

Wait on the Lord

Isaiah 40:21-31

February 5, 2012

Wait ... Wait on the Lord.

It bears repeating. Wait on the Lord!

Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.
Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.
Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

So wait on the Lord ... because we get tired. We all get tired. Even those who are young get tired! Even those of you who are young and strong and full of energy get tired. You reach your limit. You run out of gas. You fall exhausted. You lose heart.

Because life is hard. Who said life was supposed to be easy? It's only easy if you're not paying attention. It's only easy if you don't care. It's only easy if you've stopped trying.

Life is hard and we get tired.

We get tired of trying. Trying to make things better when it isn't working. Trying to help people who don't want to be helped. Trying to change a world that doesn't want to be changed.

We get tired of praying when we've prayed the same prayers over and over and over with little effect. We get tired of hoping when it only seems to lead to more disappointment.

We get tired of bad news. We get tired of the same bad news day after day. Fires and floods and earthquakes and tornadoes. A bombing in Baghdad, a missionary couple killed by drugs lords in Mexico, protestors shot in Syria. Athletes cheating, coaches cheating, spouses cheating, school officials cheating, investors cheating. People behaving badly, nations behaving badly.

We get tired of all the posturing and all the pandering, all the empty promise-making and mudslinging and backbiting, all the things people say only for effect, not because they mean it or believe it or will do it. Now if you think I am taking about the present presidential campaign, let me assure you ... I am!

We get tired of reality TV, tired of voyeurism promoted as entertainment. We get tired of commercials and commercialism, of being pushed to buy and buy and buy some more. We get tired of ugliness and crudeness and vulgarity and promiscuity being paraded as art.

We get tired of bullies and know-it-alls and whiners. We get tired of bigots and hypocrites and people with no conscience.

We get tired of people letting us down. We get tired of letting other people down. We get tired of letting ourselves down.

We get tired of people overlooking us, ignoring us, underestimating us, mistreating us. We get tired of other people being ignored, mistreated, dismissed, abused, just because they are poor or just because their skin is a different color or just because they were born in another country.

We get tired of people going hungry for no good reason, tired of people denied equal opportunity for no good reason, tired of people denied equal justice for no good reason, tired of people having no one to take their side, no one to stand up for them, no one to care about them, for no good reason. We get tired when we try to be the ones who do take notice, the ones who do stand up, the ones who do care.

We get tired of caring, tired of worrying, tired of the enormity of this world's problems, tired of the uncertainty about this world's future. We get tired of all we don't know, tired of all we can't do, tired of all we can't fix.

We get tired of waiting for answers that do not come. We get tired of waiting for change that doesn't happen. We get tired for waiting for the God who doesn't seem to be paying attention.

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth!
He sits above the circle of the earth
 and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers.
He stretches out the heavens like a curtain
 and spreads them out like a tent to live in.
He brings princes to naught
 and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

The Lord does not faint or grow weary. The Lord does not get tired. The Lord gives power to the faint. The Lord strengthens the weary. When you wait on the Lord, the Lord will renew your strength.

When you wait on the Lord, the Lord will renew your strength. You will not run out of gas. You will not fall exhausted. You will not lose heart.

You will not fall short. You will not give up. You will make it.

You will make it! You will make it all the way! You will finish the race!

You will mount up with wings like eagles. You will run and not be weary. You will walk and not faint.

You will walk and never tire of walking. You will run and never tire of running. You will fly ... and never tire of flying!

Nothing will be able to stop you! Nothing will be able to defeat you! Nothing will be able to hold you down!

When you wait on the Lord, the Lord will renew your strength. When you wait on the Lord, the Lord will come ...