

## sit or serve?

Misconceptions. Ever had any? Ever knew anyone who did? I have. What, you ask? Had a misconception or knew someone who had some? Both!! One in particular that I had for a long time had to do with the biblical concept of 'waiting'. In particular, 'waiting on the Lord'.

*But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, & not be weary, & they shall walk, & not faint. Isa. 40:31*

So, taking that word 'wait' as in sitting, there I sat. And sat. And sat. You see, I wasn't waiting on the Lord, I was waiting for the Lord. A subtle, yet monster difference!

I heard someone explain it this way once: The last time you went into a restaurant & the waiter or waitress came up to you what did they proceed to do? Pull up a chair, plunk down & stare at you? Or perhaps they just stood there with a great big doofus grin plastered all over their puss waiting for you to take the initiative & tell them what to do! Probably not. They began to 'serve' you & 'wait' on you. See the distinction?

Obviously there are times when prudence demands that we 'wait for' the Lord. Sometimes we need guidance & direction. Other times we need to wait for patience & wisdom.

*The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. Lam. 3:25*

Try to imagine the most important person that you can think of on this planet. (To you.) And that person was coming to your house. Once they got there how would you greet & treat them? After you've gotten over the shock wouldn't you do your very best to see to their comfort & ease? Make them feel welcome? Sure you would! Reality check. How do we serve the living God? How do we comport ourselves in the presence of the Lord of the universe? Or do we simply act as if He is not there?

# WAITING, WAITING

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*Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord . . . Zeph. 3:8*

Let's face it. There is not a whole heck of a lot that we can do for God. And I am certain that there is nothing that we can do for him that He cannot do for Himself or simply do without! He does not need our money. The whole concept of "giving" is for our sakes, not for His. Can we offer Him perfection in conduct, morals, thought & deed? I think not. What about 'good intentions', that's something we all have plenty of - in spades!

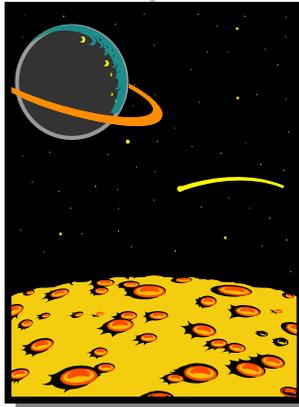
No, we need Him a bit more than He needs us.

*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Gal. 6:9*

Well, just what are we babbling on about? What is it that God would like us to do for Him? What about trust Him?

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; & lean not unto thine own understanding, Prov. 3:5.*

What about acknowledging Him? *In all thy ways acknowledge him, & he shall direct thy paths. Prov. 3:6* God is not looking for 'performance'. This is an area in my life that has been singularly lacking in my um 39 years or so. Once or twice I strived for 'perfection'. Then reality set in & I got over that real quick. It didn't take me long to realize that He is the Saviour. I am the sinner. Once we hammered out the parameters of each of our responsibilities & duties, our relationship improved immensely & we get along much better. How about you?



Well, let's recap. God doesn't need our money (to line His pockets with), our performance, our good intentions or our sympathy. Most assuredly He does not need or appreciate our nonchalant way of ignoring Him or relegating Him to 2nd class citizenship or that of glorified gopher! only calling on Him when things get tough & we really, really need His help!

There is a verse in Rom. 12:7 that states, *Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering...*

Now, in this verse we have 2 primary words: 'wait' & 'ministry'. Interesting that they are both here in the same line (give the Bible half a chance & it will explain itself, everytime!) Waiting & ministry are the same things. When we 'wait' on someone we 'minister' to that person. When we 'wait' on the Lord we 'minister' to the Lord. This is driven home by the passage in Mark which reads: *But Jesus called them to him, & saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; & their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. Mk. 10:42-44*

The message is quite simple: we are to 'wait' on our Lord. Ergo, we 'serve' Him! Now we get to the crux of the matter. Just how in the world do we go about 'serving' Him? Well, I'm glad you asked! For starters let's get it straight, God deserves the very best. He does not rate our left-overs, our 2nd best, our rejects, etc. If you are going to serve Him then do it to the very best of your ability - or not at all. King David put it best when he said,

*...neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing.... 2 Sam. 24:24*

If it didn't cost David something he would not consider offering it to the Lord! What about us? Do we bother to take the time to thank Him for the food that is placed before us? Do we take the time to attend church? Do we take the time to fellowship with Him in prayer? Do we take the time

