

"WAITING ON THE LORD...WITH HOPE AND EXPECTATION"*{Isaiah 40:28-31}*

Trinity Presbyterian Church

November 30, 2008

Several of my friends this week have asked me how the congregation responded to my announcement last Sunday that I was planning on retiring the end of April.

Dr. Ed Momrow reminded his class that Brett Favre retired from the Green Bay Packers last year only to come back this year to play with the New York Jets. Ed was wondering if there was a possibility that I might rescind my retirement.

I knew that some were happy for me when I heard three songs being sung following worship in the patio at different times: *"Soon and Very Soon," "O Happy Day,"* and *"Hallelujah Chorus!"* It pleased me to know they were so happy for me!

One person threatened to kick me in the shins...another told me they had waited for that announcement for a long time...!

Vincent was waiting in the wings for my study to store things that he could no longer put in his crammed office...the treasurer wondered if my pledge was for the year of 2009 or only through April.

Though I don't believe in reincarnation—I do adhere to recycling and since it's the entire staff is sometimes requested to resign at the time of the pastor's departure so the new pastor can select their team, I have considered using my position as head of staff to rehire myself as choir director, organist, youth director, and custodian and remain in a recycled role...☺ *{I can't even believe I said that, Youth Director again? I think not!}*

Once I was clear of God's direction **it was necessary to wait** for the right time and follow the proper procedure as set forth by the Presbytery of San Jose. That wasn't easy.

Waiting is not something I enjoy doing!

- ✚ I don't like waiting in lines in the super market
- ✚ I don't like waiting in traffic
- ✚ I don't like waiting in the security lines at the airport
- ✚ I don't like waiting for people who are late

That's just my impulsive nature; yet, the Bible continuously urges believers to wait.

"Wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart, and wait for the Lord." {Psalm 27:14}

"Be still before the Lord and wait PATIENTLY for Him..." {Psalm 37:7}

"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning..." {Psalm 130:5-6a}

"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." {Isaiah 30:18}

In Jesus' final meeting with His disciples before ascending into Heaven He admonished them ***"not to leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised..."*** {Acts 1:4}

Paul wrote in Titus 2:13—*“We wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!”*

And then we have our text of the morning...

“Those who wait on the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint!”
{Isaiah 40:31 LNT}

WAITING ON THE LORD

What does it mean to *“wait on the Lord?”* Let me give you three simple answers--

- ✚ Keep near to Him
- ✚ Keep Still
- ✚ Keep Expectant

Think of it this way, if I wander away from the Lord I cannot expect His power to come to me—there’s no communion and/or communication.

If I do all the talking I cannot expect to hear what He has to say to me—I need to “be still” and listen.

If I don’t expect God to do anything—He won’t give me anything.

Waiting means to slow down for a period of time in the expectation that something *will* happen...in God’s own timing—not ours.

Isaiah 30:15 assures us...

“Only in returning to Me and waiting for Me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength...!”

THE TEXT OFFERS US AN INCREDIBLE POSSIBILITY

“Those who wait on the Lord will find new strength...”

“...will renew their strength...”

Waiting in this context in the Old Testament has the same meaning as faith in the New Testament. Jesus told His disciples in the scripture I read a few moments ago to *“wait for the gift the Father promised...”* which was none other than the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In His last words to His disciples He then promised DYNAMIC POWER...power to witness...power to fulfill the Great Commission...but, it only came through waiting.

God wants to renew you spiritually...but...are you willing to wait? Think of the possibilities.

THREE MANIFESTATIONS OF THAT RENEWED STRENGTH

“They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.”

Hold on now, I have incredible news for you...God has promised you...

- ✚ Strength to Soar
- ✚ Strength to Run
- ✚ Strength to Walk

Think of it, God has given you strength to SOAR—spiritual power beyond anything you can imagine. God’s power through the Holy Spirit is yours and mine. It’s a vast minefield full of explosive divine energy. God never meant for you and/or me to

wallow on the ground like ugly ducklings. **He has intended for us to soar to spiritual heights like mighty eagles...**be a dynamic force for Him as were those early disciples when baptized by the Holy Spirit.

So, stretch out your wings...flap them...and soar.

Secondly, **God has given you strength to RUN**—there is incredible POWER awaiting you even when facing crises in your life. Moments come upon us without warning...that's when we need this power to RUN on the road He has prepared for us—in good times and bad times.

I'll never forget November 1, 1989 when I heard the doctor tell me that I had colon cancer. I knew that people died from that and there was but one thing that mattered to me at that moment and that was the knowledge that God was running down that rough road at that time with me.

We are to live our lives waiting on the Lord knowing that no crisis is too difficult. He's the Christ of every crisis.

Waiting on the Lord means I can run and not grow weary!

Thirdly, **God has given you strength to WALK**—patience in the midst of pressure...keeping steady in the middle of a storm. Where would we be if God wasn't with us in those storms of life?

We heard Wieke Suryantara tell us on Wednesday evening how God was with their family last June when John went home to be with the Lord. That comes as the result of walking with the Lord.

CONCLUSION

So, dear ones...remember these words...

“God gives power to those who are tired and worn out, He offers strength to the weak...and those who wait on the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint!”