

ISAIAH 40:31

Soaring Like an Eagle

5 CHOICES WE
MUST MAKE



Learning to Wait. Learning to Soar.

Isaiah 40:30-31 reminds us that natural strength has limits, but those who wait on the Lord receive renewed strength. This devotional explores five choices that shape how we wait - and how we rise.

- 01 Preference or Purpose
- 02 Choose Calling Over Comfort
- 03 Fear or Faith
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- 05 My Ambition or God's Agenda

INTRODUCTION

The Choice to Wait

“Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, 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 40:30-31

The Bible reminds us that every human advantage has its limits. Youth is often associated with vitality, strength and endurance, yet even the strongest will eventually grow weary. Natural ability, experience and resources can take us only so far. Lasting strength isn't found in our own capacity but in God.

Isaiah reveals the divine blueprint for sustaining strength: “...those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength...” This teaches us two important truths.

First, waiting is a choice. God never forces us to depend on Him. We decide daily whether we will lean on our own understanding or trust His timing, wisdom and direction. Second, waiting is not passive idleness but active expectation. It is a posture of faith that remains attentive, obedient and responsive to God's instructions. While we wait we pray, prepare and continue to do what He has already placed in our hands, confident that He is working even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

Since waiting is a choice, it is important to understand the decisions that either strengthen or weaken our ability to remain in that posture. In this series, we will explore five choices we must make that enable us to wait on the Lord effectively, renew our strength, and soar into all that God has prepared for us.

We trust that the Holy Spirit will use this series to teach us how to wait with confidence, patience and expectation so our strength is renewed and we are empowered to fulfil all God has ordained for us.

CHOICE 1

Preference or Purpose

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

“Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” Luke 22:42

When we’re waiting for something we typically have already decided what we want and how we want it to be. So unconsciously we’re making choices about how we want God to show up in and for us. But waiting on God isn’t deciding what we want and expecting Him to make it happen. The first choice we have to make is to surrender to His will, trusting that His plan is better.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9

For us to make this choice we need to have a shift in perspective. God has more than a million ways to make anything happen. He’s omnipotent and has unlimited resources. He’s the Ancient of Days and has literally seen multiple generations come and go. We’re around for a finite period, and regardless of how intelligent and connected we are, we still have limited resources and understanding. Our best can never compare with God’s best for us - ours will always fall short. This means that if we choose to stick to what we want rather than allow God give us what’s on His mind for us, we’re already setting ourselves up to receive less than His best.

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.” James 4:10

It takes humility for us to accept that we don’t know everything and that we need His help. It takes trust to give room for God to do what He wants to do in, with and through us. When humility and trust combine, the result is a posture of yielding that frees God to move mightily in our lives and cause us to soar in our purpose as He intends.

PAUSE & PRAY

Purpose Over Preference

PRAYER

Lord shift my perspective from insisting on what I want to allow You to give me Your best. Help me to choose Your purpose for my life over my preferences.

CHOICE 2

Choose Calling Over Comfort

“But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me-and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.” 1 Corinthians 15:10

Comfort is one of the greatest enemies of calling. Comfort seeks convenience, calling demands sacrifice. Comfort invites us to settle, but calling compels us to grow. God never promised us a life of ease; He promised us His presence, His power and His purpose.

“So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing.” 1 Corinthians 9:26

Paul, the writer of the majority of the New Testament, acknowledged both God’s grace and the effort he had to put into his missions. The things we read about were his reality at the time, none of it comfortable, but all purpose driven. Giants are not produced in places of comfort. Eagles learn to soar by leaving the safety of the nest. Likewise, God develops men and women of purpose by leading them beyond what is familiar and secure.

Before encountering Christ, Paul had status, influence, education and religious prestige. Yet God disrupted everything that made him comfortable in order to reveal the assignment for which he had been chosen. Paul’s calling required him to leave behind personal ambition, embrace uncertainty and endure hardship so that God’s purpose could be fulfilled through his life. Had he clung to comfort, he would never have become one of the greatest apostles in history.

Waiting on God often means resisting the temptation to settle for what feels safe. Sometimes we wait because God is preparing us to step into something that requires greater faith, greater dependence and greater courage. If we make comfort our highest priority, we may miss the very opportunities that God is using to shape us for our assignment. This is why one of the most revealing questions we can ask ourselves is: Where have I allowed comfort to take priority over my calling?

PRAYER

Lord, expose every area where I have chosen comfort over Your calling. Give me the courage to leave what is familiar, the faith to embrace what You are leading me into, and the perseverance to follow You wherever You send me.

CHOICE 3

Fear or Faith

"Looking unto Jesus...who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross..." Hebrews 12:2

Yesterday we saw that soaring requires leaving our comfort zone. Whenever God calls us beyond what is familiar, fear often follows. That is a normal human response. The real question is not if we will feel fear, but whether we will allow fear or faith to determine our next step.

