

Wait upon God, Do not Do your Own

“I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. ² He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD. ⁴ Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. ⁵ Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare. ⁶ Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. ⁷ Then I said, "Here I am, I have come-- it is written about me in the scroll. ⁸ I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." ⁹ I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, as you know, O LORD. ¹⁰ I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly. ¹¹ Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me. ¹² For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me. ¹³ Be pleased, O LORD, to save me; O LORD, come quickly to help me. ¹⁴ May all who seek to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace. ¹⁵ May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!" be appalled at their own shame. ¹⁶ But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation always say, "The LORD be exalted!" ¹⁷ Yet I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, do not delay.” (Psalm 40:1-17)

Hardships and trials in life is something that people do not like to pass through. If we are in the midst of one of the common trials that man may be passing, we are tempted to escape or bypass the course that God has set before us. Trials are of many kinds and could be about finances, family life, about our work, children, or relationships. But whatever trial that we are in, we cannot do resort to our own way and method to overcome. God wants us to put Him first and pass through the trials in the way that He has set before us in order to accomplish its purpose. Our God is God, the Righteous One and we cannot question His ways. Instead we need to know and understand His perfect plan for us. In every trial God has a purpose and reason why He allows you and me to pass through such a situation. So in order for us to learn from whatever problem or situation we are in, God wants us to behave appropriately and obey His Word and put His instruction as top priority.

1- Avoid resolutions or partial solutions: During a trial if we try to do our own we may succeed but only temporarily. We may be relieved but not completely healed or freed. In the course of time since the solution was not of God’s origin and method we find that the problem recurs and is even worse. So the best way to do is what the Word of God says: ***“Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.” (Psalm 37:7) “Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; ² for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.” (Psalm 37:1-2)*** Let us not imitate others and do wrong; it will never help and finally we are hurt. God knows our discomfort and suffering and it is far better to wait upon God for the solution rather than exhausting ourselves making resolution after resolution. King David waited upon God to relieve him, and finally the Lord enabled him to stand on solid ground. ***“I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. ² He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.” (Psalm 40:1-2)***

2- Allow God to test your faith: ² *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,* ³ *because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.* ⁴ *Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” (James 1:2-4)* The Lord tests our faith with trials; not to harm us or to put us down but in order for us to grow. Our perseverance in times of trial and testing brings maturity in our faith and perfection in our life.

3- Convey a better testimony: *“Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.” (Psalm 40:3b)* As we wait upon God to solve our problem the Lord will bring the solution in a miracle that many will be touched and put their trust in the Lord.

4- Fulfill God’s Word: ⁶ *Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.* ⁷ *Then I said, “Here I am, I have come-- it is written about me in the scroll.* ⁸ *I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.” (Psalm 40:6-8)* Trials introduce to us the statutes and requirements of God. As we abide in God’s Law and continue to do His will we are acknowledging that God will fulfill His promise to us.

5- Impart God’s message: ⁹ *I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, as you know, O LORD.* ¹⁰ *I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly.” (Psalm 40:9-10)* When we are passing through trials yet continue living in holiness we are preaching the Word of God. And the message of God is imparted clearer to the people around us and becomes more effective to our acquaintances because our real faith and trust in God is displayed and God’s power and faithfulness is manifested.

6- Demonstrate God’s mercy and grace: ¹¹ *Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me.* ¹² *For troubles without number surround me.” (Psalm 40:11-12a)* When we pass through trials we will experience God’s grace in a more profound way. And we can see and the people around us will see how God is sustaining and providing for us. *“Be pleased, O LORD, to save me; O LORD, come quickly to help me.” (Psalm 40:13)*

7- Turn to God in repentance: *“My sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me.” (Psalm 40:12b)* Trials and testing time is an opportunity for us to repent and return to God. The Lord allows trials in our life in order for us to be cleansed from sin. There are times when people are in ease they abuse God’s grace. Thus often when a person passes through a particular trial it brings repentance in the heart.

8- Reveal God’s miracle: *“Be pleased, O LORD, to save me; O LORD, come quickly to help me.” (Psalm 40:13)* Trials will show clearly that we have no power of our own. Trials teach us to be fully dependent on God to do miracles, and we need to fully trust in Him.

9- Let God defend you: ¹⁴ *May all who seek to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace.* ¹⁵ *May those who say to me, “Aha! Aha!” be appalled at their own shame.” (Psalm 40:14-15)* When we persevere with God and wait for Him to solve our problem in His way and method, then we will be rewarded. The Lord comes not only with a solution but also as our defender. In addition, He will handle and deal with our enemies and manage them in a way that will set us free completely from them.

10- Be drawn to righteous people: *“But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation always say, “The LORD be exalted!” (Psalm 40:16)* We need to wait upon God and rely on Him to solve our problems, because the Lord in His perfect timing

will not only take us from our problems but also He will take us away from evil people and bring us to His righteous ones who exalt the Lord's salvation – to His church.

11- Cry unto God and be bold in prayer: "Yet I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, do not delay." (Psalm 40:17) Many people's prayer life, kneeling down at Jesus' feet and fasting are all built up during hardships and trials. Shall we wait for God to put us in such a situation before making HIM as our top priority?

God wants us to do things in His way. He wants us to wait patiently for Him to reveal who He is. When we take God's Word and instruction first as a solution and refuge we overcome the hardships and trials that God sets before us. We learn to wait upon God and not to do our own, and thereafter we see clearly the purpose and we give glory to the LORD.