
WAIT
AS
EAGLES
SADHU SUNDAR SELVARAJ

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Dedication

This book is worshipfully dedicated to the Heavenly Father for His grace and mercy, the Lord Jesus Christ for His revelation of precious truths, and the Holy Spirit for His inspiration and guidance in writing this book

And

To Pastor Joseph Sweet and all the beloved Saints at Shekinah Worship Center
Lancaster, CA, USA

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Preface

And you will seek Me and find Me,
when you search for Me with all your
heart (Jer 29:14)

Many believers sincerely desire or wish to have a deep walk with God. They also desire to see the Lord and hear Him talk with them. Sadly, most just simply *wish* all this! Pennies thrown into the wishing well will not yield any results. But seeking will!

After I was baptized with the Holy Spirit in September 1981, I desired the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:8-10). I began to seek the Lord earnestly for the gifts. While in the midst of this quest, the Lord mercifully graced me with the privilege to meet with some men of God in India who walked with God like the prophet Enoch and talked with God like the prophet Moses. While fellowshipping with them an unquenchable fire began to brew inside me: *I want*

to walk with God like these men; I want to have the same kind of a mystical and intimate relationship with God as these men.

I began to seek God getting up at 2.30 AM. I would worship the Lord; meditate on the word, and poured out my heart's longings to the Lord. The Bible says: "He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Heb 11:6). After several months of diligently seeking the face of God, He rewarded me with little crumbs of mystical experiences in 1982. It was during this season of seeking in early 1983, that a certain man of God shared with me concerning the art of waiting on God.

Fueled with an insatiable longing for the deep things of God, I began to practice waiting on God. *The seeker always finds!* After several months of patient silent waiting, the Lord again mercifully graced me by opening my spiritual ears to hear His audible voice. From then onwards it was a day-by-day walk with God in the holy of holies.

Beloved saints of God, we can all walk and talk with God like the prophets Enoch and Moses. The secret lies in learning *The Art of Waiting on God.*

Most of the teachings in this book were first publicly shared at the Shekinah Christian Fellowship in Lancaster, California in August 2004. Pastor Joseph Sweet, a sweet and humble servant of God, pastors this church. He himself is a true seeker after God and is leading his church to seek God too.

I was graced by God with His manifold mercies to write this book with one sole intention – that every believer can learn the fine art of waiting on God to commune with Him in the holy of the holies. It is my humble desire that you too will have breakthroughs in your spiritual walk with God as an unworthy person like me was graced by God.

The seeker truly and surely finds!

Sundar Selvaraj
November 2015

Chapter 1 - Walking with God

> ***GENESIS 5:21-24***
> *21 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah.*
> *22 After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters.*
> *23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.*
> *24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*

One hot summer day Peter and his daughter Jane were enjoying the slides and tube-runs at a waterpark. While waiting in line for one of the rides, Peter overheard a man ask: "Does anyone know where this line is going?" The person next to Peter said: "I don't have a clue." Peter chuckled at their apparent ignorance, but then he realized that he didn't know where the line was going either.

It didn't make any difference to Peter, though. It was, after all, a father and daughter day and they were having a great time. It wasn't important where they were going; it was being together that mattered most. We are likewise called to such a relationship with God – that is, to walk with God consistently and steadfastly.

Whenever you hear the phrase *walking with God,* you might immediately think of one person in the Bible: *Enoch*. Most do. Interestingly, the prophet Noah also walked with God (Gen 6:9). The name "Enoch" in the original

languages means *to instruct* or *to initiate*. It also means *dedicated, consecrated and experienced*. The prophet Enoch dedicated and consecrated himself to walk with God. He *fixed* his life – he *purposed* to– on intimacy and friendship with the Almighty. It was God Himself who initiated Enoch into the spiritual realms and instructed him in matters of eternal significance. The prophet Enoch, then, became known as the experienced one.

The documentary, *In the Shadow of the Moon*, includes the story of Charlie Duke, one of the Apollo 16 astronauts launched to the moon in 1972. While the command ship orbited the moon, Charlie and another astronaut landed the lunar module, *Orion*, on the moon's surface. After three days of running experiments and collecting lunar rocks, the Apollo 16 crew safely returned to earth.

Later, Charlie got saved and found indescribable peace in Christ Jesus. Charlie then, being an avid convert, began sharing his testimony of the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ everywhere. He would say to his audience, "My walk on the moon lasted three days and it was a great adventure, but my walk with God lasts forever. Charlie walked on the moon for three days and he calls it a great adventure, whereas, the prophet Enoch walked with the God of the whole universe for 300 years (Gen 5:22).

The Bible further tells us that the prophet Enoch had a deep walk with God – but it did not happen while he was still single, without wife, children, or family. He began to walk with God after he became a father (Gen 5:22). He had a wife to please, and many sons and daughters to look after. Yet it was only in the midst of holding such great responsibility as a family man that he began walking with God.

Definition

What exactly do we mean by *walking with God*? The many translations of the Bible readily offer a number of differing interpretations. Let me list here four

different translations, which I believe give a concise and accurate meaning of *Walking with God*.

1. In the original Hebrew language, the phrase "walking with God" literally rendered, reads, "And Enoch walked habitually up and down in conversation with God."

2. *The New Living Translation Bible* says: "And Enoch lived in close fellowship with God. He enjoyed a close relationship with God throughout his life."

3. *The Living Bible* says: "And Enoch lived in fellowship with God and in constant touch with God."

4. *The Amplified Translation* says, "Enoch walked in habitual fellowship with God."

This is how we can define the phrase "walking with God" in light of these translations: *Developing and maintaining an intimate walk with God founded upon a consistent relationship based on knowledge gained through personal experience*. Take heart. We'll stick with simple English. "Walking with God" is simply *having a constant and uninterrupted fellowship with God*.

It is the desire of our Father in Heaven to come and walk with us. Some might jump right in here and say: *It is also my desire to walk with God!* However, such a desire to "walk with God" as we usually express with good Christian intent is quite different from how the prophet Enoch walked with God.

You might have seen some daily devotional publications which feature a daily Scripture passage followed by a little thought to steer your mind towards God, concluding with a simple and concise prayer. Such a Scriptural reading, meditation, and prayer – when we are pressed for time – might take only five

minutes. At the end of it, we say "Amen," feeling satisfied we have fulfilled our religious duty. Having a five-minute devotion is not walking with God.

We talk about wishing God would talk with us face to face, even when we spend so little time seeking Him. Have you wished for that? Mere wishing won't get us anywhere. God is not a Wishing Well. Have you seen or heard of Wishing Wells? People go and stand beside a Wishing Well. They drop in a penny, and then wish for the moon to become blue—or something to that effect. That's what the wishes of many believers amount to when it comes to knowing God intimately. Some such wishes are: "I wish to see the Lord Jesus Christ face to face. I wish I could see an angel of God."

Have you ever entertained—even uttered—such a wish? It doesn't work like that. Let me state before we go any further—*God does not satisfy mere curiosity*. Neither is God an entertainer. He doesn't entertain us with a visitation.

Draw Near to God

When we walk with God, He will come to walk with us. The Bible tells us: "Draw nigh unto God and He will draw nigh unto you" (Jas 4:8). Have you ever prayed along these lines: "Lord, I need a touch from Heaven"? Let me lovingly and humbly tell you: Please stop praying like that. The Scripture says, *Draw nigh unto God*.

Let us consider how this phrase is translated in other Bible translations.

1. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you (NKJV).

2. And when you draw close to God, God will draw close to you (TLB).

3. Come close to God, and God will come close to you (NLT).

The phrase "draw near" in Greek is *eggizo* meaning: *to make near*, i.e. *approach*. We must first learn to approach, to draw close to God and then He will draw close to us. Interestingly, the following Scripture, too, conveys the same thought:

> ***HEBREWS 10:19-22***
> *19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,*
> *20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,*
> *21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,*
> *22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

The phrase "let us draw near" in Greek is *proserchomai* meaning: *to approach, i.e. (literally) come near, visit, or (figuratively) worship*. The apostle Paul tells us that we can draw near to God – we can approach God's throne – and we can do it boldly. So, if we take the first step to approach God's throne, His presence, He then steps forward to receive us to Himself.

The Scripture does not ask us to pray: "Lord, draw me closer to you." Rather it says: "*You*, draw close to God." Do you now understand where we have gone wrong; why we are praying for ages and ages and not getting a breakthrough in our Christian life?

In 1990 I was speaking at a youth conference at Salugarah, West Bengal. By God's grace and mercy I saw the Heavens opened before me, and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove. The minute He came down, everyone who stood to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit was filled with the Holy Spirit. About 300 young people were baptized in the Holy Spirit, speaking in unknown tongues, dancing and singing in the Spirit, all without a single hand being laid on any one of them.

As this was going on, hundreds of angels came down from Heaven. They took hold of the people and led them in a dance. The ones held by the angels did not know why they were moving their hands and feet and body in joyous dancing. I saw the entire event in a vision. The angels of God led the people to dance before the Lord God.

As I was witnessing this explosive power of the Holy Spirit, a woman, about 45 years old, rushed to me crying, "God is so unfair!" "Why?" I queried. "For thirty years I have been seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit and He still has not given it to me; but these kids – He just gave it to them – just like that. God is so unfair," she burst out crying.

I looked at her with compassion and said: "My dear sister, give me your hand." As soon as I held her hand, the Holy Spirit showed me what was in her heart. "There is unbelief in your heart," I told her. "You feel so unworthy to receive the Holy Spirit. Am I correct?" Her eyes went wild as she mouthed, "Yes." "This is what is keeping the blessed Holy Spirit from coming upon you." I resumed, "Do you want what those kids are having?" She answered: "Yes." "Okay," I said, "Do one thing: Repent right now of all this self-pity."

Self-pity is a sin. This was what the blessed Lord Jesus Christ once kindly told me. If you are wallowing in self-pity, know today that it is a sin. Let us repent of self-pity. Then we can move on with God. The woman repented. I laid hands on her forehead and said: "Now, receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit!" Moments later, she started speaking in unknown tongues. What she was not able to get for three decades, she now received in just three minutes.

God does not withhold any of His gifts from His children (Eph 1:3). He is a good Father. The Bible says, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Lk 11:13). Never forget these three words: *How much more*. Neither let this phrase, *how much more will God freely give*, ever depart from our thoughts.

The cardinal law of walking with God is taking the first step to draw near unto God even while we pray for Him to draw near and touch us. If we study the Bible carefully, we would notice the great desire of God to talk with man. Every day, in the cool of the day, God came to the garden in Eden to have a sweet time of fellowship with Adam (Gen 3:8).

I was once meditating on the Scripture: "What is man, that You should exalt him, that You should set Your heart on him, that You should visit him every morning, and test him every moment?" (Job 7:17-18). A question arose in my heart: "How did Adam and God carry out their fellowship?" As I pondered this question over in my heart, the Holy Spirit spoke to me: "I will now show you."

Instantly, my spiritual eyes were opened, and I saw a vision of the garden in Eden. Adam was walking in the garden. He came to a fruit tree and looked up, curious about the fruit he was beholding. He admired the beauty of the fruit, and thought in his heart: "I wonder what sort of fruit this is?" As he mused, the Lord God came and stood by His side. And God said: "Do you want to know how I made this fruit?" The Lord God went on to give Adam a lesson in biology – how it was created, what nutrients it contained, and what benefits Adam would get if he ate that fruit. Every day, God taught Adam different things as a father would teach his son. Every day, they had an appointed time together, and Adam always kept his appointment.

Here is where we are missing the mark. We only choose to come to God when we are free or when we need something from God. We justify our lack of prayer by giving excuses like: "I am too busy. Please don't bother me now." We

rush through our prayer time. We spend little or no time to wait on God. Yet we kneel down, and utter this hypocritical prayer: “Lord, how I wish for a touch from You!” We sing the song: “To get a touch from God is so real.” Our whole Christian life is one big lie, riddled with hypocrisy.

But, at the same time, we are also sincere in our longings. We truly desire to walk with God. But that desire is not accompanied by the action that brings fulfillment. We lack commitment. We do not know how to set aside the time, making it a priority to wait on God. Our ignorance makes us helpless. We struggle to see God as best we can, but in vain. It is now time for us to learn how to really draw near unto God.

How to Develop a Close Walk with God?

How can we develop and maintain a habitual fellowship with God? This is the primary foundation of walking with God. Prayer as we know it today was not how it was in the beginning. Before sin came, prayer took the form of communion and fellowship. Picture two friends sitting under a tree by the river, sharing stories about everything under the sun. That’s what communion is! That’s what fellowship is all about. Today we have so much *convention-jargon* and it often takes the form of a prayer formula; the ABCs of prayer, and so on.

We cannot build on another man’s foundation. Neither can we duplicate methods. However, we can duplicate principles. It will work. A particular method may be an extension of a successful individual’s personality. If we try to copy that, it may not work for us because our personality is different. However, we can learn the principles behind that method, using them to formulate a method more suited to our personality.

There are at least five ways we can develop a walk with God:

1. ***Develop and maintain a habitual fellowship with God***

In the beginning, Adam had sweet communion and fellowship with God. They just talked; they had no agenda, no set formula for a meeting. Then sin entered. Mankind no longer knew how to reach God. There was now a separation between God and man (Isa 59:2). So God instituted a system of sacrifices for people to approach Him. The people followed the system, but they still didn't know how to commune with God. They brought doves, sheep, rams, bulls, and offered them as sacrifices before God.

From the time of Cain and Abel to the time of the Lord Jesus Christ, that was how people related to God. Every now and then, however, a prophet who had learned how to commune with God would be raised up. We think of the likes of the prophets Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Elijah, and Elisha. When the Lord Jesus Christ finally came, He began to teach the correct way of getting back into a relationship with God.

The Bible records how the Lord Jesus Christ prayed much, sometimes continuing all night in prayer (Matt 14:23; Lk 6:12). What does it mean—*the Lord Jesus Christ continued all night in prayer?* As much as we could try, and as sincerely as we may have tried, we pray for all things we need to pray for and when we open our eyes, we find that only a few minutes have passed by!

My first pastor was a wonderful man of God. In 1979, he was teaching the new believers' class on the importance of prayer. He taught us to talk with God and pray. Excited, I got up early in the morning about 5 or 6 before I went to school—High School then. I began to pray. I prayed to God everything that I knew to pray. I was so happy that I had prayed for a long time. When I opened my eyes, to my great shock I realized that only one minute had passed! "That cannot be true! How can it be true?" I thought I prayed for an hour, but only one minute had passed. "All right," I said to myself with some disappointment. I was determined to make a longer prayer list for the next time. The next day, I prayed longer—a whole lot longer. "Surely three hours must have passed by," I thought joyfully. I opened my eyes and found that only *1.5 minutes had passed!*

I am sure we all have been there, right? That is why God has given us the

blessed Holy Spirit. The Bible says: "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Rom 8:26). We think that talking to God is only to make our requests known to Him. So, when we have made all our requests known to Him, what else is there to say? Nothing else! You pray for your friends, you pray for your pastor, you pray for your spouse, you pray for everybody else in the church that you know… and perhaps only three minutes may have elapsed. We do not know what else to pray beyond that.

I used to wonder how the Lord Jesus Christ spent hours and at times whole nights in prayer. Have you ever wondered the same thing? I prayed for many years that the Lord would give me the understanding on how He used to pray for hours, so that I could practice it myself and share it with the body of Christ.

One day in 1994, as I was waiting on God during a ministry trip to Tibet, the Holy Spirit came and told me, "Today, I will reveal to you how the Lord Jesus Christ spent hours in prayer." As soon as He said that, I saw a vision appear before me. It was evening time, and the sun was about to set. I saw the Lord Jesus Christ sending His disciples away. He then climbed up a hill and came to a secluded spot. He took the shawl, which was on his shoulder and wrapped it around His head, like how Jews still do when they pray. Kneeling beside a rock, He opened His heart and began to talk to the Father God about all the events that took place that day. Every person met, every word spoken, every miracle performed, the Lord Jesus listed them all out before the Father.

As the Lord continued speaking with the Father God, I saw a cloud come down from Heaven in bodily form. There appeared a form of a person in the Cloud. This Cloud came and stood by the side of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Father God was listening to His Son's prayer. Every now and then, a voice came from within the cloud saying, "I am well pleased with You, My Son. I am well pleased with You" (*cf.* Matt 3:17; 17:5). By the time the Lord Jesus Christ finished saying everything, it was about 3 AM. The Father then spoke: "This morning I want you to go to the pool of Bethesda. There you will find many sick people. Among the many sick people is a man lying there, paralyzed for 38

years. Go and heal him. Set him free" (*cf.* Jn 5:2-9). That was how the Lord Jesus communed with the Father God. Try practicing it today.

The Bible further says, "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed" (Mk 1:35). The sun usually rises about 6 AM. If so, what does "a great while before daylight" mean? Is it reasonable to suggest a time like 2 or 3 AM? Let's assume, for the sake of our discussion, that this was His regular prayer time.

Let me humbly tell you a truth. I cannot prove this point from Scripture, but there is something mysterious and mystical about getting up at 3 AM to pray. Even though I cannot prove to you from Scripture, neither is it unbiblical. It is just a simple truth that I have learned from my walk with God during these past 30 years. It is around this hour that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself knelt down to pray—*a great while before day*! I know of many people who love to get up a great while before day and to spend time with God in prayer. But you may have learned firsthand that though the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak.

When I first learned about this sacred hour, I was fired up. I wanted to adopt it as a practice. I set my alarm at 3 AM. As soon as the alarm rang, I would open one eye to see where the clock was. Quickly, I tapped the snooze button and went promptly back to sleep again. Several days passed by like this. I would do the same thing over and over: turn off the alarm and roll over to sleep again. When I got up in the morning, I would feel so rotten and condemned. I had missed it again. I would repent: "Lord please forgive me; I blew it. Tomorrow I will make sure that I do not fail again." When tomorrow came I had to repent again. This went on for several days.

One day, I sat down and thought: "Things cannot go on like this. I must do something about it." So, on the following day, which was about six or seven days after I first tried to wake up at 3 AM, I forced myself to get up when the alarm sounded. I went to the bathroom, washed my face with cold water, brushed my teeth, drank a cup of hot tea, and then knelt down to pray. Don't sit

down. You may fall asleep. The devil knows your favorite position of prayer and you know your own weaknesses. So why give in to your weaknesses? If you want to overcome a bad habit, you must do something definite about it.

So I knelt down. I began to worship God—for about an hour. I read the Bible out loud for another hour. Then I began to pray for the needs of everyone I knew. About 2 ½ hours passed by. I spent another half an hour trying to listen to God. I prayed: "Lord, I spent 2 ½ hours with you. If you can feel my body, You would know my knees hurt. So please be kind and gracious to speak to me." I closed my eyes. I did not hear any voice. So I said, "It's Okay, Lord. Maybe You are too busy tonight. Amen."

I didn't hear God's voice that morning, but I won the victory over my flesh. I maintained this discipline for seven consecutive days. Medical science tells us our human body will take seven days to adjust itself to some new routine. So, if you maintain something for seven days, then from the eighth day onwards, there's a good chance your body would more readily support that new routine. You wouldn't need an alarm clock anymore. Your body will be conditioned to adjust to that new routine. You would get up automatically at 3 AM. But the first seven days will be a time of great trial and discipline.

I diligently practiced communing and fellowshipping with God on a daily basis. As I developed this habit of walking with God, the desire to merely walk with God seeking for spiritual experiences evaporated. That fleshy desire was replaced with consuming passion to habitually fellowship with God. Nevertheless, I would also spend moments silently waiting on God to hear Him speak. Day by day, I noticed, my ability to remain still and quiet before the presence of the Lord gradually increased from five minutes to ten minutes and eventually fifteen minutes and more.

After having spent just a little over two hours communing with God on the seventh day of my spiritual practice, I gathered all that was within me and waited in silence after muttering this prayer: "Lord, speak unto your servant. For your servant shall hear" (*cp.* 1 Sam 3:10). I waited in stillness and silence for

about 20 minutes. After that, I lost my concentration. My ability to remain still could not last any longer. I then thought to lie down on the bed to rest my worn out knees.

This was the moment, it seems, heaven was waiting for. As soon as my head hit the pillow I heard a loud voice booming as if from the four corners of my bedroom. I heard, on that day, the audible voice of the Lord Jesus Christ! The Voice of the Lord was so melodious – as if mixed with an orchestra of musical instruments (*cp.* Rev 1:10). The Voice of the Lord Jesus Christ also sounded like the sound of many waters (*cp.* Rev 1:15). The Lord Jesus spoke with me audibly for about 15 minutes encouraging me in my walk with Him. What a blessing it is to walk with God! When you develop such a discipline, you will be led into deeper realms of relationship, not only with the Lord Jesus Christ, but also with the entire Godhead.

We are only accustomed to praying to the Lord Jesus. But the Bible tells us: "and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ" (1 Jn 1:3). This Scripture points out the two dimensions of our fellowship with God: *with the Father God* and *with the Lord Jesus Christ*. In 2 Corinthians 13:14, the apostle Paul describes three levels of blessings: *the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ and the fellowship with the Holy Spirit*. When you learn to walk with the Godhead, you can receive these three levels of impartation.

i. ***Fellowship with the Father***

We can fellowship with the Lord God, talk with Him and hear Him replying to us. During the Exodus, the Lord God spoke regularly with the children of Israel. They heard the voice of God the Father come to them like thunder and lightning (Ex 19:16-19). The Bible also recounts how when God the Father spoke with the Lord Jesus Christ, everybody around heard the voice of God as if it had thundered (Jn 12:28-29).

Moreover, the Bible says: "A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord

GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?" (Amos 3:8). Therefore God's voice is, we learn, like a roaring thunder. By the manifold mercies of God He has graced me to hear the audible voice of God the Father four times. Each time, it was exactly how the Bible described it—a loud thunder peel coming all the way from a remote place in Heaven to earth. It is very real. You can actually sense in your spirit the voice coming from far away, even as far as heaven, and thundering its way across the entire universe. And every time I hear God speak, I quiver like a tiny leaf shaking in a strong breeze. There is such power and authority in the voice of God the Father.

It was the year 1985 when I first heard the audible thunder-roar voice of God the Father. We were all praising and worshipping God on New Year's Eve – December 31, 1984. At the stroke of midnight when all the church members began to shout "Hallelujah" I heard a loud and ear-piercing peal of thunder. I looked out the window to see if a storm was raging outside. But the night seemed calm and still. As I continued worshipping the Lord, for the second time I heard the sound of a thunder. I quieted my spirit to perceive if something supernatural was going on. It was then that I heard the majestic lion-like roar of the voice of the Lord God speaking of things to come in the year 1985.

Is it possible to see God the Father? Like many people, including the prophet Moses, most people desire is to see the face of God (Ex 33:18). But such a request is not granted lightly to fallen humanity (Ex 33:20; Jn.1:18). However, it seems, an exception is made for those who walk with God and have found favor with Him. One such person, we read in the Bible, is the prophet Moses. Though he could not see the face of God, he was graced to see the back of God (Ex 33:21-23). If you are thinking right now "but I could never be as favored as the prophet Moses to see the glory of God the Father," don't lose heart. Read on!

Have you ever read this frequently overlooked scripture: "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him" (Matt. 11:27)? Please notice the phrase, *the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him*. This was the scripture that the Lord Jesus pointed out to me concerning the possibility of seeing the glory of the Lord God.

Consider also the following scripture: “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh” (Heb 10:19-20).

One afternoon in 1994 I was teaching a small Bible study group on the *Prayer Secrets in the Tabernacle*. That particular time I was going to teach on the Ark of the Covenant. As I was praying before we feasted on the Word of God, my spiritual eyes were opened to see a heavenly vision. In the vision, I saw the Lord Jesus, dressed as a high priest, appear before the Ark of the Covenant. I noticed the Lord Jesus stretching out His cupped hands, filled with His own blood, before the presence of the Lord God. The presence of the Lord God looked like a living and pulsating Cloud hovering above the Ark. As unworthy as I am, I also saw myself standing beside the Lord Jesus.

I had been praying for several years to see the glory of God. Little did I know that the Lord Jesus was going to answer my prayer that day. The Lord Jesus motioned me to stay close to Him and to look at only the blood that was in His hands. As the Lord Jesus brought His hands under the Cloud, for the briefest moment I beheld the Face of God the Father as it reflected in the blood of the Lord Jesus. To say that I was overwhelmed would be an understatement. I was awed beyond description. Ever since then, I was graced and favored by the abundant mercies of the Lord Jesus to see the glory of God the Father a few more times.

ii. ***Fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ***

The Bible tells that the apostle Paul had visitations from the Lord Jesus Christ on a regular basis (Acts 23:11). He experienced these visitations because he maintained a sweet communion with the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ can also speak to each one of us. Many times, when God speaks verbally to us, it is not the Lord Jesus who is speaking. It is the Holy Spirit. Don’t be confused—read on; I will explain. When the Lord Jesus Christ speaks, His voice is melodious and accompanied by the blended sounds of an orchestra and rushing waters (Rev 1:10,15).

That was how it sounded when I first heard the audible voice of the Lord Jesus Christ in August 1983—a loud, distinct voice blended with the sounds of music and rippling waters, so very sweet and melodious, not intimidating, as is the Father's voice. The voice of the Lord Jesus is very gentle, like that of a friend talking to us. When He speaks, it is in an audible voice that you hear with your ear, just as if someone is speaking with you face to face.

I first learned to walk with God intimately in April of 1983. I would seek the face of the Lord Jesus and fellowship with Him on a daily basis. One day in November of 1983 I spent an entire day fellowshipping with the Lord Jesus. About 4 PM I decided to intercede for the hundreds of letters people had written to me requesting my intercessory prayers for them. I clearly remember that day as if it only happened yesterday. I knelt down to pray and just as I was about to pray for the first person, I heard the sound of my room's door being opened. When the door opened I was dumbstruck and awed to see the Lord Jesus. He was dressed in a royal blue robe. He closed the door behind Him, walked towards me and said: "I have come to pray together with you. Let us pray together for all of these requests." I did not know what to say, but we continued praying for each and every request for more than an hour that day.

