



How is a Christian to sanctify his/her thought-life, emotions and conduct that do not put them at odds with the Lord in the face of needs and troubles? What does the process of waiting on the Lord entail?

My fear of dishonouring my Lord's name and raking eternal consequences through my own decisions and actions is greater than my concerns for things not turning out favourable for me here and now.

I shudder to think how terribly shameful and ironic it would be to be told at the Great White Throne that I have missed out on God's rewards and commendations of "well done, good and faithful servant" because I **failed to WAIT** for His 📖 gifts 📖 of mercy and grace while on earth.



I am the Lord's work-in-progress: a slow and forgetful learner, in need of many revisions and reminders in this area of faith. He is reforming me from being a medically-certified Champion-worrier who was also a strategic planner by profession *(yes, I got paid to worry over national matters, but I also paid much as a result)*, to one who would put into confident practice in heart, mind and spirit,

*Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD...* (Exodus 14:13)

The Lord has always responded to my prayerful waits – through His Word, series of events, people. He may

👉 strengthen me for endurance,

📖 deliver,

👉 redirect, or say

👉 "wait".

Each time, He answered it **His Own Way**.

Each time, it felt like the wait was *l-o-n-g*, but when I look back, I am surprised how many blessings the Lord "sneaked in" =faster= than I can notice until in hindsight. Many blessings in fact came "ahead of time" *(i.e. based on my limited view)*, better meeting needs that I had yet envisaged. Had I been left to cater for my own needs, I would have been a lot busier.

In a sense, by objective human clock-timing, each wait has indeed been getting longer. But *it is* by God's grace I undergo more waiting. Curing, pruning, moulding, take time – we need it, not Him.

God is good.

This *is* His grace.

Discipline is God's loving-kindness to us, His children in Christ.

Be faithful with little and with MUCH (... *'waiting' in this case*).

I am a **big fat chicken** in need of much training to enlarge my feeble heart to be courageous. **FEAR NOT!** God reminds. The extra ⌚time of waiting when directed according to His will, is a truly rewarding one in process and end result. I give all thanks and glory to our long-suffering God.



In waiting, I have come across faithful Christian messages regarding the subject matter that nudge me on the right path. I share these notes and pray the Lord will encourage too, as you await His directions for your life's issues.

It is **Good Friday** and **Easter**.

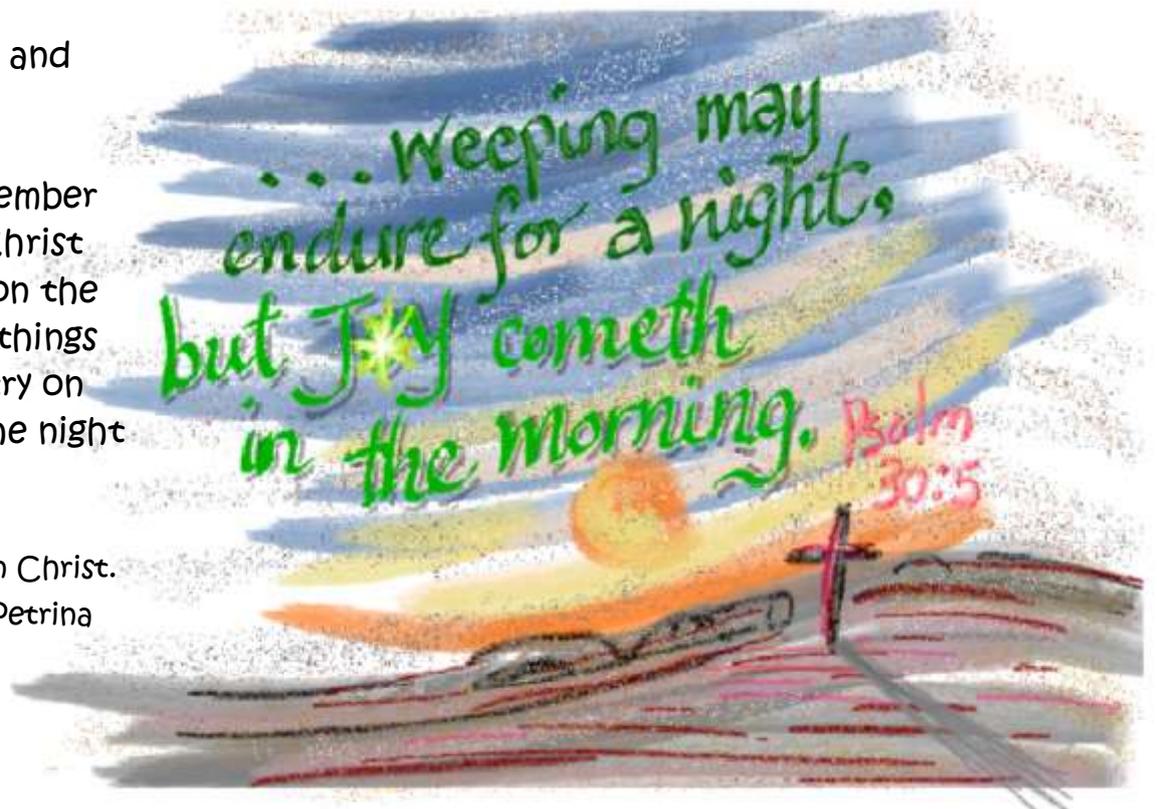
May we also remember that Jesus our Christ often waited upon the Father for many things during His ministry on earth, even on the night at **Gethsemane**.

