

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 142

Waiting for the Lord



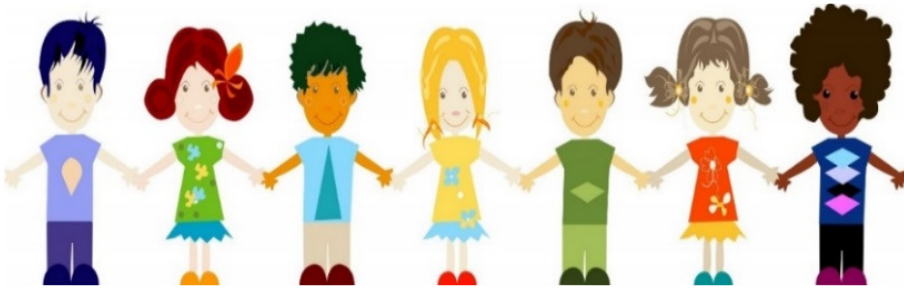
2020

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Jesus Christ, God's Son, loves us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man. He lived His entire life without sinning and He went to the cross to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior, died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. When He was finished suffering in our place, then Jesus was buried but He rose again from the dead and He is alive today seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven. Believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ and you will be saved and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. (Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



LESSON



Hi Kids. Let's start our Bible lesson with James today. James 5:7-11 "Therefore, **be patient**, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer **waits** for the precious produce of the soil,

being **patient** about it, until it gets the early and late rains. (8) You too, **be patient**; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near (Rapture of the Church). (9) Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; look, the Judge is standing right at the door. (10) As an example, brethren, of **suffering and patience**, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. (11) We count those blessed who suffered. You have heard of the patience of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful."

Remember when your mom or dad said to you "I want you to wait here while I go over to such and such to do this or that. Just stay right here until I return. Don't do anything or go anywhere. Just stand still and wait for me."

Remember how difficult that was? You probably fidgeted and yawned and started noticing all kinds of things around you and you couldn't stand still and you couldn't stand waiting a moment longer. Remember how difficult it was to simply remain where you were? Turns out – it still is!

The Bible tells us this in Psalm 27:14. "Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord." Believe it, it is worth waiting for the Lord.



How about going to the doctor's office when you're sick? Or even for just a check-up. There's a lot of waiting, right? There are lots of waiting rooms and it's funny, they're called waiting rooms and yet we are so irritated when we have to...WAIT!

We're called patients by doctors but we don't have much patience when we have to wait, right? Just sit there and wait.

If you ever have broken a bone, and we hope you never have or ever will, it takes a bit of time for the bone to heal and sometimes it needs a cast to heal. You just have to wait for the pain to go away and it seems like forever for it to feel better. You get impatient for the cast to come off. You can't wait any longer...you just want it to be done, right? Slowly you start to realize that you can't make it go faster...you have to wait and all you can do is learn how to get better at waiting...fidgeting...taking things one minute, one day at a time.

Psalm 62:5-8 "My soul, wait in silence for God only, for **my hope is from Him.** (6) He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; **I shall not be shaken.** (7) In God my salvation and my glory rest; the rock of my strength, **my refuge (protection) is in God.** (8) Trust in Him at all times, Oh, people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge (protection) for us. Selah."



Something else: sometimes we believers have worse problems than a broken bone. We might experience a serious illness, a family breaking apart, financial difficulties, maybe even the death of a loved one!

God intends for this to happen because He is up to something...but it is very SCARY. In fact, fear sets in for a while

like being in a tornado where you can't quite reach anything to hold on to and find a place to settle down on. You realize you are NOT in control of the situation. It's okay, though because the Lord is in control!!! Thank Him for that. It's about waiting for the Lord, and learning to trust in Him only. He is your protection and He will help you through anything. Please learn this.

Did you know that Jesus, of course, knew that the Apostle Paul would believe in Him and become a Christian and that Jesus chose Paul specifically to bring the Gospel message to the Gentiles (non-Jewish people)? The story behind Paul's salvation is really interesting and you'll see why Paul suffered so much as he served Jesus.

Paul's name was Saul before he became a believer. Jesus gave him his new name, Paul. But Saul hated Christians and tried to have them put in prison and even killed! He lived to get rid of all Christians before he was saved!

