

## WAITING

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WAITING!!! It is often a challenge for all of us. Some wait too long to act and some don't wait at all and rush right in. My nature is to "rush right in" and try to "fix things." That's what those of us do who aren't the "waiting type." Those with the nature of waiting have their challenges as well. They often have a tendency to wait too long.

In mentoring other men over the past few years I have learned that waiting is an area of our natures that hasn't gotten much attention. Sure, there are the occasional statements such as "you are too impatient," which is something those who have the nature of waiting would say. Then there is the "you need to do something" comment that is said by those of us that aren't of the nature to wait. But this is about it. I personally haven't ever seen any written material that addresses this situation.

Whatever our nature is, it isn't something we asked for. Nor is it something that we have to live with. Our nature, yes, won't ever change, but we can change our conduct. We can "grow." To say that this is the way we have always been or that "my dad is this way," etc, is to allow ourselves to be in "bondage" to our nature and, thereby, refuse to change, refuse to GROW. Growing and developing is what we are about, from birth, but, again, this is an area that has largely been overlooked. I am not talking about changing from one who finds it easy to wait to one whose nature is to take immediate action. I am talking about a balance and about coming to learn the importance of both natures.

As we all know, there are many instances when we need to take control of our emotional needs and not give into them, right? Take emotional needs such as eating, getting angry, seeking revenge, cursing, spending, and the like. These challenges we have been made consciously aware of and often do take control of when they violate our "making good judgment" decisions. But these we are aware of from training. However, the issue I am writing about in this article is one that has never been brought to the attention of most people, and personally, is something I never even gave thought to until the past four or five years. Now is the time to start growing in this area.

I am one who has a hard time waiting, especially now that I have become aware of this issue. I never had a hard time waiting before I became aware of the issue, because I just never waited. Also, those who had the nature of waiting would drive me crazy. Thankfully that is not the case today. Once I started learning about these two natures, I began developing some respect and admiration for those who "wait." Not that they are always right in waiting, but rather, that I have come to see the wisdom in waiting at times. So, the bottom line is that there are times to wait and there are times not to wait, but to take action. Wisdom is knowing the difference, and if you are like me, to discipline yourself to wait when that is the thing to do. If you are one that, by nature, "waits," discipline yourself to take action immediately when wisdom so dictates. We work at developing other areas of our lives, why not this one? All of you know that whichever nature you are, the other nature at times, "bugs you." Again, once we learn there is value in both natures, then we can come to respect the nature that is unlike our own.

So, what do we do? We grow, we mature, we develop.

In order to see the importance of both natures, I started studying and learning the importance of "waiting," when waiting was the thing to do. The problem is that those who have the nature to wait seem to always wait. And those who have the nature of not waiting seem to never wait. So, after becoming aware of this I decided to learn more about the importance of both natures, knowing that had there not been importance, God never would have made some with the nature to wait and some with the nature not to wait.

I think of stallions and how they have to be broken in order to have value as a horse. This is exactly what I am talking about. In researching I learned that for stallions to be useful they have to be broken. They have to be broken from their God-given nature so they have more worth. Until they are broken, they are not of much use for anything I am told. However, once broken then they can be ridden as well as taught any number of specialized skills. Being broken is not breaking their spirit, but simply taking the nature they have and working with it to make it more useable. The same is true of people. We never break one's spirit, but training and subsequent growth is the key. Whether we are talking about an animal, or a human, this growing brings far more beauty to the life of both.

In studying both natures, I learned that it is a common thought of those who by nature do not wait that not to take action is to allow waste to occur. And often that is the case. But, then again, often to move in prematurely creates the very thing we are trying to avoid, and that is waste.

On the other hand, those who are of the nature to wait and let the situation work itself out, sometimes wait too long when they should have moved in and dealt with the situation. I assure you that you will find this an interesting study if you are interested in growing, and becoming more useful, as we said about the stallion. What I have done is pick out those around me that have both natures and learn from them, by observing. Again, a key is to come to truly realize that both natures have their pluses and their minuses.

