

Your Daily, Ultimate Test of Faith

- Psalm 27:14
Encourages people to "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD". Waiting on the Lord involves trusting in God and expecting a positive outcome.
- Psalm 40
Tells the story of a man who "waited patiently for the LORD". The man had seen God act on his behalf in the past, which helped him to believe that God would do so again.
- Psalm 25:5
David says, "Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day." This verse describes a hopeful kind of waiting that Jesus inspires.
- Psalm 37:7
"Rest "in the LORD, and wait patiently for him:". David's writing teaches us that waiting on the Lord can help us listen to God with awareness and serenity, without worrying about doing too little or not being devoted enough.

HOW WILL YOU WAIT ON THE LORD?

(Proverbs 30:7-9) "Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: {8} Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: {9} Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain."

sha'al

required

A primitive root; to ***inquire***; by implication to ***request***; by extension to ***demand***:-- ask (counsel, on), beg, borrow, lay to charge, consult, demand, desire, X earnestly, enquire, + greet, obtain leave, lend, pray, request, require, + salute, X straitly, X surely, wish.

The English word, require, when translated from Hebrew, more often than not means to inquire or request. King Solomon was not disrespectfully demanding two things from the LORD God in this text. This small detail on the meaning of the word

can drastically change the tone of the passage being read and is a perfect example of why when studying scripture that we look to the original text and translation, PRAYERFULLY using a concordance, and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

choq

convenient

From 2710; an **enactment**; hence an **appointment** (of time, space, quantity, labor or usage):--appointed, bound, commandment, convenient, custom, decree (-d), due, law, measure, X necessary, ordinance (-nary), portion, set time, statute, task.

Convenient in this context bears out necessity, or portion, by definition. As in, "God, your will, not mine. Nothing more. Nothing less. Nothing else."

He earnestly desires with great passion for these two things:

1. To be in the truth only - far removed from vanity and lies. God is truth. Seeking (fear of) the LORD is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10).
2. To be given his daily bread, knowledge of the holy is understanding (Proverbs 9:10), that portion which is required for him to go neither to the left nor the right. Admits weakness, followed by an acknowledged needing for God.

The LORD is quick to give these things as is His nature, but it is us who forsake them for the things of this world. We can ask for these two things and He will create opportunities for us to snatch them up. But in the midst of a hardship, do we not turn to our own understanding and seek the idolatrous comforts of the world?

- When we're strapped for cash and bills loom, is our immediate reaction to wait on the LORD? Or do we try to make moves to raise money for our perceived need?
- When a course of correction is apparent in one of our children, do our emotions get the best of us, or do we lift them up in prayer and seek answers from God before reacting?
- When an unexpected expense arises, whether for need or for want, do we seek the LORD's blessing to spend His money in that area?
- When we feel overwhelmed with the emotions that life-events bring up in our midst, do we seek the face of the King for encouragement and comfort, or are there other means we seek to fill those voids, like

substance abuse or other temporary, worldly fulfillments?

In any of these cases, we are not focusing fully on God - and these are the moments He creates for us so that we can show Him we are focusing on Him. Patience is a virtue gained from practice, so He gives us situations where we might normally be impatient in order to practice patience - a direct defiance to the enemy's wiles.

If when we're not glorifying Him, we're sinning, are we also sinning when we are not focusing on Him? If we're not focusing on Him, who, or what, are we focusing on? Ourselves? Our own sufficiency? Our ego, either built up or bruised, is what has our focus. Think "lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, pride of life".

A form of pride is the building up of ego, and conversely anxiety can be seen as a bruised, damaged or weak ego. How are pride and anxiety tied together? Some might say they are opposites, but scripture would tell us differently. When you're proud, you feel fulfilled and sufficient. When you are anxious, you might feel weak and vulnerable. In both instances, the reliance is set upon man, not God.

(1 Peter 5:5-7) "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. {6} Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: {7} Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

mer'-im-nah

care

from 3307 (through the idea of distraction); solicitude:--care.

If He is quick to create opportunities for us to rely on Him, then how do we know the fullness of our reliance is upon Him? At what point do we look at the situation and say to ourselves, "it's the 11th hour, He's not showing up, I best get moving, or my family will go hungry - *or [x] will or won't happen to MY expectations.*" How long would we wait on the LORD for provisions of food and sustenance before taking the matter in our own hands?