"...Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him." Luke 22:42-43

Jesus' experience in Gethsemane gives us a powerful model for navigating fear. He didn't deny what He felt and honestly expressed His anguish to the Father. Yet He did not allow His emotions to have the final word, surrendering His fear to God's will. What happened next is significant. As Jesus yielded Himself to the Father, heaven responded. An angel appeared and strengthened Him. His circumstances had not changed, but He received supernatural strength to face them. He rose from prayer with the courage to walk towards the cross.

Many of us stop at acknowledging our fear, analyse it and allow it to dominate our thinking, but we never place it into God's hands. Fear that remains in our hands grows larger. Fear surrendered to God becomes an opportunity for divine intervention.

Faith is not the absence of fear; it is the decision to trust God in the presence of it. As we bring our fears before Him in prayer, He exchanges our weakness for His strength, our uncertainty for His peace and our hesitation for boldness. Then, like Jesus, we must take the next step. We move forward not because every fear has disappeared, but because our confidence is now anchored in God rather than ourselves. Today, ask yourself: Where has fear been holding me back? What would happen if I placed that fear in God's hands and chose to step forward in faith?

PRAYER

Father, thank You that I never have to face my fears alone. Give me the courage to be honest with You about what frightens me, and the faith to surrender every fear into Your hands. Help me not to be ruled by fear but to walk confidently in obedience to Your will.

CHOICE 4

Self-Preservation or Surrender

“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.’” Luke 9:23-24

One of the greatest paradoxes of the Christian life is that God’s way often seems contrary to human instinct. Our natural tendency is to protect ourselves, preserve our comfort and remain in control. Yet Jesus teaches that the pathway to true life is not self-preservation but wholehearted surrender. In God’s Kingdom, lasting success begins when we entrust our lives completely to Him.

“While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:18

Surrender can feel difficult because we like the illusion of control. We believe we are safest when we are directing every detail of our lives. The reality, however, is that our perspective is limited. We make decisions based on what we can see, understand and predict, yet there are spiritual realities and eternal purposes that lie beyond our natural sight.

To soar as God intends, we need a perspective that reaches beyond the visible. Only the Holy Spirit can help us see life from heaven’s viewpoint and guide us according to God’s eternal purposes rather than our temporary circumstances.

Surrender is choosing to release what we think we know and allowing the Holy Spirit to shape our thinking, direct our steps and define our future.

Self-preservation says, “Protect yourself.” Surrender says, “Trust God to keep you.”

Self-preservation says, “Put yourself first.” Surrender says, “Seek first the Kingdom of God.”

Self-preservation says, “Control your own destiny.” Surrender says, “Allow God to make you into the person He created you to be.”

Self-preservation says, “Avoid every risk.” Surrender says, “Follow God’s leading, even when the path is unfamiliar, because He is using it to shape your character and fulfil His purpose.”

The person God forms through a life of surrender is very different from the one shaped by a life of self-protection. One is limited by fear and control; the other is strengthened by trust and transformed by grace.

Today, take a moment to reflect: In what areas of my life have I been trying to preserve myself instead of surrendering fully to God?

PRAYER

Father, I surrender my life afresh to You. Help me to let go of every desire to control what only You can direct. Teach me to trust Your wisdom above my own, Your plans above my preferences and Your purpose above my comfort.

CHOICE 5

My Ambition or God's Agenda

"Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant." Galatians 1:10

When we receive Jesus as Saviour, our spirit is made new immediately, but our minds, emotions, desires and motivations must continually undergo transformation. Part of this process is learning to ask ourselves an important question: Who am I trying to showcase-myself or Jesus?

"Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it..." 1 Corinthians 3:12

There is nothing inherently wrong with wanting to succeed or accomplish significant things. The challenge is that, while we are still being transformed, our ambitions don't always align with God's agenda. Sometimes God will ask us to do things that bring no recognition or immediate reward. We may be building something no one notices, serving where no one celebrates us or obeying an instruction that does not appear to advance us. Yet God is more interested in the motive behind our actions than the visibility they receive.

"...So because you have rejected the command of the Lord, he has rejected you as king." 1 Samuel 15:23

Saul shows us the danger of allowing personal ambition to compete with God's agenda. God gave him specific instructions, but Saul modified them according to what seemed right to him. In doing so, he placed his judgement above God's instruction, and ultimately cut short his assignment.

God relates with us by leading and instructing us. When personal ambition becomes more important than obedience, we can become successful at something God never asked us to do. Waiting on the Lord therefore requires us to continually surrender not only our plans, but also our definition of success. Today, ask yourself: Where might my ambition be competing with God's agenda?

PAUSE & PRAY

God's Agenda Over Ambition

PRAYER

Father, align my ambitions with Your agenda. Purify my motives and remove every desire for recognition that competes with my desire to please You. May everything I build fulfil Your purpose and showcase Jesus rather than myself.

WAIT • TRUST • OBEY

Positioned to Soar

“But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles...”

May these five choices become more than ideas. May they become a daily posture: choosing God’s purpose over preference, calling over comfort, faith over fear, surrender over self-preservation, and God’s agenda over personal ambition.

As you wait, may your strength be renewed, your perspective lifted, and your life aligned with everything God has prepared for you.