

**WHAT TO DO
WHILE YOU ARE
WAITING**

ACTS 1:4-8

JESUS' DISCIPLES WERE TOLD TO WAIT

- Jesus appeared to His disciples several times over a period of forty days to convince them that He was alive, Acts 1:3
- One of those times, Acts 1:4-5, He tells them to wait in Jerusalem for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- They asked Him if He was getting ready to be King over Israel at this time. Acts 1:6
- He tells them that God alone is privy to those answers, but that they should concentrate on being his witnesses

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN FORCED TO WAIT ON SOMETHING?

- **Girlfriend or Boyfriend Declarations in School**
- **Job acceptance after completing an application**
- **College, Graduate School, Professional School**
- **Our Lab Tests; the end of Covid 19, “Normalcy”**
- **Sometimes the response is an immediate “Yes”**
- **Sometimes the response is an immediate “No”**
- **Oftentimes the response is, “We Must Wait” for an answer**

***What Do God’s Children Do
While Waiting on God?***

#1 WHILE WAITING ON GOD WE SHOULD PRAY CONSTANTLY

“They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.” Acts 1:14

- How often do we forget the importance of constant prayer while we wait on God for answers?
- Speaking to God about your needs and wants again and again is not to “jog His memory,” but to impress upon God the significance of your request to you! *How bad do you want it to occur?*

OBSERVATIONS

- Beware of asking God with the wrong motive:

“....You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” James 4:2-3 NIV

- We will pray to God about our dilemma a couple of times and then forget about giving the issue at hand to God any more based on our timetable

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways, saith the Lord....” Isaiah 55:8-9 KJV

“Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him. And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are already in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything. I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity (importunity) he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.” NIV

Luke 11:5-9

“So I say to you: Ask (and keep on asking)(Amplified) and it will be given to you; seek (and keep on seeking) and you will find; knock (and keep on knocking) and the door will be opened.” Luke 11:9

- **Part of God’s “thinking process” is to address Constant and Persistent Prayer**
- **This means if it’s important to you (and it’s spiritual) don’t give up on it. Don’t suffer “prayer fatigue” because God’s answer wasn’t on “your timetable!”**
- **God answers prayers by giving us what we *need* (the asterisk), not what we want; Philippians 4:19**
- **The request in our prayers can be shortsighted and without the big picture in mind. Thus we should say, “Thy will be done.”**

#2 WHILE WAITING ON GOD THEY STUDIED THE WORD TO FIND THEIR PREDICAMENT

- Acts 1:15-20 tells us that, upon wondering what had happened, Peter began reading from the book of Psalms and confirmed their obedience in Scripture and the disobedience of one of their own (Judas)
- This tells me that on many occasions, when we pray over our own dilemmas, the answers are already in the Bible

“What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.”

Ecc. 1:9

OBSERVATIONS

- **As students of the Bible, we study to identify our challenges today, with the principles and the stories in the scriptures that fit those challenges, Romans 15:4, 2 Timothy 3:15-16**
- **Many of the Covid19 treatments are Biblical treatments, Leviticus 13,14; Luke 17 (with humility)**
- **When we study the scriptures to identify New Testament Christianity, look for a direct command or precept, an approved example, or a necessary inference**

#3 WHILE THEY WAITED THEY WERE GIVEN WORK TO DO

- While waiting on God's answer they had to make Godly choices
- The apostles were now one man short, and the scriptures in Psalms told them to choose his replacement with two requirements: 1) He had to have taken part in Jesus' earthly ministry, 2) He had to have been a witness of His resurrection
- They prayed and ask God to help them make the decision, and Matthias was chosen

Notice: They didn't make the decision and then pray God's blessings on the decision that they had *"already made."*

PART OF WAITING ON GOD IS CONTINUING TO MAKE GODLY CHOICES ELSEWHERE IN YOUR LIFE WHILE YOU WAIT!

- **With regard to Covid 19, make Godly choices consistently about hand washing, wearing of masks, practicing social distancing, and the vaccination**
- **While you wait on God, continue to make wise choices concerning your commitment to the Lord in word and in deed in other areas of your life**
- **What not to do while waiting: King David while waiting on God for blessings when at war, unfortunately had an illicit affair that cost him dearly, 2 Samuel 11, 12**

(Impregnated Bathsheba, child died, her husband was murdered, he lost control of his family)

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38