

WOG (I): The One Thing Necessary

Andrew Murray had given many sermons and written many books in his life. He was asked, “If you were to sum up your sermons in one sentence, what would you say?” He said, “Take time to wait upon the Lord.”

He said that the most important message for churches to preach today is “Wait on the Lord.” But why do so few churches preach this message? Because it is unbearable for our flesh, the most opposed by the enemy, and the most unwanted by our natural man. Unless we truly wait on the Lord, we will not be able to preach this message.

I. To wait on God is to enter the Most Holy Place, to stand before God, to draw near to God, to serve God Himself

The example of the children of Zadok (Ezekiel 44:10-16)

- ◆ In the Old Testament, God chose the Levites to be priests in His temple. The Levites were divided into two groups. God said one group was not to be close to Me, but to be in the outer court, far away from God. The other group was the children of Zadok, who could go to God’s holy place to be close to Him, to serve Him, and to keep what He had commanded.
- ◆ Waiting on God is like the sons of Zadok, entering the Most Holy Place, coming before God and serving God Himself. Where is the most holy place today? It is inside of us. Our body is the temple of God, the dwelling place of God. When we go inside to draw near to Him, to stand before Him, to listen to what He has commanded us, this is what it means to wait on God.
- ◆ Today in the New Testament era, as 1 Peter 2:9 says, we are all chosen by God to be royal priests, and we all have this right to be close to God. What a great grace and blessing it is to be close to God, to draw near to God, but many people give up this right, and that is why God’s people are poor.

II. Waiting on God is the deepest prayer to draw strength from God

Jesus’ example

1. In Matthew 14:23, after feeding the 5000, Jesus went up on the mountain alone and prayed all night.
 - ◆ Does Jesus continuously pray all night long? Was there that much to say? I think Jesus must have spent a lot of time close to the Father.
 - ◆ Jesus’ ministry on earth for over three years should have been very busy. But He often needed to leave the crowds, pray all night, and be alone with His Father. Why? Because there are limits to the physical body. Every day the physical body interacts with people, so the spiritual and physical strength is constantly used up. He needed to be connected to the heavenly source for greater heavenly strength.
 - ◆ This Son of God needed to be close to the Father every time after He served. He needed to have a most intimate connection with the Father so that he can live in the will of God all the time. How much more do we need this for ourselves?

2. Luke 6:12 “*Jesus went out to the mountain and prayed to God all night long*”

- ◆ Jesus was the Son of God and should have easily understood the Father’s will, so why did He need to pray all night until dawn? Most likely Jesus knew that one of the 12 disciples was going to betray Him with the sign of kiss. To choose such a disciple, He needed to draw greater strength from God so that His heart could be fully surrendered to God.

So prayer is not about talking to God all the time. It is about drawing closer to the Father, as Jesus prayed until the whole person was willing to surrender to God.

Waiting on God is the deepest prayer and the highest service, which is to be face-to-face with the Lord, to be in tune with Him heart to heart, and to pour out love on Him all the time—this is worship.

III. To wait on God is to behold His face and to reflect the light of His glory

1. Face-to-face with the Lord, and being silent over speaking

Moses’ example

- ◆ Moses was face-to-face with God on the mountain for forty days and forty nights. That is, he kept looking at Him and beholding His face, and then later his face glowed.
- ◆ When we are looking at God in this way, God’s glory and beauty attract us. When God’s glory shines on us in this way, we reach a point where our face reflects the glory of God.
- ◆ Sometimes while waiting on God, you don’t feel anything special, but when you come close to Him and focus your whole attention on Him, you’ll find that after a while the Lord will make a big difference. It’s like an electric razor plugged into an outlet, it doesn’t seem to be doing anything, but it’s drawing energy all the time.

2. Seek the face of the Lord and behold His glory

David as a role model

(1). Psalm 27:8 “*O LORD! Your face I am seeking.*”

- ◆ David was a very responsive man to God. The Lord said you will seek my face, and David said: yes, Lord your face I will seek. Pray that the Lord would put David’s words, “*Your face, Lord, I am seeking*” in our hearts.
- ◆ David was the wisest of men, because he knew how to seek the face of the Lord. If you seek Him, you will find healing for the whole body, soul, and spirit. The Lord calls us today to seek His face.

(2). Psalm 27:4, Psalm 63:1-2 “*In the house of the Lord all the days of your life, beholding His glory.*”

- ◆ David was a man who asked God about everything, but the most important thing in his life was not to ask God, but to dwell in the house of the LORD and see His glorious face. So even while David was in the wilderness, he longed to return to the temple quickly to see His glorious face again.

- ◆ No wonder David touched God's heart so much, because he knew that God desires us to come close to Him, to draw near to Him, and he knows that our deepest need is to behold His glorious face. Once we see God's face, we are satisfied and our hearts are strengthened.