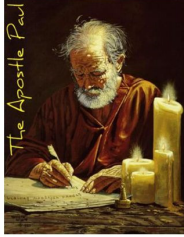


Let's look at it in Acts 9:1-16. Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, (2) and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way (Christianity), both men and women, he might bring them tied up to Jerusalem. (3) As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; (4) and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' (5) And he said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, (6) but get up and enter the city, and

it will be told to you what you must do.' (7) The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. (8) Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. (9) And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. (10) Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' And he said, 'Here I am, Lord.' (11) And the Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the Strait street and ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, (12) and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight.' (13) But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints (Christians) at Jerusalem; (14) and here he has authority from the chief priests to imprison all who call on Your name.' (15) But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; (16) for I will show him how much he must SUFFER for My name's sake.'"

List Of Paul's Sufferings: **2 Corinthians 11:21-33**

- † Imprisoned & Flogged
- † Exposed to death
- † 5 x 39 lashes
- † 3 x beaten with rods
- † 1 x pelted with stones
- † 3 x shipwrecked
- † 1 x in open sea
- † Danger from rivers & bandits
- † Danger from Jews & Gentiles
- † Danger in the city, country & sea
- † Danger from false believers
- † Without sleep, food & clothes



And Paul teaches about his suffering in **2 Cor 1:2-11**. He reveals so much about his experiences as a Christian. He describes reaching places of great glory, and then how his life immediately plunged into the deep pain, hopelessness, and suffering. Paul suffered a lot for the Lord because as you read, this is what the Lord's plan for Paul was. Let's learn about how the Lord always comes through for Paul and all Christians who serve Him. "Grace to you

and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of all comfort**, (4) **who comforts us in all our suffering so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any suffering with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.** (5) For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours (Paul, his disciples and us) in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. (6) But if we are afflicted (with much suffering), it is for your comfort and deliverance); or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the **patient endurance (waiting)** of the same sufferings which we also suffer; (7) and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort. (8) For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our suffering which came to us in Asia, that we were **burdened extremely, beyond our strength**, so that **we lost hope** even of life; (9) indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves **so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead (Jesus)**; (10) **who delivered us** from so great a danger of death, and will deliver us, **He** on whom we have set our hope. And **He will yet deliver us**, (11) you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor given to us through the prayers of many." Patient endurance means waiting for the Lord. It's the ONLY answer and it's one day at a time.

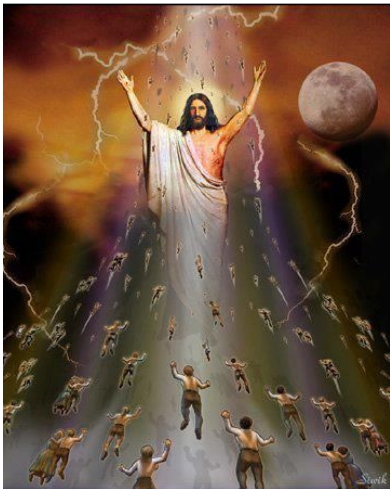


Do you see what Paul is telling us from his own experience? Nothing else works, kids. You have to wait for the Lord and put on the Shield of Faith. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and soul. It is NOT in your hands or anyone else's hands. Sometimes it is too much to handle in our minds. BUT IT IS IN GOD'S HANDS...the LORD'S HANDS. **GOD LOVES YOU AND WILL SEE YOU THROUGH ANYTHING.**

Think about a farmer. **Farmers depend on the Lord's blessing to yield their crops in season. Farmers depend on the Lord to provide the harvest.** The early and late rains. Not the early frost. Not the brutal storms that wipe out the crops. Not the drought. Not the pests. They rely on God's blessings for the needed rain and sunshine and harvest.



That is all they can rely on. Then they rely on getting the crops to the market for sale for a fair price. And we see that in this Christian life we really are a lot like farmers...we have to wait for the Lord.



2 Cor 3:17-18 "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (18) But we all, with unveiled faces, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory (the day we were saved) to glory (the day we meet the Lord in the air at the Rapture), just as from the Lord, the Spirit." We are waiting for the Lord to come for us at the Rapture. We will get our resurrection bodies just like Jesus and then we will be with Him and like Him forever.

Here on earth, we must live through the years, the seasons: the springs, the summers, the autumns, the winters of good times and bad times of life. Nothing is perfect here on earth. But we are growing up spiritually in the Word and being made complete by God...into the image of Jesus.