When we finished, the Lord Jesus stood up and laying His hands on my head, He blessed me, saying: "From this day onwards I will come to dine with you and you shall behold Me." And in all humility I can tell you that this has been my blessed privilege ever since. The Bible says: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (Rev 3:20). This Scripture assures us that the Lord Jesus will dine or sup with those who fellowship with Him.

Does it mean that the Lord Jesus will literally come and eat with us? Absolutely! Elsewhere in this book I share of a blessed experience I had "dining" with the Lord Jesus. However, that word *dine* also denotes *fellowship*. Please look at how the Living Bible has translated this Scripture: "Look! I have been standing at the door, and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears Me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with Me" (Rev 3:20 TLB).

When we learn to fellowship with the Lord Jesus, He too will come to fellowship with us.

iii. ***Fellowship with the Holy Spirit***

> ***PHILIPPIANS 2:1***
> *1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,*

We can fellowship with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has His own distinctive voice. It is a still, small voice that you hear deep in your spirit (1 Kgs 19:12). Now, do you know who has been speaking with you all this while? It is the Lord Jesus Christ, of course. But after His resurrection the Lord Jesus Christ spoke to the disciples through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:2).

The natural ears cannot hear the voice of the resurrected living Christ. So the Holy Spirit acts like a filter, an interpreter who translates heavenly language into understandable earthly speech. Let me explain further. Neither the Lord God, nor the Lord Jesus Christ, nor the Holy Spirit speak to us in the English language. God speaks in His own heavenly language (Isa 28:11). By the way, the angels in heaven also speak in many languages amongst themselves (1 Cor 13:1).

How is it then, you may ask, that we are hearing God's voice in English? The Holy Spirit translates it for us into the language that we know. Even when the Lord Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit speaks to you, they are speaking in the heavenly language. It is then translated for us into the language that we know by the Holy Spirit. That is why a person who is Chinese hears God's voice in the Chinese language, and the Indian hears the same in the Indian language. Likewise, the English-speaking people would hear it in English.

God doesn't speak all languages. He speaks one language—that is the language we all will speak when we go to Heaven. That was the language Adam spoke with God before sin entered the world. Adam did not speak in Hebrew or Greek. All the languages that we know today were born after the tower of Babel (Gen 11:6-9). Before the tower of Babel, there was one universal language spoken by everybody! That is the language God speaks.

Can we see the Holy Spirit? Though the Holy Spirit does not have a form *per se* as the Father God or the Lord Jesus, the Bible does say that He takes on many symbolic forms. These forms include: *the Dove* (Lk 3:22); *Wind* (Acts 2:2); *Water* (Jn 7:38-39); *Fire* (Rev 4:5) and *Oil* (Ps 45:7).

In 1994 I was writing a book titled *Maturing Unto Perfection* later renamed *Into His Likeness.* One day I was writing a chapter on the importance of speaking in tongues and how it helps us to accelerate our spiritual growth (Jude 20). I wrote a few lines and laid down my pen in desperation. I perceived in my spirit that there was something more to this subject that I knew with my natural mind. I knelt down and asked the Holy Spirit to teach me.

I waited on God, determined not to get up from my knees until the Holy Spirit taught me what I needed to know. After a few moments, I felt the presence of someone standing beside me. With my spiritual eyes I saw the Holy Spirit manifest before me as a pillar of running water. I was exhilarated. The Holy Spirit then spoke to me, giving me a deep understanding of the subject of tongues as revealed in all 66 books of the Bible. Subsequently, over the years, it has been my humble privilege to see other manifestations of the Holy Spirit as *Dove* and *Fire*.

When we learn to fellowship with the Godhead, the veil of mystery will be pulled back, allowing us to see God as He is (1 Cor 13:12; 1 Jn 3:2).

2. Feast on the Word of God

JOHN 14:21
21 If anybody loves me, he will keep my word and practice it, and I will manifest myself to him.

We will make a more in-depth study of this in the last chapter.

3. Waiting on God

HABAKKUK 2:1
1 I will wait on God to hear what He will speak to me.

If you want to hear the voice of God speaking to you, if you want to see the Lord Jesus Christ face to face, if you want to be translated like the apostle Paul to see the glories of Heaven, you must learn how to wait on God. This we will study thoroughly in the next chapter.

4. A Life of Holiness

1 PETER 1:15-16
15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

The Bible asks: "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

So how can you walk with God if you do not agree with His standards? It is written, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord" (Heb 12:14). So, if there is no holiness in your heart, even if you fast for 365 days, you would still not see God. Sin blocks your prayers from going up to God (Isa 59:2).

What we need is not more religious practices. What we need is to learn how to circumcise our heart and walk the walk that God wants. The day you walk in holiness is the very day you will see the Lord Jesus Christ standing right before your eyes (Ps 16:8). Does not the Bible say: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God"*?* (Matt 5:8).

It is written of the prophet Noah that he walked with God (Gen 6:8-9). What is the difference between the way in which Noah walking with God and the way in which Enoch walking with God? Enoch had a deep relationship with God, whereas Noah lived a very righteous life. He tried always to conduct his affairs according to God's will. He aligned his life to measure up to the righteous, holy standards of God
(Amos 3:3). How can we walk in agreement with God?

1. Walk before God with a perfect heart (Gen 17:1)
2. Walk before God with blamelessness (1 Thes 3:13)
3. Walk before God in holiness (1 Pet 1:15-16)

5. An Obedient Life

If you want to walk with God, you must be willing to obey whatever God tells you to do. You don't pick and choose. That is our problem today. We pick and choose what we like. If something hurts our flesh we either say: *It is not of God* or *I don't bear witness to that*. This is such a cliché that everyone is using today in charismatic circles. The Lord Jesus' one purpose on this earth was doing the will of God (Ps 40:8; Jn 6:38).

When you live a life of obedience, you want to do anything God says, whether you like it or not. Obedience is not doing only those things which you like to do. How could it be obedience if you only did those things which you liked? Obedience, in many situations, is willingly doing those things you don't like.

Consider the patriarch Abraham—do you think he wished to sacrifice his son? No! And yet he obeyed. In July 2004 I was in Tibet ministering to the Tibetan believers. One evening, a mighty presence of God came down to bless all the Tibetan believers who were gathered there. I saw the Lord Jesus Christ standing before me. He said, "Now, I am going to tell you secrets about each and every one of them—about their future, about their present, and about how I am going to bless them. Tell them everything that I will speak to you." I said, "Alright Lord." The Lord then went and stood beside a person. He looked at me and said, "Now speak these words." After giving a word for everyone, the Lord Jesus Christ gazed at me, and He smiled. Such a gentle, sweet smile!

The very next moment, I saw the Lord Jesus Christ in the heavenlies—beautiful and glorious. He was surrounded by the seraphim. With two wings they covered their feet, two wings they stretched like a canopy over the Lord Jesus Christ, and with two open wings they postured themselves ready for flight (Isa 6:2). The Lord Jesus Christ looked again at me, and He spoke some things concerning the future of Tibet and what was going to happen in the church of the Tibetans. I narrated to all the believers whatever the Lord Jesus was showing me.

Deep down in my heart, a prayer was arising. The Lord God had called me to set up a 24-hour TV station, *Angel TV*, in India to fulfill a very important end-time purpose. So, deep inside, I had a genuine burden, knowing that I had to fulfill that divine mandate. Nevertheless, I could not miss God's primary calling for my life—to evangelize the Tibetan people.

The Lord Jesus Christ saw all these things in my heart. He looked at me with tender love. When He looks at you, His gaze pierces through your spirit,

soul, and body. He said to me: “I have confidence that you will always obey what I tell you to do. And, if you continue to remain obedient to do my perfect will for your life, I will give you places to walk among these who stand by here…” (Zech 3:7).

When the Lord Jesus spoke those words, He stretched out His hand to His left. Out of nowhere, one by one, the saints who were living in heaven—*Moses, Jeremiah, Elijah, Elisha, Paul, Peter, Sadhu Sundar Singh,* and *Smith Wigglesworth*—walked in. They came and stood by the side of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus then said: “I will give you a place among them if you will continue to be obedient to do my work”.

When you walk a life of obedience, Heaven is your home. The distinction between Heaven and earth disappears. There is only one Church. The Bible says: “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect” (Heb 12:22-23).

There is one Church composed of the saints up in Heaven and one composed of the saints on this earth, each group awaiting that eventual reunion (Eph 1:10). Heaven and earth must become one. That is why the Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray: “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt 6:10). When that comes to pass, the fine line between these two realms, the spiritual and the natural, will disappear.

Friendship with God

Some years ago, two friends set out to climb the 14,505 foot tall peak of Mount Whitney in the United States. They arrived at Whitney Portal late in the evening, rolled out their sleeping bags at base camp, and tried to get some sleep before they began their ascent at first light. The peak of Mount Whitney is a long, and exhausting climb – 11 miles of relentless ascent.

The climb, though very difficult, was exhilarating, with stunning vistas, beautiful blue lakes, and lush meadows along the way. But the trail grew long and exhausting, a grueling test for legs and lungs. They thought of giving up the climb. Occasionally, however, they caught a glimpse of the summit and realized that each step was bringing them one step closer. If they just kept on walking, eventually they would get there. That thought kept them going.

Likewise, when you habitually walk with God, you become God's friend. The Bible calls Abraham "a friend of God" (Jas 2:23). The Bible also says: "So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend" (Ex 33:11). What does it mean to be a friend of God? Friends call each other by their first names. Such was the relationship in which the prophet Moses walked with God. It went beyond the usual boundaries of protocol.

Let me give you an example. We read in the Bible that God tells Miriam and Aaron: "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream" (Num 12:6). This describes the spiritual protocol governing how God speaks with His prophets. No one has any right to say to God, "This is how You should speak." Who are we to say to the Creator how He should talk to us? Some people might say: "If anyone claims that an angel came and talked to them, that is unbiblical. Only Jesus Christ can talk to us." Who are you to say that? God has a government and a system of how He talks and communicates with us (1 Cor 12:5).

Coming back to Aaron and Miriam, God went on to tell the two of them: "Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face to face, even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the Lord" (Num 12:7-8). We see here how God distinguishes between two kinds of relationship with Him. If you become His friend, the "usual" protocol does not exist anymore. God speaks to you as a friend all the time.

Secrets are Revealed

The Bible also says that God will even share His secrets with His friends: "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you" (Jn 15:15). There was a time in their relationship where the disciples were just disciples. But, at this point, the Lord Jesus calls them to a more intimate relationship: *one between bosom friends*. That is the relationship into which God is calling you.

When you become a friend, God shares many secrets with you (Ps 25:14; Amos 3:7). Let me give you a few biblical examples:

1. To Abraham His friend, God came and shared the secrets of nations and the judgments that were coming (Gen 18:17).

2. To the prophet Daniel God revealed secrets of the end times (Dan 7-12).

3. To the apostle John God revealed the secrets of all the beauties of Heaven and of the end times (Rev 1-22).

What I am going to share next with you may sound a little controversial, but nevertheless is true. We read in the Bible that the prophet Enoch walked with God for 300 years. How did he walk with God? What did God speak with him? What did God reveal to him? We have no record in the Bible about any of it, except for one Scripture in the book of Jude. There it is written that the prophet Enoch saw the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the end time judgment of God:

JUDE 14-15

14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes

with ten thousands of His saints,
15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.

If you have a Bible that has commentary footnotes, you might find something like this: *This Scripture was not found in the original or in the earlier manuscripts of the Bible. Those two verses were quotations from an extra-biblical book called The Book of Enoch (1:9).* The *Book of Enoch* is in fact a collection of all the revelations that God had given to the prophet Enoch during the 300 years when he walked with God.

In July of 2004 I was ministering at a prayer conference in St. Louis, USA. One day I had a visitation from the Lord Jesus. He taught me to speak on the topic *God shares secrets for intercession*. As the Lord was teaching me on this subject, He made a startling statement: "Before the worldwide flood was revealed to a righteous man called Noah, it was first revealed to Enoch." Needless to say, I was stunned!

In the back of my mind I wondered, "Where is it written in the Bible that this secret was first revealed to Enoch?" As I pondered over this revelation, the Lord Jesus Christ looked at me, knowing the thoughts of my mind, and said: "Haven't you read the Book of Enoch? Go and read the Book of Enoch and you will find it mentioned there."

So I bought the Book of Enoch and spent hours reading it. I came to the reference: "And the deluge that came upon the face of the earth was revealed to

Enoch." The prophet Enoch was blessed with the knowledge of many secrets about the universe.

There are actually many such secrets that God desires to share with us (*cp.* Jn 16:12). When you begin to walk with Him, He will just put His arm around you or take you by His hand. He will say: "Come with me. Let's go for a walk." That's what He did with Enoch. They would go for a walk. They stood before the heavenly realm and all the stars passed one by one before Enoch. An angel of the Lord would tell him the names of the stars, how they were made, their composition, of the beings living on the orbiting planets, and so on. God is waiting to reveal marvelous secrets to all His children.

When I was in High School, I was always fascinated with astronomy and medicine. Actually I wanted to become a neurosurgeon, which was my ambition. Astronomy was my childhood desire, yet when the Lord called me to the ministry, I felt that I was called to sacrifice all of my personal and deeply-held desires.

But in these last 30 years of my walk with God, the Lord has taken me in the Spirit into the universe, and shown me how the planet Saturn actually looks. This happened even before NASA ever produced a single picture of the planet Saturn and all the rings around it. I was brought very close up to the planet Saturn and I saw all the rings. They were not rings; they were small pieces of rock circling the planet that looked like rings. I was so fascinated when I saw that, so very thrilled and happy that God was fulfilling my childhood desires.

One of the marvels of the universe that still astounds scientists today is the *black hole*. In 2003, I went to Tibet with an associate. While praying with him one morning, in a vision, I was taken right to the edge of a black hole. The Lord Jesus Christ proceeded to give me a scientific explanation of the black hole and its structure. He drew spiritual parallels, explaining why He created the black hole and what it signified in the spiritual realm.

I stood at the edge of the black hole, looking deep into it, and I could see

how light was not able to escape from it. It is not that light wasn't present inside, but that it was pulled back inside. I saw miles and miles of light deep down within the black hole, but the lights weren't able to escape upwards; they were bent back. Spiritually that represents a person who lives for his or her *self*.

As I stood there, the Lord Jesus Christ who was standing by my side all the while, gave me a beautiful spiritual explanation of a black hole. "*It represents Satan*," the Lord said. Lucifer, who is now Satan, was originally an incredibly beautiful Angel of Light. The Bible calls him "Lucifer son of the morning" (Isa 14:12). The word "Lucifer" in Hebrew is *heylel* which means *light-bringer, shining one; brightness; the morning-star*. He was the most glorious and brightest of all the angels in heaven before his fall. Rays of powerful and life-pulsating light emanated from him all the time just as the stars of heaven give out light.

When he allowed the iniquity of pride to develop within him, the light which was constantly flowing out from him curved and bent inwards. From being an angel of light, he became the prince of darkness because light was no longer coming out from him (Eph 6:12; Col 1:13; Rev 16:10). This is something you don't want. That is why the Lord Jesus said, 'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven (Matt. 5:16).

How Can We Walk With God?

2 CHRONICLES 15:2

2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: "Hear me Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will

forsake you

Seek Him and He will be found by you. The person who wants to walk with God must seek to please God (Heb 11:6). Seek the Lord with all your heart (Ps 119:10; 2 Chr 15:15). Don't just seek God for a while and then stop. This is most people's problem. The Lord Jesus said: "Seek and you shall find" (Matt 7:7). In the original Greek language, the meaning is not just *seek*; it says: *Keep on seeking*. It is a present continuous tense. You keep on seeking until you find and you don't stop until you get it.

Once, the Lord God expressed His desire to talk with the prophet Moses. God told him to come up to a certain place on the mountain to meet with Him (Ex 24:12-18; 33:21; 34:2,4). It was God's desire to speak with him, but the prophet Moses needed to seek and wait on God. He not only sought but kept on seeking. On the first occasion, for six days he kept on waiting on the mountain and sought for God's presence to manifest. "Wow! Did Moses really wait on the mountain all alone for six full days?" you may ask with astonishment. Do *you* have that kind of patience?

Every patriarch and prophet who ever walked with God in communion and fellowship kept on seeking and waiting on God till they found Him.

During the summer of 1984 I was ministering in the villages of Vellore in South India. One day, the Lord Jesus spoke to me: "If you will wait in My presence every day from 12 midnight I will teach you about the kingdom of the devil." I was very excited at the prospect of knowing Satan's wiles. So the following day, I waited in silence and stillness from 12 midnight to 5 in the morning. No devils appeared on the first night. Undaunted, I waited the following night. Night after night I patiently waited on God. Six nights passed by without any bit of revelation or the sight of any evil spirit. Not even a mosquito or a cockroach showed up. By then, waiting on God had already become my habitual practice, so I was not deterred from my purpose.

On the seventh night, as I bowed my head to wait before God at midnight, instantly my spirit came out of my body. I found an angel standing before me. He said: "I have been sent to teach you about the satanic kingdom." From that day onwards and for the next six to eight months, this angel came and taught me about the various aspects of the activities of the evil one. God desired to teach me something new, and I had to press on by seeking and waiting on Him. Likewise, you need to keep pressing on. Do not become weary—persevere and press on.

Among all the cultures in the world, the one with the most difficulties getting a breakthrough with God is the Western culture. They have been programmed to expect everything to work like a microwave oven—everything at the touch of a button, with minimal waiting time. Lately, I coined another term: *A drive-by mentality*. You don't want to go into McDonald's to sit and dine, you want to drive by the window; you simply have no time to wait. When you have no time to wait—please tell me honestly—why do you deserve to see God? You must bow your knees according to Heaven's terms. It is not Heaven that should bow down to cater to your demands. Let me emphasize a spiritual truth once again: *It is the absolute will of God to manifest Himself to His people.*

In 1991, I was fasting for 40 days in Cincinnati, U.S.A. On the 37th day, I had a visitation from God. I saw the Ark of the Covenant appear before me. From between the cherubim's wings (Ex 25:22) a voice spoke to me: "Read Exodus 30". So, I quickly took my Bible and read that chapter. It talked about the altar of incense that the prophet Moses was commanded to make.

Then a voice spoke: "It is the desire of God to manifest Himself to His people. Every piece of furniture in the tabernacle represents one aspect of prayer. As the High Priest moved from furniture to furniture and finally stood before Me in the holy of holies, so can every believer following these various types of prayers to commune with Me face to face in the holy of holies." I have written about this in my book called *Prayer Secrets in the Tabernacle*.

At the end of my instruction from the Lord, there was one thing He said

that astounded me, burning deeply into my heart. He said: "My desire to manifest Myself to My people is greater than their desire to see me." I said: "Lord, if this is true, then why is it that you are not manifesting Yourself to Your people?" Let the following answer from the Lord sink deep into your heart. The Lord Jesus replied: *My people have no time to wait on Me*. This is where we pull the plug on our inheritance as children of God. This is the secret of walking with God: *waiting on God*. Nothing else. You and Heaven should not be light years apart, but be like neighbors living side by side. That is Heaven's desire.

One time, as I was waiting on God, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to me and said: "Go and tell My people: in these last days, before I pour out My glory, I want to bless them with all the blessings that the Old Testament saints had experienced. It is My desire that they walk with My angels, that they walk with My saints in glory, that they walk in the heavenly realm. That is My desire." As the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ draws nearer, the body of Christ is going to draw closer to the Lord Jesus. So, if the bride is going to draw closer to the Lord Jesus Christ, then she is getting closer to Heaven. If she is getting closer to Heaven, then all the blessings that are attributed to those who walk with God are also hers—yours.

When the Lord Jesus Christ was praying on the mountain, the prophets Moses and Elijah appeared to Him (Matt 17:3). From this, we surmise that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (Heb 12:1). When the Lord Jesus Christ arose from the dead, tombs of holy men and women in the land were opened and these saints arose from the dead in glory. They walked into Jerusalem and showed themselves to the people of Israel (Matt 27:52-53).

This means that the people of those days saw Abraham and possibly many of the patriarchs and the prophets of the Old Testament. And none of them – you will never find it mentioned in the Bible – cried out in protest saying it was necromancy or that it was unbiblical! God is the God of the living. He is not the God of the dead (Lk 20:37-38). Those who have gone on to glory are living—they are not dead. We are not talking to the dead but to the living. When we learn to walk with God, God desires that we become friends with those with whom we are going to live.

If you develop a relationship of walking intimately with God, He will come and walk with you. God will make a way of holiness in your heart so that He may come and make His abode with you and within you (Jn 14:23).

Chapter 2 - Waiting on God (Part 1)

> ***ISAIAH 40:31***
> *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.*

Waiting on God; waiting upon God; waiting for God; waiting with God – are different terms but they all mean the same thing – a life of oneness and union with the Creator of the universe.

A preacher once said: "Waiting upon the Lord never means praying or prayer. To wait, according to Scripture, never means prayer, in the general sense of petition and asking."

Waiting on God is indeed a lost art. It is lost not because the modern church had lost this ancient art. It is lost because Adam lost it. The Bible tells us that Adam was the son of God (Lk 3:38). Being a son, he always waited for God to meet with Him. God would come daily to meet and fellowship with Adam (Job 7:17-18; Ps 8:3-4). Adam lost this "waiting for God" when he sinned and hid from God. When God came to meet with him, Adam was no longer waiting for God (Gen 3:9).

That which Adam lost the second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, restored through His obedience and waiting upon, on and for God: "Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men" (Prov 8:30-31).

Waiting on God is an attitude of coming before Him, knowing Him, talking with Him, seeing Him, and walking with Him. The saints of old, the Patriarchs from the Old and New Testaments, the first century church fathers, and those right through to our present time, had learnt to walk intimately with God. None of them reached that place of an intimate relationship of sonship, except through waiting on God.

Waiting on God is the key that allows you to enter into the heart – the bosom – of God. The Bible says that the Lord Jesus *came from the bosom of the Father* (Jn 1:18). There is a place in the bosom of the Father God, the secret place of the Most High God, where you can enter into.

I once read of how a saintly man of God who lived in India saw the bosom of God. During the early days of his humble ministry he used to pray earnestly for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Once, as he was sincerely praying with great yearning for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, he heard a voice from heaven saying, "Come up here" (*cp.* Rev 4:1). He then, in a vision, saw a hand coming down which lifted his spirit up to heaven. In heaven, he saw himself standing before the throne of the Lord Jesus.

With a sweet smile on His face and with great love, the Lord Jesus asked him, "What do you want?" Immediately he answered, "Lord, I want all the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit." But the Lord did not say anything in response to his request. At that moment, the man of God perceived in his spirit that someone was standing behind him and pleading, "Lord, You said that the harvest is plenty, but the labourers are few (Lk 10:2). This young man has come forward and is willing to go through any kind of sufferings for You. All that he asks of You are the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. Why don't You grant his desire?" Only then did the man of God realize that it was the Holy Spirit who was interceding for him (Rom 8:26).

The Lord Jesus smiled at the intercession of the Holy Spirit and said, "Well, let's go to the Father." The Lord Jesus rose up from His throne, and both the Lord and the man were translated to another realm in heaven. This place

seemed adorned with majestic snow-capped mountains and the Lord said to the man, “This is the dwelling place of God the Father.”

As the man of God surveyed the place, he noticed an exquisite bright cloud pulsating and teeming with life hovering above one of the mountains. Aware of the man’s awe, the Lord said, “That is the form of the Father God.” Asking the man to wait, the Lord told him, “I will go to God to present your request.” Then, the Lord Jesus walked straight towards the cloud and as He neared it, the cloud opened and received Him. The man could hear the Lord Jesus talking with the Father.

While the Father God was conversing with the Lord Jesus, the man of God who was standing quite far from the abode of God, could hear distinctive loud rumblings of thunder. After some time the cloud parted revealing the bosom of God. The Lord Jesus came out from the bosom of God and, smiling at the man of God, said, “Your request has been granted.”

When we learn to wait on God we can be translated to the third heaven, and even taken into the bosom of the Lord Jesus. A way of entrance into the bosom of the Lord Jesus was made for us when the Roman soldier pierced the side of the Lord (Jn 19:34). That is why it is written: “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water” (Heb 10:19-22).

The art of waiting on God was practiced in the early first century church and was its regular discipline. Down through the ages of church history this art has been lost, and continues to be lost even in our present-day charismatic Christianity. Charismatic Christianity, as good as it is, majored so much on the gifts that they neglected the fruit of the Spirit and inner spiritual life. We need to once again learn how to wait on God, so that we can walk with Him.

The Eagle

In Isaiah 40:31, the Lord God spoke a parable through the prophet Isaiah using the eagle as an analogy. This is a very interesting concept to examine in detail. As an eagle gets older, it goes through a molting season. During this process, its feathers begin to wane in strength, and the eagle begins to lose its feathers.

The eyes of the eagle are very sharp and very powerful. Unlike all other birds, the eagle has been specially blessed with double vision. It can see miles away, and it also can see at close range. It has two sets of eyelids and can see sideways, even as it follows what is ahead. When it soars high, it can see miles away, and at the same time its peripheral vision allows the eagle to see what is on the earth, and enables it to spot prey: fish, little lambs or sheep. Even when it is moving at an amazing speed, the other part of its eye can look downwards and know exactly where its prey is.

During the molting process, however, such powerful vision begins to dim and the talons in its legs begin to wear out and become blunt. Its powerful beak, which it uses to tear apart meat, begins to break up from the calcium deposits that form around its mouth. When it reaches that stage of becoming powerless, it will fly up to a high mountaintop. It will specifically choose a mountaintop that is open without obstruction, where the eagle must position itself in such a way that it can see the sun unhindered.

When it reaches that place it will just stand with wings lifted up, and stare at the sun. This will go on for weeks, allowing all the feathers on its body to drop off. It becomes ugly and naked. In that stage of ugliness the weakened eagle is unable to feed itself or hunt. Many eagles die at this stage. But often-a-time, other older eagles that have gone through this similar renewal process fly close by and drop off food for these eagles that are going through the molting season. With the food that is provided for them, the molting eagles are able to stay alive.

