

Growing In Faith As We Run This Race

An eagle with brown and white feathers is shown in flight, wings spread wide, against a light blue background. A large, faint blue cross is visible behind the eagle. The eagle is positioned in the lower half of the image, facing left.

Sis. Jackie Bray, Facilitator
October 13, 2021 - 7:00PM

NEW HOPE

Missionary Baptist Church
39TH Church Anniversary

Bible Study

Theme Scripture:

“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 faint.” – Isaiah 40:31

INTRODUCTION

Growing In Faith

Isaiah is a book in three sections. Chapters 1-35 are prophetic, with the theme of condemnation. Chapters 36-39 are historic, and the theme is confiscation. Chapters 40-66 are messianic, and the theme is consolation.

The ending of Isaiah 39: announced the coming Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem, and the exile of the nation. “The announcement that the Babylonians would someday capture Jerusalem and take the people into exile was a bitter blow. It was difficult for Judah to celebrate the downfall of Assyria knowing that a more powerful invader was on the way?” (Wolf)

The first 39 chapters of Isaiah had passages of comfort and hope, but there was a strong tone of judgment and warning throughout the section. Now, beginning with Isaiah 40, the tone shifts to being predominantly full of comfort and blessing, full of the glory of God.

SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 40:27-31 (KJV)

KEY VERSE

Isaiah 40:31 (KJV)

31 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 faint.

27 Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God?

28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

31 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 faint.