I have been a real fan of eagles all my life. I have statues, pictures and paintings of eagles in my office and in my home. They are pretty much everywhere. Why? I don't have a clue. I just know that I am drawn to eagles. Think of some of the things you have been drawn to and see if you can answer the "why" question. There will be some that you can't answer.

One of the first things I learned about eagles was that they are the only bird that does not flock. They soar alone. This I learned many years after being a fan of eagles. That, I would say, describes me very well. I never have been one to join clubs, fraternities and the like. Never knew why, just knew I wasn't drawn to such. But the eagle, you will learn, is a very interesting bird, with some very interesting characteristics. To learn about the eagle is to be amazed at this wonderful creation. For example, in talking about the two natures of the human being, we learn that the eagle also has one of two natures. There is a significant difference in that some are built to hunt in the tight confines of a forest, while others are designed to soar high above open plains and water with hardly a flap of the wings in their hunting. I can just see a "soaring" eagle say to an eagle with the nature of hunting in the confines of a forest, "Come with us; we have much more fun and a much larger hunting area." The differences herein are many.

One of the primary things I have always associated with the eagle, other than it is a bird that doesn't flock, is the "mounting up with wings as the eagles." But one thing I never had given thought to is the concept of how in hunting the eagle is a master of involving the nature of "waiting." The eagle waits, then when things are "right," bam! It has taken its prey. The eagles can wait and they can move forward. They have a keen sense of when to do what.

That is what I am saying that we as human beings should want to accomplish. Think of how powerful that would be in your life.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines "wait" as "to remain inactive or stay in one spot until something anticipated occurs or to be in a state of readiness." I like this. Again, being "inactive" is so against my "nature" that I have had to develop in this area. I truly want to become more trained and developed in the ability to "wait" when wisdom so dictates (and it will at times), but also to remain in a "state of readiness." How about you? For many of us this is not our nature and it will have to be developed.

When we talk about being in a "state of readiness," I go back to the eagle. I am told that while the eagle is perched on a rock, waiting for the sun to rise, it looks to the ground for prey. During this time, the eagle is very patient, and even after spotting its prey, it waits, looking for the right moment to attack, to swoop down. This is exactly what I am talking about – the ability to "wait" for the right time to take action. Action taken prematurely can and often is just as wasteful as not taking action at all.

So, before we "mount up on wings as eagles," we must first learn how to wait for the right time.

In the Scriptures we see that the lesson of "waiting" was a lesson for the Children of Israel who were told to wait for the cloud to guide them by day, for example. They were to move when the cloud moved and wait when the cloud stopped. Sometimes we must wait while in the midst of trials or heartache, until the clouds disappear...move.

Waiting can be for a few minutes or for days, weeks, maybe even months. But remember, just as with the eagle, there is activity while waiting. We are watching, we are staying in tune, we are evaluating the best time to move, and do move. However, we who have a tendency to act prematurely feel that those who have a tendency to wait often wait too long; yet in most instances, both types of behavior can be correct.

For example, waiting can be a great time for us to renew ourselves with who we are, what we are – our belief system. Waiting is a good time to settle our anxieties by the renewing of our minds, instead of allowing our anxieties to grow, which often is the case and often is the reason given for anxiousness by those who have difficulty waiting. Believe me, it doesn't have to be that

way unless you choose to remain in "bondage" to your nature and remain all your life where you are. But remember this: Worry and fear render us powerless, and will cause our faith to falter. Waiting is a good time to renew our strength, before we mount up on wings and soar.

Oswald Chambers, a famous writer, says, "Fretting springs from a determination to get our own way, causing us to take on burdens we were never meant to carry." He also says, "In order to learn, we must first be willing to unlearn." What this says to me, and how I have accepted it since reading it some 10 years ago, is "be willing to admit that there are things I know, or think I know, and believe that could likely be in error since I have never really studied the issue/s." Only then am I open to further truth, further understanding. Are you open to the further truth I am speaking of in this article, for example, or are you of the opinion that you already have the answers, with or without research and studying?

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not be afraid." Isaiah 40:31 kjv

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