After standing for weeks without blinking, looking at the sun day by day, new feathers will begin to grow, new talons emerge from its legs, and a new beak is formed. The eagle is totally changed into a new eagle. This is what takes place, in the natural, in the eagle's life; *the eagle is renewed and changed*. That is why it is written: "Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Ps 103:5).

Every eagle undergoes this molting experience. Till the day it dies, it remains a new vigor-filled eagle. This is how God created us to be, not suffering sickness or disease, but living life to the full until the day God calls us home. Sicknesses and diseases are not the way God wants to take us home.

Awesome Experience

In August of 2004 I was in Lancaster, California, to speak at a conference. I was waiting on God one afternoon when the Lord mercifully graced me with an awesome experience. For the first time in my life I saw a huge majestic-looking eagle (Ezek 17:3,7). The Lord Jesus manifested himself to me as a huge eagle (Ex 19:4). The eagle, which was about 8 feet in height, was so huge that it took up half the space in my hotel room. The eagle looked at me with piercing eyes and taught me about waiting on God.

He gave me many simple truths, including how every believer can position himself or herself in such a way that their spiritual eyes can be opened to see the Lord Jesus Christ. Every believer can be renewed, transformed and translated to stand before the Lord God.

A Lost Art

Waiting on God is a lost art today. It has become like a fossil in a museum. Fossils (from Classical Latin *fossilis*; literally, "obtained by digging") are the preserved remains or traces of animals, plants, and other organisms from the

remote past. It is like something buried not only in the sands of the earth but also in the sands of time.

Archeologists spent meticulous years to study and dig for ancient treasures. When found, they are carefully preserved and treasured in museums around the world. Likewise, very few saints discover this ancient lost art – this discipline – which was a common practice in the first century church. The few that find this lost art savor the delights found in it. Others who do not want to pay the price, content themselves by eating crumbs from their books.

Many people would like to get a touch from the Lord, to see the Lord Jesus Christ, to hear the voice of God, and be taken up to heaven to see the glories. Yet why aren't we blessed with such things? Some people say, "I do not know why God is so cruel, or so biased that He doesn't want to bless me."

About 25 years ago, a brother came and asked me to pray for him. He said, "God is so biased, and so unfair to me. All the new believers in our church are filled with the Holy Spirit, they speak in unknown tongues, and they always say they feel the presence of the Lord with goose bumps all over them. But as much as I try to be attentive during worship time, and try to enter into the presence of God, I can't feel anything. I gave up my Catholic faith to embrace this charismatic experience. I gave up my drinking habit, I try to live a holy life, and yet God does not want to bless me with a touch. If not a goose bump, at least a pinch will do. I will go back to the Catholic faith, and to drinking if God does not give me a spiritual experience."

I cautioned him, "Whom are you threatening? Do you think God stands to lose anything if you go back to drinking? He washed you with His blood, died for you, not for His own sake, but for your good, so that you are translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light." Feeling a little remorseful because of my gentle chiding he urged me, "Please pray for me. Within 14 days I must be blessed."

Like this man, many Christians put conditions before God: "Lord, You

must touch me; You must speak to me within 2 days." If you have ever done that, please repent. You cannot dictate to God. Who are we? We are mere dust. Don't forget that. King David, humbling himself, wrote, "I am a worm" (Ps 22:6). If a man such as King David, who walks with God, could see his real self what about us? This is another great missing essence in the body of Christ today. We do not know how to reverence God.

Anyway, I promised the brother that I would pray for him. One day, during my intercession prayer time, the Lord Jesus was kind and merciful enough to visit me. As I was interceding for all the requests, the Lord Jesus counseled me on how to reply to each person with a word.

Then, as the Lord Jesus was about to leave, I said, "Lord, I have one more request to place before You." Seeing the Lord's kind willingness to linger and listen to what I had to say, I told Him the brother's problems and said, "Why are You so unfair? This man has been asking You to bless him with some spiritual experience. Why can't You grant him his request?" The Lord Jesus listened patiently and said, "The problem is not with Me, but with him." I asked, "Lord, how can the problem be with him when he desires so much to seek You?"

The Lord Jesus said, "Let me now show you." He then touched my forehead. My spiritual eyes were opened and I saw in a vision the living room of that brother—I was beholding a typical morning scene. He came out of his bedroom, holding his briefcase in his hand. He had a quick breakfast, gathered his three children and his wife, and knelt down to pray a quick prayer. He prayed for his family, wife, and their children's education. He also prayed for their pastor and for a few men of God whom he knew. As soon as he knelt to pray together with his family, I saw the Lord manifest beside him to listen to his prayer (Ps 65:2).

He then closed his prayer by saying, "Jesus please speak to me." As soon as he said that, I noticed that the Lord opened His mouth to say something when the man abruptly said, "In Jesus name we pray, Amen." After that he got up and rushed off to work. The Lord Jesus looked squarely and yet with grace at me and

said, “Now do you see what I meant when I said that the problem is not with Me but with him?”

The Lord Jesus then said to me firmly, “The problem with My people is that *they have no time to wait on Me*. They expect Me to operate like instant noodles. It does not work like that.”

Instant noodles are a precooked and usually dried noodle block, sold with flavoring powder and/or seasoning oil, usually in a separate packet; though in the case of cup noodles the flavoring is often loose in the cup. Dried noodle blocks are cooked or soaked in boiling water; some instant noodle products are hermetically sealed—these can be reheated in about two minutes and eaten straight from the package. Now, for the super busy people there is also *Cup Noodles*, a dried noodle block in a polystyrene cup. Boiling water is added and in two minutes food is ready to be eaten on the go.

This is why I say repeatedly that the modern church has lost a great heritage – waiting on God and the ability to talk face to face with our heavenly Father. What sort of a child does not know his father, see his face or hear his voice? A child born out of wedlock is called a *bastard*.

God desires to talk to us, but we must come to a position where he can talk to us. This was how I used to pray when I was a new believer: “Lord, how can I be a child of God if I cannot see my father’s face? If I am not Your son, then, I am a bastard” (Heb 12:8, KJV). I prayed and pressed on every day. If you rush through your five-minute devotional or through your quick fix methods of hearing God, you will never reach the place of really being one with Him. It is the absolute desire of God that the Bride of Christ will learn how to wait on God.

The Art of Waiting on God

Upon study, I find the Bible tells us much about waiting. The word “waiting” is

used 76 times in the Old Testament with 25 different shades or degrees of meaning and 21 times in the New Testament with 8 different meanings.

These many uses of the word may be grouped into four categories, thus giving the word four general meanings. Let us consider these four uses and thus understand what the Scripture means when it speaks of *waiting upon the Lord*.

In the Hebrew language, four different words are used to convey the concept of waiting.

1. *Raphah* means ***to stand still*** (Ps 46:10)

2. *Dumiyah* means ***to wait in silence*** (Ps 62:1,5)

3. *Qavah* means ***gathered together in oneness*** (Gen 1:9, Ps 25:5)

4. *Chakah* means ***to wait earnestly with a loving anticipation*** (Ps 33:20)

When we put these four words together we can then grasp the complete picture of what it means to wait on God. So, to wait on God means:

1. *To be still* – to keep our thoughts and intents of the heart quiet and still.

2. *To wait silently* – to just remain silent. The soul is hushed and bowing in silence (in faith) it waits before God

3. *To wait in oneness* – everything within us – the thoughts, emotions, inner conflicts and noises, must be gathered together – mustered together in oneness.

4. *To wait earnestly with a loving anticipation* – the Shulamite woman, we learn, went about seeking for her bridegroom with a loving anticipation (Song 3:2). Likewise, we are to wait on God with an earnest expectation (Ps 33:2).

Therefore, when we combine these four definitions together, we have one simple definition. To "wait on God" means *to wait earnestly in silence and stillness in God's presence while seeking to be bound in a perfect union of intimate bonding with the Lord Jesus Christ.*

It simply means *staying in God's presence, seeking to be bound in perfect union of intimacy*. Or as how one preacher put it: To wait upon God is to have the heart hushed or silent in an expectant attitude, to hear what He might say that we might do His bidding.

During a ministry trip to Tehran, Iran in October 2015, the word of the Lord came to me giving this simple understanding: *Waiting on God is when you purpose in your heart to come and wait on Me to learn of Me and to eat at My table*.

Virtues of Waiting on God

Have you ever tried holding a conversation with someone in the midst of a dense crowd with everyone talking to each other at a busy intersection? You may have to strain your ears to hear what the other person is saying. Many Christians clearly fail to understand the necessary conditions when it comes to waiting on God. To them, it means coming to God with the hustle and bustle of mundane thoughts.

A certain man, after moving to a rural area, discovered that his fax machine would transmit messages but could not receive them. Every incoming message was cut off and rejected with the frustrating words: *Communication*

Error—Line disconnected during reception. A repairman was called to check on the problem. "You have too much resistance and noise on your telephone line," the repairman said. After two hours of searching, splicing cables, and tightening connections, he solved the problem. Likewise, we must do the following:

First, learn to subdue the resistance within us to be still before the presence of God.

Second, we must learn to quiet and silence the noise within us.

Third, the thoughts, the emotions, the physical senses, the restlessness, and even the imaginative faculty of the mind must be bound together in oneness.

In the past, many individual copper wires were used to carry different forms of communication data. Today, modern technology uses one single fiber-optic cable to transmit multiple streams of data. Likewise, when all that is within us becomes one, our entire being becomes like the one strand of fiber-optic cable and allows the knowledge of the Holy One to flow unhindered into us, as light-waves flow through the modern communication cable. An information superhighway is then created to connect our spirits to God, the Father of all spirits.

Fourth, we must wait as long as it takes with a longing anticipation. The doorway into the Spirit realm may not open immediately. It may take a while. "How long do I have to wait?" you may ask. It varies from person to person according to one's ability to master the art of bringing all that is within into a state of quietness.

The Lord Jesus once taught a secret of the process of waiting on God in this way: "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (Jn. 15:5,7).

Please observe the word *abide* repeatedly used in these Scriptures. The word "abide" in Greek is *meno*, which means *to stay, abide, continue, dwell, remain.*

Through this interesting word we can infer that the Lord Jesus is saying to us:

1. Continue staying with Me.

2. Dwell with Me.

3. Remain in and with Me.

Let us ponder another Scripture:

> ***1 CORINTHIANS 6:17***
> *17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.*

The word "joined" in Greek is *kollao* which means *to glue or cement together. G*enerally, *to unite, to join firmly*, is used in the passive voice signifying *to join oneself to, to be joined to*, and elsewhere, *to cleave to*.

Let us now meditate deeper on the mystery of these two Scriptures. When you come and wait before God, all that is within you becomes one with the Lord Jesus Christ and when you abide in the presence of God, all that is within you is bound in oneness with the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. When you are bound in oneness together with Him, a powerful manifestation of translation takes place.

If you will permit me, and not take any offense, I will explain in a frank manner a revelation given to me by the Spirit of the Lord that will give a better

understanding of this mystery.

Why does the Bible say that sexual sin is the worst among all other sins? It is because during the act of sexual intercourse, the two become one flesh. In the union of the sexual act, two individuals become one and are bonded into one.

The copulating couple cannot be in two different places while having sex. They have to come together in oneness and be gathered in one place. During the moment of the sexual act, the two souls become one; the two minds think of nothing else but their one union of pleasure.

The Lord Jesus explained to me that when a husband and wife come into union during the sexual act, the pleasure of ecstasy they enjoy in the physical realm, in a very small measure, is a shadow of the indescribable pure heavenly spiritual ecstasy that takes place when our spirits are joined with the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. That spiritual ecstasy is beyond earthly description.

That is why the apostle Paul wrote: "For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh" (Eph 5:30-31). This is the heart of the mystery – the two becoming one.

When we abide in the presence of God, our souls and spirits are gathered and bound in oneness. I once was shown the following vision. I saw a long central stalk of a life-giving plant. Then I saw a grapevine grow and entwine itself around the main stalk. As it grew entwined around the stalk, the two became one. The branch can only draw life from the vine when it becomes one. Likewise, when we become one with the Lord by being joined to Him through the process of waiting on God, we can then draw the *zoe*-kind more abundant life from the Giver of Life (Jn 10:10).

True Sabbath Rest

To wait on God also means to cease from all other activities before the Lord. This is one of the mysteries of the true Sabbath rest.

Historically speaking, the Israelites observed the Sabbath even before it became a law (Ex 12:16; 16:23-30). Later, the Lord God commanded the children of Israel to observe a day of rest, the Sabbath, when He gave the Ten Commandments to the prophet Moses on Mount Sinai (Ex 20:1-17). The Bible says, "There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His" (Heb 4:9-10).

The Sabbath-rest is not merely setting aside a physical day to rest, though it also means that.

When we come to wait on God, we don't do any other work. No longer are we praying, worshipping, singing, dancing or meditating on the word. We are not also attending to any other mundane activities of life. We are just being still in His presence. The Bible says, "My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him" (Ps 62:5). And this is how the Hebrew puts this Scripture: "My soul be thou silent unto the Lord. Remain still in the presence of the Lord. Stop what you are doing and seek the Lord."

To wait in the presence of God we must be still, with no movement, no walking about up and down. Yet when we close our eyes to wait on God, even if our mouth is not talking, we will hear voices in our mind. Our heart will be pondering over many issues, and our body may begin to feel restless. Hence, we may say that it is very difficult to be still and quiet. Nevertheless, all these must be quieted and gathered in oneness, because if all that is within us is not quiet, it is not possible to enter into the spiritual realm.

The following is one of the things the Lord Jesus graciously and mercifully taught me regarding the secrets of prayer hidden within the picture of the physical tabernacle. When we transcend from one level of prayer to the next, like the priest moving from one piece of furniture to the next, we will finally

reach the Ark of the Covenant. By then, our heart, mind, soul and consciousness will all have become still and silent before the presence of the Lord. (I encourage you to read *Prayer Secrets in the Tabernacle* for a greater understanding of this subject.)

We don't have to struggle to attain quietness in our soul and spirit. Our spirit, soul and body can be gathered in oneness to remain still. We have all experienced this. Sometimes, when we close our eyes to pray, everything under the sun comes to our remembrance. All that we may have forgotten suddenly resurfaces to our mind like the mythical *Loch Ness* monster of Scotland.

We all go through the same path. This is what keeps us from entering into the Holy of Holies. God is waiting for us there, but the things that are coming from within our own self keep us back from entering in.

Please remember: the problem of not being able to enter into the deep things of God is not with Him, but with us. He is waiting there to manifest Himself to us; He is waiting there to talk to us; He is waiting there to take us and show us His Kingdom. He is waiting for us. Are we waiting for God?

Most often, we aren't. We are just too busy. We are so busy with our religious activities thinking that we are satisfying God. Don't be misled and deceived. God does not take pleasure with all the activities we do under the sun. Our first call is to minister unto God. That is every believer's first call. Afterwards, we can minister to people.

Please consider this passage:

> ***LUKE 10:38-42***
> *38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a*

certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.
39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.
40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."
41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.
42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Why did the Lord Jesus look at Martha and say that Mary has chosen the better part? He did not condemn Martha, though He did chide her. Martha was not cooking food for herself. She was cooking a meal for the Lord Jesus Christ; she was cooking many dishes for the Lord Jesus Christ to have a sumptuous meal. Looking at her concern for his physical need the Lord Jesus said, "Why are you cooking so many dishes—just one or two is sufficient. Mary has chosen the better part."

What does the Lord mean by that? Say, if we go to a restaurant, a waiter is not going to bring all the food items listed on the menu and place them before us, will he? No, he will wait patiently and quietly on us to take our order. Why

do we call him a waiter – because he waits on us. And that's exactly what we have to do.

A waiter waits on us to take our order, then we tell him what we want, and then he brings it to us. He does not bring food that we do not want. He is there to do our will. This is the principle which the Lord Jesus taught Mary and Martha that day.

It is like a man watching a grand display of fireworks during a celebration in his city. Yet, off to the right and to the left of the main event, smaller fireworks occasionally popped up lighting the sky and distracting him. They were colorful, but watching them caused the man to miss parts of the more spectacular display directly above him. That was what happened to Martha – she got distracted!

Instead of focusing on the main thing – waiting on the Lord – she became distracted by doing too many things *presumably* for Him. Too many of us in the busyness of our service for the Lord forget the better part – ministering *unto* Him by waiting on the Lord.

In the year 1985, when my ministry first opened up, I received many invitations from many different places. I was busy going from one city to another preaching the gospel, and the Lord was pleased to confirm His word with mighty signs and wonders (*cp.* Mk 18:20). Suddenly, one day I discovered that I was afflicted with jaundice. In India, we have special doctors who are not professionally trained in medical schools, but have become specialists in various ailments based on their knowledge of herbs and roots of certain indigenous plants.

One of these physician lived near our small city and he happened to specialize in ailments like jaundice. My friends took me to him. When the physician, an elderly man, touched my hand as nurses measured my heart rate, he accurately told me when I became afflicted, how much I was afflicted and the seriousness of my ailment; I was astounded by his prowess. Next, he told his son

to go and concoct certain herbs for me.

The physician told me, “Since your jaundice is not full blown, this small portion is sufficient for you.” I had to take the nauseating concoction in one gulp. The physician then advised me to rest in bed for 30 days. I told him, that it was not possible. He said, “I don’t care about that. You must certainly rest for 30 days. If you don’t, your present weak condition can get worse.”

Though I did not want to cancel any ministry meetings, my friends insisted and forced me to rest. They brought all the meals to my bedroom. Lying in bed, with nothing else to do, I would pray in the Spirit in unknown tongues regularly from 3 AM to 12 midnight.

It was during this time that the Lord Jesus told me, “A minister’s or a believer’s first call is to minister to Me – to wait on Me. Ministering to others should be secondary.” This was the cardinal principle that the Lord taught Martha. When we become bound in oneness with the Lord and wait on Him in silence, our mind becomes one with the Lord’s mind to know His will.

To wait also means *to serve, or minister.* The meaning is clearly illustrated in 2 Samuel 23:14-17.

> *14 David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.*
> *15 And David said with longing, “Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!”*
> *16 So the three mighty men broke*

through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the Lord.
17 And he said, "Far be it from me, O Lord, that I should do this! Is this not the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men.

David had many mighty men in his army, but three among them were chief. What special service made them chief? During the season when he was taking refuge in the cave of Adullam, one day, with longing in his heart he said that he wished to drink the water from the well of Bethlehem which was by the gate. It was not a command, but three men heard the wish breathed out of David's heart, and risking their lives, they broke through the host of Philistines and drew water out of the well by the gate, fought their way back again and brought the water to David. They were near enough and still enough to hear David's sigh, and that sigh was to them a command.

Likewise, when we wait in stillness and quietness before the Lord Jesus we will be able to hear the soft whisper of the longing of His heart. One day about 20 years ago, as I was waiting on God, I fell into a trance and saw a vision. I saw myself standing in a beautiful field where I saw sheep grazing peacefully. The Lord came and stood by my side and just kind of sighed, "Will anyone carry My burden for these sheep in Tibet?" Hearing that sigh I said to the Lord, "I will Lord." The Lord then turned to me and put a yellow cloth bag with the word "TIBET" written on it on my shoulder. He then said, "Go and feed My sheep."

Essence of Waiting on God

It is paramount that we possess a proper heart attitude when we wait on God. What should our heart attitude be when we are waiting on God? There are three aspects to the right heart attitude:

1. Humility

> ***ISAIAH 57:15***
> *15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

If we want to walk with God, we must humble ourselves. If we cannot humble ourselves, then we are far away from the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt 18:3). Of all the sins in the world, the only sin that God *hates* is *pride* (Ps 101:5). Does not the Bible say that God is against the proud (Prov 6:17; 15:25; 21:4)?

In order to wait on the high and lofty God, we must come before Him in humility. When you come and bow before God, first check your heart to see if any pride resides in it.

2. Loving longing

PSALMS 27:4

4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD, all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

We must long for and earnestly desire to be in the house of God. King David's heart was locked on one thing, he pursued one thing – to dwell or wait in God's presence in the temple. King David constantly longed for and earnestly desired to be surrounded by the presence of God (Ps 84:1-2).

That was also the experience of the boy-priest Samuel. From a very young age, anywhere from three to five years old, he learned to minister unto the Lord with great love and youthful eagerness (1 Sam 2:11; 3:1). Not only that, he loved and yearned for the presence of God so much that it was his daily practice to sleep in the Temple near the Ark (1 Sam 3:2). He was waiting on God to minister to Him so that he could light the lampstand when the flames were about to go out. It was because of his daily waiting that the Lord came to talk with this young boy-priest (1 Sam 3:4, 6, 8, 10).

When we wait on God, our heart must long for Him. He is not an entertainer, and neither does He satisfy mere curiosity. If we want to walk with God, we must desire and long for Him.

I first learned about the deeper life in the Spirit in mid-1982. From that time onwards I began to seek God with the little knowledge I had. But sometime in early 1983 I happened by chance to read the late Rev Kenneth E. Hagin's book, *The Believer's Authority*.

In it, he described how a turning point came in his life when he prayed the prayers found in Ephesians 1:17-21; 3:14-21. He personalized the prayers by saying "me" wherever the apostle Paul said "you." He spent much time praying these two prayers on his knees several times a day in the church he pastored. He spent about six months praying this way.

Then, the first thing he was praying for started to happen. He had been praying for "The Spirit of wisdom and revelation," and the Spirit of revelation began to function! He advanced more in his spiritual growth and knowledge of the Word in six months than he had in his previous 14 years as a minister.

Brother Hagin's testimony not only inspired me but also spurred me. I reasoned that if praying the Apostle Paul's prayers for the Ephesian believers can work for an American man, surely it can also work for an Indian. I then began to earnestly pray and long for an intimate walk with God in the revelatory realm.

I prayed the prayer which the apostle Paul himself prayed for the Ephesian believers.

EPHESIANS 1:17-21

17 ...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,
18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power
20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

EPHESIANS 3:14-21
14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,
17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
18 may be able to comprehend with

all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height —
19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,
21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

I prayed these prayers with all my heart regularly and on a consistent basis. Not only did I pray these prayers in my daily and nightly devotional times, but also prayed them whenever I found a little time throughout the day. I was desperately hungry.

One day as I was praying this prayer, a sentence was dropped into my heart: *After 128 days you will get this gift.* I honestly do not know why I had to wait for 128 days before I could be blessed. Anyway, without counting the days, I passionately continued praying.

On September 23, 1983 my spiritual eyes were opened while I was in prayer. I beheld the Lord Jesus' passion. For nearly twenty minutes I saw the vicarious sufferings of the Lord Jesus on the cross as it really took place 2000 years ago in Jerusalem. That night, as I was writing down this vision – this spiritual breakthrough – in my diary, I was astounded to note that my spiritual eyes were opened exactly on the *128th* day since I first started to pray.

If you don't long for Him, you will not find Him. You must develop a strong desire to bind yourself to God. You can bind yourself to God through meditation and worship.

3. Holiness

> ***PSALMS 24:3-4***
> *3 Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?*
> *Or who may stand in His holy place?*
> *4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully.*

This is the point the Lord Jesus told me to emphasize concerning holiness. When the Lord Jesus manifested before me as an eagle, there was something He revealed about the eagle. The eagle waits before the sun on the mountain top for weeks. It does not comes down until it is totally changed.

In order for us to be changed and transformed while waiting on God, our heart and mind must be clean before Him. The Bible says, "For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Lev 11:44; 1 Pet 1:15-16).

Now let us consider a Biblical example that demonstrates the eagle's habit:

> ***EXODUS 24:15-18***
> *15 Then Moses went up into the*

mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain.
16 Now the glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.
17 The sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.
18 So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

The prophet Moses was called up to the mountain by God to see His glory. So, early in the morning he ascended the mountain. As soon as he came near to the top, the cloud of God's glory came and rested on the summit of the mountain. He could not go near the cloud (*cp.* 2 Chr 7:2), yet he was on the mountain for six days beholding the Cloud of God's glory. On the seventh day, God spoke with him and invited him to enter into the glory cloud, and he lingered on in God's presence for another 33 days.

What did the prophet Moses do on the mountain top for the first six days? He was waiting on God. During the six days while he waited, the glory of God was purifying him to enter into the holy mount of God. Does not the Bible say that without holiness it is impossible to see God? (Heb 12:14). For six days God's glory purified Moses' spirit, soul-mind, and body, "insulating" him to withstand being in the presence of the Consuming Fire.

So when we wait on God, He stretches out His wings and covers us. Heat and fire from the wings will begin to refine, purify and sanctify us (Ps 91:4). Thus, we will be made purer than gold and silver to behold the God of Glory (Mal 3:3).

Don't give up waiting on God until you are changed.

The Secret Place

HABAKKUK 2:1

1 I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected.

The patriarchs and prophets mentioned in Biblical history practiced the art of waiting on God. This art of waiting on God, however, was known by another term: *meditation* or *contemplation*. The one word which most often denotes meditation in the Hebrew language is *hitbodedut*. The verb *to meditate* in Hebrew is *hitboded*.

The word *hitboded* is derived from the root *baded*, which means *to be alone*. Literally *hitbodedut* actually means *self-isolation*. It could also be said as *physical seclusion and isolation*, referring to a kind of internal isolation. It is to this the Lord Jesus referred to when He said, "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly" (Matt 6:6).

The individual mentally isolates his essence from his thoughts. In doing so, one separates his soul from the body to such a degree that he no longer feels

any relationship to his physical self.

There are two kinds of isolation, *external* and *internal*.

1. External isolation is physical isolation.

2. Internal isolation refers to the meditative process, where one isolates himself both spiritually and mentally. When this state is achieved through meditation, our spirit-man, will be found standing before the Living Christ in the Spirit realm.

