Praying for Others to Know the Power of God

from the desk of Pastor John

I remember a friend of mine in high school named Jon who was much more intellectual than I was. I was all about having fun and he actually thought learning new things was fun. That was probably why Jon joined the computer club. I think there were five members and two really big computers. Together, the two com-

puters were about the size of a Smart Car. Well, maybe not quite that big, but massive compared to today's computers. The monitor was gigantic, with a dark eight-inch screen that

displayed a single green font type and size. I don't remember the computer being able to do all that much, and as Jon tried in vain to convince me that computers were cool and the way of the future, I was unimpressed and unconvinced.

Today, I am pretty impressed by my smartphone. Not only can I place calls, I can take high quality photos and so much more. In truth, the computer that is my phone is probably 100,000 times smarter than that first computer Jon showed me. Like most of us, I use a mere fraction of its actual capability. For instance, about a year ago I was told that I could use my phone as a hot spot. I was then informed what it meant to use my phone as a hot spot. I was able to

> access the internet with my tablet using my phone's internet connection. Now, don't ask me to explain any of that; it still mystifies me. My point is that Jon

was right about the potential power of computers.

"...the more enamored

we are with the person

confidence we develop

in His awesome power

and the more trust we

of God, the more

put in Him."

I don't know what my friend Jon did after high school, but if he continued to be enamored with computers, he was probably a multimillionaire before he was 30. He saw great potential that I certainly didn't see. As Jon learned more

In this Issue

Family News	pg 2,3
Make a Difference With a Meal	pg 3
Bless the Lord	pg 4
50% Off Couple's Registration	pg 5
"Young at Heart" Cruise	pg 5
Make the Most of Your Time	pg 6
Kids' Corner	pg 7
Awana in February	pg 7
Church Yard Work Days	pg 8
Birthdays & Anniversaries	pg 8
Church Calendar	pg 9
Looking Ahead @ EBC	pg 10
Waiting in the Wilderness	pg 11
Joyful Noise Musical	pg 12

and more about computers, he recognized their power and that caused him to put his trust in them. In a similar way, the more enamored we are with the person of God, the more confidence we develop in His awesome power and the more trust we put in Him.

Ephesians 1 reveals how the Apostle Paul prayed for his brothers and sisters in Christ. In vv. 16-18, he prayed that they would know the

Power of God

continued from page 1

person and plan of God. In **v. 19**, he prayed that they would know the power of God when he said, [so that you will know...] what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working **of the strength of His might**. While technophiles may measure a computer's power by gigahertz and terabytes, Paul uses four words to emphasize the awesome ability of God. He begins with the **power**; the Greek word used is *dunamis*, where we get our word "dynamite." It refers to God's limitless ability. The second word Paul uses is **working**. Here he uses the Greek word energeia, where we get our word "energy." It speaks of God's working ability. If **pow**er refers to His potential energy, then working refers to His active energy. The third word is **strength** and it speaks of His dominion. There is none stronger. The fourth word Paul uses is **might** and it speaks of God's intrinsic power.

In stacking these descriptive words on top of each other, Paul intends to leave the impression that God's limitless power means that there is nothing outside of His control. We are to find comfort—not in the circumstances of our lives—but in the fact that God is in complete control and He has the authority and the power to move everyone and everything. In the same way that a sandcastle is no match for a bulldozer, the circumstances in your life are no match for the power of God. That does not mean

that God will manipulate the circumstances of your life to always be what you want them to be. We know, experientially, that this is not the case. Rather, we can trust that nothing we experience is beyond God's ability to control.

Paul did not pray that God would use His awesome power to remove the Ephesian believers from their persecuted lives. Rather, he prayed that they would find comfort and peace in the midst of the persecution by being enamored with the person, plan, and power of God. God has never promised that His children would miss out on life-threatening illness, severe suffering, badly broken hearts, or other extreme stresses and strains. He did promise that He would never leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5). He did promise that He would continue the work He began in us (Phil. 1:6).

