

WOG (VII): Power of Stillness

Joshua 6:10-20 shows us that if we are to enter into an inner life, to enter into all the fullness of God's promise, so that the big enemy within will be destroyed, one of the most important ways is that we must **always be still before God**, to draw near to Him and wait for Him, and this is beyond **human reasoning**.

I. Waiting upon God: cultivating God's power in stillness

1. The power in stillness

- ◆ When the people of Israel entered the land of Canaan, the first thing they encountered was the tall city of Jericho, and it was filled with tall giants. But what was the way God instructed them to fight?

They went around the city quietly, not saying a word, once a day, and seven times on the seventh day, which, according to the wisdom of man, was foolish, and was simply a way of death. **But the Israelites were willing to submit to it.**

But on the seventh day, God asked them to go around the city seven times, and they went around obediently, and the presence of God kept on building up, and when the priests blew trumpets and the people shouted, the high walls of the city fell down.

- ◆ Similarly, it may seem foolish to man, that we rather wait on God for one hour without feeling it than spend this hour on reading ten chapters of Bible or reciting one chapter of verses. But when we are willing to wait, God's presence is always at work, always doing the greatest miracles in us. Therefore, in order for God to bring us into the land of Canaan, and for all the fullness of Jesus Christ to be formed in us, it is very important that we always be still in the presence of God.

2. Faith is built in stillness

- ◆ As the Israelites went around the city day by day in stillness, they must have been fearful and trembling, lifting up their faith and relying on God all the time. While they were going around the city, though their mouths were silent, their hearts were saying, "Lord, we depend on you, O Lord! Be with us, O Lord! You will protect us." So God's presence is always on the move.

As they went around the city, they focused their attention on God and realized that the Lord of hosts was among them, so that as they went around the city, their faith was built up so that when the walls of the city fell, there were still great men inside, and the Israelites were still like grasshoppers, but they were courageous. They went straight up to the city and took it, and killed all the people in it.

So it is with waiting on the Lord, sometimes even when we don't feel it, but in the presence of God does the greatest miracles in us, building up in us that unspeakable faith.

- ◆ This is like the oil in Matthew 25, which no one can give you because it is from the inside and can not be poured out to you. But through your nearness to God, His anointing is always in you. And the oil of your love will keep being enriched, as is the anointing of Jesus' love. And when you encounter something, you find that you have an unspeakable faith drawn from God's treasury. This is a wonderful thing to wait on God.

A man who has the gift of divine healing does not always have faith when he is sick, but a man who is always close to God has a great faith in him that no one can take away.

3. In the quietness, God's presence is always brewing

- ◆ When the people of Israel were clinging close to God, went around Jericho day by day, on the seventh day, they were filled with the assurance of victory, and they found that God was really among them, and that He was in control of the city. So when the priests blew the trumpets and they cried out with a loud voice, the whole city of Jericho fell down.
- ◆ Many people are just too quick to cry out. Some may go around the city the first time and shout, "In the name of the Lord, we declare that the city of Jericho has fallen," but this is useless. **And shouting too quickly stops God from working, because God's presence has not been built up enough** to bring down the city.
- ◆ This is why we often encourage our brothers and sisters to come closer to God earlier and let God's presence come in all the time. When it's time to sing a hymn, you are filled with the presence of God and come to worship Him. Then your joy, rejoicing and praise before God will no longer be empty shouts. **If the presence of God is not brewed, praise is empty, like a gong and a cymbal.**

If we brew the presence of God, sometimes even without music or singing, when we feel the presence of God, the glory bursts in us and waves of praise burst forth in unison, like the voice of the waters and the sound of the thunder, as the book of Revelation says. **These are not through music or emotional stirrings, but through the presence of God.** The presence of God is always moving and building up more and more.

- ◆ Pastor Miller said that for two years he preached in many places trying to find a church that knew how to worship, but there were none. Only one or two knew how to praise God.

To worship is to pour out all your love at the feet of Jesus, to bow down before Him, to look at Him with your eyes, and to find out how beautiful and lovely He is that no one can compare. Unless you take more time to get closer to Him. Otherwise you will never be able to enter into true, deep worship, which is the connection of spirit to spirit, and which is the worship flowing out of love naturally.

4. In stillness, the presence of God radiates amazing power

(1) Destroy all tall enemies

- ◆ God wanted the Israelites to understand one thing in their first battle into the land of Canaan: "You need to trust in my instructions with such an open heart. Trust in me with all your heart, and the greatest enemy, the hardest enemy, will fall before you."
- ◆ **Our greatest enemy today is our old self.** Our stubborn temper, our stubborn old self, so proud and arrogant, so proud of itself, so selfish, so self-centered, so interested in gain all the time. It was like the great city of Jericho, which no one could overthrow. But through waiting on the Lord and obedience, the old self remained weak.
- ◆ Mrs. Guyon said that her old self was like a monster with many heads. One horn is cut off here, and another head grows on the other side. Sometimes by waiting for the Lord for a long time, our old self disappears. But it is not gone forever, for the old self is only asleep, not dead. If we do not wait for the Lord for a period of time, our old self will come back. Therefore, we have to keep waiting upon the Lord and let our old self keep dying.

