

# Waiting: A Harvest of the Soul

“Those who wait on the Lord WILL BE RENEWED.”  
Isaiah 40:31

# Deuteronomy 8:10-18a (NLT)

## A Warning.

“When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

<sup>11</sup> “But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you **do not forget the LORD your God** and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today.

<sup>12</sup> For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in, <sup>13</sup> and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful! <sup>14</sup> **Do not become proud at that time and forget the LORD your God,** who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt. <sup>15</sup> **Do not forget that he led you through the great and terrifying wilderness** with its poisonous snakes and scorpions, where it was so hot and dry. He gave you water from the rock! <sup>16</sup> He fed you with manna in the wilderness, a food unknown to your ancestors. He did this to humble you and test you **for your own good.** <sup>17</sup> He did all this so you would never say to yourself, ‘I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.’ <sup>18</sup> **Remember the LORD your God.**

God values waiting. It is His WORKSHOP.

Supernatural transformation is one of the most compelling declarations about the reality of the Holy Spirit. Heart change at this level is a display of God's power.

# God is a SLOW God.

“...the willingness to stay where we are and live the situation out to the full in belief that something hidden there will manifest itself to us.”

--Henri Nouwen

## Henri Nouwen: on waiting...

“Most of us consider waiting as something very passive, a hopeless state determined by events totally out of our hands. The bus is late? We cannot do anything about it, so we have to sit there and just wait. It is not difficult to understand the irritation people feel when somebody says, “Just wait.” Words like that push us into passivity. But there is none of this passivity in Scripture. Those who are waiting are waiting very actively. They know that what they are waiting for is growing from the ground on which they are standing. Right here is a secret for us about waiting. If we wait in the conviction that a seed has been planted and that something has already begun, it changes the way we wait.”

Two Stories:

-Mark 5:21-43

-John 11:1-44

## John 11 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, **it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.**” <sup>5</sup> Now **Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.** <sup>6</sup>**So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days...**

<sup>11</sup> After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

<sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” <sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

<sup>14</sup> So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup> and **for your sake** I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

The Necessary Lens-  
CRUEL?  
CRUCIAL?

# Harvest for the soul!

-Surrender

-Gratitude

-Prayer

-Stabilizing faith

-Fundamental trust (house built on a rock)

-HE is the reward.

## Romans 4:18-24

<sup>18</sup> **Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping**—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!”<sup>19</sup> And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb.

<sup>20</sup> **Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger,** and in this he brought glory to God. <sup>21</sup> **He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises.** <sup>22</sup> And because of Abraham’s faith, God counted him as righteous. <sup>23</sup> And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn’t just for Abraham’s benefit. It was recorded <sup>24</sup> for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

## Practical Steps: Remember, this is a CULTIVATION

1. Ask the Spirit to give you what you need--daily grace, daily strength, eyes to SEE him, ears to HEAR him...
2. Meditate on God's Word-let his TRUTH influence you. Shape you. Direct your thoughts. Quell your fears.
3. Stay connected to community-we cannot wait alone. Isolation makes waiting a more scary time.
4. Trust the PROCESS-what is growing, requires time and careful attention. He is SLOW, but he is ALWAYS AT WORK.

# Isaiah 25:6-9 (NLT) Living an ADVENT life.

In Jerusalem, the LORD of Heaven's Armies

will spread a wonderful feast

for all the people of the world.

It will be a delicious banquet

with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat.

<sup>7</sup> There he will remove the cloud of gloom,

the shadow of death that hangs over the

earth.

<sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death forever!

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away all tears.

He will remove forever all insults and mockery

against his land and people.

The LORD has spoken!

In that day the people will proclaim,

**"This is our God!"**

**We trusted in him, and he saved us!**

This is the LORD, in whom we trusted.

Let us rejoice in the salvation he brings!"