Switzerland is known for its scenic mountains and beautiful waterfalls. A visitor to that picturesque country once wrote that: *Some guidebooks name the time when rainbows may be seen on many of the waterfalls in Switzerland. One day, when I was at Lauterbrunnen, I went to the famous Staubbach Falls and watched and waited. Others did the same. Yet no rainbow was seen and my friends and I went away quite disappointed. The next day, one of my friends said he would show us how to find the rainbow. So I went again, but this time I saw a lovely rainbow, and stood almost in the center of it. There I found that not only were sunshine and spray necessary to produce a rainbow, but also that it could be seen and enjoyed only from a certain vantage point*.

The same is true in the spiritual realm. To wait on God, you must get to that certain place – *the secret place of God*. This is another big mistake that most Christians make without even realizing it. It is indeed true that you can pray anywhere, and at any time. However, if you want to enter into the realms of God, God has some secret places. It is a secret place where entrance is "by special invitation only." You must come there to meet God. It is in God's chosen place that you should wait for Him.

The prophet Moses wanted to see God. Technically, no man can see God. But because the prophet Moses was dear to God, the Lord made an exception for him and asked him to come and meet God in His secret place. The Bible says,

"Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock" (Ex 33:21). The Lord did not tell the prophet Moses to just come up to the mountain. He specifically told the prophet Moses: "There is a place by Me; you come and wait there." The Lord Jesus also said: "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to Your Father who is in the secret place; and Your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly" (Matt 6:6).

What room is He talking about? Is it just an ordinary room? It is not just a physical room, but the room of our heart. I encourage you to get into a secret place with God so that while being still and silent before God you can be gathered into oneness together with Him.

According to a news report I had seen a while ago, science has found a way to achieve absolute silence:

> "Scientists have shown off the blueprint for an *acoustic cloak*, which could make objects impervious to sound waves. The technology, outlined in the *New Journal of Physics*, could be used to build sound-proof homes, advanced concert halls or stealth warships."

All the modern gadgets we have today are great hindrances in our walk with God. We may wish we had an "acoustic cloak." Switch off your cell phones and any other things that can demand your attention before entering into the secret place of God. Even the Lord Jesus practiced this. The Bible records that He uses to climb up a high mountain to pray (Matt 14:23; Lk 9:28; Jn 6:15). Why could the Lord not pray in the plains? Wouldn't God hear His prayer? Certainly, God would! For example, He prayed at Lazarus tomb: "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me" (Jn 11:41).

When we want to walk with God and when we want to wait on God, we must find that secret place. Go to that secret place to meet with God. No doubt, we can drive and pray, we can cut vegetables and pray, we can type on our computer and pray, and we can do anything under the sun and pray. However, that is *not* the same thing as waiting on God. To wait on God we need to be still

and silent before Him. Let us learn to present ourselves before the King of kings.

When we present ourselves before the King, there is a proper way, a protocol, to observe in approaching Him. When the prophet Moses came and stood before the burning bush on Mount Sinai, the first thing he was told was to remove his shoes (Ex 3:5). He did this because, if he wanted to see God's glory, he couldn't just come as he was before the holy God.

Let us remove our *shoes*. It is the dross and all the leaven in our lives. Then, come in holiness before the presence of God. We are not coming before a mere man; we are coming before the Holy God.

In 1991 I was in New York City for a series of meetings. One morning, I knelt down to pray and I was prompted in my spirit to magnify and worship God. I then began to sing praises and worship the holiness of God. As I was worshipping for about half an hour, I felt all that was within me come into oneness and stillness. When that happened, in a vision I saw a cloud of holiness sweep into the apartment where I was staying. I saw a golden light-filled cloud rolling in from one corner of the room, sweeping all over my entire being.

As it swept through me, I felt a cleansing, purifying and sanctifying taking place within me. It went on for a long time. When the work was completed, the cloud settled in the room. I then saw the Lord Jesus come in a cloud with hundreds of angels. They came and filled the entire room. It was an awesome visitation I had that day. It proved to me that without holiness no one can see God (Heb 12:14).

Let us learn to wait on God for He longs to meet with us.

Chapter 3 - Waiting on God (Part 2)

If we are not still, we will not know that God is standing right in front of us. If all that is within us is has not been quieted, how can we see Him who is standing before us?

> ***PSALMS 46:10***
> *10 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!*

Consider this: If we go and stand before a pool of water and look down, we can see our reflection. But, if we take a pebble and throw it into the water, the fall of the stone will cause ripples in the water. When the waters are disturbed and we look down, we cannot see our image in the water any more. But, when the waters become calm again, we can see our reflection on the water.

The Gran Telescopio Canarias, one of the world's most powerful telescopes, sits on top of an extinct volcano on La Palma, Canary Islands. Inaugurated in July 2009 by King Carlos of Spain, it offers astronomers an unusually clear view of the heavens. Located at 7,870 feet, the telescope is above cloud cover, where the prevailing winds are dry and turbulence-free. Here, near the equator, scientists can study all of the Northern Celestial Hemisphere and part of the Southern.

A mountain top is a great place to see the stars, but in order to clearly see God we need to be still and quiet in His presence.

When our heart is disturbed, disquieted, and very busy and we rush in to

quickly pray the Lord's Prayer and then just as quickly to end it, we cannot hear God or see God; we cannot even be invited into His house. The person who would be invited into God's house should first be found waiting at His doorposts (Prov 8:34). That's exactly what the prophet Habakkuk did daily: "I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected" (Hab 2:1).

The same was true for the prophet Moses when he was invited to meet with God on the mountaintop. He was found waiting on the mountaintop – the doorpost of God's house, so to speak – for six days (Ex 24:15-18). God is calling us to wait on Him because He wants to invite us into His house (Song 2:4).

If we are a child of God, then we should know our heavenly Father's house. The Lord Jesus said, "In My Father's house are many mansions" (Jn 14:2). What did He mean by, *many mansions*? Is it just a house – or a palace like the many palaces and castles in Europe?

The word "mansion" in Greek is *mone*, which means *a staying abiding*. There is nothing in the Scriptures to indicate separate compartments in heaven; neither does it suggest temporary resting places by the road. The mansions in heaven are not like the mansions here on earth—mansions in the Spirit realm are *planes or realms of existence*. There are many such planes-realms in heaven.

Only three heavens – realms of existence – are mentioned in the Bible. There are, however, many "heavens" in heaven. Each group of saints and each group of angels lives in different planes of existence. To the redeemed saint has been given the highest blessing where we, if we intimately walk with God and have been transformed like the Lord, abide in the highest realm.

But it is granted to us where we shall dwell in heaven based on the degree of our spiritual maturity. We can choose to be in the highest place or in the lowest place in heaven. How we live our life on this earth determines where we will be in the next life. Do not be fooled; we can lose our salvation and end up in hell. Don't be fooled by the old theology – once saved, always saved. The real

Biblical theology does not teach that. The Lord Jesus Himself said, "But he who endures to the end shall be saved" (Matt 24:13). If we don't endure till the end and if we backslide or give up our faith mid-way we can lose our salvation (*cp.* Rev 2:5,16,25; 3:5,11).

Results of Waiting on God

We need to learn to wait upon the Lord. When we learn to wait on the Lord faithfully, four things will happen:

> ***ISAIAH 40:31 (AMP)***
> *31 But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] shall change and renew their strength and power; they shall lift their wings and mount up [close to God] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint or become tired.*

1. Renew your Strength

During the visitation I had from the Lord as an Eagle, there was one thing He told me which I found very interesting. The Eagle/Lord-Jesus quoted Isaiah 40:31: "But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength." He said, "The word *renew* is not correct; it is not a renewal, rather it is an *exchange*."

In Hebrew the word "renew" is *chalaph*; a primitive root; meaning properly*, to slide by*, i.e. *(by implication) to hasten away, pass on, spring up, pierce or change*. The Holy Spirit aptly inspired the prophet Isaiah to use the word *chalaph* to more accurately represent the idea of an *exchange* rather than a *renewal*. That is to say: *something old is totally removed, and something new is given.*

I pondered the difference between renewal and exchange. A *renewal* is just the old covered with the new. You bring an old computer to the computer store and they refurbish it—clean it and perhaps replace a few broken parts. If you *exchange* something, you replace it with a completely different thing, especially something that is better or more satisfactory.

The Lord Jesus said that the actual process that takes place when we wait on God is an *exchange*. You give up the old and get back the new – brand new. Brand new feathers, new beak, new talons, and new strength that will enable the eagle to lift up its wings and mount up high in the heavenlies.

The word "renew" means: *to make something new, fresh, or strong again*, whereas the word "exchange" means: *the act of giving or taking one thing in return for another thing*.

To further illustrate this, let us look at the parable of the Prodigal Son:

> ***LUKE 15:11-24***
> *11 Then He said: "A certain man had two sons.*
> *12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood.*

13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.
14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.
15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.
16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.
17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!
18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,
19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."'
20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had

compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.
21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.
23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;
24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

When the prodigal son came back home, the loving, gracious and forgiving father commanded the servants to remove his dirty, smelly, worn-out clothes and exchange them for the best robe. The old is removed and exchanged for something new and better.

The phrase "put it on" in Greek is *enduo* meaning, *(in the sense of sinking into a garment); to invest with clothing (literally or figuratively); array, clothe (with), have (put) on*. This concept was shown to me in a vision like this: *when we wait on God, the Lord puts upon us new strength – like the putting on of new clothes – and this strength sinks into our inner man*.

Another good example is found in the Book of Zechariah:

ZECHARIAH 3:1-5

1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.
2 And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"
3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.
4 Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes."
5 And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by.

In this passage, too, the old is removed and the new is given. The phrase "rich robes" is rendered in Hebrew as *machalatsah* meaning, *with change of*

raiment.

The eagle maintains its youthful strength until the day it dies through this continual process of molting. Molting is a kind of renewal process. Every time the eagle loses its power and strength and feels weak, it flies to a mountaintop, stretches forth its wings and looks directly at the sun. For weeks, it never takes its eyes away from the sun, until it is totally renewed. All its old feathers drop off and new feathers grow and its strength is completely reestablished.

The Bible does say that we shall be anointed with fresh oil (Ps 92:10). When we wait upon the Lord, this is the first miracle that takes place. The Lord Jesus' life-giving, energizing power will flow within our body. It will flow through every fiber—every vein in our body, to invigorate, to replenish and to strengthen the physical body from whatever damage may have been done; it is a total DNA repair work. This is a spiritual miracle that takes place – an exchange of the old life for new – when we wait on God.

But, real physical miracles happen even to the dermic cells of our body and we will no longer need anti-wrinkling cream or anti-aging cream. This was the prophet Moses' secret, how he was able to maintain his strength, and even his eyesight at the age of 120 (Deu 34:7). This is what the Lord told me concerning Moses' life: By waiting on God and continuously abiding in the holy of holies, his entire being was continuously changed.

In a vision, I was graced by the mercies of God to see the prophet Moses enter into the pillar of fire. The pure fires of God surged through his body to purify and sanctify. This was the reason why his skin shone with light (Ex 34:29-35). In fellowshipping, abiding, dwelling with and waiting on God, the prophet Moses' spirit was so filled with God's glory that beams of light radiated forth from his skin. Of Stephen, too, it is written that his face shone like an angel's (Acts 6:15).

The Bible also says that we are the light of the world and the spirit of man is the candle of the Lord (Matt 5:14; Prov 20:27). There is a candle within us and

when we wait on the Lord, the light within us will increase in brightness. It will keep on increasing and one coming day this light will pierce through our skin and shine through it.

In 1992, the Lord showed me the following vision. In the vision I saw a dark room. A Hand brought one lit candle into the room and placed it on a table. There was just a little bit of light and the room was still dim. Candle after candle was then brought into this room, and each time a candle was brought in, the brightness in the room increased. Soon the room was well lit. As more candles were added, the brightness in the room increased even more. Eventually, this growing brightness inside the room began to seep under the door to the outside. Looking from outside the room, I could see light pouring out from under the door. The Lord Jesus then told me that what I saw in the vision was like the light that came forth the prophet Moses' face.

In 1991, the Lord graced me to write my first book, *Women Are Special to God*. I wrote continuously for 12 hours every day. By the third day, every bone in my body cried out in pain. The only time I would take a break was for lunch, dinner and for a few hours of sleep at night. Other than that, I sat in my office and continued to work on the book.

On the third day, when my body was in pain, I thought of lying down to rest for a while. So I laid down on my bed. Just then a thought occurred to me: "Why am I lying down and wasting my time, when I could wait on the Lord, because the Bible says waiting on God can renew my strength?"

So I got out of bed, bowed down and waited on God. I opened my eyes after a while and noticed that 45 minutes had passed by. The moment I rose up, I realized that I didn't feel even a trace of tiredness or pain in my body. It was as if I was never exhausted in the first place. All the tiredness and exhaustion were totally *exchanged* for brand new strength.

The more you wait on God, the more the fires of the Holy Spirit will begin to flow through your cells. In a vision, I have seen the fires of the Holy Spirit

flow into the flesh, realigning the DNA and the cells, changing, translating, and transforming them. Day after day of transformation, day after day of translation. One beautiful day all that is within you is transformed and translated and you just slip over without tasting death. It's absolutely possible!

2. Mount up with Wings like Eagles

We shall study this in detail later.

3. Shall Run and not be Weary

> ***ISAIAH 40:31***
> *31 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.*

In November 1995 the Lord led my two associates and me to minister to the Tibetans living in Mustang, Nepal. The grace of God helped us to walk for five days from Jomson to Lo Manthang, the capital town of Mustang. After two days of ministry we journeyed back riding for two days on horses and reached Jomson. Unfortunately, due to bad weather, we could not catch a plane from Jomson to Pokhara, a large town in West Nepal.

So we decided to walk from Jomson to Pokhara, a spine-bending torturous three days' journey. After walking for eight hours on the first day, we were totally worn out and every bone in our bodies felt like it was out of joint. The following morning all three of us were sick with burning fever and our bodies ached very much. I, for one, wanted very badly to rest for a day. Yet seeing the

enthusiasm in my associates' faces I hid my pains and resumed the journey.

While we were walking along the mountain path we were "baptized" by a huge sandstorm that came at us like a half-a-mile wide wall. When it passed us by, we were covered from head to toe with sand. We cleaned ourselves as we continued walking – forcing our legs to walk – because they were pleading aloud for mercy and rest. We came to a point along this mountain trail where many locals and foreigners were happily and rapidly passing us by, but we could not proceed any further. I sat by a rock, bowed my head and prayed, "Lord, I simply cannot walk any further. There is no place around here to rest, either. We need to walk for another five hours to reach our destination for the night. Please strengthen us."

As soon as I prayed, I felt an anointing come all over me. We started walking. After a few minutes, we realized that we were walking effortlessly, and, in fact, we walked so quickly that we overtook all the locals and foreigners that had passed us before and we reached our destination much earlier than expected. As soon as we checked into a small lodge for the night, all the weakness we experienced that morning came back. That night, as we prayed before retiring, three angels stood before me. One of them said, "Do you remember being strengthened in the morning when you could hardly walk? That was the time God sent us to strengthen you and your associates in answer to your prayer."

When I narrated to my associates what God's messengers had told me, we bowed our hearts with grateful thanks to God for sending His angels to strengthen us so that when we walked – in fact, almost ran – we were not weary.

A computer study of 5,000 race-horses has revealed a way to predict whether or not a young horse will develop into a good runner. A professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology used computers and high-speed cameras to find out how a good horse runs. He discovered that the legs of a fast horse operate much like the spokes of a wheel. Each leg touches down only as the leg before it pushes off. The effect is peak efficiency of effort and speed.

Likewise, those who wait on the Lord, just as an eagle utilizes the power of the wind to carry it, will be able to run effortlessly carried by the Wind of the Holy Spirit. This blessing would specifically apply to all those in the ministry.

What does "run and not be weary mean?" The Ark of the Covenant represents waiting on God. In the Ark, there were three things – *the golden pot of manna, the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments* and *Aaron's rod that budded*. When we wait on God, out of the golden pot of manna God's *rhema* word will be made manifest to us.

Let us consider an incident from the life of the apostle Paul. He says to King Agrippa, "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19). How could the apostle Paul speak with such conviction after so many years of being in the ministry? How could he, after having suffered so much persecution, continue on? He further says, "I ran the race that was set before me, I kept my faith and I did not lose it" (Phil 2:16; 2 Tim 4:7).

In ancient Olympics, each runner runs holding a torch in his hand. The winner is not necessarily the one who crosses the finish line first; the winner is one who crosses the finish line first with the burning torch in his hand. If a runner crosses the finish line without the burning flame, he is disqualified. The apostle Paul kept the torch of his faith burning till he crossed the finish line of his life. He did not lose his faith. He did not lose the focus of his call.

Many ministers do lose their focus; they lose their grace, anointing and vision because they get side-tracked as they are running the race set before them. Instead of looking at the God who called them and set them in the ministry, they tend to look at other ministries' success as a model in order to duplicate it.

About 15 years ago, I preached at a certain church in Singapore. After the service, the Pastor invited me out for lunch to a very posh Country Club. While we were having lunch, the Pastor asked me a question, "How do you relax?" I said, "I relax by waiting on God." He said, "I know you wait on God, but how do you relax?" I must honestly confess that I did not understand the question;

how could it be so strange to say that I relax by waiting on God? So, to understand his question properly, I asked him, "So Pastor, how do *you* relax?" He said, "Thrice a week I come and play golf in this club."

It is no wonder that many ministries are so unfocused and don't know what is happening in their churches. While it is not wrong to relax by playing golf or taking part in any other recreational activities, we must not lose focus of our priorities. If we believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is our boss, then we must receive instructions from our boss, and not make our own plans.

The entire blueprint for the making of the Tabernacle was given to the prophet Moses (Ex 25:40). Such a thing had never existed before. King David, too, received the blueprints to build the temple from God (1 Chr 28:12,19). It was King David who received the blueprints, but God did not allow him to build the temple. Instead, God chose King David's son Solomon to do that.

When we wait on God, angels will come to bring us the blueprints for our life and ministry. In 2007, I was fasting and praying for the TV ministry, *Angel TV*, which the Lord called me to do. A very bright and glorious Angel of the Lord appeared to me with a scroll in his hand. He handed me the scroll and said, "Take a look." I opened the scroll and found it was an architectural blueprint of how I should construct the TV studio and what the building should look like.

Such plans for ministries are kept in heaven, waiting for the people of God to come and take them. If we will go about doing something that is not the perfect will of God for us, at the end of our life, when we come and stand before the Lord God, we may hear Him say, "I do not know who you are," or He may say, "Did I ask you to do all that?" (Matt 7:21-23).

I once read of an incident written in a book by the dear late brother Kenneth E. Hagin. The Lord appeared to Him in the 1950s – which was about 16 years after he had already been pastoring a church. The Lord Jesus said, "From now you are going to enter into the first phase of your ministry." He was so shocked and asked the Lord Jesus, "What do you mean 'first phase'? What about

the 16 years of ministry I have already done?" The Lord Jesus smiled and said, "I did not ask you to pastor a church in the first place."

When I first read that in 1983, I was shocked to the point shivers running up and down my spine; this is still how I feel today whenever I read the Lord's warning in Matthew 7:21-23. I put down the book, being little afraid to continue reading any further. For more than an hour, I pondered deeply over his 16 years of hard work concerning which the Lord Jesus said, "That 16 years is not in my records. It is only now that you are entering into my perfect will for you."

This revelation reinforced in me that I must not make the same mistake in my ministry so that I would not have to bear any regrets. This is the reason why I so much emphasize praying and seeking the will of God. When we wait on God, God can open the eyes of our understanding and reveal to us His plans for our ministry, for our church and for our life.

About 15 years ago, a pastor friend of mine came and asked me to pray with him. He said that his church had been so dry, having stagnated at about 80 members for the last 10 years. He felt he must do something to increase the membership. So I asked him what he intended to do. He said, "I want to go to Toronto and Pensacola to study the revival methods and secrets of church growth." He had already booked a trip to Toronto for a week and then on to Pensacola. He wanted to study their successes and then apply their methods to his church. He asked for prayer that God would prosper his journey.

So we knelt down to pray. As we were praying, the Lord Jesus came to me and told me, "For his church to grow, he does not need to go to Toronto or to Pensacola. Ask him to wait at My feet. If he waits at My feet, I will give him My plans for his church so that it can grow and become a success." I relayed the message to him.

When the prayer ended, the Pastor got up and said, "Thank you for the prayer. I will see you in two weeks after I come back from Pensacola." I could not believe my ears. Nevertheless, I kept my opinions to myself. He went to

Canada and the US and had a good vacation in Toronto and Pensacola. He came back to his church and was so excited to implement all the methods he had seen. But those methods failed. The methods which worked for the churches in Toronto and Pensacola did not work for his church. We can duplicate principles but not methods!

If we wait on God, He will give us the blueprint that will be a guiding beacon leading us on our way to be successful in the works that we are called to do for the living God. Please remember, ministers of God: *Success is not based on how big a church or ministry you have. Success is doing the perfect will of God*. It is during the period of waiting that you will become *pregnant* with divine visions, plans and purposes. The scrolls of heaven, like seeds, will then be put inside of us.

4. Shall Walk and not Faint

> ***ISAIAH 40:31***
> *31 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 Finnish people use candles lavishly. They never treat them as mere ornaments. Candles bring warmth and light into their homes during short winter days. The Finnish people know that a candle's purpose is missed unless it is burned. But candles should be burned at one end only – if burned them at both ends, they will burn out too quickly.

A missionary couple, upon starting their missionary work, longed to burn out for God. Within a few years they did burn-out, all right, but not for God. It

was a case of useless burn-out that many ministers suffer, brought on by many self-caused stresses. One night they hit rock bottom and cried out to God. God gives strength to the faint-hearted (Isa 40:29). Those who are discouraged, those who are about to give up, those who are about to throw up their hands and give up their ministries or resign their ministry and go back to the secular world, God gives them strength to persevere and go on.

The second thing in the Ark of the Covenant is the *tablets of stones*. That is the *logos* – the living and written word of God. When we wait on God, God gives us a word that will strengthen our heart. That word will enable us to keep on walking and prevent us from fainting along the way.

The word "faint" in Hebrew is *ya`aph* meaning *to tire (as if from wearisome flight)*. That means, the word of God abiding within us will spur us in our walk with God without us becoming weary with discouragement. The logos–word will make us and our faith like a solid rock which will be immovable by any tempest or storm.

It is upon such a rock that the Lord Jesus said, "I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt 16:18). The word "church" means the *works of God, God's purposes and destiny for us, and the revelation of His ways and will*. That logos–word will be rock-solid because it has been chipped off from Christ the Rock (1 Cor 10:4).

When I was born-again on June 1, 1978, I tried to keep my faith hidden from my father because he was a devout orthodox Hindu layman-priest. One day, he caught me red-handed with a Bible in my hand and I went through some persecution for a season. After my baptism in water on March 3, 1979, the Lord called me into the ministry. Needless to say, I was afraid to tell my parents because I had built up their aspirations and hope that I was going to become a neurosurgeon. I too, had personally nursed the ambition to become a neurosurgeon. Finally, I broke the news to my parents that I wanted to be a servant of God.

My father was very upset and angry with me and said, “I will not give you a single cent for what you want to do.” I went to my bedroom on the verge of tears, knowing that I would need to go to a Bible School as advised by my pastor. But how could I go to Bible School when I did not have any money?

So I just lay on my bed and began to read the Bible. My hand was guided to flip open to Matthew chapter 6 and when I began to read verse 26, “Look at the birds in the air,” I perceived in my spirit a hand come down from heaven. The hand inscribed verses 25 to 33 on the flesh of my heart.

MATTHEW 6:25-33

25 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?
26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?
27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?
28 “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;

29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?
31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'
32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

I tangibly felt the hand inscribing all these Scriptures on my heart (Ex 31:18; 2 Cor 3:3; Heb 8:10). When it finished inscribing verse 33 I perceived the fingers being taken away. At that moment every single thought of worry disappeared from my mind. From 1979 until today, I have never know what it is to worry about food, clothes or any other of my personal needs. I do not know what it means to worry, because it is not inside me anymore.

During my ministry travels in the mountains of Nepal and Sikkim, and in the wilderness of Ladakh and Tibet, many times I did not know from where my next meal would come. But the gracious God who inscribed His promises on my

heart kept me from worrying. Those words kept me walking through the wilderness and over the mountains without fainting.

Consider the apostle Paul. Among the many apostles who lived during his lifetime in the first century, he faced the worst persecution. He was beaten, betrayed, wounded, whipped, and nearly stoned to death. What sustained him? What kept him from fainting due to weariness? Look what these two Scriptures say:

ACTS 18:6-10

6 But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

7 And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.

8 Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.

9 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid,

but speak, and do not keep silent;
10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city."

ACTS 23:11-13
11 But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."
12 And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.
13 Now there were more than forty who had formed this conspiracy.

On both occasions the Word of the Lord, the Logos, the Lord Jesus Himself came to give a word to the apostle Paul that made his faith rock-solid, enabling him to undergo any form of persecution.

So, when we wait upon the Lord, God will bring a word to us that will strengthen us and give us a boost. That boost will keep us walking, and we will not faint or be discouraged.

Our God is a good God; He has prepared all the necessary provision for us.

We should not suffer from burn-out in the ministry. If we are continually renewed, there won't be a thing called 'burn-out' in a believer's or minister's life. His word will strengthen us to walk before God with a perfect heart.

Mount Up with Wings like Eagles

ISAIAH 40:31

31 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.

To "mount up with wings like eagles" signifies *deep spiritual experiences*. Truthfully speaking, this Scripture is not meant to be understood figuratively. It literally means what it says. We will actually mount up or ascend with wings like an eagle.

When the eagle's strength reaches its weakest point, it then goes into a molting period. During this time it loses all its remaining strength. It cannot even walk; it stands fixed in one position, it cannot move anywhere. All its feathers fall off its body and it becomes a naked ugly bird. Since the bird is fixed in a stationary position, how can it survive the molting process if it cannot go out and hunt for food to eat?

Amazingly, during the molting period, other older eagles that have gone through the molting experience will fly around and congregate near the eagles which are going through the molting period to bring them food. The eagles going through the molting period eat what is brought to them by the other eagles. In this way, they are encouraged and strengthened to complete their molting experience. Likewise, when we wait on God, God sends His other older eagles – angels and saints – to come and feed us and minister to us.