(2) To have a revived body

- ◆ To wait upon God is to give God an opportunity to come into our inner man, and that amazing miracle begins to happen in us, changing our character, our interests, our hobbies, and even our bodies. If we are to have a resurrected body, we must wait upon God.
- ◆ At one point, Pastor Miller said that the last 20 years of Mrs. Robinson's life seemed to be lived in resurrection, and that she needed very little sleep, often hearing her typing at night. How could she do this, answering letters from all over the world, or praying? Because she has been living in His presence, let His glory, His presence change her all the time, including her physical body.

(3) Make your life pure and blessed

- ◆ Once the Lord said, "O my children! Life is not easy because man disrupted my Father's will, and those paths that were straight have been made evil, full of difficult obstacles and stones. The original will of God the Father for us to follow is a very simple, simple, straight path of trust in Him. Just like the Israelites who came out of Egypt and could have entered the land of Canaan in 11 days, but they kept circling around in the wilderness for 40 years and still did not enter, and finally died in the wilderness.

So it is with our lives today. If we are not willing to stop our work, rely on Him and look to Him for directions, how should we fight this battle? How should we do this? If we are not willing to rest and give up our own wisdom and strength to rely on Him, but keep choosing and solving in our own way, we often end up making our life so twisted and difficult.

- ◆ **Waiting for the Lord is a loving gaze and a total trust. To wait for the Lord is to come to God always “helplessly and hopelessly.”** If we are willing to look to God in this way in every battle, lean on Him, obey Him, and wait for Him to accomplish it, life will not be so difficult. You will find that although there is a big rock in front of you, God can make it shake suddenly and the rock will fall down the cliff.
- ◆ When a person is demeaned, under great pressure at work, with great financial difficulties, and with many marital sufferings, it is easy for such a person to come to God helplessly and hopelessly. **So when you are in a difficult situation, you should really thank the Lord! It is through these blessings in disguise that the Lord will push you into the arms of Jesus and press you deeper into the presence of God through this crisis.** Take advantage of this opportunity and don't keep looking for help from others! Draw near to Him and let Him be your strength within.

II. Concluding Remarks

On one occasion, God gave a word of wisdom to Mrs. Robinson to tell these vessels that abiding in Christ is a very important thing. Do not focus on the blessings of God, especially the gifts and operations of the Holy Spirit. They should **not think that the power of God is more important than keeping the presence of the Lord in their lives**, so that they neglect the One who gave them these gifts. The Lord told them how to practice their inner life saying, “When the Lord Jesus draws vessels to love Him, God expects them to keep their eyes on Him at all times, and **if they are diligent in their pursuit, this moment-by-moment attention becomes their way of life.** In their initial experience, they spent most of their time in prayer, praise, waiting on God, and in spiritual fellowship with Him. They also spent much of their time at work gazing at Jesus within.”

If we keep watching and diligently seeking Him in this area, God will reveal Himself to us more and more, and God will begin to take the initiative to keep our minds focused on Him every moment, so that we can find Him there, which is the starting point of the inner (deeper) life. So to begin to enter into the starting point of the inner life, you have to pay a price, spend a lot of effort, and not take it lightly. At first it takes so much time to pursue and seek Him. If we don't spend time in our lives seeking Him and getting close to Him, but just come to gatherings and receive the overflow, we will never be able to enter into the inner life. **Therefore, a person who does not wait on the Lord will never understand what the inner life is.**

It is not our goal to draw near to God, but to draw near to God to a point where we can keep His presence and abide in Him. It has been said that a person who does not like to be alone cannot achieve anything in literature or science, and the same is true of spiritual matters.

Wait for God to empty us as human beings so that we can enter into His presence through love. In fact, it is God who is waiting to give us grace. **He loves us and desires to have our whole heart, love, and attention, because only when we look at Him in this way can He enter into us and make the greatest changes.** Matthew says that if our eyes are enlightened, our whole body will be enlightened. The word “shine” means to focus. If the eyes of our hearts are focused on Jesus, the whole person will be bright. Because our eyes are often focused on many people, things, and objects, we really need to quietly turn inwardly and **refocus the minds of our eyes on Jesus** so that our whole mind is surrendered to Him, renewed and changed.

Jesus’ purpose for the five loaves and two fish was for people to come and eat and drink of Him. But Jesus wanted them to come and eat and drink Him, and if they ate, they would have eternal life, and if they drank, they would no longer be thirsty. Eating and drinking of Him is sometimes invisible and we may not have a lot of feelings. But eating and drinking of Him can make a real difference in our lives, so that we can have eternal life, eternal satisfaction, and never be hungry or thirsty again. Pray that the Lord would draw us every day and give us a great thirst, so that we would be hungry and thirsty every day to eat and drink from Him.

To wait upon the Lord is to keep drawing on His fullness, to keep coming to eat and drink of Him, and that is eternal life.

WOG (VII) Assignment

1. Review the contents of the Waiting on God (VII) messages and summarize them.