

## Waiting on The Lord

Ben Osamuyi Igbinosa

### Luke 15:8-10

*Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? [9] And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. [10] Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*

This parable is rooted in the eastern tradition in which during engagement, the groom to be gives ten pieces of silver to the bride. It is thought that he who places silver in the hand of a lady is ready to love. Love is said to be planted in the heart of the woman then. During the wedding proper, she ties the silver coins to her hair with tiny hooks and thereafter she guards it with her life. It was believed that if she loses one of it, she loses favour with the Lord and if she cannot find it, then she is cast out, exposed to die in shame. It becomes understandable, while the woman with all seriousness, lights up a candle and sweeps the whole house, and thereafter calls a party to celebrate, when she finds the coin.

She knows what the coin stood for, relative to her future. In the same manner, we wait upon the lord, knowing that there is no hope elsewhere. This knowledge of the superiority of the will of the father, kept Jesus going, even when he desired the “cup” to pass over him, if it was possible. We wait upon the lord, because that is the only way. It pains God; he is not happy when we are not living right. In fact he might allow temptation to come our way, to correct us. Thus Hosea counsels us to return to the Lord. He is more anxious about this than we are:

### Hosea 6:1-6

*Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. [2] After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. [3] Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.*

*[4] O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away. [5] Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth. [6] For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.*

### Isaiah 40:31

*But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

The word wait comes from the Hebrew word *qavah*. From Strong’s Hebrew dictionary, we learn that the word means **to bind together by twisting**. We shall better understand this by looking again at the traditional marriage ceremony in the east. Brother Elwin Roach writes:

To be **in waiting** does not speak of sitting back in our easy chairs with our feet kicked up while twiddling our thumbs. The English term, **to be in waiting**, is fairly descriptive and can be used two ways: Not too many years ago when a woman was *in waiting* meant that she was engaged to a man and was *in preparation* to be married. Today it relates more to a woman who **is pregnant**. Both ways relate to the prelude before a manifested union. The first is being prepared to be united in marriage and *becoming one flesh* in their marital relationship; the second is the result of their union, and the husband and wife becoming *one flesh* in their child. In the spiritual sense, *"He that is joined unto the Lord IS ONE SPIRIT (I Cor. 6:17).*

One of the ancient customs of the middle eastern nations, including Israel, is symbolic of forming a union and is worthy to note. To finalize the wedding ceremony, the man would place a three strand, silver cord over the head of his bride. The silver, of course, speaks of redemption, and the *three strands* of the cord signified God, the man, and the woman. Like the cord, in order for it to be of any practical value, neither of the three could be independent but had to be united with the others by being **twisted together -- FORMING ONE CORD** under severe pressure. This was the signification of the cord in the ceremony.

Eccles. 4:9-12

*Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. [10] For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. [11] Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? [12] And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

The waiting is to release strength to those who are bound to him by sacrifice. They shall surmount every difficult situation by the strength, the prophetic direction and inspiration given by God. Thus they cannot be weary or discouraged as they run the race in Christ and for Christ; neither shall their unique conduct amongst men sap their strength. We are in this world, but not part of this world. Jesus told pilate that his kingdom is not of this world.

In our present day spiritual experience, we form the cord that is being twisted to be bound to the lord. The purpose of the twisting is to squeeze out the fleshly excesses that the substance of God might remain. The individual cords must be of the same size, quality and strength, otherwise, there would be a problem when the twisting commences. God is the master craftsman who does the twisting. It will all be pleasant if there is no resistance in the opposite direction. But the expectation of the world will not allow us to conform, so, we struggle against God. We remain in position of total obedience to God, even when our natural man says no.

Many there are who are waiting for the Lord to do something for them. When there is delay, their hearts grow cold. The truth is that they have not started at all to wait. Brethren, if we are ***ever to be truly strengthened in heart, to find our rest in Him, to inherit the earth, to receive the good blessing of God, to come forth with strength, to mount up with wings of eagles, to run and not grow weary, and to walk and not faint -- then we must WAIT!*** Proverbs 13:12 says:

*Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.*

We must be united with Him. We must be bound together with Him. We must be joined to Him so tightly that we become **ONE SPIRIT**, from whence the Sons of God are born; even as when a

man is joined to his wife and they become one flesh. Indeed, this holy union with our Lord, our Master, our Husband, will result in the manifestation of His very substance. From the womb of our souls shall the Son come forth and be seen by all in our actions and character. Our every word, our every deed, and our every step will be that of Christ. It will not be that of the old creation, but it will be a revelation of the new -- an unveiling of majesty that was formerly conceived and developing while *IN WAITING*, while being *JOINED TO OUR LORD OF GLORY* and becoming *ONE SPIRIT!*

Romans 8: 19-21 reads:

*For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. [20] For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, [21] Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

There must be proper marriage, union in the bedchamber, before a child is born, who becomes a son. Our attitudes reveal that we are not fully married to the Lord. We behave as one who is engaged. One who is married receives threefold silver cord and ten silver coins, which is tied to the hair of the bride with tiny hooks. Three is completeness. Silver is redemption. Ten stands for trials. Thus the perfect union comes only from redemptive trials, which we all must go through. The trials are the twisting process of the cords.

Thus we are binding our selves to the Lord, through a twisting process in hope. The hope is the seeking process which leads us to complete union with him. Then we become love, a life giving spirit. There are three things that remain-- faith, hope, and love-- and the greatest of these is love (1 Cor 13:13) (TLB)

The Lord also binds himself to the blind to open their eyes. The process through which he does this is through waiting as Isa 30:19-21 reveals. Lev 21: 17 20 lists the 12 qualities of those who cannot serve God. Three of the characteristics include the blind, the deaf, those with flat noses. The blind is faithless. Faith is the substance of things not seen, the evidence of things hope for. The deaf cannot receive the word. He hears, but it does not make any meaning to him. Spiritual things are foolishness to the natural man. The flat nose represents one who does not have the power and gift of discernment. Such a person cannot differentiate between a ministry that is flowing from God from that flowing from men. We should be moved not by what we hear, but what we discern. Waiting on the Lord removes these three conditions.

Isaiah 30:19-21

*For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee. [20] And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: [21] And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.*

In the scriptures, the binding through twisting is always with a contrast. We see these in Ps 25: 3-5; 21, Ps 27:14. Ps 37: 7, 9,34;

The second Hebrew word translated wait, is *chakah*. This is what is used in Isa 30:18 and it means to bind to, through piercing. In the Old Testament, the priest used a three pronged hook of brass to pierce meat in the pot, while it is cooking, and drag it out, as offering to the Lord. Thus when we are ready to be offered, we shall be bound to the Lord through piercing. Jesus said, if I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto myself. The root meaning of the word translated draw is drag. Jesus will drag us to himself! Thus, it is in waiting that we place our bodies as offerings upon the altar, where we are pierced, hooked, dragged by a three pronged hook made of brass, that our spirit, soul and body might be united with God. Note that the altar is not a pleasant place. It burns with fire. It is only the will of the father that is done there. All flesh is destroyed.

Isa 30:18-23

*Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!. O people of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you. Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Then you will defile your idols overlaid with silver and your images covered with gold; you will throw them away like a menstrual cloth and say to them, "Away with you!" He will also send you rain for the seed you sow in the ground, and the food that comes from the land will be rich and plentiful. In that day your cattle will graze in broad meadows.*

(NIV)