

## WOG (III): Salvation Comes from Him

### I. Why do we wait on God? Because our salvation comes from Him

#### 1. Psalm 62:1, *“Truly my soul silently [intentionally] waits for God; From Him comes my salvation.”*

- ◆ To intentionally “wait on God” means to keep your eyes on Him and believe that He is coming to accomplish something. When God doesn’t seem to be working yet, you continue to wait for Him there.
- ◆ David is a person who “intentionally waits on God.” Many times we wait on God, but because we have something else to rely on, for example wisdom, talent, money, methods, or someone else to rely on, we do not intentionally wait on God.
- ◆ If we know that our salvation comes from Him, we will be more quiet and silent in our daily lives as we wait on Him.

#### 2. Isaiah 30:15-18, *“In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.”*

##### (1) The power of quietness (Isaiah 30:15)

- ◆ If we want to be saved from all difficult circumstances and all weaknesses, we need to return to rest. Our strength is in quietness and rest.
- ◆ God wants His people to know the power in the stillness.

Like our worship, we have learned to rejoice, praise, and worship before the Lord, for the Lord is enthroned on the praises of Israel. But when we praise, and the throne of God is in our midst, and the Holy Spirit is poured out greatly, we need to be still and eat and drink in His presence in order to enter into the deeper presence of God.

This is what the Bible says, **“But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.”** When God was gloriously present in His temple, all the priests fell silent, bowed down in worship, and could not even stand.

In Revelation too, on the one hand there is loud praise, and on the other hand, when the glory of God's majesty is manifested, the 24 elders bow down. This is what we mean by waiting on God—**each individual bows down to Him**. If we want to enter into the most powerful presence of God, we need to quiet down and be in quietness and rest.

- ◆ When the Holy Spirit pours out on a person or sets free a person, our weak body suddenly receives so much power from heaven that sometimes our whole body begins to tremble. But after receiving it for a while, we should gradually return inside and quiet down. At that time, the power of God's presence will enter inside the person, otherwise it will only be on the outside. The presence that comes into you becomes deeper and greater. This is the “indwelling Christ.”

##### (2) But the people of God refused to do so (Isaiah 30:16-17).

- ♦ God's people are sometimes so bold that when God has said this, they answer, "No! [No! No! How could we do nothing and just be quiet?] *We will flee upon horses,*" and God said, *"therefore your pursuers shall be swift."* This is the picture of our time. Everything is fast, fast, fast, fast, rush, rush, rush.
- ♦ **So we really need to listen to all the words of the Holy One of Israel, and we should not say "or else."**
- ♦ What if we say, "Or else?" What will be the result? *"A thousand will flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you will all flee away."*

That is to say: when we face the slightest amount of trouble, a little wave of hardship and change, we all fall down immediately. What remains is like a pole on top of a mountain and a banner on a hill (v17), all floating around and falling down as the wind blows this way and that way.

This is a picture of our modern day. But God has prepared a salvation for His people, that we can always come back inside and enjoy that rest, that power in the quiet.

### (3) The Lord will surely wait to show you favor (Isaiah 30:18)

- ♦ In fact, we don't have to ride fast animals all the time, run! Faster! God is waiting in us to give us favor, and He will rise up to have mercy on us, because He knows **how limited we are as human beings**. We need to realize our absolute helplessness, our absolute hopelessness, our nothingness, that there is nothing we can do to pull ourselves up a little bit. And we need to know **God's absolute power, His absolute fullness**, so that we can enter into rest and intentionally wait on Him in silence.
- ♦ If you know better that our salvation is about returning to rest, when we are spiritually weak, we will **not just rush to read more spiritual books and fellowship with others**, although there will be some revelations and help, but it is very little and limited. We **will truly come before God and present these things to the Lord and ask Him**, and you will find that the Lord has been doing it little by little. For God in us is waiting to give us favor. He says that everyone who waits on Him is blessed, and will surely receive this blessing, only if you are willing to wait on Him and draw near to Him.
- ♦ **Whether it's our ministry, our family, or our church, all others can teach us is a skill. But if you want to be saved and empowered for ministry, you have to come to Him, come close to Him, and in quietness and rest, the power of God becomes our strength.**

