

ETHAN TEMPLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING AUGUST 23, 2023

WHEN GOD SAYS WAIT ELDER CALAMITY BENFORD

When we learn to wait on the Lord, we are better equipped to deal with stressful and challenging moments in our lives.

Waiting on the Lord may be one of the most difficult aspects of the Christian life. When Jesus promised that he would return, he instructed his followers to wait. (Acts 1:14) That is easier said than done.

Biblical waiting is not a passive activity, but is demonstrated by active dependence upon and obedience to God. Thus, waiting upon God is a spiritual discipline that we should seek to practice in our lives.

Waiting is patient endurance without becoming annoyed, upset, or angry. Sometimes it's a painful clinging to God. It's when we exercise self-control rather than lashing out and complaining.

We live in a microwave generation. No one likes to wait. But every day we wait; in traffic, in car pool lines, in grocery stores, we wait for the doctor in the waiting room, we wait for retirement, and most of all we wait for Jesus to return.

Waiting on the Lord requires patient trust. (Psalms 27:14)

Those who wait are those who work, because they know their work is not in vain.

The farmer can wait all summer for his harvest because he has done his work of sowing the seed and watering the plants. Those who wait on God can go about their assigned tasks, confident that God will provide the meaning and conclusions to their lives and the harvest to their toil.

Waiting on God reminds us that God is in control

Waiting means that we give God the benefit of the doubt that He knows what He is doing.

Waiting is God's way of seeing if we will trust Him before we move forward. (Psalms 130:5-6). When Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem, He was telling them that this was a means of experiencing his peace, his prosperity, and his power. In waiting they would receive the promise of God's Spirit. In waiting they would see God move.

Waiting on God increases my strength

Waiting is not just something we have to do while we wait to get what we want. Waiting is the process of becoming what God wants us to be. What God does in us while we wait is as important as what it is we are waiting for. Biblical waiting, is not a passive waiting around for something to happen that will allow us to escape our troubles. Waiting does not mean doing nothing. It is not a way to evade unpleasant reality.

We have heard it said: Don't just stand there, do something. While God often says to us: Don't just do something, just stand there.

During those times, we can wait patiently on the Lord. We know that deep down he is working, while it may be underneath, hidden deep in our character.

In due time, God will reveal everything he's growing in us. Those who wait will never be put to shame. We will never be disappointed.

Sometimes we struggle to remember that it's good to wait for the Lord. It isn't easy. It goes against the grain of our quick-fix society. But, there's a hidden benefit in waiting.

In times of waiting our soul is revived and our spirit is renewed. (Is. 40:31)

Waiting on the Lord allows God to do his work

Not only do we want to do God's work, but at times we want to speed up His process. We must understand that God's timing is best.

If we wait, in patient trust, remembering that God is in control doing his work, increasing our strength, we will experience the move of God on our lives and in our church.

Personal Reflection and Discussion

1. How does waiting on the Lord effect my character?
2. What might God be producing in me as I wait?
3. What are the results of not waiting on the Lord?
4. What challenges your faith when you are in a season of waiting?
5. How will you apply the lessons of this study to your life this week?