

# The Hard Work Of Waiting

In God's Word the Christian Bible, the Creator God tells His people in the Old Testament alone to "wait upon the Lord" 43 times.

Translators of the ancient Hebrew texts sometimes render the word "hope."

**Many people find it very hard to wait, especially those in some level of leadership, for leadership demands action and action requires initiative.**

**The concepts of waiting and hope are entwined.**

Hope is wrapped up in waiting, waiting is buoyed by hope.

Waiting is anticipation controlled by intentional inactivity, a willingness to allow what is hoped for to come to maturity.

**But waiting doesn't always mean doing nothing.**

**Isaiah 40:31** [New King James] *"But 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."*

**The work we do during waiting is a constant sorting out of our responsibilities from God's.**

While we are waiting for God to take the initiative we engage in the exercise of pulling our hands away from divine prerogative.

**1 Corinthians 3:6-7** [New King James] *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase."*

**Here the work of spreading the gospel message is clearly specified.**

This is true of this website, the planting is the Holy Spirit inspired articles based of the Christian Bible which I write and my friend Lindsay Taylor, as webmaster, places on the website, the watering is the advertising we do as finance becomes available but any increase, that is response, is totally in the prerogative of the Creator God.

**Psalms 25:5** [New King James] *"Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day."*

**Waiting on God gives Him a space in our lives when He can teach us.**

**Psalms 27:14** [New King James] *"Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!"*

The Hebrew word translated "heart" is "lêb" meaning the centre of all our understanding, feeling and conviction.

**These are the end products of waiting on God to work in and through us.**

**Psalms 37:9** [New King James] *"For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth."*

**Our future inheritance with Jesus Christ is what we should be continually waiting for patiently, [Romans 8:16-17].**

**Psalms 52:9** [New King James] *“I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever. I will praise You forever, because You have done it; and in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for it is good.”*

**Part of the way we praise our Creator God is to wait patiently for Him to bring about what He has promised.**

**Psalms 130:5** [New King James] *“I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.”*

**Our patience waiting is linked always to the hope we have in the promises God has made in His Word, the Christian Bible.**

**Proverbs 20:22** [New King James] *“Do not say, ‘I will recompense evil’; wait for the LORD, and He will save you.”*

We do **not** seek revenge for any hurt done to us but wait on the Creator God to act to save us from the situation.

**Habakkuk 2:3** [New King James] *“For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”*

**The vision of a new world tomorrow is portrayed in God’s Word very clearly, but we have to wait for God’s time to bring it about.** The Hebrew word translated “wait” in this scripture is “*châkâh*” meaning to adhere to, hence to wait for a long time.

All the other scriptures quoted above, the Hebrew word translated is “*qâvâh*” literally meaning to bind together, that is with other true Christians, patiently, expectantly with complete trust in God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

**As we have seen, waiting is a period of learning, the longer we wait, the more we come to know the One whose return we are waiting for, Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.**

**Romans 8:22-25** [New King James] *“For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”*

Slowing down and waiting seems like a waste of our all-too-short lives, yet waiting seems to be an inevitable part of the human condition.

**If we allow Him, the Creator God will be vibrantly at work within us during this time of waiting.**

Remember the character that the Creator God wishes we develop takes time in the presence of the one we wish to reflect.

**Galatians 5:22-25** [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

We have to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit, who is God, if these godlike characteristics are to become ours.

Only then will we be acceptable to the Creator God, to be given a place in His Kingdom as a created child of His.

**Waiting on God is a major part of our re-education.**

**We wait in an attitude of complete surrender to His will for us as individuals.**

**Romans 12:1-2** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

**As we worship God in this way the Holy Spirit will re-educate us, causing us to leave behind all the ways of this world in which we still have to reside.**

It will always be hard work as a human being to wait for the Creator God to take the initiative as is His divine prerogative, but this is essential for our eternal future.