

WAITING IS HARD!

Isaiah 40:31 "...But those who wait on the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint." (NLT)



We live in an age, in a society, of instant gratification: If we want it, we buy it; if we can't afford it, we charge it. For the most part, delayed gratification is not in our vocabularies unless we're forced. The economic situation most of us find ourselves in now has forced us to wait on some things we would have bought otherwise, but, generally speaking, we spend as much and more than we have. Waiting is not something we want to do or are very good at; we tend to be fairly impatient. Do you ever get in the "short" line at the store to find that it really is the "short" line? Doesn't happen! A number of years ago we took our kids to the zoo. It was a hot day so everyone was there and parking was at a premium. We finally spotted someone leaving and although it took them about 20 minutes to get all their kids and stuff in the car, we waited. They finally backed out and before we could pull in a whole carload of people came from the other direction and zipped into that parking place. The one we had sat waiting for! I could have torn my hair out! I'm not a good "waiter".

It seems that I always find myself in situations where I am forced to wait. God allows me no wiggle room; I'm stuck right where I am. Oh, there is plenty of internal weeping and gnashing of teeth, but I wait because I don't have an option. (I think I'm supposed to be knowing something more about God through that. Hmmm) I find myself in that waiting place again although this time I'm not looking forward to what is ahead; it's not like a trip to Disneyland! Often when we wait for something, we are unsure of the outcome but at other times we are pretty sure about what's going to happen and I do. I've had almost a week to live with the fact that I have colon cancer, to talk with doctors, and to schedule surgery. Normally, a week wouldn't be a very long time but the days feel like they're endless; it leaves lots of time for too much thinking. I know there are lots of people who have to wait longer for more drastic things, but I'm not in their skin and vice versa. I am repeating *Philippians 4:6-7* to myself constantly and trying to let God hold back the fear and anxiety. I'm trying to wait patiently, to keep myself busy, and to not be overcome with fear. 2 weeks ago I was in the hospital for 4 days with an emergency appendectomy so all the aspects of a hospital stay are pretty fresh in my mind. I'm not looking forward to something requiring a more extensive surgery, more days in the hospital and a longer recovery period.

In our humanness, we want to just get over these kinds of things as quickly as possible. The opportunity we have at these times though is to open our eyes wider and let God reveal Himself more intimately; His character qualities and His nature. One thing we know for sure is that He allowed the appendicitis so the doctors could discover the cancer. The doctors think the cancer actually caused the appendix to become inflamed, etc. The type of cancer is slow growing and virtually undetectable until it's possibly too late: Thank you Lord that you allowed this into my life! *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance."* (James 1:2) This kind of joy isn't a happy, giddy kind of feeling but a deep knowledge of God walking with us and seeing us through trials that test our faith. It's being able to look back afterwards and say, "I know God more now than I did before." It is waiting on Him and not rushing ahead on our own, trying to find that quick fix so we'll feel better right away and not have to suffer. *James 1:4* goes on to say, *"Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."* As we wait on God, we're not just treading water, wasting time but we're allowing Him to develop our perseverance, increase our strength, and add another part to our maturity and "completeness". That strength that we gain from waiting (the right way) enables us to "fly high on wings like eagles", "run and not grow weary", and "walk and not faint".

We need to decide if we would rather learn more about God, fly high, run and not grow weary, and walk and not faint than have something get over quickly so we don't have to wait for the outcome. I pray we will all be able to focus on the God who controls the situation rather than on the situation itself. I pray we will excel at waiting on God to work out His plan for our lives. I pray you can see the opportunities God gives you to know Him better through waiting on Him.

"They will rise up on wings like eagles....."

*Blessings on your week,
Georgia*