

Reading: Psalm 27:1-14

*“Wait on the Lord; be of good courage;  
He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!” (Psa 27:14)*

This is the priceless statement of the Psalmist who walked through difficult and dreadful terrain. Discouragement is the most effective tool in the hands of the devil against the children of God. There’s hardly any saint who has never been hit by the arrows of discouragement. The only way to live above fear, worry and depression is to wait on God.

God alone is omnipotent. We all have weaknesses. God had blessed us with limitations and inabilities so we may walk humbly before Him and others. When we wait on Him, the spiritual powers overrule our natural abilities. “Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not grow weary; they shall walk and not faint!” (Isa 40:31). Indian Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar’s advertisement slogan—“*Boost* is the Secret of my Energy!”—has spectacularly promoted the sales of this food-drink. Waiting on God boosts our inner man to “bat and bowl” valiantly for the Kingdom of Heaven. The fear-filled disciples became spiritual revolutionaries when they collectively waited on God for ten days and received the power of His Spirit (Lk 24:49; Acts 1:5,8,14; 17:6b).

There is no way to be triumphant in times of darkness except by waiting on God with trust and confidence. Our hands may be fettered with chains but our hearts will be given feathers to soar high. That was the experience of Paul and Silas in the Philippian prison (Acts 16).

Just yesterday we would have witnessed the power of God spectacularly in fire from Heaven. Next day we may be sitting dumped in depression. The only thing we desire may be death. There may again be wind, earthquake and fire. Based on our yesterday’s experience, we will look for God in these elements. But He may not be there in any of them. This is where patient waiting on the Lord helps. He will speak through “a still small voice!” (1 Ki 18:38; 19:9-13). Sometimes God’s ways are “in the whirlwind and in the storm” (Nah 1:3b). There’s no stereotype with God. Only those who habitually wait on Him will not miss Him.

*No strength of our own, or goodness we claim;  
Yet, since we have known the Saviour’s great Name,  
In this our strong tower for safety we hide,  
Almighty His power: “The Lord will provide!” (John Newton, 1725-1807)*

Almighty God, we worship You for Your eternal arms which are our strength. Thank You for Your unchangeableness which is our security. Thank You for Your love which is our solace. Thank You for Your Son who is our Salvation. Thank You for Your Spirit who directs our steps. Thank You for Your Word which is our sword. Thank You for Your people who are our support. Your provisions are more than what we need. Truly You are our Father.

Dear Lord, we come to You for the discouraging situations in life. Help us remember that nothing happens in our life without Your pre-determined will. Forgive us our hastiness which has messed up things. Forgive us the carnal methods we employ to bail us out. Forgive us our irritability with family and friends while passing through difficult terrain. Forgive us for running here and there instead of waiting on You. Forgive us our impatience which has delayed Your deliverance. When You are our Light and our Salvation, whom should we fear? When You are the Strength of our life, why fear?

Father, we come to You being unable to bear the piercing pain of the enemy's arrows of discouragement. Help us through Your Spirit to remember Your glorious promises. Send us angelic help as You did for Hagar. Send us angelic help as You did for Elijah. Send us angelic help as You did for Jesus in the wilderness and in the garden. We are too weak to face the storms. Our hands are shaking. Our knees are trembling. Our feet are faltering. You have promised that those who wait on You shall not be ashamed. Help us, O God!

Father God, we thank You for Your promises that You would lead us by keeping Your eyes on us. You have promised that You would guide us by holding our hands. We pray with David, "Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies." Help us stay put when the tunnel is too long. Help us pray like Moses, "Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us, and the years in which we have seen evil."

Almighty God, thank You for Your Son who sympathises for us in our weaknesses. We thank You for Your Spirit who intercedes for us with unutterable groanings in our agonising moments. Thank You for Your Word which rejoices our heart when our spirit is sinking. Thank You for Your people who share our burden as fellow pilgrims. You are *for* us. You are *with* us. You are *in* us. We bless Your holy Name. What more can we ask of You, O Lord? We take up the cup of salvation and praise Your holy Name. Thro' Jesus our Lord, Amen!

*(Dt 33:27; Psa 5:8; 23:4; 25:4; 27:1; 32:8; 90:15; 102:27; 116:12,13; 119:92,93; 1 Jn 4:8,16; Mt 1:21; Eph 6:17; Gen 16:7-10; Isa 49:23; Heb 2:17,18; Rom 8:26,27,31; Jn 4:23)*