We all know some who seem to have had a relatively drama-free life and perhaps we even consider their lives to be perfect. We wonder what we did to "deserve" the more difficult road. But the path that God has chosen for our sanctification is really not the issue. It is how we walk with Him on that path that matters. In short, Paul's prayer is that the Christian will trust God regardless of their circumstances. Addressing all the varied circumstances is both impractical and impossible; but the response to any circumstance is the same—find comfort and peace in being enamored with the person, plan, and power of God.



Family News

Congratulations to Sara and Andrew Hayward on the birth of their first child, Emma Anne Hayward. This sweet little girl arrived on Monday, December 23 at 7:43am. Emma was 7 lb. 4 oz. and 19 in. long.

According to Andrew, Sara "was a champ" during the delivery and both mom and baby are doing well.

Emma is also the first grandchild for Robert and Kim Turnbull.

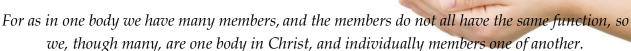


See more family news on page 3

Family News cont'd

Eastridge is excited to welcome the following young people into church membership:

Nathan Bonar Emily Swenson





Make a Difference With a Meal

Serving God Through Serving Others

One of the most impactful ways to help those within the Eastridge family is by providing a meal during times of need. At Eastridge, we meet this need through our **Meals Ministry**.

How Does It Work?

The EBC meals coordinators, Debbie and Lauren Thompson, are made aware of a need from within the church body through the Realm Prayer Wall or directly from an EBC attender. Debbie and Lauren will put meal requests on Realm (more about that below) where meals ministry volunteers can sign up to provide a meal. Meals DO NOT have to be homemade. The purpose is to help someone in need by providing a helping hand in meal preparation, not by dazzling anyone with their culinary skills. In times of need, a friendly face and a simple meal is a true gift.

Who Do We Serve?

The meals ministry is for EBC attenders who are in need...

- After the birth of a baby
- After surgery or hospitalization
- During times of crisis

How Can I Help?

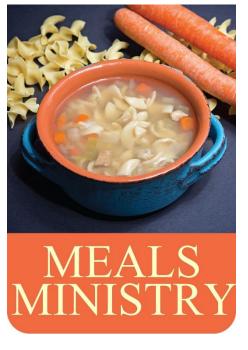
The Meals Ministry is changing the way volunteers can sign up to provide a meal and the way they are notified of needs. Anyone wishing to be part of the Meals Ministry can now request to join the Meals Ministry group in Realm. All meal requests will be posted in that group by Debbie or Lauren, and the posting will include a link to an online meal schedule that volunteers can access. Not a Realm user? No problem. You can contact Debbie or Lauren directly and they'll get you on an email list. **Debbie:** ddthompson5@juno.com;

Lauren: lauren.thompson5@hotmail.com.

Watch for more information about joining the Meals Ministry in the foyer and in the bulletin.

Eastridge would like to thank Terry Reesing for serving as the meals coordinator for the past several years. She has blessed many Eastridge families by coordinating the preparation and delivery of meals. We are also grateful to Debbie and Lauren Thompson for taking over this role as a way of showing Christ's love to others.

Romans 12:13 "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."



Bless the Lord

from the desk of Pastor Paul

Have you ever wondered what it means when the Bible tells us to "bless the Lord"? This question was presented in the youth group and caused us to ponder how well we understand this command. The expression is used often in the Bible and we ourselves sing it. But what does it mean?

As with any language it is crucial to understand words in their context. A word may carry several possible meanings, though they cannot all be rightly applied in a text. What determines the meaning of a word? Context! We naturally understand this in our daily communication. If I were to tell you that my dishwasher was running, would you think that my dishwasher is strolling down the street setting a world record for fastest mile time by a kitchen appliance? I doubt that is the first thing that comes to

your mind. In our daily conversations we grasp a plain, common-sense meaning of a message that is intended by the speaker. Similarly, we look for the author's intended meaning when studying the Bible.

