

## Wait For The Lord, Mount Up With Wings Like Eagles!

### ➤ Intro:

- **illus.: we don't like to wait**

- **pay extra at theme park** to go to the front of the line with express pass

- **driving, change our route** and go a longer way, so not have to stop at a red light

- **want computers to go faster and faster**, don't want to wait for them to boot up, and want Internet pages to load instantly

- **don't like to wait for food** to be cooked, so we have fast food – restaurants, microwave

- **there are a lot of things we don't have to wait for, but there is one things we do – the Lord**

➤ **Christians eagerly wait for Jesus**

- **Phil. 3:20-21** eagerly wait for Jesus, Savior

- return, union in the sky, eternal life, heaven

➤ - **2 Pet. 3:12** hastening the coming of the day of God, heavens destroyed with burning, elements will melt with intense heat

- destruction of the earth

➤ - **Rom. 8:25** perseverance, wait eagerly for hope, salvation

➤ - **illus.: 1 Th. 1:8-10** Thessalonians, wait for Jesus who rescues us from the wrath to come – **salvation**

- **illus.: hymn, “They Who Wait”** (in some song books brethren use, one of my favorite)

They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength;

They will mount up with wings like eagles.

They will run and not grow weary; They will walk and not faint.

Teach me, Lord; teach me, Lord, to wait.

Teach me, Lord, to wait down on my knees

Till in your own good time you answer my pleas.

Teach me not to rely on what others do

But to wait in prayer for the answer from you.

Teach me, Lord, to wait while hearts are a flame.

Help me humble myself and call on Your name.

Keep my faith renewed my eyes on Thee.

Help me be on this earth what You want me to be.

- **thought questions:**

- **Are you eagerly waiting** for the Lord?

- **What do people do differently when they eagerly wait** for Jesus' return?

- behavior, speech

- want to talk about

- what's important

- what's not important

- act in time of trial

- thanks, glory, thanks to God

- **Does your life reflect the fact** that you are eagerly waiting for the Lord?

➤ **What must we do to eagerly wait for the Lord?** – quick overview

- wait for the Lord by **seeking Him**

- **Is. 8:17** “And I will **wait for the LORD** who is hiding His face from the house of Jacob; I will even **look eagerly for Him.**”

- **La. 3:25** “The **LORD is good to those who wait** for Him, To the **person who seeks Him.**”

- **Acts 17:26-27** God created us, seek Him, group, find Him

- **Matt. 7:7** “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

- **seek God, eagerly looking for Him, through His word**

- **illus.: merchant seeking fine pearls** (expanded version of Jesus’ parable by aem)

- **travels the world, looking** for the single best pearl

- **devotes life wholly, not let anything distract him, not preoccupied** with anything else

- **finds one pearl** of great value, greatest ever seen, **sells all he has and buys it**

- **Are you seeking the Lord?**

- when you seek the Lord, you are waiting for Him – you want to know Him and do His will more than anything else in life

➤ - wait for the Lord by **hoping and trusting in His word**

- **Ps. 130:5** “I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope.”

- **Col. 1:5** “. . . hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel”

- **we seek and trust the Lord through His word**

- **1 Cor. 2:10-16** we can **only know God and His will, through His word**

- **illus.: trust is about who’s holding the rope** (adapted from Our Daily Bread)

- **Some years ago a group of scientists were exploring remote regions of the Alps** in search of new species of flowers.

- **One day they noticed through binoculars a flower** of such rarity and beauty that its value to science was incalculable.

- **But it lay deep in a ravine** with cliffs on both sides.

- **To get the flower someone had to be lowered over the cliff on a rope.**

- **A young boy was watching** nearby, and the **scientists told him they would pay him** well if he would agree to be lowered over the cliff to retrieve the flower below.

