

# We Wait by Faith

To the Galatians, Paul wrote, "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith" (**Gal. 5:5**). The main thought in that sentence furnishes the title of this article.

By Irvin Himmel

**1. We wait by faith when the gospel is preached.** After the farmer or gardener sows the seed, he cultivates, waters, and cares for the plant, patiently waiting for the harvest. He has faith that the seed will germinate, the soil will be productive, and the sunshine will cause growth according to God's natural laws.

In like manner, we do not expect immediate results each time the seed of the kingdom is sown. We show our faith in God's word, in the divine laws for the growth of the kingdom, and in the promises of God by cultivating and watering, and by patiently waiting for the increase.

**2. We wait by faith for the coming of the Lord.** Jesus has promised that He will come again (**John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11**). No one knows of that day or that hour (**Matt. 24:36**). We do know that "unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (**Heb. 9:28**). Our citizenship is in heaven, "from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (**Phil. 3:20**). "Look for" in this pas-

sage is the same as "wait" in **Gal. 5:5**. It conveys the thought of eager expectation as well as patient readiness.

**3. We wait by faith for eternal life.** We who are Christians live "in hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (**Tit. 1:2**). That which is the grand object of our hope is unseen, for "hope that is seen is not hope . . . But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (**Rom. 8:24, 25**). This is what Paul is referring to in **Gal. 5:5**. We, through the Spirit's revelation by means of the word of God, wait for the hope of righteousness. The Spirit reveals that righteousness or justification is through Jesus Christ, not the works of the law of Moses. Eternal life is the hope offered to all who attain to the righteousness that comes through the exercise of faith in Jesus Christ. We wait (rather than grow discouraged or turn back) for the hope of righteousness by faith.

The life of the Christian is one of the earnest expectation and diligent service in patient waiting; it is a life of fidelity to Christ.



## Sick

Jeff Miller (Friend of Walker Davis)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Donna Pridmore (Erin Miller's Mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Andrew Westphal	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Betty Bradford	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Dale Herd (Brother of William Herd)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Eli Williams	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Diane Lewter (Kyle Lewter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Amy Baswell Hall

## May Birthdays

- 2 - Taylor Bethea
- 2 - Emily-Anne Rouse
- 3 - Paula Davis
- 4 - Cadence Pittman
- 10 - Ian Norman
- 10 - Ryan Hasty
- 11 - Scott Perkins
- 11 - Caleb George
- 12 - Daphene Whatley
- 12 - Patrick Davis
- 13 - Jana Hall
- 13 - Anna Grace Long
- 15 - Bryce Daniels
- 18 - Ty Randolph
- 19 - Madison Seals
- 22 - Sarah Holliday
- 24 - Andy Roberts
- 25 - Church Hahn
- 26 - Fallon Hartsell
- 28 - Barbara Weeks
- 28 - Candy Long
- 31 - Rachel Tolliver

## News and Notes

- The Kids class will meet at 5:15 today.
- Lets keep in our prayers Fallon Hartsell as she is expecting twin girls!
- Ken Sullivan had further surgery on Thurs.
- Joey McGee lost his grandmother on Thursday. The graveside service was on Friday.
- VBS postcards are in the foyer. Please be sure to register your children for VBS!
- Frank Hand, Laura Humphrey's dad, is waiting to see a specialist.
- Remember Liseth Aragon's bro-in-law, Harold Guido, in your prayers as he is battling cancer. Also remember her niece, Gigi Pedroaza, who was recently treated at the hospital.
- Nicole Pender's great grandmother, Laura Gravitt, dies Sat. morning.

