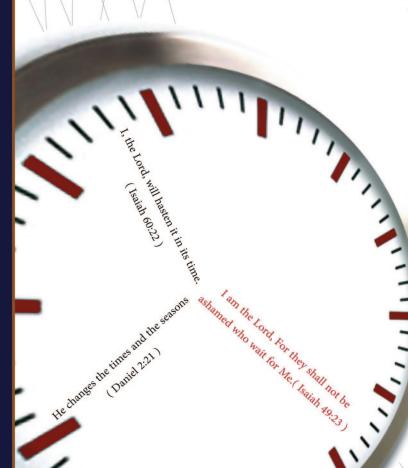
Wait for the LORD



Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord - Dr. Mark Nagy

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Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord! (Psalm 27: 14)

I wait for you Lord ... You alone are my Hope



In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

One God.

Amen

Waiting for the Lord is considered one of the most important lessons which the true Christian believer learns through his discipleship in the school of Christ. Waiting was one of the most important lessons of faith that heroes of faith and God's saints had to go allover the ages.

(1) Noah

Noah waited for the Lord faithfully⁽¹⁾ and with complete obedience. He prepared the ark as God instructed him without asking about the details of God's plan for the floodwaters.

Surely, waiting was not easy. Building such huge ark costed Noah a lot of time ⁽²⁾, effort and resources. Definitely, Noah was subjected to mockery from the people surrounding him, as building such a huge ark on the ground and waiting the promise of God was a

⁽¹⁾ By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household (Hebrews 11: 7)

⁽²⁾ Most Bible interpreters agree that the period of building the ark ranges from 100 years (from Genesis 5:32 as Noah was 500 years old to Genesis 7:6 where he was 600 years old) to 120 years in order to grant the mankind a complete chance to repent - Genesis 6:3

big loss of time in the eyes of the evil people. But what was the final result? Only Noah and his family survived while all the other people perished. May be you are in the same position, as you are subject to mockery from others surrounding you while waiting for God's work in your life. Never ever give up and trust the Lord. Waiting faithfully for the Lord is the only way for salvation.

We all face the same challenge today. The challenge of waiting with faith and obedience for God's promises to survive the floods of this world which lies under the sway of the wicked one - the devil. The challenge to survive the daily trials to which we might be subjected. The Lord Jesus Christ has prepared by himself the ark of our survival through His redemption to us on the cross. Hence, shall we believe in His promises to us, and come to Him to be protected within His bosom?

- ❖ My Lord & savior: Jesus Christ,
- Thank You for finishing all the work to redeem me from the eternal death through Your death on the cross and Your resurrection.
- ❖ Help me to wait for Your work and Your promises to me by faith.
- ❖ Help me to obey You faithfully on my way of pilgrimage on earth.
- So that I can listen and obey Your voice to me whatever this will cost me.
- Trusting that You alone are Lord that shall not be ashamed who wait for You. (Isaiah 49: 23)

(2) Abraham

The patriarch Abraham had to wait for the son of promise Isaac until his age was about 100 years old and after the deadness of Sarah's womb, to be completed in the love of God and faith. The heart of Abraham was now completely ready to obey the Lord, to the point that he did not hesitate to offer his only son Isaac, whom he loved, as a burnt offering to God, giving an amazing prophecy to all generations on God's redemption to us.

Abraham has learned from the lesson of waiting to trust in God's promises to him and to obey Him even if he did not understand God's purpose at its time. He realized that any human solutions he might has been using in the past will be useless and that only waiting, loving and fully obeying God without any conditions is the only solution.

- ❖ My faithful Lord in all His promises,
- Forgive me for each time I complained and failed to wait your promises to me.
- Forgive me for each time I doubted your faithfulness and power to satisfy my needs.
- Forgive me for each time I did not wait for You, so that I tried to find solutions for my problems away from You.
- ❖ Teach me Lord how to wait firstly for You by faith even if the waiting period was long.
- ❖ Teach me to wait for your promises in Isaac, and not for the promises of the world.
- ❖ Teach me how to love You and to seek You from all my heart.

