

**SIT STILL!**

or

**"SELAH"**



**TEXT:** *Isa 30:7 For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: therefore have I cried concerning this, Their strength is to sit still.*

(S.A **Psalm 3:2** *Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah.*

**Psalm 3:4** *I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.*

**Psalm 3:8** *Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.*

**THESIS:** To warn that God's will must be clearly discerned or tragedy may result.

**INTRO.:** A. The word "**Selah**" is used 71 times in Psalms and 3 times in Habbakkuk. Used musically or poetically it means "pause" or "rest here." In our text we have the words "**Their strength is to SIT STILL.**" Sometimes it takes more courage or strength not to act than to act. In **Isaiah 30:18** it says "**And therefore will the Lord wait...**", i.e. that He is deliberately WAITING to deliver His people and the verse closes with "**blessed are all they that WAIT for Him.**"

**ILLUS.:** Someone does an injustice to us and we want immediate retaliation. It takes more courage to wait and not to act. It takes more strength not to fight back than to "slug it out."

B. There are many times when the Christian should wait or "**SIT STILL**" or "**SELAH**" or pause.

**QUOTE:** Dr. Jack Hyles said: "*Stay where you are unless God unmistakably leads you without you seeking or wanting to move. It is almost impossible to find the will of God by seeking the will of God. God usually reveals His will to people who are completely consumed in carrying out the will He revealed last time.*"

C. God came to Moses while he took care of the sheep and NOT when he was seek-ing God's will. God came to Gideon while he was threshing the wheat. God came to Paul while he was actively carrying out the Great Commission. When Paul actively sought God's will for what *he* wanted to do...God said "NO!"

D. There are several times the Christian must pause or "**SIT STILL**" & not move. It is important to know when to wait as well as when to move. Most of the time God's will is "**SIT STILL**" rather than move.

## **I. SIT STILL WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO:**

A. What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do: **SIT STILL!**

**ILLUS.:** Balaam was a faithful preacher doing God's will. The Moabites invited him to come down to Moab to preach. Balaam began to rationalize: "*those folks need my preaching too.*" He prayed to God and He said: "**No!**" The Moabites returned and offered him money and a Drs. Degree, so Balaam asked God again! But God had already spoken. God PERMITTED Balaam to go, but He never willed it. Tragedy resulted. God's people mixed with the Moabites.

1. God never has to tell you to stay, but He must tell you to go or to move.
2. The safest thing is to "SIT STILL" until you hear from heaven.

B. What To Do When God Doesn't Clearly Impress You: **SIT STILL!**

1. Don't ask God if you should leave, stay till He moves you.
2. Don't keep seeking God's will, stay till He changes His will for you & lets you know.
3. Don't ask for His will after He has already spoken!

- a. The present can never compete with the future.
- b. The known can never compete with the unknown.
- c. The here can never compete with the there.

**ILLUS.:** You only know the good or expected good of the future, the unknown or the “there.” But you know the bad, unattractive and the heartaches of the “here.” There is no way this church can compete with that “other church” or this pastor can compete with that other pastor over “there.” WHY? Because you see all YOUR pastor’s or church’s faults and only see the other pastor or church’s attractive points.

I have been to California and Florida but I have never seen the slums there or the garbage dumps there! I have only seen the palm trees and sunshine! But they have slums in Florida and California and all the trees there are NOT palms, & they have hurricanes and earthquakes. **“Selah!” “SIT STILL!”** Remember the words ***“Their strength is to SIT STILL!”***

Often as pastor, I had church members come to me and say, *“The Lord is leading me and my family to move to Florida.”* Rarely do I have them come in July or August, but often in January and February! ☺ (Maybe the grass looks greener because Satan has been over there with his paint bucket!)

## **II. SIT STILL WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING WELL!**

### **A. When Things Are “Not Going Well” It May Be God’s Will:**

**ILLUS.:** When Paul was flogged and beaten and stoned, it was God’s will. When he was thrown into prison and his hands and feet were placed in stocks, it was God’s will. When he was shipwrecked, robbed and starving, it was God’s will!

