

In the waiting....

Waiting has always been hard for me to do. I can recall thinking that the worst part of going to the doctor's offices as a child, was not that you might have to get a needle, or the thought of what gross tasting medicine you might be prescribed, rather it was waiting for my turn. Sitting in the waiting room hearing every name but your own being called, thinking about the other things I could be doing was the worst part of those appointments. While I was in school, I dreaded the wait to get tests and essays back. Even though I loved the feeling of finishing a test or handing in a paper, waiting days sometimes weeks for that mark to come back drove me crazy. Even in university I can clearly recall the wait to go into a final exam room. There you stood with all your classmates, often in silence, wondering to yourself, did I study enough, will I make it through this class and even though I sometimes was really stressed about the exam itself, it was waiting for it to start that often bothered me more.

I have found over the last couple of months that I am waiting even more, than I was previously. I am waiting to see what will happen with our Council meetings and what decisions will be made in regards to our churches and how we will worship together in the months to come. I am waiting to see if sending my children back to school was the right choice. I am waiting to know whether the committees I serve on through the national church, will in fact, continue to function as is, or whether they will fold into some new identity. I am waiting to see.

Last Thursday as I sent my children off to school for their first day back and I found myself in an ocean of feelings. I was excited for them, I was nervous for them, I was filled with both trust and fear; I really was all over the map. That morning I downloaded a new Bible app onto my phone and part of the app includes devotion plans that you can sign up for and read. The devotion I signed up for that morning was called, "Dealing with Uncertainty," and it really was what I needed. On the fourth day I read words that really help me to deal with my anxiousness around waiting and I thought it would be worth sharing with all of you. The devotion was connected to a reading from the book of Exodus (Exodus 32: 1-4) which is the description of the Israelites in the desert waiting for Moses to come down off the mountain and how they grow tired of waiting and in that waiting decide to create a new god that will free them from their sorrows. In the devotion the author says this, ***"We become so focused on our disappointments that we forget God is still in control. That's why it's important to remember that your waiting is never wasted. So, if you find yourself weary from waiting, do what the Israelites forgot to do: look for evidence of God's presence, and look back on what God has already done. Your waiting might be preparing you for the plans and purposes God has for you."***

It's that last line which struck me as the most profound, "Your waiting might be preparing you for the plans and purposes God has for you." The truth is my friends, that in this time and always, life is filled with a lot of waiting. How often do we say, "Let's just wait and see?" But that waiting is not wasted time, there is life and promise in the waiting; for it is in our waiting that we explore and grow, and with God's guidance, are made ready for what will come.

Even though I still do not like to wait, I have become much better at looking for the blessings and grace of God in the waiting. A lot of my weekly reflections, for example, have included encouragement to you all to see God in our everyday moments. The purpose of that is to remind us all that God is indeed still at work. That God is making things new. But the reality is that God does not work within our timeframes, God works in God's time; which means that we will have to wait, but when we change our mindsets

even a little and start to pay attention to what we can learn during our wait, it is then that we begin to ready ourselves fully for what will come.

And so today I leave you with a question, "What might God be trying to show you, in your season of waiting?"

I hope the answer guides you in love and grace.

Sincerely,

Rev. Adam Hall