❖ You alone are the subject of my waiting, and not any other giving.⁽³⁾

⁽³⁾ Alas! It is easy to ask things from God and do not ask God himself, as if the gift is better than the giver. (St. Augustine)

(3) **Job**

God has allowed Job to go through a very difficult tribulation in his life to justify him and to heal him from self-righteousness. Job has lost all what he had in one time:

Possessions: oxen, donkeys, sheep, camels, servants (Job 1: 13-17)

Children: All his sons and daughters were killed together (Job 1: 18-19)

Health: Suffering from painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. (Job 2:7)

Respect of others: Starting from his wife, who should have been the first person to support him. (Job 2:9)

But "In all this Job did not sin with his lips." (Job 2:10)

During this difficult time and in the mid of his pain, Job wanted only to know one thing: "Why did God allowed him to suffer in his life? He was crying to God: "Do not condemn me; Show me why You contend with me." (Job 10:2). At that time, Job did not fully realize how much God loved him, as the Lord Himself said to the grumbler - Satan "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" (Job 1:8)

Job had to wait for God's answer to him. Job thought that he might find this answer through his friends: Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. Instead of helping him, his discussions with his friends increased his pain and could have ended him to curse God. Job understood that human wisdom cannot offer comfort and peace.

Finally, the Lord spoke to Job after he lost his hope

in any human support. (Job 38-41). The amazing thing is that after all Job's waiting throughout his pain, God did not answer his question directly! He did not tell him why He allowed pain in his life?! But God's answer was exactly the curing answer that Job really needed as he did not understand his real need at that time. That is why we find that Job answered the Lord and said: "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?'Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.' "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. (Job 42:1-5)

After Job was healed from his bitterness of soul, and regained his trust in God with a more profound depth that he has not experienced before, the good harvest time

of Job's wait and pain began. God has favored him in front of his friends (Job 42: 7-10). And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. (Job 42: 12-13)

God may allow you to go through pain and waiting in your life in order to let you enter in a new depth in your relation with Him. Do not make your focus on knowing the reasons because "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (Romans 11: 33), instead trust in God's complete goodness. Only God can restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten. (Joel 2: 25)

Oh Lord of compensations,

- ❖ I declare today my trust that You are good to all. (Psalm 145: 9)
- ❖ You alone can restore to me the years of waiting and pain in my life, according to Your wisdom, according to Your goodness and mercy.

(4) Joseph

Joseph had to wait for years before God can use him to deliver his nation and other nations from famine. God may allow suffering in your life, but He can transfer this suffering into blessing if you wait faithfully for his work.

God allowed Joseph to suffer from the hatred and betrayal of his brothers to the point that they wanted to kill him and finally they sold him to become a slave in Egypt, but God has turned this evil into a blessing for all:

A blessing for Joseph as he became the second man in Egypt.

A blessing for Joseph's family as God saved them from the famine through Joseph. Even a blessing for Egypt and the surrounding nations, as God saved them for famine through Joseph.

God transformed the impurity of Potiphar's wife and her lies about Joseph to give Joseph the privilege of being an example of purity and self control to all generations and to send him to the prison. The presence of Joseph in Potiphar's house for a longer time would not serve Joseph nor God's amazing plan to save His people. God used the neglection and forgetfulness of Pharaoh's butler about Joseph until the right time came so that Joseph could fully realize that salvation can only come from God. God was preparing the right time and way for the Pharaoh's butler to remember Joseph so that he would be out of prison not as a criminal released from prison by exemption, but as the second man in power in Egypt.

Joseph has realized God's purpose from all the pain and waiting that He allowed in his life. Joseph's answer to his brothers, who were afraid that he may take revenge from them after the death of their father, was the best proof on that: "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive." (Genesis 50: 20)

- ❖ God of total goodness,
- Thank you for transforming the conspiracies done by our enemies for our favor and the favor of others.
- * Really "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8: 28)
- ❖ Teach us Lord how to trust in your promises and to wait faithfully for your work in our life.
- Help us not to rely on the arm of human beings, as

"Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord." (Jeremiah 17: 5)

❖ But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40: 31)

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(5) Moses

Moses had to wait for God's work through him for the salvation of His people for 40 years in the desert. In the beginning, Moses thought that he was able to give freedom to his nation while he was a prince in Pharaoh's palace. And what was the result? In his anger, he killed an Egyptian man and ran away from Egypt to spend 40 years in the desert. God allowed all this long period of waiting in Moses' life just to prepare him for the salvation of His people.

Moses had to learn not to trust his personal capabilities, but to put all his trust in God alone. God gave him a new heart so that Moses who killed the Egyptian man in his anger in Egypt, became "very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth." (Numbers 12:3). Moses learned to wait for the Lord, and to run to him to speak whenever he faces a problem.