... Weeping may  
endure for a night,  
but Joy cometh  
in the morning. Psalm  
30:5

 God bless you in Christ.

 In His service, Petrina

 April – June 2014



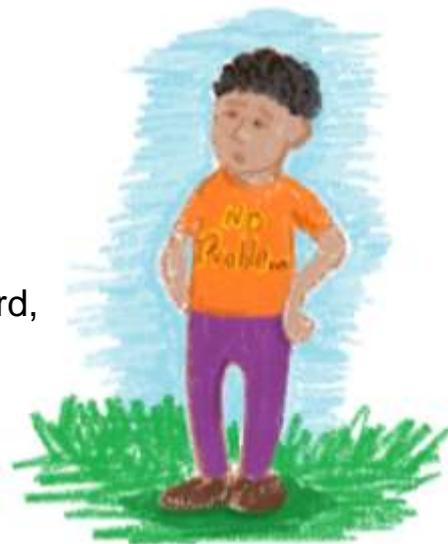
# WAITING ON THE LORD

## A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

### The Excruciation of Waiting

In times when we are in need of direction and turn to the Lord, do we:

- *Feel the wait for His answers excruciating?*
- *Think He has not heard our pleas?*
- *Wonder if He cares?*



### Inflictions of Our Impatience, Anxiety and “Reasonableness”

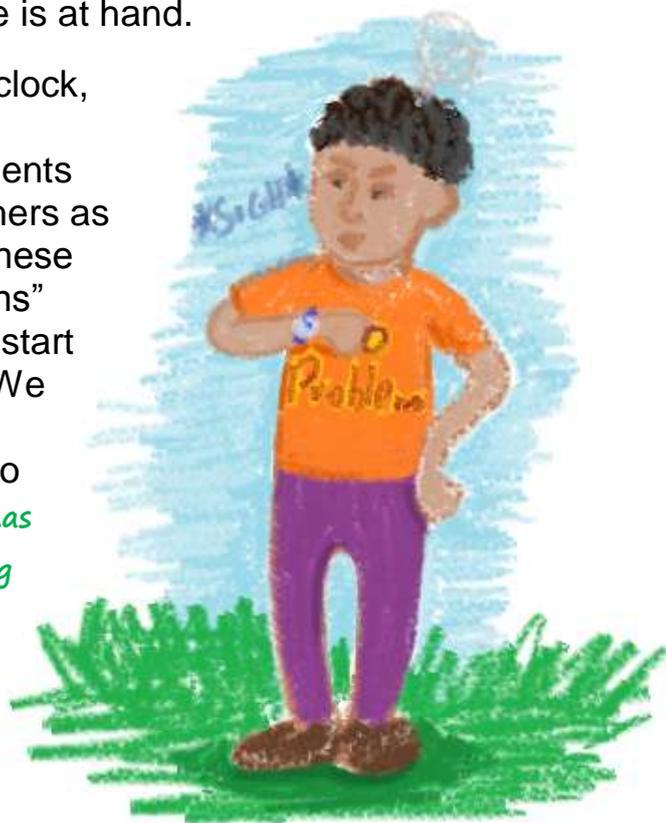
Most times this is due to our own impatience and anxiety. Our attention is distracted. Energies are wasted on worrying about the multitude of problems at hand, rather than focusing upon the Lord, trusting He is at hand.

We perceive the ticking-clock, looming deadlines, unfavourable developments and pressures from others as “reality”. We assess these to be “reasonable signs” upon which we must start kicking into action. We heed the calls from within and without to “use the brain God has given you, stop being

*naïve, and do something!”*

Our wants and needs drive us to rationalize with all sincerity of heart that:

- *Surely God understands and is reasonable when we take prudent and practical steps to address the demands of life?*
- *Surely it is not unreasonable to be pragmatic?*
- *Surely we glorify God when we show others that Christians are thinking, reasonable and responsible people?*



**The “Wise” Fool**  
**An Exercise in Futility**  
Man thinks he can control everything, but only ends up being out of control (he is usually not aware of it because he thinks he is so in control).