# tick tock, tick tock your time is precious But it all belongs to Him

**....For they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.**

**Isa. 49:23**

**They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, & tempted God in the desert.**

**And he gave them their request but sent leanness into their soul.**

**Ps. 106:13-15**

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time to study & read His Word, *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2Tim. 2:15*

Notice a recurring theme in this first batch? Sure you do. It is one of the most sacred of things that we hold dear. That precious commodity that we guard, hoard & fight for: TIME. Ask the average person to spend 30 minutes a day reading their bible & watch the reaction - "are you nuts, I don't have that kind of time to waste"! What about 15 minutes a day in prayer (for someone else, not to fix up your own messes). "Whoa, take a back seat, fella. Stand in line, there are really important things going on in my life. I don't have time for that". What about Sunday morning? "Forget it. That's sleep time, football time, brunch time, beach time, quality time. I did all that church stuff when I was a kid I don't have to do it now".

Well, we could go on & on but you get the point. "Time" could be probably the best thing that we could give the Lord. But most would rather have their teeth yanked out with a pair of tin snips than give up time. We have to "make a living", we have family obligations, social obligations, PTA's, dogs & cats need spayed & neutered, kids need braces, boss needs a big report, we need our rest - oop's, I'm still going on & on. Sorry.

So, if you want to 'minister' to the Lord why not start with 'time'. What about the nasty M word. You know - MONEY. Well, if any are still with me after that 'time' binge I've lost a bunch more right now. I can hear the screeching all across the land! Yes, I know all about the 'hypocrites' in the churches. Yes, I have heard that 'that's all my pastor ever talks about'. Isn't it amazing that no one begrudges the grocery store, gas station, video store, insurance company, investment house, info-commercials, fast food

# Oh no, not my wallet!!

chains, new car dealers, 900 numbers, fitness equipment, get rich quick scam artists, etc. from inundating us from daylight to dark, ad nauseum with their constant, incessant, omni-present ads, over & over again till we know them by heart? Nobody says boo! But let the church (which has to pay off a mortgage, buy insurance, pay utilities, hire a staff, provide literature, maintain facilities, provide transportation, put on some Cantatas, Easter & Christmas plays, support foreign missionaries, pay for repairs, help with the needy, advertise, conduct a Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, seminars, encounter sessions, pot-lucks & what have you ... "just let them have the nerve to ask for money one more time this year & I'm out of here!" "Why, the last time I showed up last Easter, they passed the plate. You mean they already spent that dollar I gave them?"

*For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. Ps. 37:9*

Try serving Him with your money. You can't take it with you!

Some folks have the capacity, talent & patience to listen. That's it. Just listen. It is a very unselfish trait. And one that is vitally important to those that need it. People need to 'unload' from time to time. Perhaps you don't have enough money to subsidize a missionary family. Maybe reading or the prospect of teaching leaves you in a virtual panic. Along with prayer I'll bet you can "listen"! Just the simple, courteous act of letting someone 'vent' without the usual temptation of jumping in with a lot of 'advise' & '2 cents worth' will do wonders for that person. Make it an offer unto the Lord. Give that gift of listening unto Him & let Him use it where He will.

"Waiting" on God is simply serving Him. In whatever capacity we can find. It certainly is not confined to those acts that we can perform in the confines a church building or limited to a Sunday morning. Make it a quest. Experience the joy of finding out just how rewarding it can be to 'serve' the Lord of the Universe!!!

**Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that He have mercy upon us.**

**Ps. 123:2**

There is an interesting passage back in the book of Numbers that connects these 2 words (wait & serve) much better than I can. Moses is laying down some of the rules & regulations involved in the tribe of Levi's (no, not the 501's!) service of the tabernacle. Only the able bodied males between the ages of 25 - 50 were allowed to minister in the tabernacle. (What? Chauvanism?)

*This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from twenty & five years old & upward they shall go in to **wait upon** the service of the tabernacle of the congregation:*

*And from the ages of fifty years they shall cease **waiting** upon the service thereof, & **shall serve** no more.*

*But **shall minister** with their brethren in the tabernacle of the congregation, to keep the charge, & shall do no **service**...Num. 8:24-26.*

We can look at the words: wait, waiting on, serve, service & minister as all meaning the same general thing. But now, when you see the bible telling you to "wait on the Lord", get off the sofa, wipe the doofus grin off your face, roll up your sleeves, present yourself before the Lord & say with the apostle Paul, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do"? And do it with all your might!



**Fill er up?  
(proper attitude to the Lord)**

