

The Bride of Christ has combat boots on. I said, "The Bride of Christ has combat boots on under her wedding dress..."

Bishop Bill Hamon
Christian International

LESSON FOURTEEN

WAITING FOR THE ENCOUNTER

In the next lessons, we finally come to how to receive the baptism of the Spirit. Before we show you how to enter this experience and study the gifts and ministry and fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives, I want to discuss briefly waiting for an encounter with our God.

My spiritual son in the faith, Travis Spann, discussed how in practically every Christian there is such a deep hunger for a real face-to-face encounter with the living God. The Baptism in the Spirit is one of those encounters. Once you encounter God in anyway, you go from glory to glory (2nd Corinthians 3:18). The Baptism is the start of a remarkable journey of encountering God, but it is not a stopping place nor a sign of maturity in Christ. There is so much more than even the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, although I believe it is going to become an almost essential experience for those who live at the end of the age. Why? Because it gives power to be a witness. Without that *dunamis* power, we most likely will not stand. So I urgently urge you to seek this experience of being baptized in His Spirit with all you heart and mind.

So often, in pleading for God to give us a face-to-face encounter, He, in His goodness and love and wisdom, says a word we hate: "*Wait!*" He knows the right thing at the wrong time is disaster, and He tells us that those who "*wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint*" (Isaiah 40:31). Most likely, there will be an incredible counterattack from the wicked one when we walk in the Spirit, after being baptized in the Holy Spirit, and we need to be strong with renewed strength.

Wait comes from the Hebrew *quvah* (kaw vaw) and means *to bind together* (by twisting); *to collect*, figuratively; *to expect, look patiently, tarry, wait*-sometimes translated as *to hope for, to anticipate*.

Waiting in the Biblical sense does not mean to sit idly by doing nothing and seeking nothing. The kind of waiting that is referred to in Isaiah 40 and many other passages in the Word implies anticipation, expectation, listening and praying for the Lord *to do* something or *to speak* something in His timing, not ours, and to strengthen us and encourage us as we walk through life with its trials and tribulations.

Do not give-up or become discouraged when God tarries in His response. Continue to patiently wait on Him and expect Him to work on your behalf. Sometimes He delays the answer because He wants to extend the goodness of the final outcome: "*Therefore will the LORD wait, that He may be gracious unto you, and therefore will He be exalted, that He may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment. Blessed are all they that wait for Him*" (Isaiah 30:18).

How Do We Wait?

1. **We think of the example of Jesus and consider what He did for us:** *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set*

before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls (Isaiah 12:1-3).

2. **We stay still and undistracted by the noise and confusion of the world and meditate on the Lord and His word:** *Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10). My eyes are awake through the night watches, that I may meditate on Your word (Psalm 119:148). Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night Psalm 1:1-3).*
3. **We praise the goodness of God in the land of the living:** *But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel (Psalm 22:3). Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name (Psalm 100:4). I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait I say on the LORD! (Psalm 27:13-14).*
4. **We worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:** *Give the LORD the glory due His name. Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! 1.1 (1st Chronicles 16:29).*
5. **We listen and have ears to hear what the Spirit wants to say to us:** *Give ear, O My people, to My law; incline your ears to the words of My mouth (Psalm 78:1). **He who has ears to hear, let him hear!** (Matthew 13:9). **For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.**"*

AN EXERCISE IN WAITING ON THE LORD

Taken from

Communion with God by Mark Virkler

Based on Habakkuk 2:1-2

1. "I WILL STAND ON MY GUARDPOST...."

Have a quiet place to wait before the Lord.

Wait and be still!

2. "AND I WILL KEEP WATCH TO SEE...."

Look for a vision as you pray.

Have vision!

3. "WHAT HE WILL SPEAK TO ME...."

Recognize God's voice as a spontaneous flow within.

Listen to spontaneous inner thoughts!

4. "THEN THE LORD SAID, 'RECORD THE VISION....'"

Write down the flow of thoughts and pictures within you.

Journal!

The Lord desires to speak to His people even more than they desire to hear. We can hear Him best when we wait in silence and open our hearts and minds to hear what He desires to speak.

Pray and ask the Lord on a regular basis to baptize you in the Holy Spirit, if you have not already received the Baptism. If so, ask Him to encounter you and speak directly and personally to you as you wait.

In the next lessons we will be discussing the actual baptism in the Spirit, followed by teachings on the gifts and fruit and ministry of the Spirit. These things are for TODAY and have never ceased operating in the Church. I find no scripture that backs up the cessationists' view nor does Church history. Don't miss out on a glorious encounter with the Living God!