



# Connecting With God For a Strong Finish

*So we'll be Ready when the Time Comes*

## PART 2

### How to Connect with God for Strength

Wait for the Lord, Rest, Rejoice, Eat, Exercise, and Pray

#### CHAPTER 1

### Wait for the Lord To Renew your Strength

Waiting for the Lord is a process sustained by faith, reinforced by hope, and enriched by love.



*Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. **He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power.** Though youths grow*

*weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet **those who wait** [qavah] **for the Lord will gain new strength**; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary. (Isaiah 40:28-31 NAS)*

According to the “Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament” (TWOT), the Hebrew word *qavah* means, “to wait or to look for with

eager expectation.”<sup>1</sup> That means waiting for the Lord involves attentive engagement rather than idle apathy. The NIV confirms this tone by rendering *qavah* as hope, i.e., “*they that hope in the Lord shall renew their strength*”. Paul reinforced this proactive distinction by asserting:

*But if we **hope** for what we do not see, **with perseverance we wait eagerly** for it. (Rom 8:25 NAS)*

We recognize God intermittently because gaps occur between connecting points and distractions abound. Editors for the TWOT describe waiting as an expression of faith. It conveys confidence “that God will act decisively for the salvation of his people”.<sup>2</sup> Waiting requires: patience and persistence, anticipation and endurance, conviction and resolve, determination and initiative.

*Blessed are those whose strength is in you, **who have set their hearts on pilgrimage**. ...They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion. (Psa 84:5, 7 NIV)*

According to Gesenius’ Hebrew Lexicon, waiting for the Lord means twisting or binding ourselves together with Him, as with a multi-stranded rope.<sup>3</sup> This word picture contradicts Michelangelo’s fresco in the Sistine Chapel. Our Heavenly Father does not extend His index finger to almost connect with our languid fingertip. Mindless disregard or complacent indifference is not an option while waiting for the Lord.

Waiting for the Lord weaves all that we are into all that Christ and His provision offers. It moderates our moods, informs our behavior, and defines our priorities. Once connected with “*the mind of Christ*”, we are

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<sup>1</sup> Harris, Archer, and Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, Vol. 2, Moody Press, Chicago, 1980, p. 791.

<sup>2</sup> Harris, Archer, and Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, Vol. 2, Moody Press, Chicago, 1980, p. 791.

<sup>3</sup> H. F. W. Gesenius, *Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament*, trans. Samuel Prideaux Tregelles, (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979), s.v. 6960, pp. 726-727.

more likely to choose wisely and perform well in collaboration with Him.<sup>4</sup>

*do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**.... (Rom 12:2 NKJ)*

Waiting for the Lord generates spontaneous strength as we become entwined with His divine nature and supernatural activity. It allows time for the Holy Spirit to weave His eternal promises into our frayed perspective. The synergy derived from this spiritual union resembles a multi-stranded rope, which contains a great deal more strength than any individual strand.

David associated waiting for the Lord with strength and courage.

*Wait for the Lord; Be strong, and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord. (Psa 27:14)*



The world awaits Jesus the Messiah—for the Presence of Shekinah Glory to enter Jerusalem through the Golden Gate (also called the Mercy Gate or the Gate called Beautiful) based on Ezekiel 44:1-4. Suleiman sealed this gate in 1541 CE.

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<sup>4</sup> 1 Cor 2:16 NKJ