

## THE DISCIPLINE OF WAITING

TEXT: (Isaiah 40:25-31, NLT)

<sup>25</sup> “To whom will you compare me? Who is my equal?” asks the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup> Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out like an army, one after another, calling each by its name. Because of his great power and incomparable strength, not a single one is missing. <sup>27</sup> O Jacob, how can you say the LORD does not see your troubles? O Israel, how can you say God ignores your rights? <sup>28</sup> Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. <sup>30</sup> Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. <sup>31</sup> But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

KEY VERSE: “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31, KJV).

## INTRODUCTION

1. “Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised” (Romans 4:18-21, NIV).

## I. NO COMPARISON

1. “‘To whom will you compare me? Who is my equal?’ asks the Holy One” (Isaiah 40:25, NLT).

## A. Look to the Heavens

1. “Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out like an army, one after another, calling each by its name” (Isaiah 40:26, NLT).
2. “Because of his great power and incomparable strength, not a single one is missing” (Isaiah 40:26, NLT).

## B. Look to Creation

1. “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible” (Hebrews 11:3, NIV).
2. “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him” (Psalm 8:3-4)?
3. “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well” (Psalm 139:14).

## C. Look to Your Life

1. “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father” (Matthew 10:29, NIV).

3. "If the LORD delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand" (Psalm 37:23-24, NIV).
4. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28, NIV).

## II. OMNISCIENCE—THE EYES OF PROVIDENCE

### A. God Sees the Big Picture

1. "Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.  
But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked" (Psalm 73:1-3, NIV).
2. "When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.  
Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin" (Psalm 73:16-18, NIV)

### B. God Sees Your Troubles

1. "O Jacob, how can you say the LORD does not see your troubles? O Israel, how can you say God ignores your rights? Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding" (Isaiah 40:27-28, NLT).
2. "He catches the wise in their craftiness, and the schemes of the wily are swept away" (Job 5:13, NIV).

## III. A PRACTICAL APPLICATION

### A. Dating and Marriage

1. "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral" (Hebrews 13:4, NIV).
2. "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers" (II Corinthians 6:14, NIV).

### B. Finding the Will of God for Your Life

1. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:1-2, NIV).

### C. How We Handle Our Finances

1. "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish'" (Luke 14:28-30, NIV).

## CONCLUSION:

1. "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31, KJV).