And so we wind and wind the turn-key in our heart until the day we burst forth into action. We hop and hop around as a wind-up toy, with lots of sound and fury, but achieving nothing, except a momentary expansion of energy.

We then fall into a vicious spiral of spiritual anxiety, despondency and exhaustion.



Even should “success” come as a result of us doing things our way, going before God, having little regard for God and His ways, know that such “success” it is vanity, futile, stubble and hay.

**We breed pride and hardness in our hearts, provoking the wrath of God against us.**

## **Romans 1 & 2** King James Version (KJV)

**1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;**

<sup>19</sup> Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

<sup>20</sup> For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are **without excuse**:

<sup>21</sup> **Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

<sup>22</sup> **Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,**

<sup>23</sup> And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup> Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

<sup>25</sup> Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

<sup>27</sup> And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust *one toward another*; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

<sup>29</sup> Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,  
<sup>30</sup> Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

<sup>31</sup> Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

<sup>32</sup> Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

**ROMANS 2:1** Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

<sup>2</sup> But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

<sup>3</sup> And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

<sup>4</sup> Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

<sup>5</sup> But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

<sup>6</sup> Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

<sup>7</sup> To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

<sup>8</sup> But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

<sup>9</sup> Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

<sup>10</sup> But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

<sup>11</sup> **For there is no respect of persons with God.**

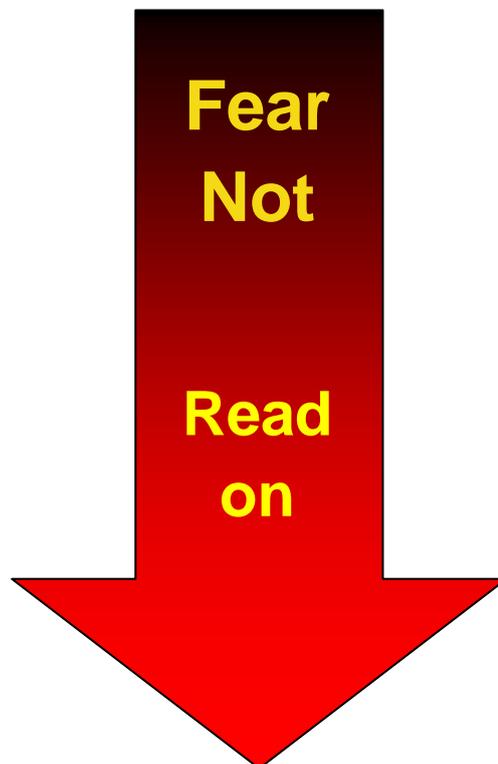
<sup>12</sup> For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

<sup>13</sup> (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

<sup>14</sup> For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

<sup>15</sup> Which shew the work of the law *written in their hearts*, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing *one another*;) )

<sup>16</sup> **In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel....**



# How Should We Wait?

## Continually and faithfully:

### 1) Know and Trust God's Character and Love

- God is the Infinite Almighty Everlasting Love
- Be fully persuaded about God's character
- He alone is truly faithful to us and His promises. What He has promised, He is able to perform it. (Psalm 130:7; Romans 14:18-22)

### 2) Stop and Listen

- Meditate on the everlasting Word
- Fully occupy our minds on God's thoughts all day and all night, to extract insight from His Word to His Will
- Stay in humble obedience to His Word

### 3) Commune With Him

- Be cleansed from all known sin before Him – ask His Holy Spirit bring to light our sins so that we may confess and repent them before Him who is just to forgive, cleanse and restore
- Persistent honest prayers - casting all our cares upon Him, surrender doubts, respectfully petition our needs before our Father, our King

### 4) Wait Expectantly With Thanksgiving

- God is always hearing our thoughts and cries with just compassion.
- Give God praises due, which includes thanks in advance with child-like trust in His goodness and faithfulness
- Encourage self and others about God's goodness. This is a blessing in itself in the midst of waiting on the Lord's answers and deliverance.

*Hope deferred maketh the heart sick:*

*but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.*  
~ Proverbs 13:12



<sup>2</sup> *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

<sup>3</sup> *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

<sup>4</sup> *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

<sup>5</sup> *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

<sup>6</sup> *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

<sup>7</sup> *For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*

<sup>8</sup> *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

~James 1:2-8

# God's Way

- God is never in a hurry like us
- God is always “on time” which is not necessarily our time.
- God's solutions are always right and perfect, which may not be the solution we hope for.
- God is sovereign, all knowing, absolutely powerful, compassionate and merciful.

## Apparent “delays” of God are:

- Always purposeful
- Ultimately for the good of His beloved children.

