



THE COCOON SEASON – WAITING ON GOD

Waiting is a "cocoon" season.

Waiting can be long or short. A dark season with no light to show the way ahead. You may feel hopeless, that God has abandoned you. It may be uncomfortable, painful and lonely. But this is a season of transformation, a season God uses to work in ways we cannot see. It's a season when we are required to exercise greater faith, when our wings of faith are being formed, stretched, strengthened and tested.



Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon His God. Isaiah 50:10.

Faith requires waiting and trusting.

Trusting acknowledges that God is in control. Trusting He loves me. Trusting He is working things out for His glory and my good when I can't see ahead. Trusting enough to surrender my will and plans to Him. Trusting Him enough to place all control, and the choice of the outcome into His hands while I wait.

Waiting acknowledges that I can do nothing without God. Everything I am and everything I do is led by Him. I give Him the legal right in my life to do whatever He wants – waiting demonstrates that I choose to love and trust Him to work all things out for my good and His glory.

Read Romans 8:28-29, 2 Corinthians 3:16-18, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. These verses teach us that the ultimate good which comes from Him working all things together, is that I am being conformed into His image. I am learning how to surrender, to be willing to be led by Him, to listen to Him, to follow Him no matter where the path leads. To say only what He says and do only what He asks me to do. This requires total trust and total surrender. *It requires being still.*

Waiting involves being still.



Be still and KNOW that I am God! Psalm 46:10

We have to be still to really know God intimately. The cocoon is a season of transformation because in it I learn to know God more intimately. In quietness I learn to hear His voice above my own and others. The more I **KNOW** God, the more I will *grow to LOVE* Him, which leads to deeper **TRUST** in Him, which releases me to live in greater **FREEDOM** from bondage and fear. The more I know God, love Him, trust Him and live in His freedom, the more available I am for Him to use me to serve Him and love others.

Waiting on God provides His covering and protection.



He who dwells (lives, waits, remains,) in the secret place of the Most High shall abide (live, rest in) under the shadow of the Almighty. Psalm 91:1

Waiting on the Lord builds courage and strengthens our heart.

Trusting God is saying "I am afraid but I trust Him to strengthen my heart. I wait on Him to act on my behalf. I will wait on Him when my heart is broken and trembling. I trust Him to bring me through the storm because He loves me. My eyes are not on my circumstances but on Him."



WAIT on the Lord, be of good courage and He will strengthen your heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord! Psalm 27:14.



Rest in the Lord and WAIT patiently for Him. Psalm 37:7



Evildoers will be cut off, but those who WAIT on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. Psalm 37:9



Truly my soul silently WAITS for God; from Him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation. He is my defense. I will not be greatly moved. Psalm 62:1-2.

Waiting on the Lord causes Him to act on our behalf



WAIT on the Lord and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land (of His promises). Psalm 37:34



For since the beginning of the world men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, who acts for the one who WAITS for Him. Isaiah 64:4

Waiting on the Lord causes us to walk by faith

Even in what seems a dark season, remember God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. What appears to be darkness to us, is merely the shade of His hand as He protects and transforms us into the image of Jesus. In this season we learn to walk by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7.)



This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5



And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world and men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who practices evil and hates the light doesn't come to the light less his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light that his deeds may be clearly seen that they have been done in God. John 3:19-21

Waiting on the Lord brings peace and rest.



For thus says the Lord God the holy one of Israel: "in returning and rest you will be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength. But you would not..." Isaiah 30:15

We experience peace when we return to the Lord and trust Him with our circumstances or others. The Lord invites us to come to Him to regain our rest and our strength. But we continue to try to do things in our own strength, our own way, running to other people, trying to make things happen.

So the Lord patiently waits for US, until we stop running around, until we surrender and come back to Him.



Therefore the Lord will WAIT patiently that He may be gracious to you; and therefore He will be exalted that He may have mercy on you. For The Lord is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who WAIT for Him. For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will no longer be moved into a corner any more, but your eyes will see your teachers. And you will hear a word behind you saying "this is the way, walk in it." Whenever you turn to the right hand or to the left." Isaiah 30:18-21.

Praise God that He does not punish us. He waits for us to return (repent) to Him and He graciously welcomes us. He answers our need for help.

When we are still, we are ready to listen. God can teach us. As we wait on Him in surrender we begin to have a different perspective. God shows us the lessons we can only learn in these dark seasons of waiting. We begin taking off the old caterpillar skin, our past behaviors and attitudes, relationships and desires. We see them for what they really are. Things we thought were important are no longer important. Our idols are revealed. We learn God's thoughts are different than our thoughts, God's ways are not our ways. (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Coming out of the cocoon



You will defile the covering of your images of silver, the ornament of your molded images of gold. You will throw them away as an unclean thing. You will say to them "get away!" Isaiah 30:22.



*Then He will give you rain for the seed with which you sow the ground.....
There will be on every high mountain and on every high Hill - rivers and streams of water.....
In the day the Lord binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound.
Isaiah 23-26*

After a season in the cocoon, of returning and resting in Him, of waiting and being still before God, He fulfills His promise. He brings us out of the darkness, He give us wings to fly again in the power and strength of His Holy Spirit. He blesses us, He fills us with living water and rain from heaven.

The Purpose of the Cocoon



Those who hope (wait and trust in) The Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31



Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; WAIT in the city of Jerusalem until you are endowed with the power from on high. Luke 24:49

When we come out of a season in the cocoon, we experience greater peace, healing and freedom. We experience God's power. Paul would write *"it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."* After being blinded by the Lord and sent into a season of darkness, Paul learned what it was to die to his will and his understanding of God, and to come to life in the power of Jesus Christ alone (Galatians 2:20).

Being in a dark season is about listening and learning. The Holy Spirit has been teaching us deeper wisdom to live by, and to share with others. Jesus tells us to share what we learned in the dark with others.



Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; whatever you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. Matthew 10:27

We are called out of darkness to proclaim His praises.



But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

What we experience with God in the cocoon, is the message we bring to others sitting in darkness. Our testimony of God's faithfulness, power and love in our season of pain, becomes our message of life and hope, comfort and healing to others. There is a resurrection. There is life after death. There is hope!

"Obstacles ought to set us singing. The wind finds voice, not when rushing across the open sea, but when hindered by the outstretched arms of the pine trees, or broken by the fine strings of an Aeolian harp. Then it has songs of power and beauty. Set your freed soul sweeping across the obstacles of life, through grim forests of pain, against even the tiny hindrances and frets that love uses, and it, too, will find its singing voice." Streams in the Desert February 4 –Selected.

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