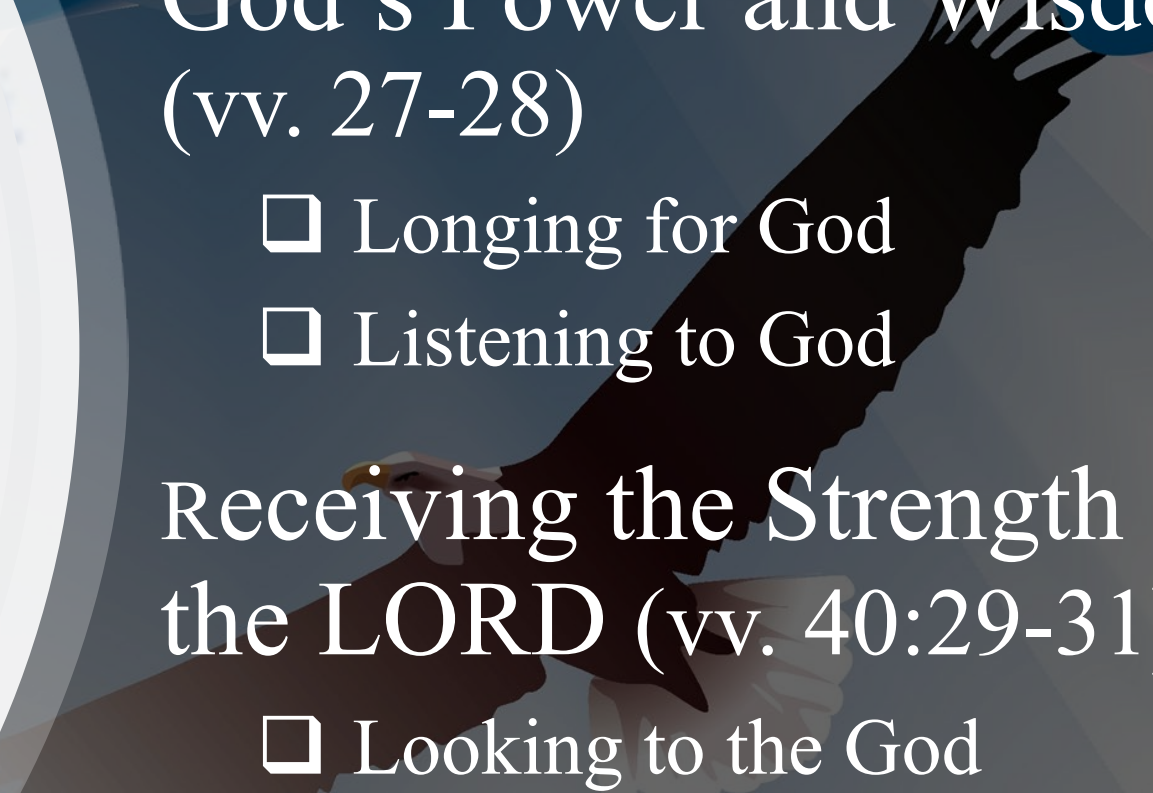
ISAIAH 40:27-31

Exploring the Text

Having Confidence in
God's Power and Wisdom
(vv. 27-28)

- ☐ Longing for God
- ☐ Listening to God

Receiving the Strength of
the LORD (vv. 40:29-31)

- ☐ Looking to the God
 - ☐ Living for the Lord
- 

Growing In Faith

1. Do you consider yourself to be patience or impatient?
2. Do you feel like you are in a waiting season right now?
3. How can a Christian grow in faith?
4. What does it mean to grow in faith?

Paul rejoiced that the Christians in Thessalonica were growing in faith:

"We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing." (2 Thessalonians 1:3)



Having Confidence in God's Power and Wisdom (vv. 27-28)

Longing For God – To Know Him – To Love Him

27 Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God?

Our confidence in God's Power and Wisdom is revealed in His Word.

- As we make the Word of God a part of our lives by reading, studying, and memorizing, we begin to grow in faith. *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.* **(1 Pet. 2:2)**

Believers needs to hear the Word of God taught and preached.

1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. (Ps. 1:1-3)

Having Confidence in God's Power and Wisdom (vv. 27-28)

Longing For God
– To Know Him
– To Love Him

*27 Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and
speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from
the Lord, and my judgment is passed
over from my God?*

The heart of God – Let's take David for
example:

Paul, the great apostle, said this about David, God testified
concerning him: *'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after
my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do'.*

— (Acts 13:22 NIV)

**David's Confidence In God – A Great
Example for All**

In studying David's life, we've seen sin, but we've also seen
humility, worship, trust, hope, repentance, strength, and love.
The greatest gift of King David's life is his absolute trust in the
goodness and mercy of God no matter what raged around him.

Questions

Isaiah 40:27

*27 Why sayest thou, O Jacob,
and speakest, O Israel, My
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my judgment is passed over
from my God?*



Question #1

How Do You Know God?

Dig Deeper

How does Acts 13:22; John 1:1; 2 Peter 3:18; Hebrew 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16 and James 4:7 influence your answer.

Question #2

Why do the people of Israel feel that their way was “hidden from the Lord”?

Dig Deeper

What cause us to feel that our cause had been “disregarded” by God??

Having Confidence in God's Power and Wisdom (vv. 27-28)

Listening to God– Living Godly Lives

28 *Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*

Consider how waiting implies we have confidence in God's Power and Wisdom by “listening to Him.”

- ☐ Israel continually sinned and rebelled against their covenant-keeping God through unbelief and in their foolishness
- ☐ **Listen to God's Word:** Our God is the same yesterday, today and forever – and that He is our everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth
- ☐ **Look at Proverbs 8:34** “Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.”

Listening to God – Living Godly Lives

Communion

Relationships: Our growth in faith is manifested (in our relationships) through constant communion with Jesus Christ and Fellow Christians. Jesus recognized that we will be more like those we spend time with (Matt. 10:25).

Having Confidence in God's Power and Wisdom (vv. 27-28)

❑ Confessing our sins

“If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

When we as Christians do sin, God will forgive and cleanse us if we confess our sins to him “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

Every time we recognize sin in our lives and rid ourselves of its hindrance, we grow in faith.

Having Confidence in God's Power and Wisdom (vv. 27-28)

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☐ Surrendering

The Christian must constantly surrender to the lordship of Christ.

As we yield our lives to the Lord, we are growing in grace (Gal. 3:3).

