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**GRACE NOTES RADIO PROGRAM
SERIES: ELIJAH – A MAN FOR THE TIMES
TITLE: THE WAITING PERIOD – a must
SONGS: HE HIDETH MY SOUL
IN THE PRESENCE OF JEHOVAH**

Welcome to Grace Notes!

Barbara Sandbek has been following the life and works of the prophet Elijah. We've seen him travel from a palace, to a wilderness, and then to a pagan land. God has protected him from the wrath of a king, provided for him through a wild raven and a starving widow, and has powerfully wakened the widow's son from death. Elijah's faith has grown as a result of his obedience. Now he's ready to face Ahab again, and do the job these experiences have groomed him to do – that of calling the Israelites back to God.

If Elijah had developed his own training program, it probably wouldn't have included a wilderness, a wild bird, or a widow. But through these tools, he experienced God's protection, provision, and His power.

Elijah found he could take refuge in God, who made him and had a plan for his life. He found refuge both in physical shelter and spiritual solace.

King David also understood God's protection in his desert experiences. In Psalm 57:1 he wrote..."I will take refuge in the shadow of Your wings until the disaster has passed."

And in Psalm 63:7 he probably sang..

"Because You are my help, I will sing in the shadow of Your wings."

The metaphor 'shadow of your wings' is an image of God's protection and care. As a shadow provides relief from the merciless sun, and a bird covers her young in the nest, so God provides a place of refuge – he hides our very soul.

***** HE HIDETH MY SOUL *****

**Psalm 138:8 says...The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me.
God's purpose for Elijah was to be His spokesman.**

**Proverbs 19:21 states...Many are the plans in a man's heart
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.
To be God's spokesman, Elijah had to know God's plan and purpose.**

**Elijah learned that God's plan is unfolded through prayer...
and that God responds to it.**

**When the widow's son died, there was nothing he could do to remedy the
situation. He was humbled.**

**Without God's power, his words were meaningless.
By preventing Elijah from meeting his own needs, God taught Elijah true
dependence on him. This is what was needed to handle the task ahead.**

1 Kings Chapter 18 begins...

**After a long time, in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah.
"Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land."**

So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab.

**I noticed right away the words 'LONG TIME'. 3 1/2 years is a long time to
wait to finish something you've started. But we all need to remember that
God doesn't work under our time constraints.**

Nothing great is ever accomplished in a hurry.

**It took 80 years of training to qualify Moses to lead God's people out of
Egyptian bondage – forty of which were spent in a bleak, barren desert.
Paul spent three years in solitude with God before he began his missionary
journey. For both Moses and Paul, a prolonged period of solitude was an
important ingredient in their preparation and a necessary part in the
maturing process.**

**In training for a ministry, God does not shorten the training days, as we so
often wish to do.**

Psalm 27:14 says...

Wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

**To wait means to bind together by twisting - or in a spiritual sense,
to intertwine our will to God's.**

**Isaiah 40:31 says...They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.**

Eagles know how to wait. They sit on rocks and quietly wait for the wind to lift them to higher places. In a spiritual sense, the wind represents the Holy Spirit in our lives.

To wait upon the Lord means to trust in God's goodness and timing. It also means to look to the Lord expecting His help, and tarrying until He shows you the right time to act.

What can we expect when we obey?

We can expect renewed strength to be able to fly above, run away from, or walk through any problem that comes our way with Godly strength that doesn't give out.

Don't settle for less than God's best by not being willing to wait.

In God's waiting room, take time to enjoy His presence like King David did.

He wrote in Psalm 16:11..."You have made known to me the path of life. You will fill me with joy in Your presence."

***** IN THE PRESENCE OF JEHOVAH *****

**Thanks for joining the program.
For more information about Sandbek Concert ministries write to...
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For a copy of this program send \$7.00 and ask for program 305.

Join us again next time – we'll be singing in the rain.