- Almighty God,
- ❖ Forgive me for each time I did not wait for your work in my life.
- ❖ So that I depended on my own capabilities to finalize things even if they appeared as spiritual ones.
- ❖ Help me to stay in Your presence, to listen to Your voice and guidance to me before I can go ahead for the work that You called me for.
- ❖ Open my eyes Lord, so that I can see Your work in me for my salvation and the salvation of others through the period of waiting that You allow in my life.
- So that I can realize the fact that "It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord." (Lamentations 3: 26)

(6) Hannah

Hannah had to wait for years suffering from having no children letting "her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb." (1 Samuel 1: 6). This pain allowed Hannah to devote her heart completely to the Lord, before devoting her firstborn son to the Lord. Her son Samuel became one of the greatest prophets in the old testament.

Imagine with me if God had not closed the womb of Hannah, would she have prayed with all her heart and made a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head." (1 Samuel 1: 11)?

The Lord turned her mourning into joy⁽⁴⁾, "And the Lord visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters." (1 Samuel 2: 21)

- ❖ O God of all compassion,
- Thank you for every waiting period You allowed in my life,
- ❖ As often these periods of wait and pain were the only way to enter in a deep relation with You.
- ❖ Give us grace our Lord so that the difficult times of waiting become blessing times for us and for others.
- Give us faith so that we can see the answering of our

⁽⁴⁾ And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; My horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. "No one is holy like the Lord, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. (1 Samuel 2:1-2)

prayers.

- ❖ Thank you Lord for every blessing (Samuel) that You prepare for us while waiting you.
- ❖ Thank You for being our good Father who desires and plans all the good for us.

(7) David

David had to wait for God's promise to him to become the king of Israel. This time of wait was full of pain and trials, but God used this pain to prepare David to become the greatest king of Israel. "God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone." (James 1: 13), but He uses all things - even the evil of the world and the temptations of the devil - to prepare His children to gain power in their spiritual life. He alone, creator of the universe, can arise blessings from difficult times, strength from weakness, and victory from failure.

David who shouted to the Lord in his pain and said: "How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?" (Psalm 13: 1-2), can also be found saying by faith: "I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined

to me, And heard my cry." (Psalm 40: 1). David has learnt the lesson of wait

- ❖ God of faithfulness,
- ❖ Teach me how to wait for You while facing the tribulations of the world.
- To wait for You in the midst of the persecutions of the enemies and the betrayal of the loved ones.
- ❖ To wait for Your work in me, even if everyone left me alone with no support except from You.
- ❖ In the midst of the tribulations of life, we find ourselves not knowing "what to do, but our eyes are upon You." (2 Chronicles 20: 12)
- **.*** Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. (Psalm 33: 20)

- **Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, Just as we hope in You.** (Psalm 33: 22)
- * Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. (Psalm 37: 7)
- **❖** Wait on the Lord, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land (Psalm 37: 34)
- **❖** Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my salvation. (Psalm 62: 1)
- **❖** My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him. (Psalm 62: 5)

(8) Jesus calms the storm

The Lord Jesus waited for the windstorm to reach its peak, threatening the boat to sink before He interfered. In their weakness & fear, the disciples blamed the Lord: "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" (Mark 4: 38), but the Lord had a great wisdom for such waiting. The real reason for such waiting was Love. The teacher wanted his disciples to understand and realize the following:

- + That personal skills and experience cannot deliver them as "the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling." (Mark 4: 37). The boat was almost sinking and all the disciples' experience could not do anything to save their boat.
- + How weak their faith was as the Lord blamed them saying: "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" (Mark 4: 40)

+ The Power of the Lord and His sovereignty as He "rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm." (Mark 4: 39) And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!" (Mark 4: 41)

God used this difficult test so that the disciples can realize their weakness, in order to rely completely on God Almighty. The Lord wanted the disciples to go deep in their faith so that the boat of their spiritual life would not be destroyed.

- O Lord, Master and Almighty God,
- ❖ Forgive me for every time I doubted your great love and care for me, and as a result of that, I did not realize the reasons for the wait period that you allowed in my life.