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,”
Colossians **(2:6)**

Paul challenged the Romans to “present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1).

Listening to God— Living Godly Lives

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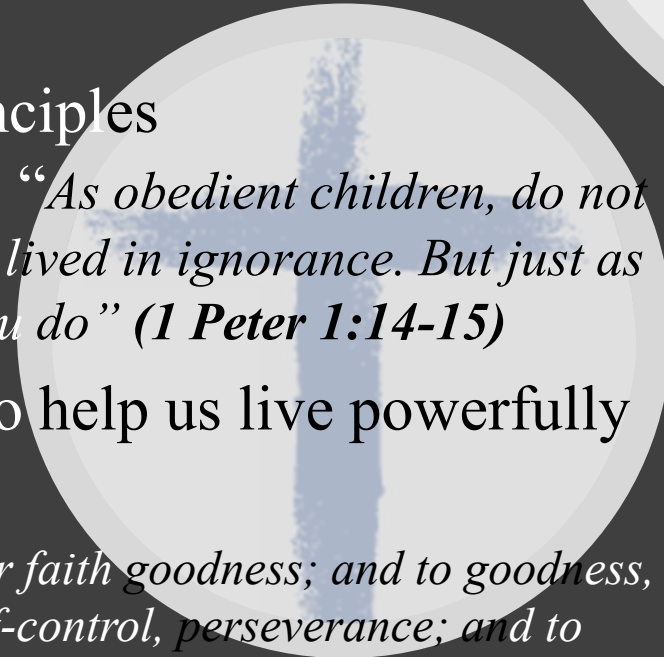
Follow Biblical Principles

❑ A growing faith is an **Obedient Faith**.

- We must put complete trust in the principles of the Bible and not trust our feelings. *“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do” (1 Peter 1:14-15)*

❑ **Self-Control** - part of a growth process to help us live powerfully and purposefully. (2 Peter 1:5-8)

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”



Having Confidence in God's Power and Wisdom (vv. 27-28)

Listening to God— Living Godly Lives

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Biblical Principles

What Biblical Principles should we follow daily?



Having Confidence in God's Power and Wisdom

Listening to God– Living Godly Lives

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Good Christian Character

- ❑ Basis principles for Christian character and behavior include:
 - the **Lordship of Christ** over all our life and thoughts;
 - the responsibility to **love God** with our whole being and to **love our neighbor** as ourselves; (Matthew 22:37-39)
 - the responsibility to **pursue righteousness** and **practice justice and mercy** to everyone;
 - and **participation in the worship and activities of the church**, which forms a necessary context for Christian living.

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- ☐ Growth in faith manifests not only in our relationship with God, but also in our relationships with others.
- ☐ As we seek to grow in faith, rather than be jealous of one another or attempt to set ourselves apart as better than others, as was happening in the Corinthian church, we should have the attitude mentioned by Paul, *"So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth"* (1 Corinthians 3:7).
- ☐ When our life is consumed with living for God and His glory, we are well on the path to growing in faith and being spiritually mature.

Receiving the Strength of the LORD (vv. 29-31)

Looking to God – Christ Our Provider

29 *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 31 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 faint.*

Consider how waiting implies “Looking to the Lord”

- “When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek” (Ps. 27:8).
- Blessed are those...who seek Him with their whole heart — Ps. 119.2



Questions

Isaiah 40:28

28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.



Question #3

How do you know that you are hearing from God or just doing things that you've assigned yourself?

Dig Deeper

How do you practice listening to God? Consider Proverbs 8:34; John 5:30, 1 John 5:14 and other scriptures.

Questions #4

What is the answer to the complaint of the people?

Dig Deeper

How does examining God's character help with your answer? Consider the following description of God: Everlasting, Creator, Tireless, Never weary, Full of understanding. Use other scriptures if need.

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After explaining all the greatness and glory of God, Isaiah explains another benefit of God, he gives us His great power.

