

## **True Christians learn to wait on God – many don't to their great loss**

Lam 3:25 **The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him.**

What does it mean to wait on God?

The literal meaning of the Hebrew word translated wait is to be bound together with God.

Jer 10:23 **O Lord I know the way of man is not in himself It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps** (yet we assumed we could make it by our self-will).

Prov 3:5-6 **Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him (Seek his will in all you do – NLT; Listen for God's voice in everything you do – MSGE.), And He shall direct your paths** (what an amazing commandment to us from God)

A true Christian, out of pure love for and genuine trust in God, wants to please Him in everything. He recognizes God's vastly superior wisdom over his own, and constantly seeks in his spirit, where God lives, to know His will and to receive His guidance in every aspect of life. Only in this way can he be bound together with God at all times.

Heb 12:2 **We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus...**NLT (Since He lives in our hearts we can see Him spiritually. So we keep looking away from every circumstance, to Him)

1 Cor 2:15 **He who is spiritual discerns all things...** (Gets God's input on everything).

Why is it so essential to learn to always wait on God?

Isa 64:4 ...**You (God), Who works and shows Himself active on behalf of him who earnestly waits for Him** (to wait means active seeking, not lazy fatalism) AMP

- So that God can work and be active on my behalf– for while I wait I'm staying in faith.
- So that I can know what His ongoing will is, and receive any confirmations I need.
- So that I can know God's timing for His will, in addition to knowing what that will is.

Ecc 8:5 **He who keeps His command will experience nothing harmful; And a wise man's heart discerns** (from God) **both time and judgment** (His will),

- To constantly receive God's words and His understanding of them, and His guidance.
- So that He can direct me on how and what to pray and how to minister, to others.
- In order to be constantly loved and comforted by Him, and conformed to Christ.
- So that He can strengthen my heart as often as needed so I won't give up on Him.

Ps 27:14 **Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!**

- So that He can deliver me out of trouble and continue to save me.

Prov 20:22 ...**Wait on the Lord and he will save you** (from the sin and harm of self-will).

Ex 14:13 ...**Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD...**

How do we wait continually on God?

God wants to be found by anyone who will seek Him with a pure heart, with their spirit:

Jer 29:13 **And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart** Isa 26:9...**Yes with my spirit within me I will seek You early** (& always).

We wait on God in faith, believing we can always find Him; that He will always show us what we need to do or not do and that we can remain in His presence all through the day:

Ps 62:5 **My soul** (my will), **wait only upon God; for my expectation is from Him.**

Hos 12:6 **So you, by the help of your God, return, observe mercy and judgment,** (make righteous decisions – God’s will) **and wait continually on your God.**

We wait on God in a continual state of submissive neutrality. Meaning our one desire is to know what His will is, for we have already decided that whatever it is we are going to do it and therefore we deliberately set aside any preference we might have had. That’s what unconditional surrender to God means. If we insist on keeping our own independent preferences, meaning we will only do God’s will if it agrees with ours – God will not reveal His will to us. In fact, He won’t even hear our inquiry because we have allowed room in our hearts for the possibility of disobeying Him, for self-will – that is iniquity:

Ps 66:18 **If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:** KJV

But if we’re willing, God always imparts to us both the desire and the ability to do His will.

Phil 2:13 **For it is God who works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure.**

What are some of the main reasons why many Christians do not wait continually on God?

Ps 106:13 **But they soon forgot His works; they did not wait for His counsel.** ESV

- Some, instead of leaning away from their own mental understanding lean into it, preferring to use their own judgment on matters rather than obtain God’s counsel. They thus make themselves wiser than God. This self-will is the sin of pride.
- Some, also leaning into their own natural decision making abilities, presume to know what God’s will is or what it should be, without actually getting it directly from Him. If they do seek, it isn’t in depth so they’re easily deceived; this is the sin of presumption.
- Some, either don’t care what God’s will is, or having an awareness from God’s Spirit what His will is, plan to disregard it. For they have already determined that they are going to do what they want to do anyway. This self-will is the sin of rebellion.
- Some, simply don’t believe either that they are able or qualified to seek and find God, or that He is willing to reveal His counsel to them. So they either don’t try, or they give up trying if His will is not quickly revealed to them. This is the sin of unbelief.

What’s at stake if I don’t wait on God, if I’m not bound together with Him? My salvation:

Heb 5:9 **And having been perfected, He (Jesus) became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,** (I can’t obey Him if I won’t wait on Him).

Ps 25:5 **Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my (ongoing) salvation; On You I wait all the day** (to stay saved from self-will).

Rom 8:14 **As many as** (wait on and) **are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God...**