- Thank You for Your great love for me which made You bear my continuous complains in order to give me important spiritual lessons in my life.
- ❖ Help me to rely on You from all my heart by faith so that I would not fear the storm of the world tribulations, instead I would proclaim my trust in You in front of all as You alone have overcome the world ⁽⁵⁾ and You made us heirs for this victory in Christ ⁽⁶⁾

⁽⁵⁾ In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. (John 16: 33)

⁽⁶⁾ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8: 17)

(9) The bleeding woman

God allowed this woman to suffer from the pain of "flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse." (Mark 5: 25-26). She was suffering from psychological and physical pain for 12 running years. In the midst of all this pain & wait for healing, we find the Lord Jesus transforming the pain into joy and the shame into glory.

Imagine with me if this woman had been healed through one of the physicians. Would she have seeked the Lord Jesus with such great passion and faith saying in her heart :"If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." (Mark 5: 28)? The failure of all human trials to cure this disease was the motivation for this woman to ask deeply and to seek the Lord with all efforts and faith in order to get the healing from heaven and not

from human after all this period of wait.

The Lord compensated this woman for all the years during which she felt ashamed due to her disease as she was considered unclean according to the law. The story of this woman was mentioned in the gospel according to Saint Matthew, Mark & Luke. Today and after more than two thousands years, we still learn from her story how to wait for the Lord with faith.

God may allow us to go through pain and illness in our life. Do we get benefit from this to get in touch with Him? If such suffering in our life is the means for us to get close to God and to seek Him, then we should consider it the best gift for which we should thank Him, whether He will grant us physical healing or not. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? (Matthew 16: 26)

- O Lord, our Healer,
- ❖ Thank you for every pain and illness that you allowed in my life.
- ❖ Help me to wait faithfully for Your work in my life so that such pain be a blessing to my short life on earth and to my eternal life with You in heaven.
- ❖ I call you Lord today to heal my spiritual and psychological diseases, as I trust that it is your will for me.
- ❖ And I put my physical diseases between Your hands to do what is the best according to Your will ,whether by healing it or not.

10) The man born blind

God allowed this man to be born blind and to suffer from the absence of vision for years in his life. What was the reason from this long period of wait that God allowed to give the healing and blessing of vision to this man?

1. We can consider the absence of vision as one of the most amazing gifts that was granted to this man born blind! Because of this lack of physical vision as well as the long period of wait, this blind man was able to see what the pharisees and leaders of the Jews could not see. His blindness was the reason for his first approach to the Lord Jesus who created in him a new spiritual heart before creating new eyes to him. The work of the Lord in his heart was the reason that this blind man graded in his description of the Lord Jesus from "A Man called Jesus"(John 9: 11), to "He is a prophet." (John 9: 17) to finally believing that the Lord Jesus is the son of God

and to worship Him (John 9: 38).

We all may have some privations in our life and we may ask God why do You allow this as long as You love us? Why do we have to wait for years before You can satisfy our needs Lord? And the Lord's answer is that: Because of Love I allowed the privation and wait in your life.

- 2. The Lord Jesus wanted to clarify to all people that pain and tribulations are not necessarily the result of sin, (7) yet in many cases God may allow His children to go through pain for their purification, and to be glorified in them and through them.
- 3. This miracle is considered one of the most powerful miracles that clearly indicates and proves that the Lord Jesus is truly the Son of God, as He created new eyes to

⁽⁷⁾ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. (John 9: 3)

the man born blind and who can create except God only?

- ❖ O Lord, Creator of the universe,
- * Create in me a new thankful heart,
- Who can see your hands always extended for the good and tender.
- Thank You for every wait you allow me to go through for my good.
- ❖ Teach me how to realize the depth of Your love to me which may allow some certain privation in my life for my good.
- ❖ Thank You my loving creator from all my heart that Your timing is always perfect.

11) Lazarus

The Lord waited until Lazarus died and did not go directly to heal him. Do you know why?! Because this was for the good of all:

1. Lazarus: Who experienced practically the fact that his life after death is no longer his own, but it is owned to the Lord Jesus. He went through the bitterness of death, and experienced the life in Jesus. If we asked Lazarus after being raised from the dead -which preceded the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus by short periodhow would you like to live your life, we would find him saying with Saint Paul the apostle: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2: 20). If Lazarus had died his final death before the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, he would not have enjoyed the blessings of the new testament on earth.

