdened.

- The first time Brother Fu waited on God, the Holy Spirit reminded him of Psalm 23:2, “green pastures, [and God leading him] beside quiet waters.”
- Brother Fu felt that God wanted to bring him into rest. He listened to wait upon God tapes and set apart time everyday for God. This was the key to Brother Fu’s success: to set apart time and not allow his thoughts to get distracted. If his thoughts became distracted, he would speak short phrases of adoration to God.
- Brother Fu often remembered Luke 20:25 when Jesus said, “...Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”
- For one month, Brother Fu had to meet with his bosses at 4pm every day. He had to report his daily progress on solving a difficult problem. Although he was tempted to forego waiting upon God at lunchtime and prepare for the high-pressure meeting, he chose to wait upon God and focus on God. As a result, God gave him the grace to satisfy his bosses.
- By choosing to wait upon God rather than work during his lunchtime, Brother Fu’s faith in God grew. His heart became at peace during the meetings with His bosses. Eventually, Brother Fu’s waiting upon God sessions became even longer and more frequent. He would often spend a few minutes to wait upon God before leaving his home each morning. Each day Brother Fu would say “Lord, I give the time of today to you.”

**+ WAIT UPON GOD BRINGS TO LIGHT OUR SIN**

*<sup>2</sup> But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. (Malachi 4:2)*

- For those who revere God and are willing to honor the promises we make to Him, righteousness will rise with healing on its wings.
- In this light, we are changed. When we soak in God’s living light it brings power to heal broken relationships.
- One time, as Brother Fu was waiting upon God, the Holy Spirit highlighted a sin. The Holy Spirit showed Brother Fu his arrogant attitude towards a co-worker at work. When Brother Fu obeyed the Holy Spirit and apologized to the co-worker, he found out that he was wrong about the co-worker and was able to repair and heal the relationship.
- Brother Fu used to be very angry with his father. During his teenage years, his father was controlling and overprotective of Brother Fu. Anywhere Brother Fu went, his father wanted to go too. His father did not allow Brother Fu to be with friends. Even as an adult, Brother Fu would have nightmares about arguments with his father. However, by waiting upon God, God provided healing to their

relationship. When Brother Fu thinks about his father now, he is able to think about the good influence his father had on him, and how much he loves his father.

- His parents also mentally and emotionally suppressed Brother Fu. Through waiting upon God persistently, God healed him so that he was able to release his emotions and to relate freely with people. In addition, God has also given him the spiritual gifts of visions and prophesy.

***<sup>18</sup> And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)***

- As we wait upon God, our darkness will be exposed. We will see ourselves more clearly as if we are looking at our reflection in the mirror. God will transform us to become more like Him.