

Meditation #18: Creator: POWER for the Powerless

What does it say?

STUDY: Isaiah 40:12-31

GOLDEN TEXT: Isaiah 40:28 through 31 = *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those 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.*

What does it mean?

If there are power shortages, let us certainly conserve power and seek more renewable sources. Let us also turn to the ultimate source, our Creator, as the prophet Isaiah suggests. After all, the most elemental description of the Lord is that he is “*the Creator of the ends of the earth*”—the one who created everything, even in the most remote areas. The Creator himself has no energy shortage; he “*does not faint or grow weary*; and he knows what to do, because “*his understanding is unsearchable.*” Therefore, he gives power to those in need, so we can “*run and not be weary... walk and not faint.*” The prophet’s message is about the Creator’s greatness to supply both the spiritual and the physical energy that we need to fulfill our responsibilities in creation.

1. Now, even 2,000 years after the first Christmas, how many people still do not know the Creator? How do people detach from the one *Living God*, the Creator of everything?
2. Why does the prophet Isaiah especially emphasize the Creator as strong, understanding, and power-giving? What are other primary attributes of the Creator?
3. How can the youth be so exhausted—while those who rely upon the Lord can even run without being weary? Does spiritual energy help *renew* physical energy?
4. How is the Creator’s greatness demonstrated? In this text is the Creator also a model for our caring for those who are fainting and powerless?

What are we going to do about it?

5. Will those who “*wait for the Lord*” more likely find new energy sources? Are we more apt to make timely adjustments to our energy consumption if we are patient and humble?
6. Now, after the first Christmas, how do we “*wait for the LORD*”? Should we sit on the couch, eat potato chips, watch TV and wait for a knock on the door? Is it better to “*wait for the Lord*” by actively reaching out to those in need—imitating the Creator’s own engaged behavior?
7. The last two lines of this text are often used in inspirational talks. Is that use really appropriate for those who are not already honoring the Creator and doing his work? Under what conditions are those two inspiring lines especially appropriate?

Truth To Celebrate: *The Creator’s power and resources never run out, and he helps those in need who turn to him—with ideas, wisdom, patience and energy for the task.*

Advent-Action: *Objectively, there is no energy shortage. There is only a wisdom and knowledge shortage: From a place of safety, watch a lightening storm, consider the force of river rapids or of large waves crashing on the ocean beach, feel the wind of a fierce storm. ... and study and pray that we will discover ways to harness and utilize some of that abundant energy more fully.*

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