

GOD IS WAITING FOR YOU

Some people are good listeners and I like them. Talk to them about their spiritual needs, and they will listen to all you have to say. They will not argue with you or try to prove you wrong. They will admit that they are sinners, and that they need to repent and turn to God. But when it comes to taking action and doing what they knew to be right, then they will give excuses such as: *'Well, God knows that I cannot save myself, and I cannot quit sinning on my own. He knows that I am weak and I need His help. I know that in His time he will save me supernaturally, so I am waiting for Him.'* Although they may be sincere, they are sincerely wrong. God is the one waiting for them with His arms open; ready to receive, forgive, cleanse and save them any time they turn to Him in repentance. God has done all He is going to do for us. He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us, so, any time we are ready to come to Him, He is ready to receive us.

The story of the prodigal son in the bible (Luke 15:11-14) is a good illustration of this point. A young man demands and gets his share of his father's estate and travels abroad where he wastes the money in wild living. When his money is finished and there is famine in the land, he gets a job on a pig farm. He is so hungry that he wants to eat some of the pigs' food, but his boss will not let him. At last he comes to his senses. He thinks of his father's wealth, and how his father's servants have enough to eat and to spare. He decides to go back home. Then he thinks of how disappointed his father will be when he sees him, and wonders if he will be willing to have him back as a son. *'Well, a servant's position is good enough for me,'* he concludes, so he decides to beg his father to have him back as a servant.

He started his journey back home, thinking about how he is going to face his angry father, and rehearsing his homecoming plea. But unknown to him, since he left home, his father had woken up every day thinking about him and believing that he would come back home one day. So every day the father stands on the porch, with his neck stretched, looking afar, hoping to see his son coming back.

At last, as he stands on the porch one day, standing on his toes with his neck stretched, looking afar as usual, he sees his son coming! He jumps for joy, and runs as fast as he can to meet him. He embraces and kisses him, and brings him back home with joy. He immediately commands his servants to bathe and dress him up, and he celebrates his son's homecoming with a big party. The father is so overwhelmed with joy that he does not have time to listen to his son's plea for forgiveness and to be taken back as a servant rather than as a son. As far as he is concerned, his lost son has come back home, and it is glorious!

In the same way, God waits expectantly day by day for every sinner to come back to him in repentance, and be forgiven and saved. So it is up to every sinner to repent and, like the prodigal son, walk into the open arms of God, and there will be joy and celebration in heaven. *'Behold, now is truly the time for a gracious welcome and acceptance (of you from God); behold, now is the day of salvation!'* (2 Corinthians 6:2, Amplified).