

WOG (IV): Lifestyle of Renewing

I. Waiting on God—A Newly Empowered Life (Isaiah 40: 28-31)

Isaiah 40 speaks of the power and wonder of God's creation, the wisdom of God that cannot be measured. He gives power to the weary, and strength to the weak. Even a young man will be weary and tired, and the strong will fall down completely. But God in His wisdom has prepared for us on earth a life that will not be weary or fatigued, but will always be renewed and strengthened.

How shall we obtain it? But he who waits on the LORD will receive it.

1. The true meaning of "waiting"

- ◆ The Amplified Bible speaks of "waiting" as:

"[Who expect, look for and hope in Him] shall change and renew their strength and power."

That is, those who are full of expectation of God, who seek from that place, who are full of hope and thirst in God, such people will be renewed in power and transformed in power.

You can see that waiting is not just sitting there waiting for God to speak, or waiting for a wonderful experience to suddenly come. Waiting on God is to be filled with a love and longing to be there, to be there all the time, to draw on Him, to be in fellowship with Him.

- ◆ Pastor Miller said: "Waiting" in the original language is three cords tied together. That is, our spirit is tied to God's spirit, entangled, and dissolved together to draw in His fullness.

So waiting should not be a static condition, but a rising power, an uplifting power, as if it is always refueling, refueling. Our frail bodies and weak personalities are always drawing on the energy of Heaven, so that we are transformed and renewed, and this is the true meaning of waiting.

2. Renewing Strength

- ◆ "Renewing Strength" in the original text is "Exchanging Strength." In the most hectic and stressful times, we can come back to God to exchange strength with Him and draw on His heavenly energy. As we draw near to God and wait on Him, He lifts us up. The more we are lifted up, the more we are freed from earthly attraction, from earthly entanglements, from fleshly entanglements, and from lustful entanglements. It is the wisdom of God that He keeps giving us oil so that we can run forward with strength again.
- ◆ When we bring love and longing, and we keep drawing on the fountain of God's love in us, God's love will be drawn out. For God is actually in us and He is love, a real fountain of love that is in us, and it needs to be dug out through your **thirsty drawing**.

You have oil mines, fountains, and it is necessary for you to pay attention to it, to dig, to mine. It can be inexhaustible. These people can live a life mounting up with wings like eagles

3. Mount up with wings like eagles

- ◆ There is no other bird in the Bible to describe Christians but the eagle. The eagle rises up on its wings and flies towards the sun. In the same way, those who wait on God will be renewed and strengthened, just as an eagle flies towards the sun.
- ◆ An eagle in the Alps can live for 100 years, but at the age of 60, it will age and become dispirited and downcast. After a few weeks, it will suddenly peck the rocks with its beak and grind them with its wings until its aging feathers are worn off and blood is stained on the rocks, which is very painful, until it regenerates new feathers, and then it will soar on its wings like an eagle and live for another 60 years.

God has prepared for those who wait on Him a life like an eagle that can return to a rejuvenated life. It is only a matter of whether you have awakened to the great source and power of life that is within you. Christians often do not realize that the God in us is greater than everything in this world, and that all the fullness of God's nature dwells in Christ in form and body, and that we can have all this fullness in Christ. If we can realize how great is the power of life within, we will not be easily frightened and overwhelmed by the difficulties outside, but will often fly towards God with wings like eagles.

4. Run and not be weary, walk and not faint

- ◆ **"Running" represents our ministry and "walking" represents our daily life.** Why are we able to serve without getting tired? Why don't we get tired of our daily life? Because we know how to come back to God often, to exchange strength with Him, to draw in heavenly energy.
- ◆ We need to truly eat and drink the Lord Himself, which is what Jesus said, *"Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life."* When we wait on the Lord, the presence of God is in us and fills us, so we can keep on drawing it in, which is to eat the flesh of the Lord and drink His blood. And the Lord said, *"Then there is everlasting life in us, that we may not grow weary or tired."*

II. Wait on God—rest from your own work, and the Almighty will come and do it (Psalm 68: 9-14)

1. *"You strengthen him when he is weary"* (Psalm 68:9).

- ◆ As we draw near to the Lord, you will feel the sudden pouring down of God's rain that restores our weariness and strengthens our weaknesses.

2. *"Your goodness is for the needy"* (Psalm 68:10).

- ◆ Sometimes we don't think we are distressed and we still have the strength. Because we are quicker ourselves, so we are not willing to spend time to wait on God. Only those who think that "I can't do it and feel poor" are distressed. God says that goodness is prepared for such people.

3. *"The Lord gave the command...the king of the army fled...the women who waited divide the spoil"* (Psalm 68:11-12)

- ♦ **The king of the army is a symbol of our old self**, like a proud king, a judgmental king, a king who likes to complain. When we wait on the Lord, He Himself gives the command, and our-old self flees, so that we might receive a share of what was taken from us.
 - ♦ All manifestations of the old-self are manifestations of the absence of love. Unless we come close to the Lord and to the fire of love, there is no love in us. But when we are more in the presence of His love and let God's love soak more into the whole person, our old-self will always come down and escape.
4. *"Though you men lie among the sheepfolds...And the dove's wings are covered with silver and its pinions with gold, and the Almighty scatters the kings in the land."*

(Psalm 68:13-14)

- ♦ The phrase "lying in the sheepfold" means that when we are close to God, we rest like sheep, in peace. **And "silver" and "gold" are both attributes of God, symbolizing His presence.**
- ♦ How can we scatter the kings in ourselves (like the proud king, the selfish king)?

But when we wait on the Lord and let His loving presence soak in, and let His attributes cover us, then the Almighty Himself will come and cast out the kings in us.

- ♦ We have just started to wait on the Lord, and it is true that most people don't feel anything when they first start to approach God. But you should not just get up and fly away without feeling anything. You have to continue to wait until the flow of God's breath and wind become stronger and stronger, then you will enter into the flow of God's breath and follow His wind, and let the supernatural great power of God lift you up to the throne of God, and this is called resting from your work and entering into rest.
- ♦ When we rest from our own work, we will find the Almighty at work.
- ♦ **In fact, one of the most important efforts Christians need to make is to give God time and not to be busy on our own.** Many times we rely on our own strength to make efforts, plans, and arrangements, instead of resting from our own work and fully resting to look to Him.

When you are willing to lie down in the sheepfold, God will cover you with silver and gold, and you will no longer live by yourself, but the glory of God will live in you.

WOG (IV) Assignment

1. Scripture reading: Isaiah 40, Psalm 25, 27, 68.
2. Memorize the Bible: Isaiah 40:28-31, Psalm 68:9-14.
3. Learn to take a break from your work in the midst of life's busyness and settle down for a few minutes to draw near to the Lord.