



# Weekly Inspirations

By Pastor Pat Thompson

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*It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD (Lamentations 3:26).*

The prophetic observation here is appropriate in the abstract, but oh how hard it is to keep one's counsel during one's trials! There is no shame in confessing that. It's not so much that misery loves company as the fact that all of us seek affirmation from others, especially during a difficult time.

I am a huge believer in not beating ourselves up because we think we have failed to be as ascetic as we think we ought to be. Truth be told, most of us spend an inordinate amount of time thinking that God is disappointed in us—angry with us—and in the most extreme, that God is punishing us for some moral failure. That is just not good theology, and it is not biblical.

Certainly, there are spiritual advantages to a life of discipline and obedience, and one could rightly assert that it is what the High and Holy One expects of us. As master craftsmen, we understand the quest for perfection, and we pursue that goal in the unfolding of our lives in every sphere. We hope to one day arrive at that place where we are perceived by God as having become a perfect specimen of righteousness.

What we may forget, however, is that the end result is never a matter of our work alone, for the God who knows us better than we know ourselves has been at work smoothing the edges of our rough ashlar and turning us into that perfect stone fit for the house of the Master Builder.

Much of what we encounter in our earthly pilgrimage is beyond our control. Detours and distractions are often not of our own making, and the God who knows us intimately honors that. It's not so much an excuse as it is a divine acknowledgment of our limitations, and *God never holds our momentary weakness against us!*

The prophet had it right when he acknowledged the blessedness of *waiting* quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For in the final analysis, it is only God, the Supreme Architect, who sees our design as he intended it to unfold. Salvation—however one defines that—comes only from God—and since none of us can bring it about, it is worth waiting for!

Faithfully and fraternally,

*Pat*