This puts us in the position of having to develop patient endurance or waiting. It will involve some suffering, and sickness, disappointment and hopelessness, along with joy, love, peace, and overflowing grace. Remember, our life on earth is imperfect like our bodies and our daily lives. Yet, God gives us EVERYTHING we will ever need to live just as the Lord wants us to live no matter what our situations are.

Rom 8:28-30 "And we know that **God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.** (29) For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He (Jesus) would be the firstborn among many brethren; (30) and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified (made perfect in the eyes of God); and these whom He justified, He also glorified (at the Rapture of the Church)." Listen, God already thinks of us as perfect in Jesus because we believed in His Son because the Father gave us His perfection when we believed in His Son. In these verses above it says we are already glorified before the Rapture even happens!!! That's how solid God's promises are to us who are in Jesus.

God is the Potter and we are the clay. He has a plan for us. He destines us after we believe to serve Him the way He wants us to serve Him.

Paul teaches that he suffered for Jesus and for the sake of all unbelievers to get the wonderful saving Gospel message. It was God's plan for him. In the next verses he is talking about himself and the apostles working hard and going through suffering and anything to get the message of salvation to all the unsaved but **ONLY** by God's grace and power...**NEVER** their own power. He especially lets us see the suffering Jesus chose for him. 2 Cor 4:5-18 "For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. (6) For God, who said, 'Light shall shine out of darkness,' is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (7) But we have this treasure in earthen vessels (our bodies), so that the **surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;** (8) we (Paul and his disciples) are suffering in every way, but not crushed; confused, but not hopeless; (9) wronged, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; (10) always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested (shown) in our body. (11) For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested (shown) in our mortal flesh. (12) So, death works in us, but life in you. (13) But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I BELIEVED THEREFORE I SPOKE,' we also believe, therefore, we also speak, (14) **knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with**



you. (15) For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more (unsaved) people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God. (16) **Therefore, we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.** (17) For momentary, light suffering is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, (18) while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal (temporary), but the things which are not seen are eternal (forever in heaven)."

Then Paul makes a jarring (shocking but rich) statement in 2 Cor 5:11-15. "Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest (shown) to God; and I hope that we are made manifest (shown) also in your consciences. (12) We are not again praising ourselves to you but are giving you a chance to be proud of us, so that you will have an answer for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart (not real). (13) **For if we are beside ourselves (out of their minds), it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.** (14) **For the love of Christ controls us,** having concluded this, that One (Jesus) died for all, therefore all died; (15) and He died for all, so that they who live might **no longer live for themselves, but for Him** who died and rose again on their behalf." The Greek word in verse 13 means to be **out of your mind**. To lose your senses. When we are going through something that will deepen our relationship with God, there will be a time when we are out of our minds doing it...capturing every thought for Jesus and trusting Him for the outcome of our work.



Paul is telling us that he will bear everything that is necessary to serve the Lord and to give praise to Him by getting the Gospel message of salvation to as many as he possibly can in the time the Lord has given him to do so and to do it without boasting or giving credit to himself or his disciples.

Again, here in 2 Cor 6:1,3-10 he tells us what he suffered and what he knew as truth to serve Jesus and bring the Gospel to the lost. "And working together *with Him* (Jesus), we also urge you not to receive the grace of God for nothing, giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry (Christianity) will not be doubted, (4) but in everything ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance (waiting), in afflictions (sufferings), in hardships, in distresses, (5) in beatings, in imprisonments, in disturbances, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, (6) in **purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love,** (7) in **the Word of truth, in the power of God;** by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, (8) by glory and

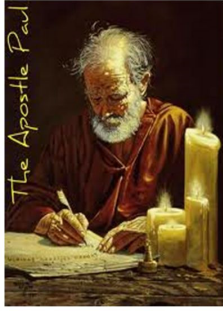
dishonor, by evil report and good report; looked at as deceivers and yet (were) true; (9) as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet look, we live; as punished yet not put to death, (10) as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich (by salvation), as having nothing yet possessing all things."



This is a lot of Bible reading but it is so important for you to understand what Paul is teaching here about waiting for the Lord and the help and strength HE ALONE can give us to do the job He has for all of us.

