Waiting on the Lord

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they will mount up with wings as eagles. They will run and not be weary; they will walk and not faint." (Is. 40:31)

1. The Process of Waiting

Waiting implies:

- possible weakness, want, destitution, determination
- that you have not, but you believe God has
- that you believe God is near
- that you are wrestling with various issues/problems
- that if you fulfil the conditions, you may expect amazing results – as when Jesus turned the water into wine during the wedding in Cana (Jn. 2:1-11)
- that you are holding on to God and you are face-to-face with Him

Waiting is:

- an intense kind of worship and, in a way, the noblest sort of praise
- the silence of submission
- faith leaning over the battlement of the Word of God, searching the horizon with eyes of hope
- the broad space of believing – like a vision when it spreads itself out before you – often slowly but surely
- the joy of God, for it is the greatest act of homage any of us poor creatures can pay to God
- a temporary retirement from the work and the world, solitude, being fenced off, stillness, a retreat, a refuge
- realising you are in the immediate presence of God
- a blessed work, for it means that you linger in God's presence clinging to Him with all the intensity of your being
- keeping company with the Word of God – you may be alone, but you have society of the whole of the Bible and all its characters
- inviting the Holy Spirit to take control of your will and abandoning your own self-will – for each one of us there is Gethsemane before the Cross when, by God's power, you do what it would be impossible to do without Him

2. The Produce of Waiting

"They that wait upon the Lord <u>shall renew their strength</u>." Some versions have the word "exchange". They will experience a wonderful divine substitution! So kneel down and wait and God will change your weakness into strength, your bondage into liberty, your exhaustion into exaltation, your sighing into singing and exchange your will for God's will.

So I hand in my worn-out weakness and God gives me His divine strength. So exchange yourself for God. Isn't this what Paul meant in Galatians 2:20, ***"I have been crucified with Christ, and I know longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."***

What a joy to be able to exchange our worn-out, defeated, broken selves for God's amazing power and provision.

3. Waiting produces a wonderful heavenly fellowship

"They that wait upon the Lord shall mount up with wings as eagles." They will have a heavenly feast and communion with God. They will mount up on wings, ascending with Him in spirit and purpose. Communion with God has two points:

- It is winged
- It is veiled

When Isaiah saw the Lord seated on a throne high and lifted up (Is. 6:2), there were seraphs each with six wings – two to cover their faces and two to cover their feet and two to fly.

Let there always be a hiding of our feet under the wings of God's compassion and mercy.

4. Waiting produces effective stained human service

"They will run and not be weary."

Such an amazing promise is only possible in God's strength!