Seeking the Lord –With my whole heart I seek You — Ps. 119.10

In this Psalm, David prays, “Unite my heart to fear Your name” and in the very next verse sings, “I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart” (Psalm 86:11–12). **A whole heart is not divided but united or impure but pure.**

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.” (Psalm 51:10-12)

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SEEK and WAIT!

❑ Trust God in Our Testing of Difficult Experiences

Once we are saved, our faith is nurtured as we grow from victory to victory. Paul describes this “from faith to faith, as it is written, the just shall live by faith” (**Rom. 1:17**).

Psalm 27:1 declares, “The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

Receiving the Strength of the LORD (vv. 29-31)

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❑ **Difficulties** - God doesn't always remove difficulties from us or remove us from the difficulties. But He does give us strength.

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me” 2 Corinthians 12: 9.

❑ **God’s Answer** - The inspired Apostle Paul, waited upon the Lord. He had a thorn in the flesh, a terrible thorn in the flesh. He prayed three times that God would remove that thorn. God answered that prayer, not by removing the thorn.

Questions

Isaiah 40:29-31

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Question #5

When was there a time when God came through for you while being tested?

Dig Deeper

What scriptures gave you comfort, guidance or hope while you waited?

Questions #6

What does it really mean to soar on wings like eagles?

Dig Deeper

Have you ever trusted in God and experienced that in your life?

Receiving the Strength of the LORD (vv. 29-31)

Looking to God – Christ Our Provider

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- ☐ When we successfully trust God, we should learn through the experience and grow thereby. Faith must come from man's heart, which is governed by his free will.
(Mark 11:24; Romans 10:10)
- ☐ To develop a person's faith, God will sometimes maneuver a man into a corner so that the creature is forced to look to his Creator in faith.

The apostle Paul told us to “be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” **(Ephesians 6:10)**. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,” he said in **Philippians 4:13**.

- ☐ Through such experiences, man has an opportunity to grow in his faith.

Receiving the Strength of the LORD (vv. 29-31)

Living for the Lord – Sacrifice and Service

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Consider how waiting implies “living for the Lord”.

☐ **Living Sacrifice** - daily yielding of everything in our life to God including our weaknesses and our frailties.

- It represents our lives as we are given over to God and yet are free to glorify him in a variety of ways throughout the day.
- Jesus said in Luke 9:23–24 “if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

☐ **Choices** –we are to make choices that are in line with God’s will, not our own.

Ask, “What does God want from me in this situation?”

Receiving the Strength of the LORD (vv. 29-31)

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Consider how waiting implies “living for the Lord”.

- ☐ **Control Mind** by offering our thoughts and decisions to God each day. *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.” (Proverbs 23:7)*
- ☐ The Bible admonishes us to **take every thought captive to the authority of Christ**. *“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” (2 Cor.10:5)*
- ☐ **Renewed Mind** - Paul instructs us to *“do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (Romans 12:2)*

Receiving the Strength of the LORD (vv. 29-31)

Living for the Lord – Sacrifice and Service

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Consider how waiting implies “living for the Lord”.

☐ Our Spiritual Gifts are gift to God each day. (Romans 12:3-8)

- As we grow in faith daily, we begin to live out our service to God by offering up the gifts that he has already given us.
- In 1 Peter 4:10, we’re called to use our gifts to serve others as faithful stewards of God’s grace.

☐ God wants us to use our talents and skills for the benefit of others.

- We’re blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2)!

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Consider how waiting implies “living for the Lord”.

☐ **Serve Him** - God is glorified in our service to Him and His people as we use our unique role in the body of Christ.

☐ **To Love** - While waiting of the Lord we are to grow in love and service.

- Jesus gives us two commandments: to love the Lord and to love others as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:37–40).
- And when we steward our talents to honor Him and to bless others, we’re doing just that.
“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” Colossians 3:23–24 (ESV)

Questions

Isaiah 40:29-31

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Question #7

What does this verse mean for believers?

Isaiah 40:31 *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 faint.*

Question #8

How do we renew our faith in the Lord through waiting?