IV. Waiting on God is what Jesus said: *"There is only one thing that is needed,"* sitting at the feet of Jesus to *"draw near to Him."*

(Luke 10 : 42)

Mary's example

- ◆ There is no problem with being busy in the Lord, but our hearts must continually remain at the feet of Jesus. The problem with Martha was that she was troubled with her thoughts. If we don't spend enough time to sit at the feet of Jesus, when we get busy, we start complaining and blaming people: on one hand we will be serving God, but on the other hand we will be blaming other people.
- ◆ We often feel that many things are needed, and that one thing is not needed: "coming near to God." We think this because coming near God is not visible to anyone but Jesus, and approaching God doesn't have quick visible results.
- ◆ **Andrew Murray said (paraphrased), "There is no minute of waiting on God that is in vain." For if you draw near to God, God will draw near to you. There will be fruitfulness in what you cannot see, so we need to come before God.**

As God draws near to you, He is constantly taking away your earthly nature: your weaknesses, your worries, your anxieties, your impatience, your doubts, your unbelief, and He is replacing it with the fire of strong faith and heavenly love. Therefore, if you want God to put the heavenly life in you, there is only one thing that is needed, you need to come before God.

Waiting on God is also the best way to create a hunger for Jesus. **Because God is love, the closer and closer we get to this fire of love, the more and more passionate we become inside.**

V. To wait on God is to draw near to the bosom of Jesus, to talk with Him heart-to-heart, and to satisfy the thirst of God's love

- ◆ On one occasion, Jesus said to two sisters, "Is not the human heart's desire to be loved a reflection of mine?"
- ◆ The main thing about waiting on God is to satisfy the thirst of God's love. Until we take the time to draw close to Him, we will not understand how deeply He longs for us and how much He loves us.

Therefore, the main thing about waiting on God is not whether you feel it or not, but whether you are willing to let God enjoy your unwavering love for Him even when you don't feel it.

- ◆ A sister asked the Lord, "Is there anything I can do for you that will satisfy your heart?" The Lord said, "Yes, come and talk to me."

- ◆ Today this King of the universe, the Lord of heaven and earth, invites you to come close to Him and talk with Him heart-to-heart. He desires to have your heart and your total love, so that He may fill you with His love and pour out all His riches on you.

The greatest poverty we have as human beings is not finding God, and the greatest abundance is finding God Himself, so that He becomes our source of love in us.

- ◆ Proverbs 8:34-35, "*Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors.*"

Hope this is not just a daily thing for us, but it is also a continuous waiting on God and drawing near to Him. Not just to enjoy His love, or to let Him enjoy our love. And He will do wonderful work so that we can always "*abide in love.*"

Waiting on God

Any time you can, set aside a few minutes to simply wait on Jesus—not necessarily in prayer, but just waiting, looking into His face, longing for His presence. It may not seem like you are receiving much at first, but if you take every opportunity, soon your soul will be hungry for Him, and His own sweetness will come to you, and you will be like lovers who would rather slip away, even for a minute or two, to be with Him than to talk, read, rest, or eat. When you feel tired, impatient, and emotionally stressed, a few minutes with Him, in the quietness of His presence, will refresh you more than anything else in the world.

If we look more at Jesus and less at ourselves, our friends, our trials, our failures, our life situations, the world, the flesh, the devil, we will increasingly reflect His image; and our coldness, impurity, temper, selfishness will fade away and be replaced by kindness, purity, gentleness, love—going from glory to glory.

~ Mrs. Robinson ~

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.

(2 Corinthians 3:18)

Waiting for God Appendix (1) The Method of Waiting on God

1. You can find the most comfortable position, whether sitting or kneeling, as long as you can forget about your body's needs and maintain the position for the longest time.
2. At first, you can speak words of love to God, not just pray or intercede, but learn to speak to the Lord all the time. Tell Him the desires you have inside, and speak much about the glory and loveliness of the Lord.

You can also start by praising Him with a hymn of love, or you can start by praying a verse of scripture and then speak words of love to the Lord and quiet down.

Sometimes when you wait and wait, the Lord will suddenly give you a burden to pray for people, and you can pray for them until the Holy Spirit brings you to a place of peace, and you will be completely at peace, and these are very natural and can be intertwined.

3. Sometimes when you wait and wait, speak a few words or phrases to the Lord, and when you wait and wait, sing a hymn of love to the Lord.
4. When you want to sleep or when your mind starts to lose focus, you can open your mouth to pray or praise to bring your mind back quickly, to come and love Him.
5. At first, you can set 15 minutes or half an hour (using a timer). According to what you can do, do not set too high at once but you can not do it. The main thing is to set the time and do it every day.
6. When the time is up, you can pray to the Lord, "Lord! Thank you for the time that I am drawing close to you and you are drawing close to me, and thank you for doing more in me than I could ever ask or think."

WOG (I) Assignment

1. Memorize the Bible: Proverbs 8:34-35, Psalm 63:1-2, Psalm 27:4, 8.
2. Wait on God for at least 15 minutes a day.
3. Pray daily for your longing for God, and ask Him to increase it.