

WOG (V): Attitudes before the Lord

Isaiah 26:8-9 says, *“In the path of your judgments, O Lord, we wait for you.”*

This is a very important mindset and cry for those who wait on the Lord. Lest some people wait on the Lord only to feel sweet and rarely receive the light of God. God is the light, and a person who truly waits on God should always be in the light, so that he can see the light and know Himself.

I. Why do we wait for the Lord in the path of judgment?

1. Only then can the old-self be revealed and cleansed to produce true life

(1) The Vision of Two Trees

- ◆ A sister was waiting for the Lord when He showed her a vision of two trees. One tree was a Christmas tree with many decorations, bright and shiny, but it had no life and would not bear fruit. The other tree was a living tree that needed to be rooted in the ground, often pruned and watered, in order to grow and bear fruit.

The Lord showed this sister even after she received the Lord and got baptized by the Holy Spirit, her “old-self” was never judged by God and was not dealt with, just like the Christmas tree, shining brightly but without real life, unable to quench people’s thirst and provide nourishing fruit. The sister asked the Lord what she should do. The Lord said, *“Take more time to wait quietly before Me.”*

- ◆ Many people in the church today say that they have the presence of the Lord in their lives, that they love Him very much, and that they have a lot of ministry. However, their “old-self” is very strong and likes to show himself, and cannot be corrected and trimmed, just like the Christmas tree. When the wind blows and shakes it, all the decorations fall down. But when we wait on the Lord, the roots of life in us keep rooting down deeply, and are planted by the streams, just like the tree of life that bears the fruit of life.

(2) Light, Judgment, Cleanliness

- ◆ It is dangerous if we are not willing to wait for the Lord and be illuminated on the path of divine judgment, but only to continue to enjoy the sweetness and nourishment of His love. For we do not know ourselves, but we seem to be so selfish in our pursuits that we easily stumble over others.
- ◆ **Isaiah 26:8 tells us that we must not run from the judgment of the Lord, but wait expectantly for it.**

In the future, we will all come before the judgment seat of the Lord, and each of us will be judged according to what we have done. If we are illuminated on the path to judgment today, and once we are illuminated, we will be willing to

apologize and repent, and on the day we come to the judgment seat, you will have been judged and will be cleansed in the same way.

(3) Illumination, if not repented of, will produce deception

- ◆ When we wait on the Lord, He will shine on us. If we are illuminated, but we refuse to apologize and deal with it, we feel embarrassed and don't do it, or we just brush it off. Gradually, our "old-self" will become thicker and thicker, and the light will no longer shine in. Although you feel sweet waiting on the Lord, you are blinded by the lack of light, and this becomes a "watered-down" pursuit. In the meetings, you want the Lord very much and pursue Him very much, but in life, your "old-self" is very strong, and your life is very shallow and vain.

(4) Mindset and pursuit

- ◆ We must always pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, shine on me, and give me a sorrowful and contrite spirit. Lord, you desire to pour yourself out on me, that I should be richer than this. So you must shine on me, and what 'old-self' is holding me back, and I am willing to be adjusted and pruned so that I may be more available to you."
- ◆ If we always wait on God in the path of judgment, we will always be illuminated and pruned, and this will bring forth the fruit of life.

2. Being close to the Lord is the best "inner healing" —to be healed in the light of God

(1) Know Yourself

- ◆ We really don't know ourselves, but God is the light that can illuminate us to our youngest years and let us know where the problems of this life lie. Sometimes the hurt is so great that we don't want to face it, so we push it down into our subconscious, but we are not healed. By drawing near to the Lord, God reveals these hurts, and then Jesus stands by us to help us face them. In God's presence and in His love, you face and accept these things, and you are healed.