- 1. Often our bad days become our best days!
- 2. Often our defeats become our victories!

### **B. When Things Are “Not Going Well” Things May Be Really Going Well:**

- 1. Looking forward the mountain peaks look like valleys; looking back the valleys look like mountain peaks.
- 2. Looking forward the prosperity looks like adversity; looking back the adversity looks like prosperity.

**ILLUS.:** When Naomi and Elimelech looked down to Moab there was a famine at home in Bethlehem and what appeared to be prosperity down in Moab. But that move cost Naomi her husband and her two sons and she had her name changed from pleasant to bitter (Marah).

- a. When things aren’t going well God may be testing you.
- b. When things aren’t going well God may be training you.

**ILLUS.:** The hardships of Boot Camp look pretty bleak until you reach the battlefield! Then the focus changes.

To move from one city or state because of employment, climate, etc. MAY reveal weakness, not strength, immaturity not spirituality. **“SELAH!”** “Their strength is to **SIT STILL!**”

## **III. SIT STILL WHEN YOU ARE IN A CRISIS:**

- A. Employment Loss, Disease or Tragedy Should Not Determine God’s Will! **“SELAH!”**
- B. Recession, Depression, or Death Should Not Determine God’s Will! **“SIT STILL!”**

## **IV. SIT STILL WHEN YOU WANT TO LEAVE!**

### **A. Because You Will Rationalize & Call It God’s Will!**

- 1. Changing your address will not change your problems.
- 2. People where you go will be just as human as where you are.
- 3. The church you move to will have as many hypocrites, carnal Christians, and problems as the one you leave.

### **B. Because You Will do What You Want and Not What God Wants! **“SELAH!” “SIT STILL!”****

## **V. SIT STILL WHEN YOU ARE EMOTIONALLY OR SPIRITUALLY BURDENED!**

- A. A Need Does Not Constitute a Call! **“SIT STILL!”**

1. You may become burdened but not called.
2. You may see the need, but not get permission to go.

**ILLUS.:** Paul had a burden to go to Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit warned him not to go; a prophet told him not to go. He went and was captured and got into trouble. He was supposed to be God's messenger to the GENTILES, not the Jews.

B. A Burden Does Not Constitute A Call! **"SIT STILL!"**

## **VI. SIT STILL WHEN YOU ARE RESTLESS!**

A. Many Mistake "Greener Pastures" for God's Will: **"SIT STILL!"**

1. Someone else's ministry may look more attractive than yours.
2. Someone else's wife may look more beautiful than yours.
3. Someone else's family may look more spiritual than yours.
4. Someone else's job may look easier than yours.

**ILLUS.:** Someone observed "Of course the grass looks greener...it's ASTROTURF! And you can't graze on Astroturf!"

5. Someone else's location may look nicer than yours.
6. Someone else's home, car, etc. may look better than yours.

**ILLUS.:** I would rather be in God's will w/God's people with a loving family and friends than to move out of God's will to Bermuda, Jamaica or Waikiki! Geographical location is highly overrated!

B. Many Mistake An Easier Path for God's Will: **"SIT STILL!"**

## **VII. SIT STILL TILL YOU FINISH WHAT GOD GAVE YOU TO DO!**

**CONCL.:** It is wrong to leave before He directs you. It is wrong to make commitments & not fulfill them. It is wrong to quit before you have finished your task. It is wrong to switch ministries without direction.

You should never move or make a change when:

**...YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!**  
**...THINGS ARE NOT GOING WELL!**  
**...YOU ARE IN A CRISIS!**  
**...YOU WANT TO LEAVE!**  
**...YOU ARE EMOTIONALLY OR SPIRITUALLY BURDENED!**  
**...YOU ARE RESTLESS!**  
**...YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED WHAT GOD GAVE YOU TO DO!**

**"SELAH!" "Their strength is to SIT STILL!"**