Psalm 37 shows us a beautiful model for the Christian life.

First, DON'T FRET (don't worry).

Second, Trust in the LORD and do good;
Third, Delight yourself in the LORD
Fourth, Commit your way to the LORD;
Lastly, Be still before the LORD
and wait patiently for him;

We also see throughout this Psalm the many promises God has for us who do these things!!!

Psalm 37:7 tell us to,

Be still before the LORD

and wait patiently for him;

Many times we can get caught up in getting too busy not only in our lives but even in our prayer life.

God calls us to "wait" on Him.

Waiting on God is described by Andrew Murray as, "ABSORBING GOD."

Imagine a "dry sponge" that is parched, shriveled, rough, brittle.

As the sponge soaks up the water, the sponge begins to moisten, expand, soften, become subtle.

This is a picture of a parched, shriveled, rough, brittle heart.

The heart needs God's Holy Spirit, Living Water, to be poured into it so it begins to become alive, grow and soften in love for God and others, and become more practical.

And then even our lips will speak words of life as Christ's lips do.

His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh. (Songs 5:13)

"Dripping" signifies a flowing, abundance of "myrrh" – the beauty of Christ's words.

His words minister to the core of our being.

"No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards declared. (John 7:46)

You are a garden fountain, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon. (Song of Songs 4:15)

Here, we see life, refreshment, fertility, abundance "flowing" out of Christ into His church.

This would also <u>"water"</u> many gardens and have outward effects.

but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14)

Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon; your mouth is lovely. (Song of Songs 4:3)

The healthy luscious <u>"lips"</u> are likened to <u>"ribbon"</u> of <u>"scarlet"</u> or red.

Pale lips would show sickness while these "scarlet lips" show healthiness.

The "mouth" signifies the sweet words of the Christian expressing their love for Christ and purity of speech.

Life is full of waiting.

We wait in line at stores, banks, buses.

We wait for meals.

We wait anxiously for things in our life that are important: a visit from a friend, our future husband/wife, a baby to arrive after 9 months, and many other examples.

LIFE IS FULL OF WAITING!!!

There is much about "waiting" in the Bible:

- Adam waited for God to bring him a suitable partner.
- **❖**The devil waited for a suitable time to tempt Eve.
 - Adam and Eve waited in the bushes after they had sinned and covered themselves with tree leaves.
 - God waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.
- **❖** Noah waited seven days twice after the flood for the dove to return.

Abraham and Sarah waited for the "promised child" but Sarah became impatient. Finally, God brought Isaac.

Isaac waited for His bride (and Christ waits for His bride the church).

❖ Jacob waited 7 years for his bride.

❖ Joseph waited in jail.

Moses waited for God to deliver his people but got ahead of God, killed the Egyptian, and ended up waiting 40 years longer.

❖ Joshua waited for the tribes to take possession of the land.

- Ruth waited to see what Boaz would do after he promised to redeem her and become her legal husband.
 - Esther fasted and waited before she talked to the king about saving God's people.

Simeon, was waiting for the consolation of Israel, the Promised Messiah to come, and moved by the Holy Spirit he went and prophesied over the Christ child at the temple. (Luke 2:25)

❖The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. (John 3:15)

❖The Jews and religious leaders were always waiting to catch him in something he might say or to kill him.

(Luke 11:54; John 7:1)

❖Peter had to wait outside at the door after Jesus had been taken away to be killed. (John 18:16)

Joseph of Arimathea, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. (Mark 15:43)

- **❖Jesus, after His Resurrection, commanded the disciples:**"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. (Acts 1:4)
 - ❖ Paul shared his testimony of how Ananias came to him and said, And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.' (Acts 22:16)
 - We, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Romans 8:23)
 - We eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed at His Second Coming. (1 Cor.1:7)

- *and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. (1 Thess.1:10)
- while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, (Titus 2:13)
- *We are told to, Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. (James 5:7)

- So we can see that not only men and women of God in the Old and New Testament were waiting on God but that God also waited.
- And we see this most in the fact that from all eternity past, Jesus has waited for His BRIDE the Church. It has been the longest betrothal ever.
- And this will finally come true after God calls His Church home and the Wedding of the Lamb takes place!!

Now here are some bible verses encouraging us to wait on the Lord!!

If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait for my renewal to come. (Job 14:14)

In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation. (Psalm 5:3)

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. (Psalm 27:14)

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. (Psalm 33:20)

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. (Psalm 37:7)

Wait for the LORD and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it. (Psalm 37:34)

I wait for you, O LORD; you will answer, O Lord my God. (Psalm 38:15)

I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. (Psalm 40:1)

I wait for your salvation, O LORD, and I follow your commands. (Psalm 119:166)

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. (Psalm 130:5)

My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. (Psalm 130:6)

Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. (Isaiah 26:8)

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! (Isaiah 30:18)

it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. (Lamentations 3:26)

But you must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always. (Hosea 12:6)

But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me. (Micah 7:7)

For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. (Habakkuk 2:3)

So much depends on our "waiting on God".

Trustfully waiting on God for answers to prayer.

Trustfully waiting on God to fill us with HIM!!

Trustfully waiting on God for His promises!!

Trusting waiting on God for plan for our lives!!

LET'S PRAY:

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY,

TEACH US TO WAIT ON YOU!!

TO WAIT ON YOU EXPECTANTLY!!

TO ABSORB YOU AND BE FILLED BY YOU!!

WE WAIT ON YOU!!

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