Let us consider three biblical examples of this.

1. When the prophet Elijah was waiting on God, an angel came and brought him food.

> ***1 KINGS 19:4-8***
> *4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"*
> *5 Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat."*
> *6 Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.*
> *7 And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you."*
> *8 So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food*

forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

2. At the end of the Lord Jesus' 40 day fast angels came and ministered unto Him.

MARK 1:12-13
12 Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness.
13 And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.

In 1984 I was ministering in the villages in South India. One day, the Lord Jesus told me, "I have a special work for you to do. I want you to fast for seven days. Don't eat any food, nor drink tea or coffee. Only drink milk once a day." Every day, I was waiting on God, fasting, praying, and meditating on the word of God. I slept only about three to four hours every night.

On the fourth day, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to me and asked, "Are you feeling hungry?" I said, "How can I *not* feel hungry when I am fasting?" He just smiled at me and said, "I have brought you some food." Saying that, the Lord stretched out His hand and there was a plate in His hand with some curry-filled rice. The Lord said, "I brought this for you." Not knowing how to react, I meekly said, "Lord Jesus, how can I eat that? I am fasting."

I saw the face of the Lord Jesus, such a tender love, like a loving mother, who is so concerned for her son who has not eaten food for many days. The Lord came and sat beside me and said, "Let Me feed you." I then recalled how my

mother used to feed me when I was a small boy. The Lord scooped the rice with His hands and with tender love said, "Open your mouth now." When the food was put into my mouth, I literally felt the food in my mouth. I chewed it even as I realized it was spiritual food. After I finished all of the food the Lord said, "Now take a good rest. I will visit you tomorrow." The Lord Jesus then left.

The next day the Lord brought another kind of food. On the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh day, every dish that the Lord brought looked like something that in the natural was one of my favorite dishes. On each of these four days, like a tender mother, the Lord fed me. He never told me about the significance of the food. He would just say, "Eat," and I ate.

On the seventh day, He said, "I have strengthened you for four days, for you are going to encounter a very powerful demon. I want you to go and set a certain family that has been troubled by this demon free." I went to visit the family that had pleaded with me to come and rescue them from the torment. That night, as I was waiting in the presence of the Lord at 12 midnight, thousands of demons from a cemetery at the outskirts of the town came to attack me. They were sent by an evil Hindu priest who had put curses on the family who were being tormented by demons.

I then realized that the heavenly food the Lord gave me was to strengthen my spirit, soul and body to wage warfare against all those demonic forces. The food that the Lord Jesus gave me was not just food, but an impartation of authority and grace to strengthen me to wage warfare against the wiles of the enemy.

3. When the Lord Jesus waited on God, praying on the mountain, He was transfigured.

LUKE 9:28-36

28 Now it came to pass, about eight

days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.
29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.
30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah,
31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.
32 But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.
33 Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" — not knowing what he said.
34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud.
35 And a voice came out of the cloud,

saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"
36 When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.

When the Lord Jesus was waiting in the glory of God, the saints Moses and Elijah appeared unto Him. The saints spoke with Him – ministered to Him – encouraging Him to face the sufferings He soon was to undergo with boldness and courage. So, as we are going through this waiting period, we will be fed – ministered to.

Mount Up – Eagle-like Wings

The Scriptures say that when we wait on God, we shall mount up with wings like eagles. Surely it must mean figuratively, right? What do you think – is it *spiritual* or *literal*? Let me humbly share with you this personal experience.

One midnight in 1984, I bowed my head in prayer, waiting on God saying, "Lord, I have come before Your presence to wait on You." Having said that I waited on God, being still and quiet. A very short while later, from deep within me, I heard the sounds like the flapping of the wings of a bird.

I turned to my right and left to see where the sound was coming from. It was not coming from anywhere outside, because it was 12 midnight and the night was still and quiet. Instead, I realized that it came from deep within me—it was a real audible sound. I quieted all that was within me into oneness and the intensity of the flapping of the wings increased.

The next moment, my spirit came tumbling out of my body. I turned back and saw my body still bowed in the prayer position. I saw my own spirit which looked exactly like me as if cloned. I saw myself dressed in a blue denim shirt and blue pants. I, that is, my spirit body, felt something protruding from my shoulders. When I turned my head around I was shocked to see a pair of gigantic wings stretched out. They looked not only real but also exactly like eagle's wings.

Ornithologists tell us that an eagle's wings can stretch from anywhere between 6.5 feet to 8 feet in length. That was exactly how long the wings on my shoulders were. The wings had real eagle's feathers. When I saw that for the first time, I gasped saying, "My God! Isaiah 40:31 is real. It is not figurative." The wings stretched out and flapped and I flew – just like an eagle – above the house in which I was; I flew across the town and entered into someone's house. It doesn't count as trespassing if you do it in the spirit! When I landed in the house, I saw that there was already an angel present. He said, "Stand here and see." There, the occupant of the house was sinning in secret. He thought nobody was watching him (*cp*. 1 Cor 5:3).

The way the Lord teaches us is marvelously illustrated in nature through the lives of eagles. For the Bible says, "As the eagles stirs up the nest and teaches its young to fly, so does the Lord take you and bears you on His wings" (Deu 32:11). When the time comes for the eaglets to learn how to fly the parent eagle teaches them.

There is a story concerning how eagles teach their young to fly. When the eaglets are old enough and are ready to fly, the mother eagle will carry her young on her body and fly high up into the sky. The little bird enjoys the first flight and the next day the mother eagle takes him up again. Yet, when they are high up in the sky, the mother eagle will flip over in a spectacular act of aerial gymnastics and the little bird will fall off the mother and start falling to the ground.

The mother eagle stays close by, watching what the eaglet will do. The

eaglet does not know how to flap its wings in order to fly, so just before it hits the ground, the mother eagle will scoop him up and the little one probably sighs with grateful relief. The mother eagle assures the little one that there is nothing to worry about and she takes it up high again and flips over. This process is repeated until the little one learns how to fly.

This is exactly what the Lord Jesus Christ does with us. When you first begin to learn how to wait on the Lord, it does not happen overnight. It may take months to learn to mounting up with wings to fly in the Spirit.

The real art of waiting on God is when we can master all that is within us to be still and quiet. The Holy Spirit will then come and carry you, lift you up in the spirit and bring you places.

I first learned the art of waiting on God in May 1983. I would get up at 2 AM, worship the Lord, meditate on the Word and pray for various things until 5 AM. Then, I would become very still and quiet. Initially, I could be still for only a few minutes. But day by day, my ability to be still increased. Mustering the mind, thoughts and even quieting the murmurings of the heart is no easy feat. But it is possible. From the seventh day onwards I found that I could be perfectly still and quiet for 25 to 30 minutes each day.

It was then that I used to experience awesome supernatural experiences. After 5:30 AM I used to lie down for a while before starting the busyness of the day. For the first few days, as soon as I lay down I would experience a power surge through my entire body starting at my legs. Then, the next couple of days I felt the flapping of wings from deep within me together with the surging of power. I determined to keep making myself still and quiet as I didn't want to lose these experiences.

Then, on about the seventh day, I felt my spirit come out of my body. For the first time I saw two of me: *my spirit man* and *my physical body*. They both looked exactly alike, like *identical twins*. I would hover like an astronaut in space around my bedroom for a couple of minutes and then return back into my

body. I would experience this occasionally as the Lord willed. It was after a year of daily practicing the art of waiting on God that finally one day when my spirit came out of my body I found six-foot long eagle-like wings attached to my shoulder blades.

We read in the Bible that as the prophet Ezekiel was praying and waiting, a hand from heaven came and caught him up. It lifted him up and suspended him between heaven and earth (Ezek 8:3; 11:1,24). In Ezekiel's experiences, he was always being carried either by the Holy Spirit or by the Lord. He was taken in the Spirit into the temple, where he saw the priests sinning in secret. That is the early stage of a Christian eagle's life.

When we mature in the art of waiting on God, then the Lord Jesus will say, "Come up," and we will know how to fly ourselves. This was the experience of the apostle John the revelator. He heard a voice like a trumpet say, "Come up" (Rev 4:1). We don't read next that the hand of the Lord came and lifted me up. No! He was a mature believer exiled to the island of Patmos and all his life he practiced waiting on God.

Mounting Up – Translation in the Spirit

Mounting up with wings like the eagle is a translational experience in the Spirit. Amazingly, this awesome experience can take place in the two realms within us: *spirit* and *soul*. Let's study these mind-blowing experiences in detail.

1. Our Spirit is translated by the Holy Spirit

> ***REVELATION 4:1-2***
> *1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I*

heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."
2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

The apostle John who was exiled to Patmos had this blessed privilege of his spirit being translated into heaven. Almost the entire book of Revelation was written by him out of the mystical experiences he had while being in heaven in the Spirit.

The prophet Ezekiel also had numerous experiences of being taken in the Spirit (Ezek 11:1; 37:1).

EZEKIEL 8:1-4
1 And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I sat in my house with the elders of Judah sitting before me, that the hand of the Lord God fell upon me there.
2 Then I looked, and there was a likeness, like the appearance of fire — from the appearance of His waist and downward, fire; and from His waist and upward, like the appearance of

brightness, like the color of amber.
3 He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy.
4 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the plain.

A prophet of God who lives in the US once had an amazing and awesome experience of being translated. One day as he was worshipping the Lord in his room, all of a sudden he felt a suction. The next instant, when he opened his eyes he saw himself, to his utter shock and amazement, standing among the stars! This experience was to him completely tangible.

Standing there among the stars he was surprised to find the stars singing praises of God. They weren't just matter, but seemed alive and vibrant. Does not the Scriptures say that all creation – that includes the stars – sings forth the praises of God? (Ps 148:3). He saw the vastness of the universe and creation singing praises unto God.

Then, all of a sudden, he saw a portal – a doorway – suspended in space. He saw a bright white light shine through the portal. He then heard the voice of the Lord say, "Go ahead!" Just as he thought about entering the portal, he instantly moved through it. He then found himself in a small empty office. He

knew in the Spirit that he was in Sydney, Australia.

He looked all around the office and then walked towards the window to look out into the street. He saw several buildings on the street. Then he heard the Lord say, "Now go back through the doorway from which you came." When he went through that door he was back in his own room at home. (Source: *Dr Bruce D. Allen's Gazing into Glory*.) This experience sure beats any of the Sci-Fi's "Beam me up, Scotty" kind of translation!

2. Our Soul is translated by the Holy Spirit

Here, the reader should not be confused and discount this section as heresy or wrong teaching comparing this to the New Agers' claim of *astral-travel* or soul-travel. It is true that New Agers claim they too can project their souls to travel to remote destinations. However, this does not change the fact that there are truths attested-to by the Bible that our minds blinded by religious tradition have not been able to perceive since the Dark Ages.

Let us carefully analyze the prophet Elisha's experience:

> ***2 KINGS 5:20-27***
> *20 But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "Look, my master has spared Naaman this Syrian, while not receiving from his hands what he brought; but as the Lord lives, I will run after him and take something from him."*
> *21 So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When*

Naaman saw him running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him, and said, "Is all well?"
22 And he said, "All is well. My master has sent me, saying, 'Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.'"
23 So Naaman said, "Please, take two talents." And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and handed them to two of his servants; and they carried them on ahead of him.
24 When he came to the citadel, he took them from their hand, and stored them away in the house; then he let the men go, and they departed.
25 Now he went in and stood before his master. Elisha said to him, "Where did you go, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant did not go anywhere."
26 Then he said to him, "Did not my

heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants?
27 Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow.

Please observe what the prophet Elisha said to his servant Gehazi, "Did not my heart go with you" (v.26). The Living Bible accurately translates this phrase as: "Don't you realize that I was there in thought."

The word "heart" in Hebrew is *leb* which means, *heart; mind; midst*. *Leb* and its synonym *lebab* appear 860 times in the Old Testament. *Lebab* is often compounded with "soul" for emphasis, as in 2 Chronicles 15:12,15. *Nepesh* ("*soul; life; self*") is translated "heart" 15 times in the King James Bible. Each time, it connotes the *inner man* (Prov 23:7). The "inner man" can mean both the spirit and soul.

Therefore, we can correctly deduce from these original meanings and with understanding from the Spirit of Truth that the "heart" the prophet Elisha meant was his "soul".

Let us also read of the experience of the prophet Moses on Mount Sinai.

EXODUS 24:15-18

15 Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain.
16 Now the glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.
17 The sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.
18 So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Here we find the prophet Moses on the mountaintop waiting on God. While he was there for six days he was covered by the cloud – the glory of God. What really happened during those six days? When the Lord Jesus appeared to me as an Eagle, He showed me in a vision the prophet Moses seated in reverential fear on the mountaintop before the cloud. Clouds of glory came and covered him. Every day rays of light came forth from the cloud bathing him with cleansing and purifying light to prepare his soul and spirit for what he was going to experience.

On the seventh day a voice spoke and asked him to come up into the cloud. When he got up and walked towards the cloud, a portal opened before

him. Stepping into the portal, the prophet Moses found himself stepping onto the streets of gold in heaven (Rev 21:21). There was a look of awe and wonder in his eyes and on his face.

As he was wondering where he was, an angel appeared before him and said, "I have been instructed to take you around and show you heaven." The prophet Moses was flabbergasted when he realized that he was actually in heaven. The angel took him around and showed him the furniture of the temple in heaven: the altar of burnt sacrifice (Rev 6:9); the laver of washing/sea of glass (Rev 4:6); the candlestick (Rev 4:5); the altar of incense (Rev 8:3); and the Ark of the Covenant (Rev 11:19).

He was then brought before the throne of the Lord Jesus. He saw the Lord Jesus as a majestic being covered with light. The Lord proceeded to give him instruction concerning making the tabernacle and all the furniture according to the pattern he was shown in heaven (Ex 25:9,40; 26:30; 27:8; Num 8:4). This is the reason why the Scripture says, "Who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, 'See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain'" (Heb 8:5).

The prophet Moses was translated to heaven and yet he was also on the mountain. He was on the mount and also in heaven at the same time. How is this possible, the reader may wonder? How then will you explain what the Lord Jesus meant when He simply said, "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven" (Jn 3:13). The Lord Jesus seems to imply that He is in Heaven and as well as on earth at the same time. Is this possible? Yes it is, but it is quite difficult to explain. It is something a person must experience for themselves to know what it means.

In January 2013, together with many ministers and about 200,000 believers, I participated in a 12 hour fasting and prayer meeting in Chennai, India. A certain prophet of God whom I know also participated in this meeting. When he was ministering, I saw two angelic beings stand beside me and they

taught me some things about the last days' ministers and ministries. Then midway through the message, the elder of the beings said to me, "Look at this brother." When I did, I was shocked to see two of them. A physical person was standing by the pulpit and praying for the needs of the people, but I also saw his soul kneeling a few feet behind his physical self and ardently listening for instructions from heaven.

A few years ago I was taught by this same angelic being about the possibility of the spirit and soul to be in two places at the same time. My spiritual eyes saw the reality of this. I then understood perfectly the meaning of the Scripture: "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven" (Jn 3:13).

One afternoon in 2004 while in Lancaster, California, the Lord graced me with a mind-boggling experience. One moment I was praying and waiting on God in my hotel room and within a blink of an eye I was *transported* somewhere else. I saw myself still in the bowed prayer position, yet I now seemed to be in some sort of a classroom. When I looked around the classroom, I saw different kinds of evil spirits masquerading as humans. The first thought that came to my mind was: "How did I get here? I have to preach at a conference this evening. How can I get back to Lancaster?" After seeing all that I needed to see, in an instant I was transported back to my room. I was out and I was in.

The difference between a translation in the spirit and soul is that when we are translated in the spirit we are more conscious of the things of the Spirit. Whereas, when translated in the soul, the mind reasons and analyzes with all its five senses. For example, in the experience mentioned above, as soon as I was in a different place I wondered to myself how I got there and how I was going to get back. When I was first graced by God to be translated to Heaven in the spirit in 1984, my mind did not wonder or try to reason concerning where I was, and neither was I taken by fright or surprise when I saw two huge eight-foot tall angels stand before me.

These translational experiences are supernatural. The prophet Moses was

on the mountain one moment and the next moment he was translated – surrounded by the eternal glories in heaven. These translations are instantaneous.

Let's consider the apostle Paul's experience.

> ***2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-4***
> *1. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:*
> *2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows — such a one was caught up to the third heaven.*
> *3 And I know such a man — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows —*
> *4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*

The apostle Paul had two kinds of experiences in the heavenly realm. In the first experience, he was caught up to the third heaven (2 Cor 12:2). In the second experience, he was caught up to Paradise (2 Cor 12:4). They are not the same place. Why was he confused whether he was there in body or not? It is because he couldn't tell. Our spirit man looks exactly like us and possesses a spirit body—so does our soul.

As explained earlier, when it is a spirit translation, though we see ourselves with a spirit body and interact with angels and saints in heaven, the tie to emotions is not there. Whereas when the soul is translated together with the spirit, it senses the environment, analyses and reasons. When we look at ourselves we seem to have a spirit body that does not have flesh and bones.

There is a big difference in being translated in spirit, translated in soul and translated in body. They are distinguishable. All these experiences are distinct from each other.

Translation – The Mechanics

How does a translation experience take place? How are we translated in the Spirit? I am aware of eight different ways in which this can happen. Perhaps there are more, but to my limited spiritual understanding so far I have been granted by the mercies of God to know of eight. So how do these processes take place?

1. Speed-of-thought translation

What do we mean by the speed of thought? The speed of light, scientists tell us, is about 186,000 miles per second. The speed of light is finite and measurable; however, the speed of thought is instantaneous.

On March 24, 1984, I got up at 2 AM as usual to wait on God. I bowed my head before the presence of the Lord and said, “Lord, I have come to present myself to you. Show me Your glory Lord.” I then quieted myself to wait on God. A few minutes passed when I felt like opening my eyes. When I did, I was wonderstruck at the most beautiful place that I have ever seen. I wondered where I was since moments ago I just closed my eyes to pray in my dimly lit small bedroom in India.

As I was still wondering about this, I heard a gentle melodious female voice saying, “Welcome!” I turned towards the direction of the voice and was awe-struck to see three very beautiful eight-foot tall angels standing before me. I could not say for sure if these angels were female in appearance, but they had facial features that were so gentle, benign and caring like a mother. I asked them where I was, to which one of them replied, “This is Paradise.”

I tried to fathom what was happening. I had been praying in my room one minute and the next instant I was in heaven. Wow! What a trip at the speed of light. No, no, it was at the speed of thought, which is faster than the speed of light.

Travel in the heavenly or spirit realm is at the speed of thought. Travel within the heavens and within the universe is at this speed too – *the speed of thought*!

2. A ladder of pure light appears from heaven

In this kind of experience, a ladder of pure light is lowered down to earth from heaven and you just walk up the ladder. Jacob saw a ladder come down from heaven and angels coming down and going up on it (Gen 28:11-12). This ladder is made of pure light. All the light that you see on this earth – even the light that comes from the sun and the stars – it is not pure light because it is tainted by sin (Job 25:5). This Creation is tainted by sin.

Light travels 186,000 miles per second, but the pure light of heaven travels faster than that. It also travels at the speed of thought. That is how pure light travels, that is how you travel in the spirit realm – at the speed of thought.

3. Angelic escort

In the Book of Revelation we read that angels bodily carried the apostle John and brought him to different places in heaven (Rev 21:9-10).

REVELATION 17:1-3

1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,
2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."
3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

During the summer of 1984, I was ministering in the villages of Vellore, South India. One day the Lord Jesus spoke to me, "If you will wait in My presence every day from 12 midnight I will teach you about the kingdom of the devil." So in the days following, I waited in silence and stillness from 12 midnight to 5 in the morning. No devils appeared on the first night. Undaunted, I waited the following night. Night after night I patiently waited on God. Six nights passed by without any bit of revelation or the sight of any evil spirit. Not even a mosquito or a cockroach showed up! By then, waiting on God had

already become my habitual practice, so I was not deterred from my purpose.

On the seventh night, as I bowed my head to wait before God at midnight, instantly my spirit came out from my body. I found an angel standing before me. He said, “I have been sent to teach you about the satanic kingdom.” He then held my hand and we flew over the town and landed in a moving train.

Once we were inside the train the angel told me to just stand silently and watch what was happening. The train was filled with many passengers; some were playing cards; many were sleeping. The angel told me to look closely at those who were playing cards. When I looked, I saw on some of them demon spirits of all forms and shapes, like animals, seated on their shoulders whispering suggestions about how to cheat in the game. From that day onwards and for the next six to eight months, this angel came and carried me to various places to teach me about the various aspects and activities of the evil one.

4. Chariot from heaven

The prophet Elijah was caught up in a chariot and brought to heaven.

> ***2 KINGS 2:11***
> *11 Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*

A prophet living in the US had a unique experience of being carried in a chariot. He saw a chariot of fire appear in his room, and the horse pulling the

chariot was white and appeared bathed in fire. He was then caught up in the Spirit and carried away to the stars in a chariot of fire.

He was taken around the rings of Saturn in a flash and then came back to Earth. As he approached the Earth, the chariot stopped at a distance where he could see the whole circumference of the globe.

5. The Holy Spirit can come and carry you

The Holy Spirit can come and carry you to wherever He wants you to go. The evangelist Philip was bodily carried in this manner over a distance of 28 miles.

> ***ACTS 8:39-40***
> *39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.*
> *40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.*

The prophet Ezekiel, too, was caught up and brought to several places by the Holy Spirit.

> ***EZEKEIL 8:1-3***
> *1. And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth*

day of the month, as I sat in my house with the elders of Judah sitting before me, that the hand of the Lord God fell upon me there.
2 Then I looked, and there was a likeness, like the appearance of fire — from the appearance of His waist and downward, fire; and from His waist and upward, like the appearance of brightness, like the color of amber.
3 He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy.

I once read of how a saintly man of God who lived in India was carried by the Holy Spirit to heaven. Once, during the very early days of his ministry, as he was praying very earnestly with great yearning for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, he heard a voice from heaven saying, "Come up here" (*cp.* Rev 4.1).

He then in a vision saw a gigantic Hand coming down from heaven towards him. When it came near to him, he heard the Holy Spirit say, "Get on My Hand." When he stepped onto the Hand he was carried up to heaven before

the throne of the Lord Jesus.

6 Summons by the Lord Jesus Christ: 'Come up'

Once the summons is issued you are immediately translated the next moment. Consider the following Scripture: "Blessed is the man You choose, And cause to approach You, That he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Of Your holy temple" (Ps 65:4). Look at the first part of this Scripture – *God chooses you*. Some people are chosen and blessed with such gifts because of a particular work they are called to do.

"Sadhu Iyyah (Sir), whenever you visit Palayamkottai you must only stay in my house. Please do not stay in any hotel. We will deem it a great heavenly blessing if you stay in our house," implored a dear sister. Like the Shunammite woman who prepared a room for the prophet Elisha to rest whenever he visited Shunem, this Indian woman and her husband accorded me this grace (*cf.* 2 Kg 4:8-10).

One time, as I was visiting this town, as usual I came to stay with this loving family. As soon as the lady of the house saw me entering the property, she came running from the kitchen and gave me a very warm welcome. I then asked her, "Are you well, my dear sister?" As soon as I asked that question, she fell at my feet and began sobbing uncontrollably. I tried to comfort her, but all my efforts to console her failed.

Seeing her crying profusely I perceived in my spirit that this woman was going through some major problem and she was not able to express that grief and pain in words. I then placed my hands on her head, looked up to heaven and sighed, "Lord Jesus." Immediately, I saw the similitude of the Lord Jesus standing at my right side. How good and gracious for the Lord to visit us!

With great love, He asked me, "My son, what do you want?" I said, "Lord,

please look at your daughter. See how bitterly she is crying." The Lord Jesus then stooped low towards the woman. He cupped his palm as if to collect water and placed it against the left cheek of the woman. All her tears fell into the palm of the Lord Jesus. A small pool of tears was collected in the nail-pierced hand of the Lord Jesus.

The Lord Jesus then stood up and just glanced at me briefly as if signaling, "Come with Me!" The next instant, I found myself standing in the heavenlies in the Spirit. It was a glorious place filled with the Shekinah glory of God. At a distance, I saw what looked like the Ark of the Covenant (Rev 11:19). Upon the Ark and between the wings of the cherubim, I beheld a thick glorious cloud (Ex 19:9; 40:34-35).

The cloud seemed to pulsate with life and was rotating within. A bright glorious golden light seemed to be shining out from within it in all directions. I perceived in my spirit that I was beholding the Cloud of the Heavenly Father's manifest presence. I began to tremble with a holy fear.

The Lord Jesus went near to the Ark and placed all the tears of the woman in a bottle (Ps 56:8). He then knelt down before the Ark and began to pray for the woman. When the Lord Jesus prayed, He wept with much tears as He beseeched God's merciful grace (Heb 5:7; 7:25). Every now and then, He would point His hand to the bottle of tears and say, "Father, look at My daughter's tears."

Finally, there was an ear-splitting voice which thundered from within the cloud, "It is granted." Only then did the Lord Jesus stop praying. He rose up from His knees and came near to me. He looked into my eyes and said, "Go back and tell My daughter that her prayers have been heard and answered." At that moment, I did not yet know what the woman's problems were. The Lord Jesus then revealed to me her four problems, and the answers to her prayers which she would speedily receive.

When I found myself back on earth, I lifted the woman up from the ground

and narrated to her my heavenly experience. When she heard that our good God had graciously provided solutions to her four problems, she was overjoyed and greatly comforted.

I know a prophet living in the US who on the night of Rosh Hashanah a few years ago saw a 12-foot angel blowing a long, golden trumpet. As soon as he heard that sound he saw the heavens open above him and the glory of God shine with blinding brilliance. He then saw the similitude of the Lord standing in the throne room of heaven, and heard the Lord say, "Come up here."

