

## A. FAILING STRENGTH

- This famous Scripture has much to teach us about the meaning of waiting and the God on Whom we wait: Is 40:25-31 – “To whom then will you liken Me, or *to whom* shall I be equal?” says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these *things*, who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of *His* power; not one is missing.  
<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel: “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my just claim is passed over by my God”?  
<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.  
<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the weak, and to *those who have* no might He increases strength.  
<sup>30</sup> Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, <sup>31</sup> 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.
- This text was written to God’s exiled people who had grown up away from the Promised Land. Their ability to believe God was weak because of this.
- They questioned God’s willingness and ability to save them. In this chapter God extensively addresses their doubts and fears. To summarize:
  - The Lord, through Isaiah, reassured them that He was willing. “He will tend his flock like a shepherd,” gathering them and returning them to a safe place. (v. 11)
  - And God is certainly capable of saving them: “*It is* He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers.” (v.22)
- The children of God doubted His power to redeem them because they had grown tired, weak and weary in the waiting.
- In this passage, God promises new strength to those who are waiting and explains how to obtain it.
- He led Isaiah to use a Hebrew word that contains much practical instruction about waiting on God. The word used for wait is “qavah” which is the root word for rope.
- Qavah literally means the twisting, weaving or binding involved in making a strong rope. The more strands integrated into the rope, the stronger it becomes. (H6960)
- Some threads are tucked in and incorporated into the rope with just short segments remaining outside. Because those threads stay close, they remain strong.
- Other strands are not united with the main rope. They were either 1) never woven in tightly or 2) they became loose and frayed. They lack the strength they need.
- So far, we can see that to wait on God involves staying closely connected to Him. We also see that there is intrinsic pressure implied due to all the twisting required.
- It’s in the tension of waiting that our strength is renewed. Tension is required to bring all the loose tendrils together and allow them to be bound to the main rope.
- There’s also the tension between the truth of who God says He is and the reality of our situation. He is strong but we are weak, frayed, stressed and weary.
- LISTENING EXERCISE:

*Where are you most feeling the tension between the truth of God’s strength and the reality of your own lack of strength, stress, fatigue, fraying, pressure, or weariness?*

## B. FRESH STRENGTH

- This passage concludes with the promise of fresh strength when we choose to wait on God. Our ability to receive that strength is greatly impacted by our view of Him.
- “Isaiah’s...encouragement for the weary is to train their eyes on God alone. He does not delve into their circumstances. He reminds them...Yahweh is everlasting. He is the Creator. He is not a frail creature like them. He is all-wise. To a suffering people, Isaiah offers a simple but stunning prescription: God. The people need more of Him, and less of everything else.” (Owen Strachan)
- It is in waiting upon the Lord that revelation of His greatness is able to penetrate to the depths of our inmost being. It dawns on us that God is worthy to be waited on!
- We also discover that everything we need has already been given to us because of Who God is and His covenant relationship with us:
  - The Holy One: Is 50:15 NLT -- The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: “I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.
  - Creator God: Neh 9:6-- You alone *are* the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.
  - The One Who Holds It All Together: Col 1:16-17 NLT-- God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.
  - All Powerful: Job 42:2 NAS -- I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.
  - All Knowing: Rom 11:33 MSG -- Have you ever come on anything quite like this extravagant generosity of God, this deep, deep wisdom? It’s way over our heads. We’ll never figure it out. Is there anyone around who can explain God? Anyone smart enough to tell him what to do? Anyone who has done him such a huge favor that God has to ask his advice? Everything comes from him; Everything happens through him; Everything ends up in him.
  - Our Provider: 2 Cor 9:8 NLT -- God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.
- Lastly, it’s in this posture of waiting that we gain a right view of ourselves. God likens us to young eaglets still in the nest who are learning to soar into the heavens.
- These little birds need their parents to stir up the nest and send them out for training. They discover quickly that they are weak and in need of rescue.
- Though in free fall, their watchful parents are waiting to catch them on their own strong wings. They carry them back to the safety of the nest (until next time).
- Likewise, God stirs up His children, helping us to understand by experience our limitations, weakness, and over-confidence.
- Both eaglets and the children of God, as they submit to this training, learn that they can exchange their inferior strength for the superior strength of their loving parent.
- We find that waiting on God is the pathway to the renewed strength that we need.

- LISTENING EXERCISE

*Notice in our passage that it is only to those who choose to wait upon the Lord that new strength is given. Is that new information for you today?*

*Ask the Lord to show you how to apply this principle of waiting on Him to your current situation:*

a) *Spend more time meditating on God and His character. Choose 1 or 2 attributes to start this practice. (See list on p. 2)*

b) *Take a realistic inventory of where you are attempting to draw daily strength:*

c) *Identify any strands of your life that are not tightly entwined with God. Ask Him for practical ways to connect to Him more closely in these places:*

d) *Pay closer attention to where you are being stirred up, then ask the Lord to show you the exchange He wants to make with you (your \_\_\_\_ for His \_\_\_\_).*

e) *Ask yourself how it would feel to let go of all the striving and figuring out and just wait upon the Lord instead:*

- *"If your hope is set on getting what you want, then you stand the chance of being deeply disappointed, even disillusioned. But if we hope in the One who is utterly good, completely for us, whose Word is sure, and whose ways are perfect, then that hope will never disappoint." (Courtney Doctor)*
- Ps 27:13-14 NAS-- *I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.<sup>14</sup> Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage yes, wait for the LORD.*
- Insights:

