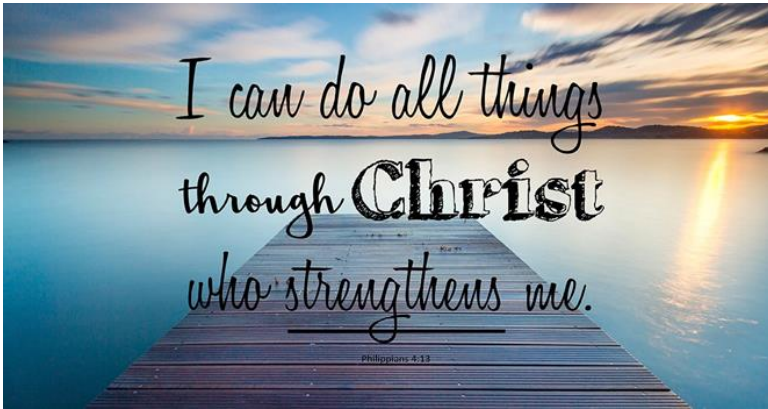


# Guided by a cloud 28 (Exodus 13:21-22)

Thank you for all your prayers for Shaun, he is recovering well and keeping me on my toes! It was late in the day before he had his operation and could contact the family to say all was well and therefore, we had to wait. Sometimes I waited passively and sat around twiddling my thumbs not knowing what to do as I wasn't in control of the situation. At other points I waited expectantly, believing the phone call was just around the corner, hopeful.



## Worship time

[Father I place into your hands](#)

[God I look to you](#)

[Everyone needs compassion](#)

**Isaiah 40:31** *“but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like*

*eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”*

This verse suggests that waiting can be a positive and rewarding experience. It promises that waiting will bring us strength when we are feeling weak; will lift our spirit when we are feeling down; will enable us to persevere when tired. If you don't like waiting, then the use of the word may make you think of uncertainty, frustration and annoyance but the word translated 'wait' in that verse has the implication of looking for or expecting. The Amplified Version of the Bible brings this out, *“But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] Will gain new strength and renew their power”*. To wait for the Lord is to look expectantly for Him.

In Acts 16 we hear about how Paul and Silas were attacked by a crowd, beaten, and thrown in jail. The jailer put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks to make sure they couldn't escape. They didn't grumble about their fate. They weren't frustrated waiting on God to turn up and rescue them. They just decided to start singing and began to worship. They began to wait expectantly on God.

**Acts 16:25-26** *But about midnight, as Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the [other] prisoners were listening to them, suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the very foundations of the prison were shaken; and at once all the doors were opened and everyone's shackles were unfastened.*

It seems that Paul and Silas had confidence that they were right in the centre of the will of God and that He was using them to serve His purposes. Unfortunately, I am not convinced that my response would be the same in a similar situation! However, I am convinced that when people patiently and expectantly wait on God in the midst of difficult circumstances, God can suddenly break through.