

## Chapter 1

### “Weight,” I Say, on the Lord!

“Just wait on the Lord, brother,” or “Look to Jesus” are common expressions in and around the body of Christ-and if you have been a Christian for any substantial length of time, you, like me, have heard them a “million” times. They have to rank at least second or third among the Top Ten favorite Christian cliches.

Want proof? The next time you’re facing a trial or find yourself in some kind of trouble, see how much time elapses before someone offers these words of “comfort” to you. But don’t go to sleep while you wait, because they’re coming at you-count on it. And you know what? When someone else-a friend, relative, co-worker, or fellow believer-gets in trouble, they’ll hear them too-from you.

Now don’t get me wrong. I’m in no way poking fun at what I believe to be one of the greatest promises of Scripture. See Isaiah 40:31. It’s just that I’ve found that we Christians, always anxious to give “the answer,” glibly spout off this verse, applying it to another’s trial with all the finesse of a rapid-fire machine gun, without really comprehending what it is we’re saying or what the Bible is really saying. I know I didn’t-not really. I discovered that it’s EASY to wait on the Lord. That’s right, easy-until-until I had to wait on Him!

When the bills are paid and you have just received that new promotion, your car is running like a Swiss watch, physically you’ve never felt better, and generally life is

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handing you a bouquet of roses, waiting on God is a snap! But just let the car break down or the funds get a little tight or let the bill collectors start inviting themselves over for dinner, and suddenly you're bleeding from the thorns on that bouquet of roses life just handed you. There you stand, blood flowing from your fingertips, and some well-meaning "saint" is grinning in your face telling you to "Hang in there. We'll understand it better by and by. Just WAIT!"

Allow me to pause right here and say that most of us Christians don't realize that good timing is just as important as good counsel, and all too often we plunge the scalpel into the wound before the patient is properly anesthetized! Timing is crucial, and at that moment, those well-meant words-because of how they've been misused and misunderstood-are probably the last ones you want to hear.

It reminds me of taking a hot shower. If you're like me, you love the way a hot shower relaxes and warms you all over. The feel of the warm stream on your skin is delicious. It loosens you up, and for the moment, you feel calm, tranquil, mellow. You may even start singing the praises of God. Warm water gives a different perspective on life. Everything is going fine ..until somebody else in the apartment complex, at that particular moment, also decides to enjoy a hot shower. The water pressure suddenly decreases, and you know what's coming next, don't you? The songs of praise are interrupted by a shriek of anger, and if it weren't for the grace of God operating in your life, words you wouldn't admit are in your vocabulary would spew out of your mouth. Yikes! The water is ice-cold! "Hey, cut it out! That's not fair!" you yell. (If you don't, I sure do!) And imagine your reaction if that "other"

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person were to yell back, "Wait!" At that moment, with ice-cold water shocking your body, I doubt if, "OK, God bless you-and have a nice day," would be your reply. Yet when we're hurting the most, we're told to "wait."

But just what is waiting on the Lord? How does it work? Is there really more to it than just "grinning and bearing it?" Can we finally take it from the Top Ten cliché list and find some practical application for it to our marriages, our finances, our automobiles-our very lives?

It is because I believe there is a positive answer to these questions that I have entitled this book "Weight" on the Lord, spelled W-E-I-G-H-T. I have done so because I truly believe that when the Lord tells us to "wait," He has more in mind for His children than just sitting in a corner with our Bibles, wringing our hands. Or walking around with a plastic smile on our faces, lying to everyone who asks, "How are you today?" by answering, "Fine"-while inside we resemble a piece of chewed meat-torn up with fear, anxiety, and hurt.

No, I believe the Lord wants us to W-E-I-G-H-T on Him-to place the full weight of our burden, whatever it is, totally on Him and thereby receive a fresh supply of strength to continue on. Is this not what the apostle Peter means with these words?

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7, NIV.

Jesus has been very up front and honest with His followers regarding trials and suffering. He assures us that as long as we are still in this world we will have tribulation. Nevertheless, He adds the consolation that because of His triumph over sin, Satan, and the grave, we can be of good

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cheer. See John 16:33. We can have hope and actually learn the secret of transforming our desert experiences into watered gardens of faith and trust in a God who has promised never to leave or forsake us.

Jesus has spread out a banquet table of blessings for His children, and far too many of us have spent the majority of our Christian lives wasting away on the crumbs-and all because we won't "taste and see that the Lord is good." Psalm 34:8. We don't put God's Word to the test and practically apply its counsel to our everyday lives. As a result, we may be twenty or thirty years old in our Christian walk with a kindergarten faith that remains stunted and immature from lack of use.

It has been said that when we get to heaven, we'll be surprised to find a room full of unopened, gift-wrapped boxes with our names on them and cards attached that read:

NEVER DELIVERED TO EARTH, BECAUSE  
NEVER REQUESTED FROM EARTH.

These boxes contain all the promises and spiritual weapons of God's Word that could have been ours in times of need but were never claimed, never applied.

Jesus is anxiously waiting for His children to experience more than just a theoretical, intellectual relationship with Him, and all heaven waits to bestow on us all the glorious fullness of the living Christ. We need but to ask, and the experience will be ours.

I believe it was never the Lord's intent for us to grovel through this life, eking out a meager existence, just "hanging

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in there” until He would come and take us home to heaven. Sorry, that’s not the picture my Bible paints for me.

The Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath. Deuteronomy 28:13.

Jesus wants us to be “more than conquerors” (see Romans 8:37), and we can get “above” our trials and soar above our difficulties. But before we can “mount up with wings as eagles,” we must drop our “turkey” mentality and “WEIGHT” on Him.

This book doesn’t pretend to have all the answers. Times of perplexity and doubt will still come (I know-I’ve had them in the publication of this book)! Nor does this book seek to eliminate all trouble. Rather, it attempts to provide some positive, practical, biblical methods of coping with the many trials we face from day to day. I offer the next few pages of ink and paper as a sacrifice to God and a gift to you with a prayer that the simple words and thoughts shared herein will help you strengthen your grip on the hand of God-in the valley as well as on the mountaintop-and learn how, by faith, to “run, and not be weary;... walk, and not faint.”

“WEIGHT,” I say, on the Lord!