2 Cor 12:1-10 "Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. (2) I know a man (Paul himself) in Christ who fourteen years ago; whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows; such a man was caught up to the third heaven (Heaven or Paradise where God lives). (3) And I know how such a man, whether in the body or apart from the body, I do not know, God knows, (4) was **caught up into Paradise (Heaven) and heard inexpressible (amazing things) words**, which a man is not permitted to speak (about). (5) On behalf of such a man I will boast; but on my own behalf **I will not boast**, except in regard to **my weaknesses**. (6) For if I do wish to boast I will not be foolish, for I will be speaking the truth; but I hold back from this, so that no one will credit me with more than he sees in me or hears from me. (7) Because of **the surpassing greatness of the revelations (about Heaven or Paradise)**, for this reason, to keep me from praising myself, there was given me **a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me**, to keep me from praising myself (about what he saw)! (8) Concerning this I begged the Lord three times that it might leave me. (9) And He has said to me, '**My grace is enough for you, for power is perfected in weakness.**' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about **my weaknesses** so that **the power of Christ** may dwell in me. (10) Therefore, **I am very happy** with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, **for Christ's sake**; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

“I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation.”



After many seasons...seasons of beatings and sleeplessness, purity and knowledge, distresses and genuine love, glory and dishonor, great revelations that bring on great torment, Paul comes to the place where he can honestly say that he is very happy with the weaknesses of this life in Christ, the insults, and distresses, and persecutions, and difficulties...ALL OF IT!

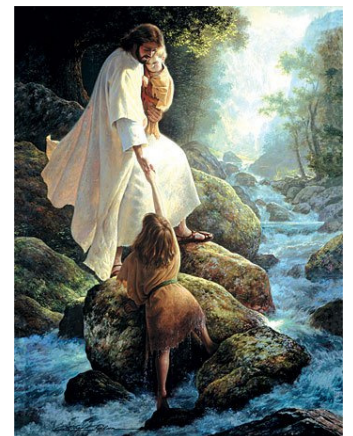
Because he realized that even when he is weak,

he is still VERY strong **because of the power of Christ dwelling in him.**

The farmer waits for the rains and for the storm to pass. The patient waits for the pain to stop hurting so much. The parents wait for their child to get over a bad habit. And then one day something unexpected happens. It hits you that since you have to go through this anyway, you might as well go through it happily. It's a new place in your heart that you didn't know was there...this place of happiness or peace and you realize that this might be what God's showing you...happiness and peace...and then bringing you there. Then you might say, "Wow Lord, I never knew this place really existed! I mean I read about it in Your Word but it always sounded like a trick or a deal. Never like the real thing!"

But it IS the REAL THING with God! And it is wonderful. And it's something each of us must learn for ourselves so you can say... **Phil 4:10-13 "But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. (11) Not that I speak from want, for I have learned from your Word to be content in whatever circumstances I am. (12) I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity (riches); in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. (13) I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."**

We learn what the Word of God has to say. We make God's Word an intimate part of us EVERYDAY. Then we live it, and that life is a life that does bring suffering and troubles my way sometimes. But we don't go through it by ourselves, because Jesus Christ is with us, He loves us and strengthens us, and His Word is strong in our hearts at these times. We find the strength to patiently endure or wait for the Lord. We become content...happy. The Holy Spirit brings us to a new understanding of Jesus Christ...the hope of glory at the Rapture of the Church.



Isa 40:28-31 "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 incomprehensible. (29) He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks strength He increases power. (30) Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, (31) Yet **those who wait 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."

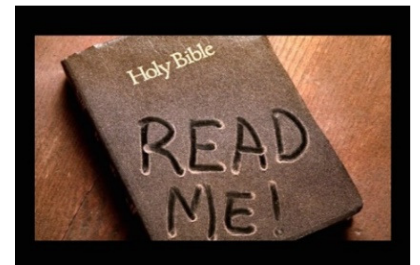


Romans 8:38-39 "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities (unseen forces of evil), nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." This shows us the ultimate source of our comfort and contentment...**the love of God**. We are awesomely conquering all these things through Christ who loved us. But you see it's very important to understand that our awareness of God's unstoppable love for us blossoms in our seasons of trouble, of distress and persecution, famine, nakedness, danger and sword.

Always wait for the Lord. He will never disappoint you.

So, until next time, stay in God's Word...

Close in prayer.



Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on 4-2-2017
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