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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## Blessed Among Women

By Bubba Garner



### Thoughts to Ponder

"Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised." (**Proverbs 31:30**)

Anyone who thinks that the Bible is chauvinistic or prejudiced against women has just not been reading it. Some of the highest marks of praise in the book of God are ascribed to women. Esther is said to have "found favor in the eyes of all who saw her" (**Esther 2:15**). Ruth is called "a woman of excellence" (**Ruth 3:11**). And what better commendation could be given than what is attributed to Tryphaena and Tryphosa, thought to have been twin sisters in the church at Rome: "workers in the Lord" (**Rom. 16:12**). Women were not just footnotes along the path of history; they left footprints to be followed.

One woman who certainly fits that description is Mary, the mother of Jesus. She, too, is paid a flattering compliment when Elizabeth, her cousin, calls her "blessed among women" (**Luke 1:42**). This is not an endorsement to worship Mary, to elevate her to a position that

But when the events of life turn against you, you don't turn away from the Lord. You draw closer to Him. Real faith says, "I may not understand why this is happening, but I believe God can cause something good to come out of it."

people in her own generation did not place her. But neither is it a prohibition to neglect studying her at all or to pretend she is not mentioned alongside other great women of the Bible. We should want to know what it is that makes Mary so blessed.

**She was chosen to deliver the Deliverer.** God had already brought forth a nation from the womb of a barren woman, Sarah. Isaiah prophesied that He

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**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
Sunday  
Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM  
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would also bring forth a Son from the womb of a virgin (**Isa. 7:14**). Because Mary kept herself pure and had not given in to sexual temptation even once, she was a fit candidate to fulfill the promise. Her innocence is further seen in her words spoken to the angel after learning of the task God had chosen for her. “Behold the bond slave of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word” (**Luke 1:38**). Who knows what plans the Lord has in mind for your life? When you make righteous decisions, you place yourself in a better position to be used. Not only that, you will be more equipped to serve when the time comes. Mary was chosen for a special purpose. But she was chosen because she had made up her mind to make good choices. Be it done to me and you.

**She was a good mother to a perfect Son.** Can you imagine being separated from your child for three days, not knowing their whereabouts? That’s how long it took for Joseph and Mary to find their twelve-year old Jesus when He stayed behind in Jerusalem. Upon finding him in the temple, it was His mother who said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your Father and I have been anxiously looking for You” (**Luke 2:48**). While she did not understand Jesus’ response that He had to be about His Father’s business, she still “treasured all these things in her heart” (**Luke 2:51**). These were the memories that brought her great joy and pride as a mother.

Children have a way of reminding us what is most important in life. They are not attracted to the same things that distract adults. They could care less about money, fame, or power. What they seek is much more simple, much more valuable. Mary

may not have understood everything about her Son. She did, however, seem to understand that she had a special One. Oh, that every parent would treasure their own children this way.

**She watched her Firstborn bear His cross.** The virgin birth was not the only prophecy in which Mary took part. When she and Joseph presented their baby Boy in the temple, the prophet Simeon spoke of things that the Child would do and have done to Him. And he said to Mary, “a sword will pierce even your own soul” (**Luke 2:35**). Such was the case when the soldiers pierced the hands and feet of her Son. Judas betrayed Him. Peter denied Him. “They all left Him and fled” (**Mark 14:50**). But among those “standing by the cross of Jesus” (**John 19:25**) was His mother. She was faithful to Him until death, even the death of a cross.

Quitting is easy. It requires no courage, no conviction. It allows you to shut your eyes to something that you would rather not see. But when the events of life turn against you, you don’t turn away from the Lord. You draw closer to Him. Real faith says, “I may not understand why this is happening, but I believe God can cause something good to come out of it.” Mary was rewarded three days later. How long are you willing to wait?

Indeed, Mary was “blessed among women.” But she need not be the only one. After listening to Him teach on one occasion, a woman in the crowd shouted to Jesus, “Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts at which You nursed.’ But He said, ‘On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it’” (**Luke 11:27-28**). Let such be the calling of every woman and every man who chooses to follow the Son.



