

## April Week #1 Devotionals & Consideration



Hymn: “Take My Life and Let It Be”

Take my hands, my feet, my love, at Thy impulse let them move.

### Psalm 37:9

For evildoers shall be cut off; but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.

Psalm 59:9 Because of His strength will I wait upon thee; for God is my defense.

Psalm 145:15 Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that He have mercy upon us.

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.

I am sure there are a number of ways these Scriptures can be fulfilled in our lives. One way is when we have nowhere to turn in this life for help. We have to wait on the Lord for our relief or solace.

But another way of waiting on the Lord is to do His bidding. You are ready to go into action for Him. You are waiting on Him as if He was at a banquet and you are part of His “wait” staff. Psalm 145:15 would certainly give you that impression.

Recently in a sermon at Oak Grove, Greg Levengood gave the example of tomato plants in a green house. He said they put large fans on them so that the tomato plants move. If the plants didn't move then when they grew fruit the plants wouldn't be strong enough to hold the fruit.

He compared the movement of the fan to trials in life, but I think it could also be compared to working for the Lord. I think this is a great visual. It puts to rest the idea that we don't have to work right now for the Lord.

How can we ever build the Kingdom if we don't know how to work? It would also seem to stand to reason, if we don't work now but think we will work at a later time when Zion comes, we won't be strong enough to bear fruit.

Often people don't know what to do for the Lord. If you ask the Lord to use you, He will use you.

Another thought that always comes to my mind is we are fighting a spiritual battle. We are in warfare!

Flip has shared with the congregation about his training to go into war zones. If something unexpected happened in a war zone, whether it was an accident or some type of explosion, they lost people—waiting for medical help. They decided if they trained everyone in basic first-aid they were able to save people.

One of the basic elements of that training was DO SOMETHING!!! Don't just stand there. GO INTO ACTION!

**D&C 58:6c-f For, behold, it is not meet that I should command in all things, for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward.**

**Verily I say, Men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness; for the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good, they shall in nowise lose their reward.**

**But he that doeth not anything until he is commanded, and receiveth a commandment with doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulness, the same is damned.**

That scripture states very clearly that we should be anxiously engaged in a good cause.

The Lord expects us to be working. He does not have to command us in all things.

In any vehicle, a course correction is much easier if the vehicle is moving. You can't really make a course correction on a vehicle that is stationary. This is the same for people. If you are out trying to do good work, the Lord can direct you more easily than if you are sitting at home.

**DO SOMETHING FOR THE LORD!**  
Ask Him to use you. He will take you at your word.

## April Week #2 Devotionals & Consideration



Hymn: “Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to Thee.”

### Romans 12:1-2

**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.**

Have you ever thought of the Scriptures as scary? This one definitely causes one to think about what the Lord expects of our service.

If Paul calls for us to be willing to “present your bodies a living sacrifice,” I think that phrase can be a little scary. This is considered your “reasonable service.”

Reasonable service? When you read that Scripture, does it say in there to present yourself when—it is convenient for you, only on Sunday, when you feel like it, if you want to,...? It asks us to present ourselves to God **as a living sacrifice**. We need to stand ready...no questions asked. We need to be ready to sacrifice. Sacrifice what? Time, convenience, ourselves, our money, I think the answer is we need to be ready to sacrifice all of it.

Following God can be scary. John Eldredge wrote, “Being in partnership with God...often feels...like being Mel Gibson’s sidekick in the movie *Lethal Weapon*. In His determination to deal with the bad guy, He

leaps from seventh-story balconies into swimming pools, surprised that we would have any hesitation in following after Him.”

No one is expecting you to jump off a seven-story building into a swimming pool, but sometimes following God, witnessing, and serving can feel just as intimidating.

All of us are called into service. God created all of us with a purpose. To fulfill the measure of our creation should be our goal every day. Every day brings a new opportunity to find a way to follow and serve God.

Often God takes us to uncharted territory. He may ask us to do something that seems uncomfortable or he may take us on a whole new journey.

The following is a testimony from Rochelle Newell. It was her prayer to be debt free, but the journey required trusting God.

*It was one thing to desire to be debt-free, but it was a little scary to think about acting on that. After all, we had built the house we were living in, we lived next door to my parents, and things were comfortable. Deep down, Ben and I knew this is what God was asking us to do.*

*We had spent much of 2013 teaching the boys about obedience to God—that sometimes He asks us to do things that are difficult, or uncomfortable. And now here we were, and God was asking us to act on these lessons we had been teaching the boys.*

*A real life, practical example, for the boys to see and be part of trusting God and obeying Him completely...even when it is uncomfortable.*

*The rest of the testimony is all the little details that God brought into play as he brought us to the house we're in for \$5,000 under the asking price on the first day it was for sale, with two showings scheduled the next day, how we got a brand new roof and the house painted as part of the negotiations, and how He taught us patience in the selling of our previous house.*

Where is God calling you? What is He calling you to do? Are you willing to follow God? Are you ready to be stretched?

Take time to contemplate presenting yourself to God a living sacrifice. Pray and ask the Lord to use and direct you. He may even use you or direct you today.