In an instant, he found himself translated to heaven, prostrated before the Throne of God. He found the Throne of God vast beyond human comprehension. The throne seemed made of a solid substance, and at the same time resembled a cloud of glory. Strangely, he found the throne worshiping and singing forth the praises of God. After an audience with the Father God, whose face he could not see – he could only see a Being shrouded in a cloud of glory – he was back in his own home.

7. Translation – being transported across geographical locations on earth

This can take place in two realms – physical and spiritual.

i. ***Physical***

> ***JOHN 6:15-21***
> *15 Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by*

Himself alone.
16 Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea,
17 got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them.
18 Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing.
19 So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid.
20 But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."
21 Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.

The Lord Jesus, the 12 disciples and the boat were all instantly physically transported from the middle of the Sea of Galilee to the shore.

The evangelist Philip was physically transported from one physical location to another – a distance of 28 miles, and it also happened in an instant (Acts 26-40).

ii. ***Spiritual***

> ***1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-5***
> *1. It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles — that a man has his father's wife!*
> *2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.*
> *3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.*
> *4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
> *5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

Before the apostle Paul ever visited the churches in Corinth or Colossae he was translated there in the spirit to behold the state of affairs of the believers (Col

2:5).

iii. ***Time-travel Translation***

> ***JEREMIAH 4:23-26***
> *23 I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light.*
> *24 I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, and all the hills moved back and forth.*
> *25 I beheld, and indeed there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled.*
> *26 I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were broken down at the presence of the Lord, by His fierce anger.*

The prophet Jeremiah claims he saw the creation of the earth. He also saw what some theologians say the first deluge – chaos that took place between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. The prophet Jeremiah lived in the 7th century BC. This means he was taken about 4000 years back in time to see this event. He had a "Back to the Future" *time-travel* experience.

In 1985 I spent about 30 days praying in tongues and waiting on God from 3 AM up to 12 midnight. One day as usual I got up at 3 AM to wait on God. I

bowed before the presence of the Lord and said, “Here I am Lord, your servant, to present myself to You.” When I closed my eyes and waited in the Lord’s presence, in an instant I found myself walking in a desert. My immediate thought was, “How could I be in a desert, when in actual fact I remember praying in my bedroom in India? And where in the world am I?” As I was walking in the desert, I noticed that I was walking beside two tall men. Their appearance and clothing resembled some ancient people, but still I had no clue who these two men were.

Suddenly, the older man looked at the younger man and said, “Lot, lift up your eyes and see, whichever land you take, you go that way; if you take the right, I will go to the left; if you take the south, I will go north.” “Oh my God,” I gasped in wonderment upon realizing that I was standing before the patriarch Abraham and his nephew Lot. I heard their conversation and witnessed the incident mentioned in the Bible (Gen 13: 8-11). I witnessed the patriarch Abraham put his hand on Lot’s shoulder and say, “Take your time and choose.” I was so fascinated and shocked. It was not merely a vision. I was literally there in the Spirit, I was transported some 4,000 years back in time.

I first visited Israel in 1992. When we, the tour group of which I was a part, were somewhere near the Dead Sea, for some strange reason the place looked familiar to me. But that was my first visit to Israel; I had never even seen any videos of Israel prior to that. And yet the place looked familiar as if I’d been there before. So I asked the guide where we were. He said, “We are near the place where Abraham and Lot went their separate ways.” At that moment, feeling goose bumps all over me, I realized how real the experience was which the Lord God graciously and mercifully allowed me to experience in 1985.

Time-travel – traveling back into history or to the future, like the apostle John did when he witnessed the apocalyptic events mentioned in the Book of Revelation, is absolutely possible. And it is only possible in the Spirit realm!

Translation – The Catalyst

Worship facilitates the experience of translation. When we praise and magnify God, He comes to dwell in us, or, you could say, His house is built around us (Ps 22:3). The Bible says, "Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising You" (Ps 84:4). When we continue to praise and worship God in the beauties of holiness – in Spirit and in truth – we are translated to dwell in God's house.

When we worship God in Spirit and in truth, forgetting our flesh, our very self, and become oblivious to our circumstances and surroundings, our soul is translated to stand before God to worship Him. Many believers have felt a strong presence of God surrounding them at such times. Some have even testified that God became so real to them during such times and they have also felt the presence of angels around them. The truth of the matter is that on such occasions our soul is translated to stand in the house of God which makes our experiences so very real.

This is where the Church-at-large has largely missed the mark. We know very little about how to truly praise God, let alone truly *worship* God. Believers engage too much flesh (self) in praise and worship. We must learn to worship God in Spirit and in truth (Jn 4:23-24) and in the beauties of holiness (1 Chr 16:29; 2 Chr 20:21; Ps 29:2; 96:9). One of the fleshly actions exhibited too often is clapping. There is a proper place to do that, but not all the time. At a time when we should be lifting up our hands to bless the living God, most believers led by even well-meaning worship leaders are seen clapping their hands, or even whistling.

Sadly, I first witnessed such an incident at a church in Perth, Australia in 1993. One day, the worship leader brought the congregation into a holy atmosphere of God and the whole congregation was with one heart, one mind, lifting up their voices to heaven. At that moment, a thick cloud of glory was seen coming down over the congregation. Just as the cloud was a few feet away from coming over the congregation, the worship leader said, "Come on, let's give God a clap offering." Everybody started clapping their hands and the cloud of glory lifted up.

Having seen what took place in the Spirit realm, I felt very saddened. When I went up to the pulpit, I narrated what took place and kindly corrected the congregation. The senior pastor of the church went on his knees and repented before God, because he too had seen the cloud coming down and then being lifted up, but did not correct the worship team.

Consider the eagles. When they take off from the ground to soar into the air at first they flap their wings to gain height. They keep on flapping their wings until they reach a certain height. When they are at a certain altitude, they stop flapping their wings and just glide – soaring effortlessly. This is what we must learn to do in worship.

When we begin to praise God, like the eagle flapping its wings to gain height, we begin to climb up the mountain towards God. Once we get "high" in praise we should learn to worship in the beauty of holiness. When God called the prophet Moses to come up the mountain to meet Him, the prophet Moses climbed up Mount Sinai – a climb of about two to three hours. When he reached the top he just waited on God (Ex 24:13-16).

Likewise, we begin to climb high unto God through praises, and once we reach that high place, like an eagle that will just soar around the skies, we must begin to worship God and enter into the most holy place. Most of the worship leaders I have seen around the world, sadly, do not know how to enter into the holy of holies; though a few do. The congregations, too, in general doesn't know how to enter into the holy place.

We have wonderfully anointed singers, psalmists, and musical instruments today, things which the Old Testament people did not have. But the Old Testament worshippers had something that we do not have. Each time they worshiped God the glory of God came down.

2 CHRONICLES 5:11-14

11 And it came to pass when the

priests came out of the Most Holy Place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without keeping to their divisions),
12 and the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets —
13 indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud,
14 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled

the house of God.

Did you read that – the glory of God came and filled the house of God? Why is it that today, with everyone being Spirit-filled, we are not seeing the glory of God? Please observe their manner of worship. They worshiped the beauty of God's holiness (v.13). That is the key!

I had two visitations from the Lord Jesus in 1989. He spoke about how the church should truly worship God. Subsequently the Holy Spirit inspired me to write a book called *The Art of Worship*. The Lord said that the one thing missing today is that the church does not know how to truly worship God in the beauty of holiness. It is only our flesh that we are presenting to God instead of worshipping God in the Spirit as He so desires (Jn 4:23-24).

When we truly worship God in Spirit and in truth by presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice to Him, than our sacrifices will be pleasing unto Him. But when we worship just to parade our fashion and display the flesh, such a sacrifice will stink before God. That was what the Lord once showed me at a certain church. The Lord walked down the aisle and He held His nose with His hand. Turning His face to me He said, "There is stinking flesh here." When Noah offered a sacrifice after coming out from the ark, God smelt a sweet savor (Gen 8:21). But that day in the church, sadly, He smelled stinking flesh.

The Lord God does not want to withhold His glory or the riches of heaven from us. He wants to freely give them to us. We must learn how to come before Him in praise and worship. There is a place for clapping hands, but not all the time. The scriptural way to worship God is the lifting up of hands (1 Tim 2:8).

We must learn to worship God in the beauty of holiness. Then the glories of heaven – the cloud of God's glory – will surround us. The Bible says, "But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel" (Ps 22:3). When the cloud of God's glory surrounds us, the fire of holiness emanating from God's glory will begin to purify and refine our hearts. The fires of God's glory will purify and

refine us so that we can offer a pure sacrifice unto God (Mal 3:2-4).

A Warning!

We should not build our lives on spiritual experiences alone. Consider this passage of Scripture:

> ***MATTHEW 17:1-8***
> *1 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves;*
> *2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.*
> *3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.*
> *4 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."*
> *5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear*

Him!"
6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.
7 But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid."
8 When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

The apostle Peter tried to build his life on this spiritual experience when he said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" (v.4) When the vision ended the Scriptures simply but forcefully shout to us: *they saw no one but Jesus only*.

Don't just seek after experiences, but rather seek the Lord God. We must also seek to build our lives on the word of God.

Why do I say this? Let's read these Scriptures:

MATTHEW 4:5,8
5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,
8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the

world and their glory.

During the temptation of the Lord Jesus, the devil came and first brought Him from the Judean wilderness to Jerusalem and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple. Next we read about the devil taking the Lord to a high mountain.

In both instances the word "took" in Greek is *paralambano* which is used similarly to describe the rapture – *a catching away*. We can safely conclude that the way the devil carried the Lord Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem and later to an exceedingly high mountain in Israel is very similar to how the Holy Spirit carried Philip from Gaza to Azotus (Acts 8:39-40).

What is this – a translation experience? Who gave it? The devil! The devil too can show visions, can imitate the Lord Jesus Christ, and take us places. We hear of such experiences as "levitation" practiced by New gers. The false experiences do not negate the true, though!

So, if we are not grounded in the word of God, we would not be able to know for sure if a certain spiritual experience is a real experience from the Holy Spirit or a deception from the devil. We must first establish our lives on the word of God. Don't seek after experiences. Rather, we must seek the Lord with all our hearts. When we do, spiritual experiences will be a result of our union with the Lord Jesus. This truth is beautifully explained by the Lord in the following Scripture.

JOHN 14:21,23

21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

So, let us learn to wait on the Lord and build our lives on the word of God. Wild donkeys roam the wilderness sniffing the wind to find a mate (Job 39:5-8; Jer 2:24); they are uncontrollable—they run everywhere. That is why the Lord says that a horse or a donkey must be bridled so that they can be controlled (Ps 32:9). Only the word of God can bring balance to our lives, strengthen us and guide us into all truth.

A Biblical Example

There is a biblical example that beautifully illustrates the several blessings of waiting on God.

1 KINGS 19:4-12

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"
5 Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise

and eat."
6 Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.
7 And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you."
8 So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.
9 And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
10 So he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."
11 Then He said, "Go out, and stand

on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake;
12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

In this passage of Scripture, we find the prophet Elijah very discouraged, having lost his sense of mission or purpose. The four spiritual graces which result from waiting on God that we have read about earlier: *being renewed, running, walking* and *mounting up with wings of an eagle* can all be found in the prophet Elijah's experience as recorded in this passage:

1. "But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" (v.4). This shows the prophet Elijah waiting on God. Can you see this principle here? – "He came and sat down under a broom tree… he lay and slept under [it]." Please don't imitate the prophet Elijah in this respect and sleep in church meetings!

2. An angel came and awoke him (on two separate occasions) and said, "Arise and eat, because, the journey is too great for you" (v. 6-7). The angel gave him food to eat so that he might have strength for the journey he was about to undertake – a very great distance – so he needed the angelic food. After eating the angelic food it renewed the

prophet's steel-like resolve. That renewal catapulted him to seek after God.

3. Walk and did not faint: "So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God" (v.8). He walked continuously for 40 days and nights; non-stop! Nobody can do that in their own natural strength.

4. Mounting up with wings like eagles. He had spiritual experiences with God (v.9-12). We read that he experienced the Lord God coming in the great wind, coming in a fire, coming in an earthquake, and finally he heard God speak to him in a still small voice.

This passage is a perfect example of the blessings we can receive when we wait on God. So let us learn to practice this art of waiting on God.

Chapter 4 - Waiting for God

> ***ISAIAH 64:4***
> *4 For since the beginning of the world men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him.*

"No practice in Christian experience is more rewarding than that of waiting for God" said Walter Beuttler, a saintly man of God who walked with God.

Writing to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul gives us somewhat of an interpretive quotation of this Scripture from Isaiah: "But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him'" (1 Cor 2:9).

Notice the difference between the two Scriptures. The prophet Isaiah says, "For the one who *waits for Him*." The apostle Paul states, "…which God has prepared for those who *love Him*." We should look at these two Scriptures as one – like the two edges of a double-edged sword. Together, they are saying that waiting must be based on love, just like one lover waits longingly for their partner. It is because of love that one lover is willing to wait for the other no matter how long it takes.

The juxtaposition of these Scriptures is remarkable, and herein is contained a jewel of revelation. The prophet Isaiah points to the *act of waiting*, whereas the apostle Paul gives us the *motive behind the waiting*. In other words, this waiting is not the waiting of a selfish beggar, but the *waiting of a yearning lover*. It is the *expression of a lover's longing* for the One he loves, rather than

his desire for mere personal advantage. To the Christian, all other blessings are secondary in comparison to the Lord Himself.

Starting in June 1986, for a period of about two months, I was in Himachal Pradesh, India in the course of ministry to the Tibetans. One morning, I sat before the presence of God and began to praise and worship. As I went on praising, I perceived the presence of God increasing within me and around the room. I then beheld the Lord Jesus in the Spirit. Upon seeing the Lord, I clutched His feet and began worshiping His majesty. I then experienced an ecstatic joy and love flowing from the Lord Jesus towards me. In that moment of high and deep intimate worship I experienced oneness with Him.

Lost in His presence, I was rudely brought back to my physical senses by the alarm clock reminding me to go to a meeting. As I was about to rise up from prayer, with a longing look on his face the Lord said, "Must you go? Can't you wait a little longer?" Such a waiting denotes a *preferential affection for God*; willing to give God the first and paramount importance over and above all else.

This preference is well expressed by the Shulamite as:

> ***SONG OF SOLOMON 1:2***
> *2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—for your love is better than wine.*

Herein lies the greatest single secret of effective waiting on God – the secret which, by its very nature, includes all the other essential qualities. *The loving bride prefers the tokens of His affection for her to all earthly pleasures*. She wants Him in preference to all others.

The *joy of His presence* is to the Shulamite the joy of joys. One day in

December 1994 I spent the day worshiping God in Nairobi, Kenya. After a while, I saw the similitude of the Lord Jesus appear near me. So I got off the bed, knelt beside the Lord and asked Him, "Speak Lord, for Your servant will hear." I was surprised by the Lord's answer. He said, "I have merely come to enjoy the worship you are giving unto Me. Go on." Delighted at what the Lord said, I continued worshipping for another hour, singing songs of love to the Lord. He was visibly enjoying it and the presence of the Lord slowly disappeared after an hour.

The Lord's Manifestation

The Heavenly Bridegroom – the Lord Jesus Christ – is offering Himself to every believer who will give themselves to be His spiritual Bride. He is promising a unique revelation to those who will qualify – *pay the price*.

> ***JOHN 14:21***
> *21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

The Amplified Bible translates this Scripture very beautifully: "The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me; and whoever [really] loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I [too] will love him and will show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. [I will let Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him.]"

"Manifest" in Greek is *emphanizo,* meaning: *to exhibit (in person) or disclose (by words): - appear, declare (plainly), inform, (will) manifest, shew, signify*. The true meaning is "to uncover, lay bare, reveal." When the Lord Jesus

appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, it was an *emphanizo* manifestation – an uncovering of His hidden self to bare Himself as real (Mk 16:12; Lk 24:13-35).

The Greek word *emphanizo* clearly means *manifestation to sight*, as distinguished from making evident to the mind. A *clear conspicuous manifestation* – in this realm, to the physical eyes! Westcott says, "It conveys more than the disclosing of an undiscovered presence, or the manifestation of a hidden one." It is the revelation of His bosom. He "unbuttons" his shirt and reveals His bosom. The apostle John lied on His bosom during the last supper (Jn 13:23). As he was lying there, the Lord revealed a secret to him. The bosom is the *gateway* to the secret place of the Most High.

Waiting for God is like lying on the bosom of the Lord. The soul is translated into and transported to the secret places of the heavenly realms.

The bosom of a mother is a place of solace, comfort and rest. Lying on its mother's bosom, the baby receives the milk necessary for life. Likewise, lying on the bosom of the Lord, one finds rest for the soul, comfort for the brokenhearted and solace that flows from being in union with the Being of the Lord. Nursing at its mother's breast, a baby thinks of nothing else but to receive life from its mother. Likewise, lying on the bosom of the Lord, the child of God receives the water of life so freely given to all those who thirst (Jn 7:37-39).

In 2013, the World Health Organization has released a report on the benefits of breast milk. The benefit includes: 27% percent reduction of the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), increased intelligence, decreased likelihood of contracting middle ear infections, cold and flu resistance, a tiny decrease in the risk of childhood leukemia, lower risk of childhood onset diabetes, decreased risk of asthma and eczema, decreased dental problems, decreased risk of obesity later in life, and a decreased risk of developing psychological disorders.

If these benefits are true in the natural, how much more are they true in the

spiritual when "drinking the milk of the Lord" at His bosom. Resting on the Lord's bosom will mean accelerated spiritual growth, increased spiritual wisdom, increased capability of your spiritual ears to hear the voice of the Lord and immunity from disease (Ex 15:26). All these blessings will follow you as a result of lying on the bosom of the Lord while waiting for Him.

The Pulpit Commentary notes: "Who can the wondrous Being be who adds, as a climax of privilege and honor, as though it were more even than the love of the Father. 'I will love him, and will manifest myself to him'? Not merely 'disclose an undiscovered presence,' or make evident a hidden glory, but 'I will take special means to disclose my Person and nature and goodness to him.' Christ will do this to those who have and keep His commandments of *self-forgetting love* and *perfect consecration*."

During my first visit to the United States in 1991, the Lord called me to fast for 40 days. On the 37th day, while waiting on God, I had an encounter. I saw the Ark of the Covenant appear before me. A voice spoke to me from between the cherubim and revealed to me the secrets of prayer exemplified by the furniture in the tabernacle. For a study on this wonderful teaching please read the book, *Prayer Secrets in the Tabernacle*.

In that encounter, the Lord Jesus said, "My desire to manifest Myself to My people is greater than their desire to see Me." Surprised by that statement, I then asked the Lord Jesus, "Lord, if that is true, then why are all Your people not able to see You?" The Lord answered, "It's because My people have no time to wait on Me." The prophet Moses came and waited for God. We, too, must wait for God.

Drawn by God to Himself

LUKE 12:36

36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he

will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately.

Waiting for God is based on a covenant relationship where *God invites* a person to come to meet Him. When you wait for God, He calls you to come in and meet with Him.

On the evening of October 16, 2015, while I was waiting on God during a ministry trip to Tehran, Iran, the Lord Jesus visited me and said, "Waiting for God is *waiting with an appointment* to meet with Me. I initiate the invitation. Then you come and wait for Me."

We read in the book of Exodus that the Lord God called – issued an invitation – to the prophet Moses to come up on the mountain to meet with Him.

EXODUS 24:12-18

12 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."

13 So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up to the mountain of God.

14 And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you.

Indeed, Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them."
15 Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain.
16 Now the glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.
17 The sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.
18 So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

God asked the prophet Moses to come and meet with Him. So he got up early in the morning and when forth to meet God at the appointed place of meeting. From very early in the morning, way before dawn, he waited for God for their appointment. He waited for – abided – for six full days. The cloud covered the mountain. On the seventh day, he heard a voice, "Come!" He then entered into the cloud. He was there with God for forty days and forty nights.

Once, during a live talk show on our television network, *Angel TV*, I was

sharing about the prophet Moses when suddenly I had an open vision of this scene. When God's voice said, "Come," as soon as the prophet Moses' feet stepped into the cloud, he did not just step into a cloud, he stepped into heaven. He was in heaven for 40 days and 40 nights. An angel was assigned to escort him around heaven and showed him all the furniture that he was to construct on this earth.

Finally, he was taken before the throne of the Lord, where he saw a Being seated there. The Lord Jesus – though he did not know the Lord's name as "Jesus" at the time – spoke to him, "See that you do according to all the pattern that was shown to you" (Ex 25:9,40; 26:30; Acts 7:44; Heb 8:5). The prophet Moses was literally taken to heaven and shown every piece of heavenly furniture and its construction for 40 days and 40 nights.

When God invites you, He makes provision for you to enter into His presence. Once, as I was reading the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit by the mercies of God showed me a vision. I saw the prophet Moses come into the Tabernacle in response to hearing God say, "Come, I want to talk with you." He then came and stood waiting before the veil that separates the most holy place from the holy place. After a while, two hands came forth from the Ark of the Covenant and parted the thick veil. A thunder-like voice said, "Come." Finally, when Moses entered the most holy place before the Ark of the Covenant, God spoke with him in an audible voice as a man speaks with his friend (Ex 33:9-11; Num 7:89).

Only God can draw a person to Himself to behold His glory (Num 16:5). You are invited *only* when you wait on God.

Sitting before the Lord

"*Waiting, simply sitting in the conscious awareness of His presence*."

Mary told Jane that she had always valued the time she spent fishing with

her dad. Not being a fishing enthusiast herself, Jane was curious about what Mary found enjoyable. “I just like being with my dad.” Mary said. “So you just fish and talk?” Jane asked her. “Oh, no, we don’t really talk,” Mary said. “We just fish.” Jane looked quizzically at Mary, as if expecting her to say more. “It wasn’t the conversation. It was the company with my father,” Mary finally revealed.

On Oct 6, 2015, while in Cape Town, South Africa for ministry, I was meditating on the phrase “sitting before the Lord” – a concept developed by Walter Beuttler. As I meditated on that phrase, I beheld the Lord in the heavens. I saw the Lord seated on His throne. The seat of the golden throne was wide enough for at least two persons to sit comfortably.

Looking at me, the Lord said, “When you come and sit before Me, you sit with Me on My throne. When you sit beside Me, you can see as I see – the vistas of heaven, the world of mankind, and the worlds to come. When you come to sit before Me, I will cause you to be translated to sit in My heavenly domain to sit with My saints and be taught by them; to sit with My angels and learn of them and sit in the pleasure of paradise and heavenly realms. This invitation is for all. I await to invite all to enter in through Me. I am the Door. This is what it means when I said, ‘I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture’ (Jn 10:9). I am your Good Shepherd who will lead you to ‘lie down in green pastures beside the still waters’ (Ps 23:2). Take My Hand and come walk with Me. I will cause My goodness and mercy to follow you all the days of your life. And I will cause you to dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (Ps 23:6).

“Sitting before the Lord” is the art of waiting before God where the waiters – those who wait before Him – are willing to sit still for once and keep their mouth shut and let their spirit and heart go up to the Lord God in utter silence. It is of this art that the Bible says, “Be still, and know that I am God;” (Ps 46:10).

I read of the experience of the late Rev Kenneth E. Hagin which

exemplifies the concept of sitting before God. He went into his prayer closet one day and began to worship, to delight in, and to wait on God. He then heard God say, "Son, is there anything that you desire that I can do for you?" He replied, "Oh, no, Father. I don't want anything. I just came to abide in Your presence because You are so wonderful, lovely, and full of goodness. You have already provided me with all I need. I did not come before You for anything. I just came to visit You and be near Your presence, Father."

God the Father then said to him, "Son, you don't know how much that delights Me. No earthly father has ever desired the companionship and fellowship of his children more than Me. I desire the fellowship and companionship of My children. I made man so I will have someone to fellowship with. I put Adam on the earth in the garden, and in the cool of the day I went to meet and talk with him." What a blessed privilege just to be able to sit before God.

"How does one sit – that is, wait – before the Lord?" the reader may ask. There are no formulas. But let me narrate Walter Beuttler's habit. You can't copy another person's habit as it is tailor-made to suit one's personality. However, you can duplicate principles.

Before Brother Beuttler would go to bed, he would put two chairs where he could sit comfortably, putting up his feet. Others might fall asleep in such a position, but not Brother Beuttler. When Brother Beuttler would be awakened during the night by the Lord's presence, he would freshen up so that he would not feel sleepy. He had a cover so that he could cover himself up if he felt chilly. He also used two pillows to get nice and comfortable. Then he would just sit there in the dark for hours until dawn waiting for the Lord. He would just sit, waiting on Him, waiting for Him, waiting with Him. He did that for months. Then one day, after about a year, the Lord visited him and blessed him. From that moment on, Brother Beuttler would see the manifest presence of the Lord in his life and ministry.

God Waits for Us

ISAIAH 30:18

18 Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him.

Behold these words: "Therefore will the Lord wait"! It is fathomless to imagine that *God waits for us to wait for Him.*

He will do a work of grace. You might sit there for an hour or two hours and *seemingly* absolutely nothing happens. That could go on for days and weeks, but sooner or later something will happen. You will discover that something is indeed taking place.

I had always wondered why the prophet Moses had to wait for God for six days on Mount Sinai when it was the Lord God Himself who invited him to come to meet him (Ex 24:12-18). Upon carefully reading Isaiah 30:18, I now understand that the prophet Moses wasn't just waiting for God; rather, in the light of that Scripture, it was God who was waiting for him. God waited for the prophet Moses to condition his human faculties to receive revelation and to bring his flesh into complete submission.

God is waiting for us too, in order to do a work of grace in us even as He uses the period of waiting as His opportunity to do in us what cannot be done in any other way. He takes His time to accomplish in us a work which will result in His exaltation and our abasement.

Let us consider this Scripture: "For since the beginning of the world men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides

You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him" (Isa 64:4). In the original Hebrew it reads, "Who works for him that has waited for him." In other words, *as we begin to wait, God will begin to work*.

