

WAIT UPON

The phrase “wait upon” (KJV), “wait for” (NAS), and “hope in” (NIV), from Isaiah 40:31 has been often preached, but is generally not very well understood in the body of Christ.

Isaiah 40:31

“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.”

This does not literally translate to the word “wait” as we know it in English. This mistake has caused many to stop functioning the way they were in the body of Christ, while waiting for the Lord to intervene in a certain area of their life that they have been praying and fasting about. This action plays right into the devil’s hands.

The Greek word used here is *qavah* which means to bind together (perhaps by twisting), to expect, to collect, to wait for. This being the case, the word wait can be confusing in the translation. The real meaning is more than just waiting but a holding fast to or on to. This implies continuing in obedience to all we know to do and not any straying or letting go of Him – much like Jacob did when he wrestled with the angel of the Lord until day break, when he finally got blessed (Genesis 32:26-29).

This is particularly important when a promise or prophecy is received, but a considerable time lapse between the promise and the fulfillment. The devil wants to steal the word (parable of the sower and the seed – Mark 4, Matthew 13, and Luke 8). We must wait on (holdfast to) the Lord so that we may not forfeit the promise. Abraham held fast in obedience and received it all – Genesis 22:12-18.

We must hold on, not stopping, in all the kingdom things we know we are to be doing while we are “waiting” on Him, much like is referred to in Isaiah 58:

Isaiah 58:6-10

“Is this not the fast which I choose, to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke?

Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into the house; when you see the naked, to cover him; and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you; the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’ If you remove the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

And if you give yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in darkness, and your gloom {will become} like midday.”