## Purpose of “Delays”:

- a) Test our faith in Him: whether we believe in a God because we understand that He is our Sovereign, or because we treat Him as Santa Claus.
- b) Prompt us to search our hearts
  - \* whether what we ask for are God's will for us
  - \* if we have prevailing sins that need repentance of
- c) Prompt us to draw us deeper and closer to our Father and His Word
- d) Cultivate our patience, a deeper trust in Him, unto maturity in Christ
- e) Help us better appreciate God when He delivers us
- f) Sweeten the deliverance-experience as the blessings that finally come are much more than what we may have sought for.

*(God is) able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us...*

~ Ephesians 3:20

# Not Our Way

What desperate actions with long-tail despicable consequences that ripple through generations must it take for us to stop, listen and obey?

## *Abram & Sarai*

When God called the 75 year-old Abram and his 65 year-old wife, Sarai, to come out from his father's land, God also promised to make him a great nation and bless his seed.

Looking at their own limitations, Abram and Sarai felt it was impossible for this promise to come to pass. Abram and Sarai thought they were helping God by intervening with "practical steps" that appeared reasonable in light of the culture of the day and place:

*Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.*  
~ Genesis 16

Hagar, Sarai's young Egyptian maid, conceived Abram's first son, Ishmael. The consequences of Abram and Sarai's "help" can still be felt today. Many sufferings in the world today are by the hands of Ishmaelite nations.

## **Because of His Own Goodness...& His Promises Are Sure**



But lest we think that Ishmael is out of God's design and control, remember that God is sovereign.

God heard Abram's plea for his elder son, and graciously blessed Ishmael:

*Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.*

~Genesis 17:20

God saw the way Ishmael and Hagar were cast into the wilderness, and mercifully cared for them. Even so, God kept His promises to Abraham: Ishmael is not the promised seed of Abraham and would not partake in the blessings of God's Everlasting Covenant,

*But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.*

~ Genesis 17:21

# God's Will Shall Come to Pass

*And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as He had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.  
~Genesis 22:1-2*

Abraham learnt his lessons. It was a 25-year wait before the promised son, Isaac, was conceived. Surely Abraham surely learnt by now that nothing is impossible for God.

By God's account, Abraham was thus counted as faithful and righteous:

*<sup>17</sup> (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.*

*<sup>18</sup> Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.*

*<sup>19</sup> And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:*

*<sup>20</sup> He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;*

*<sup>21</sup> And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.*

*<sup>22</sup> And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.*

*~ Romans 4:17-22*

Notwithstanding man's mistakes, God makes a way and His purposes will ultimately prevail.

Let this not be an excuse however, for us to make our own ways with ungodly expectations on God to bail us out and make the corrections.

**God is not mocked** (Galatians 6:7).

Rather, Abraham's account reminds us that God forgives our transgressions when we repent of them and heed His ways:

*<sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

*<sup>7</sup> But 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.*

*<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

*<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*<sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

~ 1 John 1:6-10

**In spite of us,  
God shall continue to uphold His promises  
to His own  
because of His Beloved.  
God is in control.**

My life  
may not  
be going  
the way i desire,  
**BUT**  
it is **Exactly**  
the way  
my Heavenly  
Father  
Planned it!



## **The 6th Commandment – ‘Thou Shalt Not Kill’.**

I once came across this reminder: that being in state of continual mental and emotional anguish, worrying over our problems, is a self-infliction that impacts our body, mind and spirit. It is as suicide which is the harm and murder of self. It is a sin against self, others and above all, our Creator, Giver and Provider of Life.

God is not glorified when we jump in to “help God help ourselves”, regardless of outcomes.

We disobey His expressed commandments to wait, be still and not worry.

We deny His promises to take care of us and save us.

Moving without His direction to “go forth”, is our denial of His faithfulness, abilities and authority over us.

***Stand in awe,  
and sin not:  
commune with your own heart  
upon your bed,  
and be still.***

*~ Psalm 4:4*

# EVEN OUR LORD JESUS WHEN IN AGONY WAITED UPON GOD THE FATHER REPEATEDLY WHEN HE WAS AT GETHSEMANE

<sup>36</sup> Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

<sup>37</sup> And he took with him Peter and the *two sons of Zebedee*, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

<sup>38</sup> Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: *tarry ye here, and watch with me.*

<sup>39</sup> And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, *O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.*

<sup>40</sup> And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me *one hour?*

<sup>41</sup> *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

<sup>42</sup> He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, *O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.*

<sup>43</sup> And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

<sup>44</sup> And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

<sup>45</sup> Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

<sup>46</sup> Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

<sup>47</sup> And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, *one of the twelve*, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

**Matthew 26** (KJV)



## Psalm 27 King James Version (KJV)

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?

<sup>2</sup> When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

<sup>3</sup> Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

<sup>4</sup> One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

<sup>5</sup> For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

<sup>9</sup> Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

<sup>10</sup> When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

<sup>11</sup> Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

<sup>12</sup> Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

<sup>13</sup> I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.