Let's say you get up in the middle of the night and start waiting. According to Isa 64:4 and 1 Cor 2:9, you can say to the Father, "Father, I'm waiting on You to do for me a new thing. I don't know what that thing is, but I know it is something new and wonderful. I want a new experience. Your Word says that the things You have prepared for Your children who love you have not even entered into their hearts yet – and here I am and I love you!" These things are already prepared by God for you and they are made available to you as you wait.

Let us consider another experience of Brother Beuttler as an example of waiting for God, or rather, God waiting for him. Over the course of a week, every night and day he would lay on the church floor. He spent his nights there, waiting for God. He would go over to his house for a few hours' sleep, but most of the nights he was on the floor – or walking around, praying. A whole week went by without him feeling anything – no presence, no manifestation. He just felt dead, empty and dry. But he didn't give up. He wanted something so bad from God.

After about a week, all of a sudden – like a thief in the night – the Lord came and stood behind the altar railing. Brother Beuttler saw the Lord face to face, in person, dressed in white. He ran up to the Lord and knelt beside Him. The Lord looked at him and spoke to him.

Brother Beuttler continued sitting before the Lord – waiting for the Lord – even after this encounter. He sought the Lord at every opportunity, especially at night. He would get up in the night to seek the Lord, to worship Him, and just to sit in His presence. That went on for some time; but then the Lord began to reveal Himself through deep encounters.

Brother Beuttler would get up about 2:30 AM, sit before the Lord and just

admire Him, keeping Him company. He uses to say, "Lord, so many of Your people are asleep now. I want to spend a little time with You to keep You company." One night, the Lord Jesus walked into their cottage. Brother Beuttler heard Him walk about. The Lord then spoke to him in an audible voice.

The Lord then walked toward him from behind. Brother Beuttler felt the Lord bending over him from behind. He then literally felt a sensation of drops falling on top of his head. Instinctively, Brother Beuttler knew that these were the teardrops of His appreciation for someone who would get up in the middle of the night for no other reason than to keep Him company.

Spiritual Senses Quicken

When sitting in the presence of God, God will cultivate within us a spiritual discernment to the degree that we can even discern the mood of the Holy Spirit. Remember the Scripture that says, "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption (Eph 4:30).

"Grieve" in Greek is *lupeo* meaning: *to cause pain, or grief, to distress, grieve; pain of body or mind*. These are emotions. The Holy Spirit – the gentle dove that He is – can feel pain and be grieved by us.

Sitting before God, slowly, step by step, we are drawn closer to Him to feel Him with all our being. When you move your finger closer and closer to a lit candle you can feel its heat getting stronger. Likewise, we can sense when He's grieved; we can sense when He's agitated. We can sense – *feel* – His brooding within us when He wants to teach and inspire us. Through this waiting our spirits become sensitized to the Holy Spirit.

Night Visitations

PSALMS 17:3

3 You have tested my heart; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.

By this Scripture we understand that the Lord does visit His people in the night watches.

"Visit" in Hebrew is *paqad* meaning: *to visit (with friendly or hostile intent), to number, be concerned with, look after, make a search for*. This very ancient Semitic word is found in both Akkadian and Ugaritic long before it appears in Hebrew. It is used over 285 times in the Old Testament.

King David was a great lover of God. Read here what the great psalmist says of the *night-watch* visits of the Lord.

PSALMS 8:3-4

3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained,
4 What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?

The heavenly bodies are the works of our God's hand. The Universe contains many stars and planetary bodies. It consists of innumerable galaxies. A galaxy is a gravitationally bound system of stars, stellar remnants, interstellar gas, dust, and dark matter. Galaxies range in size from dwarfs with just a few

thousand stars to giants with one hundred trillion stars, each orbiting their galaxy's own center of mass. Approximately 170 billion (1.7 × 1011) to 200 billion (2.0 × 1011) galaxies exist in the observable universe. What about those in the unseen universe?

The Milky Way is the galaxy that contains our Solar System. Its name "milky" is derived from its appearance as a dim glowing band arching across the night sky whose individual stars cannot be distinguished by the naked eye. The Milky Way is estimated to contain 200–400 billion stars, although this number may be as high as one trillion. There are probably at least 100 billion planets in the Milky Way.

Whew! Among this astronomical numbers of heavenly bodies, the earth is just one *tiny dot* in our galaxy. In this tiny dot lives man – a miniscule dust particle from that tiny dot. That being the case, the question being asked by the Scripture above is: *Man is a mere dust. What is so special about him that the great and almighty God of this whole universe should come and visit him?* Is it because man is a part of Him – possessing His spirit and created in His image? What fathomless love! What great unimaginable love! It is a wonder even to the angels in glory.

When this great God who holds this whole universe by the power of His Word comes to visit man in the night-watches, shouldn't we be alert and waiting for Him?

So what should we do? How should we respond to the visit of the Lord? The answer to this question is given by the Lord Himself.

REVELATION 3:20

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him

and dine with him, and he with Me.

The Lord has visited. He is standing outside and knocking. Have you ever felt awakened in the night? That is the Lord's gentle knocking. Some believers have heard their names being called out as was the case of young Samuel (1 Sam 3:4,6,10). Others have felt a hand touch them to wake them up. But how have we responded? Sadly, most of us failed to listen to the Lord's voice; we just turn over and go back to sleep.

As I am writing this on December 9, 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, the Holy Spirit is brooding over my spirit and gently whispering, "Look at the second part of this Scripture." The Lord wants to come *into* you and make His abode inside your spirit body – which is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

All this while, even up to the moment of this writing, I thought that this Scripture was meant for unbelievers. Most preachers preach evangelistic messages to unbelievers saying, "Behold, the Lord is standing at the door of your heart and knocking on it. Will you open your heart and receive Him as your Lord and Savior?" I, myself, have done that for years until the Holy Spirit illumined my understanding. The word "come" in Greek is *eiserchomai* meaning, *to enter into, to come into, to go into*. The Lord Jesus will *literally* come towards us so that we may see His manifestation and then He will abide *in* us.

There was once a very saintly man of God from India named Sadhu Sundar Singh, also known as the Apostle of the Bleeding Feet. One day, he went to a forest in the Himalayas to pray, meditate, and wait on God. He poured out his love to God in prayer. When he arose from baring his heart before the Lord in prayer, he was graced to behold the Lord Jesus standing in front of him in all His splendor, majesty, and glory.

Lightning-like rays of life-giving love poured from the Lord Jesus with incredible power into him, bathing his soul. Then the Lord opened the inner

chamber of his heart with the key of His love and filled it with His presence. From that instant on, he could look at the Lord standing beside him and inside him at the same time (2 Cor 6:16).

When the Lord Jesus comes to dwell in and with us He makes His abode in us. The word "abode" in Greek is *mone* meaning *home, mansion, permanent place*. One early morning in 1994, as I was in the Mount Kailash region ministering to the Tibetans living there, I was pouring out my heart in prayer saying, "Lord, when will You come into me to make Your abode there?" This was a prayer I had been praying for a very long time.

As I was thus praying, I saw the Lord Jesus standing outside our tent. I got up from sitting in prayer and went out to meet the Lord. As I looked at Him with a longing heart, the Lord said, "My dear son, I have come this day to make My abode in you." Saying that, the Lord Jesus entered – walked right into me. I felt Him in His fullness – from head to toe. From then onwards, I could always see the Lord inside me and outside me by my side. This, perhaps, is what the Psalmist meant when he said: "I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved" (Ps 16:8).

The Lord promised that after dwelling in us, he would then dine with us. "Dine" in Greek is *deipneo* meaning *to sup (said of taking the chief meal of the day)*. He will come to serve us His very own flesh and blood (Jn 6:51-57). God dining with man is not a strange other-worldly event. The Bible records the following incidences of this:

1. The God of Israel ate with the 70 elders of Israel – Ex 24:9-11
2. The Lord Jesus broke bread and fed the two disciples on the road to Emmaus – Lk 24:13-30
3. After His resurrection He ate with His disciples – Lk 24:39-43
4. After His resurrection the Lord fed the disciples – Jn 21:13

The saint Sadhu Sundar Singh said, “Man’s heart is the very throne and citadel of God, and when He enters there to abide, heaven begins.” Therefore, when we wait for God, the Father and the Son will love us with a strong and intimate love which causes them to come and dwell in us. What a privilege of waiting on God! (Jn 14:21,23)

What to Do When Awakened?

So, what do you do when you are awakened by the Lord? Let us see what King David did.

> ***PSALMS 63:6-7***
> *6 When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.*
> *7 Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.*

This is what you should be doing when the Lord comes to visit you. When the Lord comes to visit you, He should find you meditating on His name. Lying on his bed, King David would review all the good things God had done for him. Kick the ancient practise of “counting sheep” before falling to sleep and meditate on the goodness and kindness of God in your life.

King David also remembers – that is, meditates on – the name of God.

> ***PSALMS 119:55***
> *55 I remember Your name in the night, O Lord, and I keep Your law.*

A psalmist in Chennai, India wrote a beautiful song that says that Jehovah God has one thousand names. According to which one of these shall I praise Him right this moment? The Lord God has so many names because they describe His matchless character.

To think upon the name of the Lord is to think upon Who God is. His name is Who He is. His name is His character. Consider the following Scriptures concerning the manner in which the Lord God revealed His name to the prophet Moses.

EXODUS 34:5-7

5 Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord.
6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,
7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

When God proclaimed His name to the prophet Moses, it was His character that He was proclaiming!

Lying on your bed you could earnestly and longingly desire the presence of the Lord.

> ***ISAIAH 26:9***
> *9 With my soul I have desired You in the night, Yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early;*

When you lie on your bed, desire the Lord with all your heart like how the Shulamite of Song of Solomon: "By night on my bed I sought the one I love" (Song 3:1). When you sit before the Lord in the stillness of the night let your heart soar like a kite, desiring His presence. Let your desire go out after Him; direct the desire of your heart toward Him. When you do that, as the bridegroom came looking for his Shulamite bride, so will the Lord come to visit you in the night (Song 5:2).

Keep on seeking and waiting for Him to show up. "How long will it take?" you may ask. There are no hard and fast rules nor formulas for that. We read earlier that the Lord tests our heart when we seek Him (Ps 17:3). What does He tests? Our *willingness* to wait for Him no matter how long it takes. Are we willing to pay the price to forego the basic necessity of the human body – sleep – for a higher gain?

How to Sit Before the Lord

When we come and wait for – sit before – the Lord what should our attitude be?

1. ***Rest***

> ***PSALMS 37:7***

7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him;

How does this Scripture read in some other translations of the Bible?

Amplified: "Be still and rest in the Lord; wait for Him and patiently lean yourself upon Him;"

Complete Jewish Bible: "Be still before Adonai; wait patiently till he comes."

The Message: "Quiet down before God, be prayerful before him."

Young's: "Be silent for Jehovah, and stay thyself for Him."

"Rest" in Hebrew is *damam* which means *to be dumb.* It conveys the thought: *cease from striving within, hold your peace, quiet yourself, rest, be silent, keep (put to) silence, be (stand) still, tarry, wait.* The phrase "wait patiently" in Hebrew is *chuwl* or *chiyl,* meaning: *to twist or whirl (in a circular or spiral manner), i.e. to wait.* It is a call to relax from all stress, to abandon all fear, to simply give ourselves up to God and be quiet before Him.

"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him." This waiting is a *state of objective rest with confident anticipation*. Rotherham's translation of this Scripture says: "Be resigned to Yahweh, yea, wait with longing for Him." This longing is the *yearning of love*. It will inevitably lead to numerous favors by which God's love and power will be displayed, yet the primary object of this waiting is God Himself. Not the blessing, but the Blesser.

On Dec 5, 2015, during a ministry trip to Lao, as I was meditating on this Scripture in the morning the Holy Spirit asked me, "Do you really want to know

what it means to rest in God?" "Yes," I answered. He said, "It is *not* doing the works that the Father Himself is not doing." Isn't this what the Lord Jesus Himself said? That He *only* did the works which He saw the Father doing (Jn 5:19,30)? This is the true rest – the Sabbath rest. Where you cease from your own works (Heb 4:10). That rest, then, is the ultimate art of waiting on God.

2. ***Patience***

> ***PSALMS 40:1***
> *1 I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me, and heard my cry.*

Waiting for God requires quiet endurance which is often due to the necessity of first conditioning our spirit for that which is to follow. The impatient restlessness of the human spirit must be subdued before God can manifest Himself to us. We should not rush or hurry.

The original Hebrew text of the latter part of Isaiah 64:4 says, "You work for him who waits for you" (CJB). Here we see God carrying out a work of preparation on behalf of the one who is waiting for Him**.** God works while we wait.

3. ***Constancy***

> ***PROVERBS 8:34***
> *34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.*

We must be diligent, persistent, disciplined and constant in our waiting for the Lord. It must be a daily waiting, too. It must be borne out of a deep hunger and yearning for the Lord. The true seeker is willing to wait indefinitely, if necessary.

4. *Anticipation*

> ***LAMENTATION 3:24-25***
> *24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"*
> *25 The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.*

We need to wait anticipating His arrival at any time. "If not today, perhaps tomorrow" – that is how I think and feel every time I am invited by the Lord to wait for Him. It should be like a child-like anticipation of getting gifts for one's birthday or for Christmas.

Such was the anticipation of King David when he said, "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" (Psalm 42:1-2).

It is the Lord who creates this longing in our souls to initiate an invitation if we responded to His knocking. When we yield to His wooing, we will reach a climactic spiritual experience – *ecstasy*. God will surely reward the earnest believer – the seeker who waits for Him.

Let's consider a classic example of waiting for God.

> ***ESTHER 5:1-3***

1 Now it happened on the third day
that Esther put on her royal robes and
stood in the inner court of the king's
palace, across from the king's house,
while the king sat on his royal throne
in the royal house, facing the
entrance of the house.
2 So it was, when the king saw Queen
Esther standing in the court, that she
found favor in his sight, and the king
held out to Esther the golden scepter
that was in his hand. Then Esther
went near and touched the top of the
scepter.
3 And the king said to her, "What do
you wish, Queen Esther? What is your
request? It shall be given to you — up
to half the kingdom!"

1. Esther stood in the inner court of the king's palace (v.1-2), i.e. she waited patiently for the king without saying anything until he took notice of her.

2. Because she waited for the king, she then found favor in his eyes to be granted her heart's desire.

While walking across the paddy-fields in the vicinity of a temple, a disciple said to a revered sage, "Master, I have been worshipping God and

calling upon his name for many years. I am living a chaste life, I have served friends and strangers alike to the best of my abilities. But the Almighty is still unattainable to me. Many a times I have thought that the time I have devoted to prayer and meditation has all been a waste.

The Master smiled. Then, pointing towards the tillers of the soil working in nearby fields, he said, "There are two classes of farmers – those who are farmers by birth, because their ancestors were farmers. They keep on tilling the soil even though it does not rain for years and they harvest no crop. Come famine, come floods, they despair not! They do not desert their fields. And there is another group of farmers who take to tilling the land with the sole motive of making a profit. Thus, they are disheartened by a single season of drought."

The Master continued, "The true devotee of God never gives up his service of devotion. He keeps on repeating the Name of God, continues singing the glories of the Beloved and keeps seeking even though he has not once been blessed with a vision of God!"

The believer in search of God must do likewise. If you still have not had a vision of God after several months of strenuous devotional practice, do not give up. Rather, intensify your efforts and wait patiently. And always remember – the Lord's appearing to those who seek His is as certain as the dawn! (Hos 6:1-3).

Blessed are all they who wait for Him (Isa 30:18)

Chapter 5 - Meditating on the Word

Eagles do not eat dead things. They feed on fresh prey. Vultures eat dead animals, but not eagles. What does that mean to us? We must stay clear of outdated and old information. We must *hunt* for fresh revelations from God.

Another integral aspect of waiting on God is meditating on the Word of God. "How is mediating the Word part of the waiting process?" you may ask. Let us consider a very familiar incident from the gospels which is normally interpreted as a warning against being too busy.

> ***LUKE10:38-42***
> *38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.*
> *39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.*
> *40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."*
> *41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many*

things.
42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

The Lord Jesus visited the home of Lazarus. For some reason Lazarus was not home but his two sisters, Martha and Mary, were. They loved the Lord as daughters would love their fathers. As soon as the Lord entered their house, Martha was the first to greet the Lord with great excitement. She helped the Lord to His seat and called for Mary to wait on the Lord.

Mary, being the youngest and quite shy, greeted the Lord with a slight bow, a Middle Eastern custom. She then sat by the feet of the Lord Jesus. Like a loving father, the Lord Jesus held her chin and asked her about her welfare. She looked longingly at the Lord, many deep spiritual questions rolling around in her mind. Perceiving her thoughts, He began to teach her.

Now, please observe what is taking place here:

1. The Lord Jesus, who is the Word Himself, is seated before Mary.
2. Mary sat at the feet of the Lord – she waited on Him.
3. Mary heard the Word – meditated on and absorbed the Word taught by the Word Himself.

When you wait on God as you meditate on the Word you are also abiding in Him.

JOHN 15:5
5 "I am the vine, you are the

branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Abiding is waiting on God through meditating on the Word of God. Interestingly, several other translations of this Scripture exemplify the definition of waiting on God that we have been studying in the previous chapters.

1. *The Living Bible*: "Yes, I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever **lives in Me** and I in him shall produce a large crop of fruit. For apart from me you can't do a thing."

2. *New Living Translation*: "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who **remain in Me**, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

3. *Complete Jewish Bible*: "I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who **stay united with Me**, and I with them, are the ones who bear much fruit; because apart from me you can't do a thing."

4. *The Message*: "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're **joined with Me** and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing."

5. *Wuest Expanded New Testament*: "As for myself, I am the vine. As for you, you are the branches. He who **maintains a living communion with Me** and I with him, this one is bearing much fruit, because apart from me you are not able to be doing anything."

The phrases *live in Me, remain in Me, stay united with Me, joined with Me*

and *maintain a living communion with Me* all exemplify the art of waiting on God. This art is achieved through the meditation on the Word of God.

"Abide" in Greek is *meno* which means *to stay (in a given place, state)*. Through meditation on God's Word we stay still in His presence, uniting our heart and mind with the Holy Spirit in an attitude of quietness.

Meditation, like waiting on God, is a lost art today but was practiced in biblical days and in early Christianity. We do lots of reading and research into the Word, but that is not mediation. The Bible is not an ordinary book composed of paper and printed with black ink to fill up the pages. No!

Every word in the Bible is breathed by the Spirit of God (2 Tim 3:16). That is why even after 5000 years, anyone anywhere reading the Word of God is convicted, edified and inspired. To understand the deeper reality and truths contained within the Word of God, we must learn to meditate on it. The Lord Jesus said that His words are Spirit and life (Jn 6:63).

When we mediate on the Word of God, it strengthens us. The Lord Jesus said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'" (Matt 4:4).

In the morning of February 23, 2015, as I was meditating on Isaiah 40:31, I saw a vision. In the vision I saw a person holding a flaming sword. The blade was aflame. As I was watching, the blade broke. At first, I thought the blade broke at the joint between the handle and the main shaft. But then I realized that the blade did not break – in fact, it opened. When it opened, I saw numerous green leaves that also resembled wings come forth form it, ready to cover someone like an armor. Waiting on God by meditating on the Word makes one strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Eph 6:10).

Man can survive not only by physical food, but also by the words of the Bible. How did the people of Israel survive in the desert for 40 years? They did

not eat pizza, hamburgers, or KFC. They just fed on bread – the manna – from heaven (Ps 78:24-25). None of their clothes wore out and none of their shoes gave out (Deu 29:5). Not only did God supernaturally feed them, God kept all their clothes supernaturally clean and their sandals serviceable for 40 years (Neh 9:21).

Here is a mystery. *Manna*, is angels' food in heaven (Ps 78:25). Everything in heaven has life – the *zoe* life – which is the divine life of God. The *zoe* life quickened the Israelites' mortal bodies and shielded them from sickness and decay during the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.

Secondly, they were also fed with *corn* – the bread of heaven (Ps 78:24; 105:40). The Lord Jesus proclaimed, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven" (Jn 6:32). What is this bread? It is the Word that God spoke to the prophet Moses on Mount Sinai. The prophet Moses wrote it down and rehearsed it in the hearing of the Israelites every day. It was their meditation all the day. Hearing the word and meditating on it was like eating the word – eating the bread of heaven. All that is of heaven has the *zoe* life, please remember that!

Let's consider for a moment this strange word "corn" used here in Psalms 78:24 in the KJV Bible. It is also translated as *grain from heaven*.

> ***PSALMS78:24***
> *24 And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven.*

What is corn according to our natural understanding? What does science tell us about the properties of corn? Corn grows in "ears," each of which is covered by rows of kernels that are then protected by the silk-like threads called "corn silk" and encased in a husk. Corn is known by the scientific name *Zea*

mays. This reflects its traditional name, *maize*, by which it was known to the Native Americans as well as many other cultures throughout the world.

Health Benefits of Corn

Antioxidant Benefits

While it might sound surprising to some people who are used to thinking about corn as a plain staple food, a snack food, or a summertime party food, corn is actually a unique phytonutrient-rich food that provides us with well-documented antioxidant benefits. In terms of conventional antioxidant nutrients, corn is a good source of the mineral manganese. But it is corn's phytonutrients that have taken center stage in the antioxidant research on this plant. When all varieties of corn are considered as a group, the list of corn's key antioxidant nutrients appears as follows: *Anthocyanins, beta-carotene, caffeic acid, coumaric acid, ferulic acid, lutein, syringic acid, vanillic acid, protocatechuic acid and zeaxanthin.*

Digestive Benefits

Corn fiber is one of the keys to its well-documented digestive benefits. Recent research has shown that corn can support the growth of friendly bacteria in our large intestine and can also be transformed by these bacteria into short chain fatty acids (SCFAs). These SCFAs can supply energy to our intestinal cells and thereby help lower our risk of intestinal problems, including our risk of colon cancer.

Blood Sugar Benefits

Given its high fiber content, its ability to provide many B-complex vitamins including vitamins B1, B5 and folic acid, and its notable protein

content (about 5-6 grams per cup), corn is a food that would be expected to provide blood sugar benefits. Fiber and protein are key macronutrients for stabilizing the passage of food through our digestive tract. Sufficient fiber and protein content in a food helps prevent overly rapid or overly slow digestion of that food. By evening out the pace of digestion, protein and fiber also help prevent overly rapid or overly slow uptake of sugar from the digestive tract up into the bloodstream. Once the uptake of sugar is stabilized, it is easier to avoid sudden spikes or drops in blood sugar.

Wow! If mere natural corn can have this many health benefits can you imagine how much goodness the "corn of heaven" had done to the Israelites' physical well-being? No wonder there was no feeble person among the millions of Israelites in the wilderness who ate manna and the corn of heaven (Ps 105:37).

The third way in which God transferred His life to the Israelites in addition to the manna and the corn of heaven, quickening their body and soul, was the Presence of God in the form of "a cloud by day and pillar of fire by night" (Ex 13:21; Num 14:14; Deu 1:33). The *Breath of God* emanated from His presence in the cloud and fire. This is the same breath of God breathed into Adam's nostrils on the day he was created (Gen 2:7). As soon as Adam received that breath he became a living soul.

The Amplified Bible translates the phrase "breath of God" as *spirit of life* (Gen 2:7, AMP). The Spirit of life – the *zoe* life – emanated constantly from the presence of God to envelope the millions of Israelites every moment. It is this life that even caused inanimate objects like clothes to grow together with them and kept their sandals from wearing out (Deu 8:4; Neh 9:21).

Such blessings – such spiritual health benefits – are inherent in the written Word of God, the Bible. Did not the Lord Jesus say, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (Jn 6:35) and "the words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life" (Jn 6:63). When we believe God's word with all our heart doubting nothing, we

will reap the blessings and benefits of the creative and quickening power inherent in the word of God.

Talk about Kingdom living! The people of God experienced it in the Old Testament days. New Testament saints can fare no worse than the Old Testament saints. If they could be supernaturally sustained, so can we, and much more besides.

Bible Meditation

I first started preaching in the churches in Singapore in 1991. A dear pastor told me on one occasion, "Brother Sadhu, your messages are wonderful; you give revelatory teachings; when you pray, the power of God comes down powerfully; however, only one thing is lacking in your message." Since he was a learned teacher of the Word, I thought he saw some error in my teaching. So I said, "Please correct me". He said, "You must back up your messages with Greek and Hebrew words." "Okay, if I use Greek and Hebrew words," I replied, "would the congregation understand?" He said, "No, they may not understand, but it will spice up your sermons."

Later in the day during my time of prayer I asked the Lord Jesus, "Why did You not allow me to go to a Bible School? If I had been allowed, then I also will be able to quote Hebrew and Greek words and understand the Scriptures better." I began to pour out my heart to the Lord Jesus. I asked the Lord to give me Greek and Hebrew words because the people wanted it. I implored the Lord, "Lord, they all say if I added Greek and Hebrew words, I could give them the richer meanings of the Word of God."

Looking graciously at me, the Lord Jesus said, "My dear son, to understand the Word, you don't need to know Greek or Hebrew. All you need is to know My Spirit." That settled the issue once and for all. The Bible tells us that every Word of God came by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Tim 3:16). If it is the Holy Spirit who had breathed the Word, then we must know the Holy

Spirit. Only then can we unveil all the richness of the Word that the Lord Jesus actually spoke.

The Lord Jesus says one thing, yet we understand another. We then come up with all kinds of theological dissertations. For example, Isaiah 40:31 says, "they that wait upon the Lord shall lift up with wings like eagles." The Scripture means what it says! If you go to any theological seminary, however, they will tell you that "wings like eagles" is figurative language. I proved in the previous chapter that it is not merely figurative language. It is real! When we meditate on the Word of God, the Holy Spirit comes to help us and inspires our mind (Jn 14:26).

What is meditation? There are two specific Hebrew words and one Greek word to convey the concept of meditation.

1. *Hagah* means *to muse, to think, to consider, to reflect deep thoughts*, *to murmur, mutter, speak, study, talk.* The word 'hagah' has to do with the mind.