(Proverbs 3:5-10) "¶ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. {6} In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. {7} ¶ Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. {8} It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. {9} Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: {10} So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

THE LORD SHOWS UP! He is no liar, don't make Him to be one (Romans 3:4).

When we say He isn't showing up, we are actually saying that we failed Him. In ALL your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths. Not some. Not most. ALL.

Being wise in your own eyes is evil. If you are looking to your own wisdom, where would the wisdom of the LORD be found? Not among you. It is in direct conflict with commands in scripture to rely NOT on your own understanding. As the Word commands you: Be not wise in thine own eyes.

(Proverbs 27:20) "Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied."

saba`

satisfied

A primitive root; to **sate**, that is, **fill** to satisfaction (literally or figuratively):--have enough, fill (full, self, with), be (to the) full (of), have plenty of, be satiate, satisfy (with), suffice, be weary of.

It is true that our eyes are NEVER satisfied: So then, let them be not satisfied (have enough, full of, filled in, sufficed) in things of the LORD, but continually seeking and increasing. May you seek the LORD with the passion of men that seek vanity and riches. Let the object of the seeking of satisfaction be found in the LORD.

(Psalms 27:4) "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple."

It was King David who wrote this Psalm, a man after God's own heart.

(1 Samuel 13:14) "But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee."

But how did we get to this place where David would be king? Quite simply, because Saul was not seeking the LORD's providence, but instead relied on his own understanding.

In 1 Samuel 12, Samuel declares that the LORD has granted their sinful request to set a king over Israel (v13). For the LORD God was their King (v12), but they did not trust in the LORD, they wanted a human whom they could see on a throne to rule over them. We can see how foolish this is in hindsight, not trusting in the LORD, in His providence. And how we, too, are like this with our perceived needs. Perceived, because often what we see as a need is actually a comfort. Comforts

get between God and us. This was the bit of truth about comfort that Satan was relying on when seeking Job's destruction (Job 1:9-11, 2:4-5).

The LORD, in His sovereign providence, allows to come to pass all that does. We may practice free will (or free choice), but not without His ultimate stamp of approval (Job 1:12, 2:6), and somewhere within the left and right gutters of the lane He chooses for us. For the LORD Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2) and it is He who began the good work in us and will complete it (Philippians 1:6-7), for He is in control and His control has perfect authority (Exodus 20:1-2), and it always works for good to those who love Him, who are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). He forms light and darkness, makes peace and creates evil (Isaiah 45:7). All souls belong to Him (Ezekiel 18:4) for Him to do with as He pleases. It so happens that His pleasure is in goodness (Philippians 2:13), so whether we so choose to seek His will over ours is not a matter of whether His will is accomplished, but whether we are giving Him glory and honor through His will, that we are along for the ride with Him, as opposed to kicking against the goads (Acts 9:5, 26:14), thus suffering the consequences - however, the LORD's will shall prevail, whether our hearts' intentions are meant for good or evil (Genesis 20:50). So, be blessed in your life and seek after the LORD and His will (James 4:15), and know the blessings of a life lived in intimate proximity to our God and Creator. Seek first His Kingdom, and you will be sustained (Matthew 6:33).

Note:

The phrase "kick against the goads" appears in the Bible in Acts 9:5 and Acts 26:14. It refers to a farmer using a goad, a long stick with a pointed end, to guide oxen while they are plowing or pulling a cart. When the oxen stop or try to pull back, they may kick at the goad, which can drive the goad further into their flesh. The phrase implies that the more an ox rebels, the more it will suffer.

Sermon Scriptures:

Psalm 27:14

Psalm 40

Psalm 25:5

Psalm 37:7

Proverbs 30:7-9

Proverbs 9:10

1 Peter 5:5-7

Proverbs 3:5-10

Romans 3:4

Proverbs 27:20

Psalms 27:4

1 Samuel 13:14

1 Samuel 12
Job 1:9-11, 2:4-5
Job 1:12, 2:6
Hebrews 12:2
Philippians 1:6-7
Exodus 20:1-2
Romans 8:28
Isaiah 45:7
Ezekiel 18:4
Philippians 2:13
Acts 9:5, 26:14
Genesis 20:50
James 4:15
Matthew 6:33