- **The boy took one long look** down the steep, dizzy depths and said, “**I’ll be back in a minute.**”

- **In a few minutes he returned, followed by a gray-haired man.**

- **Approaching the scientist, the boy said, “I’ll go over that cliff and get that flower, if this man holds the rope. He’s my dad.”**

- **we wait for the Lord by placing our trust and hope in Him**

- **God’s word is the rope, and God is holding it – Are you trusting God and holding tight. . . .**

- - wait for the Lord by **obeying, and keeping His way**
  - **Ps. 37:34** “Wait for the LORD and keep His way, And He will **exalt you** to inherit the land. . . .”
  - **1 Jn. 5:3** “For this is the **love of God**, that we **keep His commandments**. . . .”
  - **1 Jn. 2:3** therefore those who “**know**” **God** are those who “**obey**” **Him**
  - **illus.: trust is about who’s holding the rope**
    - the **word is the rope**, and **God is holding the rope**, the **cliff is that which we must do to obey**
    - **we don’t mind going over the cliff, don’t even worry about it – faith and trust - God holding rope**
    - **seeking God is going over the cliff of obedience** – working our salvation with fear and tremblen
  
- - wait for the Lord by **being patient**
  - **Ps. 37:7** “Rest in the LORD and **wait patiently** for Him. . . .”
  - **Ja. 5:7** “Therefore **be patient**, brethren, **until the coming of the Lord**.”
  - **Gal. 5:22** “But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, **patience**. . . .”
  - **“Patience” is enduring or waiting, as a determination of will.**
    - **It’s not merely enduring** trials as a matter of necessity.
    - **“Patience” is a strong determination of will, to victoriously overcome** the negative things we confront, according to God’s will.
    - **Col. 3:12** **commanded** to put on a heart of patience
    - **Col. 1:9-11** **strengthened to be patient** though knowledge of God’s word
  - **illus.: Stephen**, preached sermon, stoned, saw the Lord in a vision, prayed that God forgive them
    - **waited on the Lord, as Jesus watched** him die, standing in heaven at God’s right hand
    - **cost to wait**
  - **illus.: Peter**, prison, middle of the night, knowing he’s going to die, slept, not worried
    - **waited on the Lord, not know what He’d do**, content with whatever would happen, knowing he may never see his family again, and leave his wife a widow and his children fatherless
    - **always victorious when we wait on the Lord**, heaven
  - **illus.: Paul and Silas**, beaten with rods, jailed, inner prison, stocks, middle of night, prayed and sang hymns
    - **more concerned about worship than** nursing their wounds, or trying to get out of there
    - **strength, peace**
  - **What can we do today with the same fearless, patient perseverance of first century Christians?**
    - **worship, church work, personal work, evangelism**
    - **with patience like this**, we seek God

eagerly wait for Lord: seek Him, hope and trust word, obey, patient

➤ - wait for the Lord by **being kind, not vengeful**

- **Pr. 20:22** “Do not say, ‘I will repay evil’; Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.”

- **Matt. 5:44** ““But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

- **1 Cor. 13:4** “Love is patient, love is kind. . . .”

- **Rom. 12:18-21** “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God. . . . But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

- **Are you waiting for the Lord when people treat you badly?**

- are you kind at all times, no matter what others do

- never getting them back, taking vengeance

➤ - wait for the Lord by **watching for Him**

- **Mi. 7:7** “But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.”

- **1 Th. 5:2-11** the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night, so we are sober and alert, ready for His return

- **thought questions:**

- **review PP**

- **Are you waiting for the Lord?**

- **Does your life reflect the fact that you’re eagerly waiting for Him? – in what ways?**

➤ **Blessings we receive by waiting on the Lord**

- **strengthened**

- **Is. 40:31** wait for the LORD, gain new strength, mount up with wings like eagles

- **illus.: hymn, “They Who Wait”**

They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength;

They will mount up with wings like eagles.

They will run and not grow weary; They will walk and not faint.

Teach me, Lord; teach me, Lord, to wait.

- **Col. 1:9-11** strengthened with all power, patience and steadfastness – **rf - Is. 40:31**

- **inheritance**

- **Ps. 37:9** “For evildoers will be cut off, But those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land.”

- **Ps. 147:11** “The LORD favors those who fear Him, Those who wait for His lovingkindness.”

- **Phil. 3:20-21** eagerly wait for Jesus, Savior (SR)

- **2 Pet. 3:12** hastening the coming of the day of God, heavens destroyed with burning, elements will melt with intense heat

- **return, union in the sky, eternal life, heaven, destruction of the earth**

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➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **wait on the Lord in this life, and you will live with Him for eternity in heaven**

- **inv.:** if not a Christian, you can begin waiting on the Lord by obeying the gospel. . . .