

WHAT TO DO WHILE YOU WAIT

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Not too long ago my Son-in-law lent me a book titled, "The Bible Jesus Read", by Phillip Yancey, to read a chapter it contains on the Book of Job, which I found very insightful and very encouraging. It is based on chapters 1 & 2 of Job, which focus on his faith, unlike chapters 3-42, which focus on his loss and suffering. I'm sure that all of us at some point in our lives have identified with the latter. After being very healthy for most of my life, I too for the past couple of years have been plagued with back to back infirmities. However, in spite of all I have endured, and still endure, the all sufficient grace of God (and the prayers of the brethren) has enabled me to hold on to my faith and integrity. To be honest, it was quite a struggle at times as my body was wracked with pain and discomfort, but that still small voice within has been my constant stay. Faith, after all, is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **(Hebrews 1:1)** So I could never let go of my "Now" faith because I know that sooner or later my change will come, so I simply wait. In addition to that reading, a good friend and sister in Christ shared the poem below with me titled, "Wait", which served as a reminder to **"Be still and know that I am God..." Psalm 46:10.**

*Desperately, helplessly, longingly, I cried: Quietly, patiently, lovingly God replied. I pled and I wept for a clue to my fate, And the Master so gently said, "Child, you must wait." "Wait? You say, wait!" my indignant reply. "Lord, I need answers, I need to know why! Is your hand shortened? Or have you not heard? By faith, I have asked, and am claiming your Word. My future and all to which I can relate hangs in the balance, and YOU tell me to WAIT? I'm needing a 'yes', go-ahead and sign, or even a 'no' to which I can resign. And Lord, You promised that if we believe we need but to ask, and we shall receive. And Lord, I've been asking, and this is my cry: I'm weary of asking! I need a reply! Then quietly, softly, I learned of my fate As my Master replied once again, "You must wait. "So I slumped in my chair, defeated and taunted and grumbling to God, "So, I'm waiting... for what? "He seemed, then, to kneel, and His eyes wept with mine, And he tenderly said, "I could give you a sign. I could shake the heavens, and darken the sun. I could raise the dead, and cause mountains to run. All you seek, I could give, and pleased you would be. You would have what you want--But, you wouldn't know Me. You'd not know the depth of My love for each saint; You'd not know the power that I give to the faint; You'd not learn to see through the clouds of despair; You'd not learn to trust just by knowing I'm there; You'd not know the joy of resting in Me When darkness and silence were all you could see. You'd never experience that fullness of love As the peace of My Spirit descends like a dove; You'd know that I give and I save... (for a start), But you'd not know the depth of the beat of My heart. The glow of My comfort late into the night, The faith that I give when you walk without sight, The depth that's beyond getting just what you asked Of the infinite God, who makes what you have LAST. You'd never know, should your pain quickly flee, What it means that "My grace is sufficient for Thee. "Yes, your dreams for your loved one overnight would come true, But, Oh, the Loss! If I lost what I'm doing in you! So, be silent, My Child, and in time you will see That the greatest of gifts is to get to know Me. And though oft' My answers seem terribly late, My most precious answer is still, "WAIT."
[Author Unknown]*

One of the hardest things I find when you're in the midst of a test or trial, or when there is so much agitation and distraction on the outside, is to be still and wait. But, I've also found that focusing on the Spirit living in me, constrains me on the inside **(Job 32:18)** and I am able to rest in the Lord. This may sound strange, but the word wait, which is a verb, requires action. Although the word insinuates doing nothing, this couldn't be further from the truth. When you are in waiting mode, one would be inclined to think that there is nothing to do. But trust me, while you're "doing nothing", the thing "to do" is pray and wage war on the enemy, and trust & believe that God is working in the midst of your pain, stress, anxiety, discouragement, depression, despondency, disappointment, loss, loneliness, and grief. Not only is He working things out on your behalf, He's also working in you, and on getting your attention because He has a Word that will carry you through to His expected end. Getting a word from the Lord will drown out all of the devil's lies. Getting a Word from the Lord is essential to getting the victory. Getting a Word from the Lord will turn your test into a testimony! So when you find yourself waiting for an answer from the Lord for your situation, get busy waiting!