

Be Renewed



Be Renewed in Strength for Fulfilling God's Purpose

The book of Isaiah chapter 40 primarily focused to the people of Judah and Israel. They got renewal in various occasions through the anointed offices of God. Eventually, the nations rushed back to the sinful ways and the people had to be in Babylon for 70 years of exile. However, God spoke to Isaiah to speak tenderly because they needed consolation and encouragement. Cyrus became the instrument of their deliverance by God from Babylon. God works amazingly but we need to be responsible in our life.

- Wait upon God's Word. It stands forever but the grass withers and the flowers fall (40:6-8). Human race is compared to perishable things, and their talents, schemes and potentials have limitations even to tackle a small virus, Covid-19. Millions are dead and majority in the world lead a desperate life but, God's people get rejuvenated by God's Word. They are assured of life in abundance here and also in the future. They gain a heart of wisdom to number their days. Jeremiah said, when your words came, I ate them; they are my joy and my heart's delight (15:16). The vision of Ezekiel (3:3) enables us to prioritize the daily devotion of the Bible in our life.
- Wait upon God our Shepherd. He is gently caring His flock (v.11). Sheep are completely dependent on the shepherd for provision, and protection. Life is uncertain for people. We may have to struggle with visible and invisible enemies- pain, suffering, disease, and shadow of the valley of death. Jesus Christ our good shepherd (Jn, 10:11) can walk with us and bring us safely to the other side. We are not frightened but follow the great shepherd who offers us eternal comfort (Heb. 13:20).
- Wait upon God's power (25-31). We are summoned to look up and observe the power of God's creation, the provision to sustain and His presence to help. The scientists across the world still find out new glittering stars bring us the awareness that God is awesome in His purposeful act of creation and care. God works according to His own time and we need confidence and patience to wait for God's promises to get fulfilled. (1). We will soar on wings like eagles during storms in forgetting things down on earth. (2). We run the race with a goal to reach the finishing point, remembering to join those already done. (3). We walk consistently in accordance with the Holy Spirit to get along with others joyfully for an anointed witness.

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Renewed in the Lockdown season

Br Jiju John

The world was welcoming year 2020 with lots of anticipations but here we are almost finishing half of the year eagerly waiting to lift the COVID-19 restrictions. Lockdown is very frustrating for everyone. Many people are losing their lives and there is anxiety and fear increased at a tremendous amount among the nations. Regardless of what is going on around the world, as Gods' children this is a great opportunity for us to renew our strength by lingering in the presence of God.

The prophet Isaiah uses the metaphor of Eagles in the magnificent promise of chapter 40:31. "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

The Hebrew word for wait is 'qavah' which literally means "to bind together like a cord". Here, the word waiting doesn't refer to a context where a person is waiting for a quick turn around on something like waiting in the red signal to turn it to green or waiting in the kitchen to get the meal cooked in the oven. Instead, it refers to the process of wrapping yourself around the Lord as He wraps Himself around you until we become one with Him... wrapping our minds closely together with the Lord, wrapping our spirit with His Spirit and wrapping our hearts tightly together with His heart until we unite with His wisdom, power and purpose.

Acknowledging God's nature is important in the process of waiting. That is what Isaiah is talking about. "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

He is the Lord! Greatest of all. He said in the scriptures that He alone is God, the beginning and the end.

In this Lockdown season, God is asking us to STOP what you are doing and WAIT. Focus on Me now, know my nature and my character, learn to know me, seek my beauty, know my attributes, my name, my Word, my spirit. Then your strength will show up.. You will soar like an eagle.

I just want to conclude with the famous Hymn "Everlasting God"..

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

*Our God, You reign forever
Our hope, our strong deliverer*

*You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint
You won't grow weary*

AMEN!

Waiting on the Lord

Br Rinoj Mathew

If there is one thing that none of us like to do, it's waiting. Whether it is waiting in line, waiting for that test result, or waiting to hear back from a job interview. We can all grow impatient, when things don't happen in time in our lives. But this is exactly what the scripture in Isaiah tells us to do. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

So what does it mean to wait on the Lord? It means to trust, to obey, and to expect. We have to trust God's plan and His timing in order to be at peace with our situation. Consequently, we see this in the life of Joseph, who waited and trusted God for many years for the fulfillment of the dreams he had. Next we have to obey God, let him lead your steps and not try to create our own path to success. This is why it says "A man's steps are of the LORD; How then can a man understand his own way?" Proverbs 20:24. When we wait on the Lord, it doesn't mean we sit idle, we have to actively seek him by spending time in the Word, in prayer and in meditation. Lastly, we have to confidently expect that God will deliver us and bring us to the finish line. If we really do believe that God is omnipresent, we must have hope that God will bring everything to fruition in His time. Let us believe Ecclesiastes 3:1 which tells us: "To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter or purpose under heaven".

During this pandemic we are hoping for a lot of things, hoping for a vaccine, hoping to keep our families safe, hoping to return to normal life. All these things make us rely on man's power and abilities and there is no absolute guarantee that we can make any of these things happen. Among all these uncertainties, there is one thing that is certain there is a God who loves us and wants to renew our strength. So let us not grow weary in these times, let us mount up our faith with wings as eagles and wait on the Lord.