### 3. Hebrews 3:19, 4:9-11, "Strive to enter that rest"

#### (1) The Israelites could not enter into rest because of unbelief (Hebrews 3:19)

- ♦ God's purpose was not just to bring the people of Israel out of Egypt, but to lead them into the land of Canaan. The land of Canaan is also called the "land of rest" and it is a foretaste of Christ's dwelling in us. God said that the people of Israel could not enter the land of rest because they did not believe.
- ♦ David had a true trust in God. David could have easily killed Saul on at least two occasions, but he knew that the throne was not to be won by his own strength and that the glory and honor came from God. So no matter how Saul

was killed in battle or killed by God, David would not move his own hand, but he would quietly and intentionally wait on God.

- ◆ Our faith must be built on the inside, not on the outside, and not in dependence on a church or a gifted vessel. We must have our own strength to stand, to support, and to hold on to ourselves. **And the power of our true spiritual life comes not through the laying on of hands, but through practice, practicing without discouragement, surrendering to God often, paying the price, and spending time close to God.**

## (2) Strive to enter into rest (Hebrews 4:9-11)

- ◆ To “**strive**” is to make every effort. To “**strive to enter into that rest**” means to **strive to keep from exerting oneself, and to enter into the deepest trust**. If you don’t make every effort to enter into that rest, you will fall like an unbeliever. That’s why it’s so important for us to be willing to practice rest in our lives to trust Him and believe that He is our only salvation.
- ◆ “*So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.*” The Old Testament Sabbath was about the Israelites not doing anything one day a week and resting, but that was just a preparation. In the New Testament **Jesus says, “I am the Lord of the Sabbath.”**

So the main meaning of the Sabbath is that we honor Him as Lord every day and really rest from our work to come into the Sabbath and let this Lord of the Sabbath reign in us. So, to **rest is to worship the Lord**.

- ◆ Sometimes we are anxious about our children’s spiritual problems. Give it a try and enter into that rest: when he has an accident, you don’t have to be provoked, but you can bring him into that rest and let God’s salvation come.
- ◆ If we do not live a life of waiting on God, we will not have a profound Christian life and we will not easily understand what God’s will is.

We can get better at ministry and more familiar with the Bible, but still nothing has changed in our personality. We can lead Bible studies and worship at church, but still be far from God.

**Unless we live a life of intimacy with God and cultivate a relationship of love with Him, we will not find Him so real in us and will not experience His real salvation.**

## II. What is the difference between waiting on God and praying?

- ◆ Our prayers are often based on ourselves, on the things we are worried about, on the things we want to pray for. We also take a lot of effort to pray about those areas, we are still in ourselves.
- ◆ Waiting on God is when we come to this gracious Lord, for all of our thoughts to be on Him, and our primary thought is to be focused on the One God.

**Waiting on God is to give God time so that He can get an opportunity to enter into the person inside us, into our inner man, so that He can reveal Himself to us, so that He can bring His divine power to us according to His law, and this is the difference between waiting for God and praying.**

### III. Concluding Remarks

When God created Adam, He breathed on Adam and Adam became a living being with a spirit. That breath was the Spirit of God, so the most important thing for Adam is to continue to draw on the Spirit of God. Today, if we understand that the whole salvation comes from Him, we will draw from Him 24 hours a day from morning to night, silently. In fact, the source of the whole breath of life is God Himself, and we need to wait on Him more and more, and draw near to Him, so that He can work in us and become our life and our salvation.

God has given us **a wonderful way to be saved**. “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength.” This is something **you need to practice**. Every time after you have done one thing, you return to the Lord for a few minutes and bring the next thing you need to do to the Lord before you do it, so you will not be overwhelmed by the burdens of life. **What do you do when you are the most stressed, the most busy, the most helpless, and the weakest? It is not to rely on your own strength to cope and to solve. It is to be willing to go back inside and let Him be your salvation, strength and help.**

So we really need to be like the Psalmist who said, “O LORD! *On You I wait all the day.*” If we really understand that our salvation comes from Him, not from the pastor or anyone else, then we will wait on Him with all our hearts and all our days.

### WOG (III) Assignment

1. Memorize the Bible: Psalm 62:1, Isaiah 30:15-18.
2. Read “The Practice of the Presence of God” by Brother Lawrence