2. *Siyach* means *to speak to oneself*; *to ponder–converse with oneself aloud–a contemplation, a reflection.*

3. The Greek word *meletao* means *to take counsel in the mind*, *to take care of, i.e., to resolve in the mind, imagine*.

Let us study a little deeper the Hebrew word *hagah.* Its root is closely related to the word *thought* (e.g. Ps. 19:15; Is. 33:18). Hence *hagah* can be precisely defined as *contemplation*. Its root also refers to *speech* (e.g. Ps. 35:28; 37:30; 71:24). In this respect *hagah* has the connotation of both *speech* and *thought*.

This definitions indicate a sound or thought that is repeated over and over,

like the cooing of a dove or the growling of a lion. It is the constant repetition of the Word of God either verbally or mentally until it becomes part of our being (Josh 1:8; Ps 1:2). Another closely related base-root to *hagah* is *chag*, which refers *to anything that is cyclic or repeated*. It is from this base-root that we get the word *circle*. In this sense *hagah* means *to repeat something over and over, periodically and cyclically*.

Meditation can therefore be defined thus: *A contemplative reflection of something by pondering and resolving in the mind and by conversing with oneself in a murmur and/or loud manner*. In this definition, we find the "two-in-one" method of meditation: Firstly, *by conversing with oneself in a murmur and/or loud manner*; secondly, *a contemplative reflection of something by pondering and resolving in the mind*. Put simply, to meditate is *to deeply ponder and reflect in the mind something of which you are speaking to yourself.*

Simply put, "meditation" *is the reflection of deep thoughts by musing in the mind and speaking aloud to oneself*. In a nutshell, what it really means is this: when you have a problem, you just sit down and think about your problem, or even speak to yourself "How do I solve this?" don't you? That is the negative aspect of meditation. You can turn it around and make it positive. Just use that same principle for the Word of God. For example, let's consider Matthew 5:8: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Keep reciting this scripture. As you do so, your mind should ponder and focus on that Word. When you bring your mind and mouth together in oneness, your mind is not going to wander anywhere else.

Why does your mind wander when you read your Bible? It's because you are so quiet doing your meditation. When you are quiet, your mind is empty. It likes to go somewhere – window shopping in forbidden territories. You may have also experienced this when you are praying in tongues; your mind takes flight. Why? Because when you are praying in tongues, your mind has no work to do (1 Cor 14:14). It gets bored waiting for you. So it goes for a ride.

However, if you discipline your mind to become one with your spirit, then,

whatever you pray in the spirit, your mind can interpret and understand it instantly (1 Cor 14:15). You don't have to wait for the interpretation to come. As you are praying in the Spirit, you will know what you are praying. The mind becomes one with your spirit and your mind and your spirit become one with the Holy Spirit.

This is Biblical meditation: Take the Word of God. Ponder over it and speak it aloud. This is the correct form of reading the Bible. You don't read quietly to yourself. That's wrong. You must open the mouth and speak aloud. As you are speaking aloud, your mind thinks upon the word.

The Scripture says, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight" (Ps 19:14). The uttering of the Word of God and the pondering of God's Word in the heart must become one, which is acceptable and pleasing to the Holy Spirit. Such a discipline brings you into oneness with the Spirit of the Lord. When you become bound up with the Spirit of the Lord, the results are powerful!

We studied earlier that one of the Hebrew words for meditation is *hagah*. A leading Israeli etymologist *Rabbi Solomon Pappenheim* discovered that the root *hagah* comes from a two-letter base *hag. Hag* is closely related to another word derived from the word *nahag. Nahag* means *to lead, direct, or steer,* and carries the connotation of having *many motions directed toward one goal.* Meditation, simply restated, *is the process of directing the thoughts towards God*. The act of meditation also purifies and clears the mind of any impurities, so that the heart and mind are blended in oneness and thoughts of prayer directed toward God.

Loving the Lord of the Word

The word of the Lord once came to me saying, "Tell my people to love me, and the Word abiding in them will cause them to see me" (Jn 14:21). Loving the Word and seeing the Lord Jesus go hand in hand. When we love certain kinds of

food, we will eat them with great delight and in large quantities. As for those things you don't like, you may fast and pray; many do!

One afternoon a certain woman gave her young daughter four jellybeans, letting her know that this was all the candy she was going to receive. After practically inhaling the first three candies, the young girl lingered over the final one. She sucked on it, took it out of her mouth, bit into it, sucked on it some more, then gnawed at the outer shell. Knowing that this was her last jellybean, she took a full 45 minutes to relish the treat to the fullest.

The mother observed her little girl with amusement. It occurred to her that she was watching her daughter learn the value of savoring–enjoying taste and texture and learning to draw out every possible bit of flavor from the pleasurable experience.

Likewise, you must love the Word and eat it with delight and not do it out of compulsion or duty. It should not become a ritual, such that if you don't do it, you feel condemned. If you fall into ritualism, the purpose is defeated. Let's consider John 14:21: "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." If you claim you love the Lord your God, then you must meditate on God's word. This is a command from the Lord Jesus Christ.

When you meditate on the Word, you are meditating on *Him* who gave the Word out of Himself. It is like when the Lord God took a bone out of Adam and made Eve (Gen 2:21-23). That is why it is so powerful to meditate on God's Word. You are actually meditating on the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. When you are partaking of the Word of God, you are feasting on the Lord Jesus Himself – *on His flesh*.

The Lord Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven" (Jn 6:51). The Greek word for "bread" is *artos*, meaning *bread (*perhaps derived from *aro, "to fit together,"* or from a root *ar—, "the earth"),* signifies *a small*

loaf or cake, composed of flour and water, and baked, in shape either oblong or round, and about as thick as the thumb. These loaves were not cut, but broken and consecrated to the Lord every Sabbath and called the "showbread." You can nibble off bits and pieces until the entire loaf is consumed. When you meditate the Word of God, you get a revelation of Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Didn't the Lord Jesus say, "You search the Scriptures for in them you think you will find eternal life; yet these are they which testify of Me" (Jn 5:39).

When you meditate on the Word of God, you are entering into the bosom of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Scriptures say that Jesus Christ is in the bosom of His Father (Jn 1:18). Do you know where the bosom of the Lord Jesus is? When the Lord Jesus died on the cross, the Scriptures say, "A Roman soldier took a spear and pierced His side" (Jn 19:34). A way was made for you on the cross.

Now you can enter into the bosom of God through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb 4:15; 10:19). The apostle Paul wrote that we can enter into the Holy of Holes with all boldness by the blood of the Lord Jesus (Heb 4:16; 10:19). The throne of God is accessed through the bosom of the Lord Jesus Christ. How can you enter into the bosom? By meditating on the Word of God. When you meditate on the Word of God, you are translated into His bosom.

Transforming Power of God's Word

About 20 years ago, I was ministered in a church in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. One day I didn't have to preach, so I spent it fasting, praying, and waiting on God. Towards the end of the day, I decided to engage in spiritual research. I decided to research the spiritual implications of meditating on the name of "Jesus." So I got myself into a quiet state of mind, collecting all my thoughts into one thought. I then repeated the name "Jesus" over and over again.

As I meditated, before my spiritual eyes I saw the letters "J E S U S" appeared in the heavenlies. I kept on looking at the word "Jesus" and kept meditating on it. The letters of our Lord's name got brighter and brighter,

increasing in glory, until they transformed into the person of the Lord Jesus Himself, standing in the heavenlies. I saw with my eyes how the word “Jesus” became flesh! (Jn 1:14).

When I saw the Lord Jesus Christ, I kept on meditating on Him. A light from the center of the Lord Jesus began to shine out. It grew in size until the Lord was engulfed in a ball of light. The Holy Spirit said to me that this was how the Lord Jesus Christ looked like, witnessed by the apostles Peter, James, and John, on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt 17:2).

I kept on meditating. The ball of light increased in intensity until it became like a huge sun (Deu 4:24; Mal 4:2; Heb 12:29). I could feel the light and its intensity in my physical eyes. Although it was just a spiritual vision, because my flesh and spirit had become one, what I was feeling in the spirit I felt in the natural. The light intensified until, finally, there was a blinding explosion. I was knocked down by the glory of the Father God. Does not the Bible say that no one can see the full glory of God and live? (Ex 33:26). It was this glory that the prophet Moses wanted to see (Ex 33:18).

By the mercies of God, an angelic being once explained to me what actually took place then. Counseled by the Lord God to stand at a certain place upon the rock, the prophet Moses prepared himself to meet with God and to see His glory
(Ex 34:2). Like the rising sun at the approach of dawn, a huge ball of blinding light appeared in the distance. The prophet Moses viewed it with awe. He did not expect anything like this. The glory of God was shrouded in a cloud to avoid killing him.

As it began to approach towards the prophet Moses, a voice thundered, “The Lord! The Lord.” Waves of power and glory surged through the entire physical being of the prophet Moses. Unable to contain it and stand before the awesome glory of God, even before the glory came near him, he fell on his face on the rock to worship God (Ex 34:8). This is how powerful meditation can become. You enter into the glories of heaven. When you meditate on the Lord

Jesus Christ, which is an aspect of waiting on God, you can be transformed and transported into the very bosom of God.

Sanctified

> ***JOHN 17:17***
> *17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

When you meditate on the Word of God, you are also sanctified. The Word of God is like light (Ps 119:105; Prov 6:23). When you meditate on that Word, when you keep on speaking the Word with your mouth, it will enter into your spirit. It is like when you eat food, which goes down the throat and into your stomach. Likewise, when you start meditating on the Word over and over, it will flow down into your spirit.

The Bible says, "The entrance of God's Word gives light" (Ps 119:130). That light is the holiness of God. The scriptures also say that the Word of God is like fire (Ps 39:3; Jer 20:9). When that light and fire go into your spirit, they will begin to burn up all the works of your flesh and the lusts of the flesh within. All the filthiness of your spirit and flesh will be burned by the fire of the Word of God. With all your impurities burned up, your spirit, soul, and body become pure and sanctified.

Let us examine the primary Hebrew word for meditation – *hagah* – more closely. A base root closely related to *hagah* is *gah,* which denotes *brightness*. From the word *gah* is derived a word like *gayah,* meaning *flame* or *light*. The most important derivative of *hagah* is the word *nogah,* which refers to *a glow* or *shine*. This word is especially significant, as it refers to *a glow shining in the dark, as the glow of dawn or twilight.*

What makes the word *nogah* important is its occurrence in the prophet

Ezekiel's vision: "Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself, and brightness *(nogah)* was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire" (Ezek. 1:4). The relationship between *hagah* (meditation) and such concepts as light and fire is mentioned clearly in the Bible. The Psalmist says, "My heart was hot within me; while I was musing, the fire burned" (Ps. 39:3). The vision of light (brightness) which the prophet Ezekiel saw as a result of meditation is clearly established.

Inspiration

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9-11

9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

The Word of God will bring inspiration to your spirit. The Bible says, "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord" (Prov 20:27). Imagine a candle burning in your spirit. As you begin meditating on the Word of God, which is light, it enters into

your spirit. When it comes in contact with your spirit, a blinding explosion of light, something equivalent to a nuclear fusion, takes place.

In a nuclear fusion reaction, two atoms collide at unimaginable speeds. On impact, a blinding explosion of energy occurs—*nuclear fusion*. That's what happens when the light from the Word touches the light of your spirit. At the point of contact, an explosion of light shoots up to heaven. The Lord God is the Father of lights (Jas 1:17). Thus the explosion of light in your spirit goes straight up to the heavenly Father. When it touches Him, He gives it back to in the form of wisdom multiplied sevenfold (Jas 3:17).

Drawing Waters of Inspiration

PROVERBS 18:4
4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; The wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook.

The Word of God is compared to *water in your mouth*. The simile here is "like deep waters." Let's consider another Scripture: "Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, a man of understanding will draw it out" (Prov 20:5).

Waiting on God—meditating on the Word of God—is like water within you. When your spirit and soul become one, the deep within you is like a unsearchable deep well. When you look deep within you, you see an endless void. As you sit in a waiting position meditating on the Word, you can drop a bucket into your spirit and draw out from the fountain of eternal life deep mysteries of the Word of God. This is how I personally understand the Bible.

When I meditate, inside my own heart I go into the heart of the Lord Jesus. When you are inside the heart of Jesus Christ, the written words – the *logos* of the Bible – become living words – *rhema*. I actually see them realized (or acted

out) as in a real drama. You can draw deep waters from within you. There is no harm in reading theological commentaries. However, that only satisfies your mind. It is good to have knowledge, but don't be satisfied with that.

Don't stop there—meditate on the Word. You can draw out rich revelations of the Word as intended by the Lord Jesus Christ. There are seven hidden meanings and mysteries to every word (Ps 12:6). The man of understanding will know how to draw them out. A man of understanding is he who waits upon the Lord and meditates on the Word day and night.

Increasing the Flow of Revelation

In heaven we find that angels continually praise and worship God. There are different kinds of angels performing such specific roles. Why do angels in heaven need to praise and worship God?

> ***REVELATION 5:11-12***
> *11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,*
> *12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"*

If you read these Scriptures carefully, you will find the angels using seven different kinds of words to praise God: *power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing*. Why? Isn't God already glorious? Isn't God always honorable? Why must they declare that over and over again? This is how the Lord explained it to me: *By praising God, the angels in return are being blessed with God's glory, power, riches, honor, strength, blessings, and wisdom*.

Can you imagine what the spiritual state of churches would be if this godly principle was followed? When the Word of God lights up inside you, inspiration regarding the Word of God is released to you.

This inspiration, or revelation, flows at four levels.

> ***EZEKIEL 47:3-5***
> *3 And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles.*
> *4 Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist.*
> *5 Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river*

that could not be crossed.

The prophet Ezekiel saw the river of life that flows out from the temple of God. He saw the first level reaching up to his ankles, then to his knees, and then to his waist. Finally, it came up to his neck and then even higher, until he had to swim. These are the four levels of increasing revelation and knowledge.

i. ***Ankles:*** This basic revelation comes by inspiration. The Bible says, "But there is a spirit in man and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding" (Job 32:8). The Almighty God gives us understanding – inspiration. When you are meditating on the Word of God, flashes of wisdom and understanding may come. This is the basic level, revelation comes by *inspiration*. As you mature, your experience expands further.

ii. ***Knees:*** At this level, the Holy Spirit Himself will teach you (Jn 14:26). You can hear the still small voice of the Holy Spirit teaching you (1 Jn 2:27).

iii. ***Waist:*** Angelic beings will come to teach you. Now, concerning angelic beings, we see two dimensions. Firstly, angels constantly came and taught the prophet Daniel the Word of God (Dan 8:15-16; 9:21-23; 10:5-12). Angels came and taught the prophet Zechariah, bringing specific revelation (Zech 1:7-11).

The second dimension relates to the saints of God in heaven. They too can come and teach you (Heb 12:1). At the Mount of Transfiguration, the prophets Moses and Elijah appeared to the Lord Jesus Christ in glory. They taught him what the Word said about the Messiah (Lk 9:30-31). They reminded Him of the Word and brought to His understanding all the prophecies in the Old Testament concerning the sufferings of the Messiah.

Now let's consider the angel of the Lord who came to teach and show the apostle John all the words about the end times and concerning heavenly things. Please observe the phrase "He sent and signified it by His *angel*" (Rev 1:1). Let's now look at Revelation 22:6: "and He said unto me, these words are faithful and true; and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his *angel* to show to his servants the things which must shortly be done." Both these Scriptures are very clear that the Lord Jesus sent an angel to teach the apostle John about end time events.

Let's continue: "Behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book. And I, John, saw these things and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the *angel* who showed me these things" (Rev 22:7-8). Who was the apostle John going to worship? The *angel* who had been teaching him.

Please observe who this *angel* really is. Twice John feel at the feet of this *angel* to worship him, and twice the *angel* said "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Rev 19:10) and "See now, do it not, for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren, the prophets and of them who keep the words of this book" (Rev 22:9).

It is obvious from these two Scriptures that the angel who was sent by the Lord Jesus to teach the apostle John wasn't just another angel, but rather was one of the *prophets*, a *saint* in heaven. This is not the case of *necromancy*—speaking with the dead. How can you speak to the dead when they are alive and interacting with you in heaven? If God is the God of the living, how can you be talking to the dead? (Matt 22:32). As we draw nearer towards the rapture of the Bride of Christ, heaven and earth must become one (Eph 1:10). Such visitations will become very common in the body of Christ.

iv. ***Swimming****:* By this last stage, the waters of revelation are up to the neck. That means the waters are now deep enough to swim. At this level, the Lord Jesus Himself comes to teach you the word of God (Lk 24:26-27).

Illumination

PSALMS 19:8

8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;

When you are meditating on the Word of God, your eyes will receive illumination and enlightenment. Our eye comprises both natural and the spiritual eyes. An eagle has binocular eyes and microscopic eyes. And it has double eyelids. When the eagle's eyelid closes, it can stare directly into the sun. Just a mere flicker of the eyelid, and the eagle can now look directly towards the earth to look for fish in the water or a lamb in the fields. It has this remarkable ability.

On Nov 2, 2012, as I was on my face before the Lord, I saw in a vision an eagle looking at me. Its piercing eyes looked here and there. The eagle then stared at me and said, "You should sharpen your eyes by immersing them in the Word of God." I asked, "How can I do that?" It said, "By looking at the Word at different angles." Again I asked, "How can I do that?" He said. "When you meditate on the Word deeply, the Word which is Spirit, life and blood will begin to rinse, cleanse and sharpen your spiritual eyes. The Holy Spirit will use His own feathers to cleanse the eyes with the blood of Christ Jesus. So immerse your eyes in the Word of God daily."

When you wait on God, meditating on the Word of God, the eyes of your understanding are enlightened for you to perceive heavenly realities and to

discern earthly things. It is possible to discern both realms at the same time. Everyone has spiritual eyes. The spiritual eyes are located directly behind the natural eyes. The day your spiritual eyes are opened you will begin to perceive spiritual realities. I am not just talking about visitations.

In a visitation, you will not experience all the "technical" things we have studied on this subject. Don't be satisfied with just a visitation. Climb up higher. You must learn to *turn a visitation into a habitation*. Then you can forever abide in the heavenly places. When you are in the Spirit, you can actually feel your spiritual eyes opening up right behind your natural eyes.

If you find greater favor with God, He would give you another set of eyes called the *eyes of understanding* (Eph 3:18). These are eyes the Lord will personally place inside your heart. I received them in 1987. When you get these eyes, you can see far greater things into the mind of Christ Jesus and into the Kingdom of Heaven. You will be able to see – discern – people as the Lord sees them. You can see the spirit world and the natural world at the same time, just like the eagle.

A good example is found in 2 Kings 6:15-17.

> *15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"*
> *16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."*

17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Surrounded by the Syrian army, Gehazi panicked and called out to his master. The prophet Elisha came out of the house, looked around, and said, "Don't worry. They that are for us are greater than they that are against us." Gehazi did not understand what his master just said. So Elisha prayed for Gehazi's eyes to be opened. Only then did he see the mountains surrounded by horses and chariots of fire. When the prophet Elisha came out of his prayer closet, his eyes saw both the spirit realm and the natural realm. He had a binocular vision and a microscopic vision.

Purified

JOHN 14:21

21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

When you meditate on the Word, your heart is purified to see the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible also says, "Store the Word of God in your heart" (Col 3:16). The written Word of God is the Lord Jesus Himself; He said that He is the Word. As you meditate on the Word of God, the Scripture is then stored in your

heart. One word of Scripture after another begins to be stored in your heart. The moment your heart is full of the Word, you will see the Lord Jesus dwelling inside there.

We can call that a "Logos" moment, for the Word has now become flesh. *Logos*, the uncreated word, becomes flesh – shaped into a form (John 1:14). King David says, "I have set the Lord always before me" (Psalm 16:8). What keeps you from seeing into the spiritual realm? The *veil* that is over your eyes. The heart is empty. When your heart is filled richly with the Word, then the image of Jesus Christ in your heart is completed. You will then be able to see the Lord Jesus Christ standing always before you.

Transformed

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

When you meditate on the Word of God, your spirit, soul and body will be transformed. When we wait on God with His Word, He changes us and we are then continually transformed from glory to glory.

Consider the chicken. The mother hen lays eggs that do not resemble it in any way, for the egg white and yellow yoke within the shell is formless and imageless. She then has to sit on the eggs for about 28 days for them to hatch. She sits on the eggs by spreading her wings over them. Her warmth transforms the formless, shapeless, and imageless egg white and yoke into the image and likeness of a chicken, like herself.

Likewise, when we wait on God, the Lord God stretches His wings to overshadow us (Ps 91:1,4). Beneath the wings of God, His presence becomes like a wall of fire (Zech 2:5). His Word too, sends out its fire into us. Like the egg that becomes a chick under the incubating wings of its mother, our spirit man will be renewed and changed from glory to glory into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ by the fires of the Holy Spirit (1 Jn 3:2).

The meditation of the Word of God will effect a change in our behaviour too, as we encounter the living God in His Word. Meditation will enable us to hear God's voice in His Word, thereby leading us to obey it. When we meditate on the Word, we develop an intimate friendship with God. In that instant, the Lord God and the Lord Jesus will become a living reality to us rather than just theological dogma.

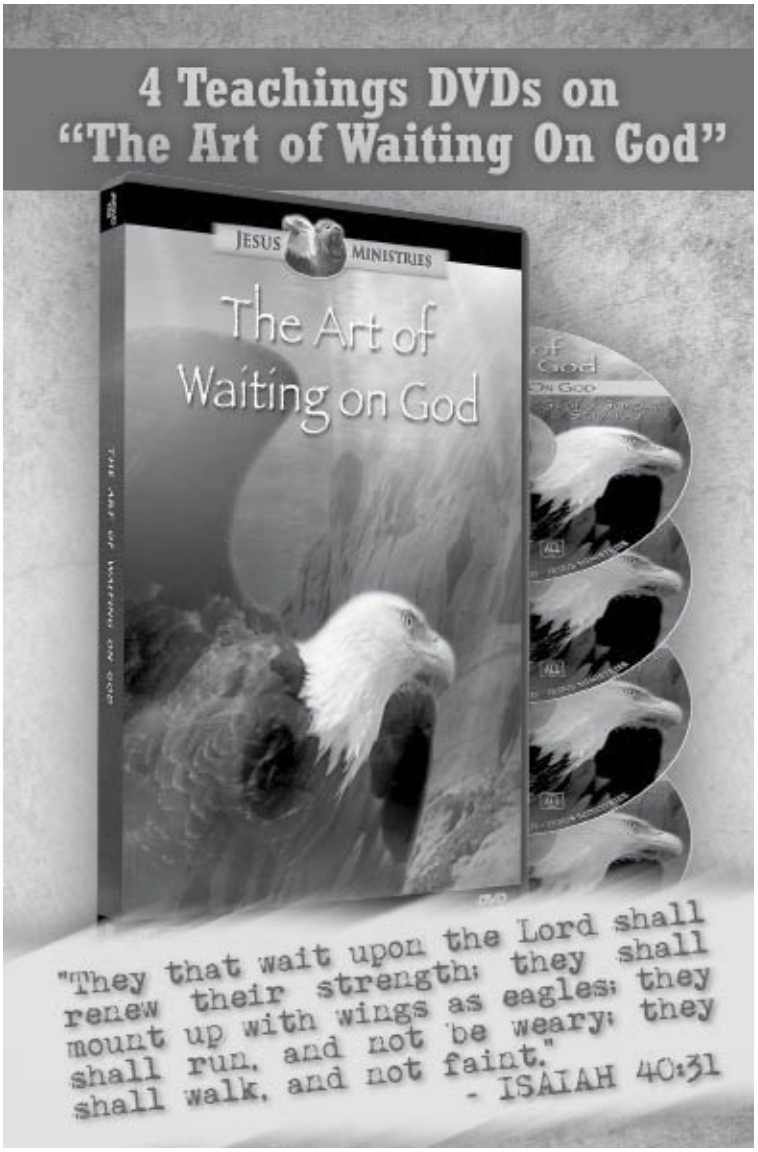
There is another realm, in fact – the highest realm, into which the Lord is calling you to enter: "What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God; as God had said I will dwell in them and walk in them and I will be their God and they will be my people" (2 Cor 6:16). Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. When you meditate on the Word of God, the Word enters into your heart and transforms it. The more the Word enters into you the more your heart becomes a temple, resembling in the spiritual what King Solomon constructed in the natural. Your heart may even become like the Garden of Eden.

This then, is the mystery of the following Scripture: "The Kingdom of heaven is within you" (Lk 17:21). Your soul and spirit become one with the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then comes the beautiful experience described in the Gospel of John, where the Lord Jesus says, "If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him" (Jn 14:23).

The original meaning of the words "abode" and "tabernacle" is the same. Your inner being becomes a Garden of Eden. The Lord God walks in it and talks with you. This Scripture is not simply figurative language. It means exactly what

it says. This is my daily experience. When I quiet myself in God, meditating on the Word of God, I see within me the Garden of Eden. The Lord Jesus is there, and so are all the saints and angels. This is paradise. That's the reason why translations from earth to heaven are instantaneous. You don't have to go too far. It's within you.

As you meditate on the Word of God as a regular spiritual discipline, you will be transformed and translated from glory to glory through the various stages of becoming one with God. The ultimate purpose of waiting on God through meditating the Word relates to the highest calling of God in Jesus Christ: *being changed, renewed, and transformed into the full likeness of the Son of God*.


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105/229, M.T.H Salai,
Villivakkam,Chennai 600 049
Tamilnadu, India
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P.O. Box 9055
Lancaster CA, 93539-9055
USA
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Oh, that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleads for his neighbor! (Job 16:21). Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven (Matt. 18:19).

Brother Sadhu, please uphold me before the throne of God and agree in prayer with me for

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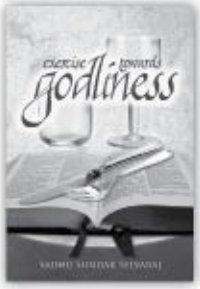
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