## The Book Momma Read

By Dee Bowman

The Bible is a wonder. No book is like it. Nowhere is truth bound up in so concise a package. Nowhere is there to be found a book that sets forth more truth in a more beautiful and functional way.

“We search the world for truth; we cull the good, the pure, the beautiful, from graven and written scroll, from all old flower fields of the soul. And, weary seekers of the best, we come back, laden from our quest to find that all the sages said, is in the book our mothers read” (John Greenleaf Whittier).

How true. How very true. Man’s wisdom—all of it, if it has any value—is merely a restatement of the Divine will, the word of God. We search hither and yon for some new kernel of truth only to find we had it right on our coffee table all the time.

The Bible is a wonder. No book is like it. Nowhere is truth bound up in so concise a package. Nowhere is there to be found a book that sets forth more truth in a more beautiful and functional way. Over forty men wrote this great book of truth over a long period of time. Moreover, the men had no knowledge of one another in many instances. They came from all educational and ethnic backgrounds, and yet they all wrote with the same pen—shepherds, fishers, priests, warriors, kings, and statesmen—not one of them contradicted what the other wrote. The various parts came into a perfect whole as “the fullness of times” was realized.

The Bible addresses man’s needs and recommends solutions to each one of them. Not one question regarding man’s purpose for existence, his mission on earth, and what will come of him when he dies, is disregarded. Instead, the Bible addresses the need for knowing those things in a most direct and functional manner.

The Bible tells us about who God is and how to please Him. It explains how and when men fail and how they can succeed and how God feels about both. It never exaggerates. It never paints an inflated picture of a man who is evil, nor does it allow the good man to bloat about his goodness. It speaks of virtue and kindness, of character and dignity, of proper worship and devotion—all of which relate to man’s becoming all that God wanted him to be when He created Him.

The Bible is not a book of history nor of science, and yet, when it speaks of either, it does so with absolute accuracy. It has never been found to contradict history; but history has been found on numerous occasions to contradict the Bible. Literally dozens of predictions are made

in it about such places as Israel, Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Syria and man other cities and nations; and in every instance, what was predicted came true.

The Bible affirms itself to be “the word of God.” In the Old Testament it is affirmed over and over again. It uses terms like “God said,” “The word of God came, saying,” etc. to affirm such (**Ex. 4:12; Deut. 4:2; Jer. 3:7-9; Ezek. 2:4; Ezek. 33:7**). In the New Testament, those who wrote spoke the words of God as they were inspired by the Spirit (**John 14:26;**

**John 15:26; John 16:13; Acts 1:16; Heb. 1:1-2; 1 Cor. 2:1-10; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17**).

The miracles performed by Christ are said to put the stamp of the approval of God on the Scriptures, and His imprimatur of Jesus as the Savior (**John 20:3-31**).

The Bible is the only book that tells man what to do about sin—in short, how to be saved. It does it without prejudice and with great accuracy. There is no reason for man to misunderstand it, and certainly no reason for him to reinterpret it to make it what he wants. It is God’s plan. He conceived it. He brought it about. He revealed it to us in the Bible. In nine different instances in the Acts of Apostles, we are told—both by example and statement—what to do to be saved. **Acts 2, Acts 8, Acts 9, Acts 10, Acts 16**, for example, tell us that God expects a man to hear the gospel, believe that Christ is the Son of God, repent of his past sins, confess his faith, and be baptized for the remission of his sins. A simple, forthright plan for man’s salvation about which there is absolutely no need for misunderstanding.

Only in the Bible is there information about what lies beyond. All else is speculation, superstition. The Bible speaks clearly of the judgment (**Matt. 7:21-23; Heb. 9:21; Rev. 20:11-15**). Furthermore, that statement is made without undue fanfare, but explicitly and with power.

In consideration of these facts and many others which could be stated as to the authenticity and functionality of the Bible, don’t you think you might ought to give a bit more attention to it from now on? You see, after we’ve done all our searching for true wisdom, we finally come to realize it was in the