- 2. Martha and Mary: They mourned over their brother for 4 days, but their sorrow have turned into great joy as "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8: 28). The Lord Jesus has used the death of Lazarus to enter Mary and Martha into a new depth in their faith in Him. Before Lazarus being raised from the dead, their faith was limited to the point that Jesus can heal their brother before death(8), but with the raising of Lazarus from the dead, the Lord Jesus has allowed the faith of Mary and Martha to become more deep and they entered into a new relationship with Him as their savior.
- 3. The disciples and the Jews: Although the Lord loved Lazarus so much to the point that He wept at his tomb,

(John 11: 21), (John 11: 32)

^{(8) &}quot;Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

He was glad at the same time for his death. Do you know why the Lord was glad with the death of Lazarus and did not go quickly to heal him while he was still alive ?!

The main reason can be found in the answer of the Lord himself: Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him." (John 11: 14-15). The Lord was happy as he used the death of Lazarus as an opportunity not only to strengthen the faith of His disciples, but also the faith of the people who were there to comfort Martha and Mary as it is shown in John 11: 45 "Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him". This fact teaches us that the Lord may allow some period of wait in our lives, which may be full of pain but "the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8: 18), and through us for the salvation of others

4. The believers in the Lord Jesus throughout different ages: The miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead was the subject of lots of meditations and sermons. Lots of books were written on this miracle. Lots of souls came to faith through this miracle as it proves without any doubt the sovereignty of the Lord Jesus on the raising of dead - "Lazarus, come forth!" (John 11: 43). It is through the faith in the Lord Jesus that many believers were able to raise dead people in the name of the Lord Jesus throughout the different eras of the church.

Lots of time, we blame the Lord for the periods of waiting in our lives due to our wrong belief that they are periods in which God forget us, and we do not realize that these periods of waiting from God are periods used to prepare those whom the Lord loves. The Lord's message today to each one of us who is going through some period of waiting is: "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." (John 13: 7)

- ❖ My Living God,
- Thank You that You allow the death of some issues in my life, in order to resurrect the best for me and for the others.
- ❖ You allow the death of the old corrupt one for the resurrection of the renewed one in the spirit.
- ❖ Teach me how to wait faithfully for You Lord, trusting that you are my Holy Father of complete wisdom and goodness.
- ❖ You alone have the escapes from death ⁽⁹⁾
- ❖ You alone Lord "who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did" (Romans 4: 17)

⁽⁹⁾ Our God is the God of salvation; And to God the Lord belong escapes from death. (Psalm 68: 20)

12) Holy Spirit

The apostles and the disciples had to wait for the promise of the Father, which is the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Do you know why?! This was a period of preparation for them so that they may ask the work of the Lord from all their hearts in unity with each others, as they "all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers." (Acts 1: 14).

In many times, great things in our lives are preceded by period of wait and preparation. May be you have a spiritual request, or a promise from God to you and you are feeling that the period of wait has been too long. Never ever give up or be afraid. Trust that the Lord is preparing you to receive a great blessing for your life and for the blessings of others. Every difficult waiting is followed by a good preparation, and every good preparation is followed by many blessings and powerful use for you by God for the blessing of others.

- Heavenly Father,
- ❖ Thank You for preparing me to be a disciple in the school of Christ.
- ❖ Teach me how to wait for the work of the Holy Spirit in my life.
- ❖ Help me to be always ready for Your work in me and through me.
- Train me in the path of obedience my Lord,
- ❖ In order to do your will joyfully from all my heart, trusting Your promises.

Other Translated Books for the author

- Prayer for Christian unity.
- ❖ Ambassador of Heaven.
- ❖ Lord Jesus' visit to the child Maria.

Other Books for the author in Arabic

- * الصلاة من أجل الوحدة
- * زيارة الرب يسوع للطفلة ماريا.
 - 💠 قدسني يا الله .
 - 💸 هلم إلى حضن يسوع .
 - 🌣 انتظر الرب.
 - * ثق! قم! هوذا يناديك.
 - * سفيرة السماء.
 - * النُصرة في انتظارك.
 - * أبانا الذي في السموات.
- سر الزيجة. طلب وجه الرب، أم رضى العالم؟!

Waiting for the Lord is considered one of the most important lessons which the true Christian believer learns through his discipleship in the school of Christ.

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This book gives us some examples of waiting in the life of heroes of faith throughout ages and how God used this wait to bless them as well as others.

Dr. Mark Nagy