(2) Receive Healing

- ◆ It is very important that we come close to the Lord every day. For when we come close to the Lord often, we are illuminated and free from self-pity. As we humble ourselves more and more, we are less likely to be hurt. Also, when we are illuminated, we begin to realize that we have hurt others and owe them, so that we can come out of the feeling of being hurt. Realizing that we are too indebted to others and have hurt them is a very good way to be healed of the hurt inside.
- ◆ Our God can solve all our problems, it just depends on whether we are willing to come to Him or whether we prefer to go to someone else. It's amazing how God can really come and reveal, illuminate, and reach into the depths of your heart and bring you to complete healing when we draw near to the Lord. This healing is true healing.

II. What will be the result of waiting for the Lord in His way of judgment?

1. Your name is the desire of our soul

- ◆ A man who often waits on the Lord in the way of judgment will recognize himself as a sinner among sinners. For it is the name of Jesus that saves me from my sins. His name is Emmanuel, which means that God is with me forever. But He is willing to live with me, a sinner, when I am so broken, so I will love His name, His memorable name, even more in my heart.

2. Desire of our soul, long for the Lord, and seek Him earnestly in your spirit

- ◆ Isaiah 26:9 says, "*My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you.*" When we are willing to come closer to God and connect with Him, the fire of love for the Lord in us will keep on burning, so that even at night we long for the Lord and long for Him, and our spirit is eagerly seeking Him.
- ◆ Like the mother of the Evangelical sisterhood of Mary, Sister Schlink, when she was willing to submit to the Lord, she laid down all her services, locked up with God, and truly rested and drew near to Him. Gradually, one day God suddenly came to her with a great fire of love that filled her with the fire of love for the Lord. The fire of Jesus' love burned so strongly in her that she longed to suffer for Jesus and to save more souls for Him.

3. Easy to understand the will of God

- ◆ When we are locked in with the Lord, you will find that everything in life is always guided by God, and it is so easy to understand God's will. The reason why many Christians often don't understand God's will is because they rarely wait on Him in His path of judgment and are locked in with Him.

For example: Sister Schlink, after she had been in a longer relationship with the Lord, she found that God was guiding her clearly in all things. There were times when she was still unclear about God's will and things were imminent, but she had rest in knowing that the Lord would lead. And indeed, when things were about to come, the Lord showed her clearly what to do. And she looked back afterwards and saw that every decision she had made was right and aligned with God's will.

4. The people around us will also learn righteousness

- ◆ Because we often wait on God in His path of judgment, the changes He makes in us will affect others, and create a heart of reverence that draws them to learn righteousness.

III. Concluding Remarks

Maybe you think you have so much to serve, so much work to do, how can you rest? It is only because we don't know Him well enough. "You must rest and know that I am God." If we really know that He is God, and we know that we are the workmanship of His hands, and

we can't do anything, and when we are willing to "be still" and "be rest," willing to rest and let Him work on us, you will find that the people we are serving, the place where we are serving, will greatly advance and see marvelous changes.

If the fellowship we are serving is stagnant, a little depressing, a little backtracking, maybe we need to be more quiet, locked in with the Lord, and waiting for Him in His path of judgment.

Throughout church history, all the ministry, the Lord needs a vessel that is tender in His hands, ready to be deployed and sent, a vessel that is broken by Him and often loves Him more than anything else, more than work. A vessel that is burned by the fire of His love, a vessel that truly waits for Him in the path of His judgment. If there is such a vessel, God has a way to do great things. Like the great revival in Wales, the Lord only used one miner to bring about a great revival.

Waiting for the Lord is more than waiting for Him regularly, but should be a lifestyle for us in the end. By waiting on Him at regular times, we can keep our hands busy but not our hearts busy at other times. The heart continues to seek Him, love Him, and long for Him. Slowly, even in our sleep, we desire Him and seek Him earnestly. So that you abide in the Lord and in His love all the time, in the daytime or in the night.

This is the safest way to prepare for the Lord's return, and it is only by waiting for Him in His path of judgment that we can walk righteously and uprightly. As **we often receive His judgment and light, our love for the Lord will be deeper**, and we will be able to love Him more fervently and long for Him.

WOG (V) Assignment

1. Memorize the Bible: Isaiah 26:8-9
2. Ask God to shine on us as we wait on the Lord.
3. Scripture reading: Isaiah 26, Psalm 46.