When the word "bless" is used

it carries the meaning that is appropriate to the context. When we tell someone they have our blessing we are bestowing our approval upon them. "Bless" can also be used to express a desire for someone's well-being. When God blesses us, we gain something we previously lacked or do not have enough of (e.g., strength, wisdom, resources, etc.). There is yet another meaning that the word "bless" can carry. It is the meaning that we find in Genesis 24:48; Nehemiah 9:5; and Psalms 103. In these passages, the word "bless" is defined as praising God. To bless the Lord is to praise Him as the One who is above all,

doing all that He pleases, and bestowing wonderful compassion on His people. It is to glorify God by speaking well of Him. Psalm 34:1 states, "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 103 paints a beautiful picture of blessing the Lord. The psalmist describes the wondrous character and deeds of God as fuel for his praise. In verses 1–5, he writes,

"Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,

³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

⁴ who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

⁵ who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

It is true that we cannot add anything to God. He is completely self-sufficient, infinite, and perfect. He does not rely on anything from us for His existence (see Acts 17:24-25). There is nothing we can add to Him to make him greater. However, we bless the Lord because of who He is, what He has done, and because the Scriptures call us to do

so (Psalm 29:2; 96:9). By proclaiming truths about God from our mouths, we express worship to the Lord. This act of worship is to be the natural overflow of a heart that knows and loves God. Praise for the Lord expresses His exalted position and work, as well as our humble position. Additionally, a heart that is full of thanksgiving for God's redemptive work will produce praise. The Scriptures beckon us to this response because it is the Lord alone who deserves our worship. What can we do today? Let's read and meditate on Psalm 103. Bless the Lord for who He is and what He has done in your life.



50% Off Couple's Registration

Weekend to Remember

You can save \$175 (50%) off a couple's registration for the Weekend to Remember marriage conference coming to Renton at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington on April 3–5, 2020. To take advantage of this discount, you must register by January 27 and use the promo code **SAVE50**. After January 27, save \$100 off the couple's registration price when you use the group code **KentWTR**.

Marriage is a lifelong adventure of growing together through every age and stage of life. The happiest couples are those who commit to learning skills that help them weather difficult seasons and deal confidently with relationship challenges. It's your turn to make a great marriage happen. To find out more about the conference, pick up a brochure on the counseling table



in the church foyer. To register online, go to https://www.familylife.com/weekend-to-remember/.

If you have questions or want additional information, contact Bill or Cathy Mickelson.

"Young at Heart" Cruise to Vashon Island Primetimers in February

The Eastridge Primetimers group (55+) is heading to Vashon Island for a time of fellowship and good food at The Hardware Store restaurant. We'll take the ferry from Fauntleroy and cruise to Vashon, where we'll have lunch together. Check out the restaurant's website at http://thsrestaurant.com for the menu and pricing.

Meet at EBC at 10:30am and we'll vanpool to catch the 11:35am ferry. The round-trip fare for seniors 65+ is \$2.80

and \$5.65 for 64 and under. We expect to be back at the church by 3:30pm.

THE HARDWARE STORE

A sign-up sheet is available in the church foyer or you can sign up through your Realm account. For more information, contact Mark Yarnold at mark.g.yarnold@gmail.com.



Make the Most of Your Time

from the desk of Pastor Samuel

Do you ever consider what takes up most of your time on a given day or what occupies your mind on a regular basis? Maybe you made a resolution this year to use your time more wisely. Are you still on track? While resolutions can be helpful, they are only effective when they turn into habits.

Habits take time to form and require significant sacrifice on our part. Choosing to use your time in one way inherently means that you cannot use that same time for something else. Knowing this, we must be careful and discerning with how we spend our time each day. The way we prioritize our time can have a dramatic effect on our spiritual lives and our witness to the world.

The Bible is forthright about the importance of using your time wisely. In the first half of Ephesians 5, Paul warned the church in Ephesus to not associate with the dark immorality of the world; rather, they were to live righteously as children of light. Paul concluded this section by saying, "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (vv. 15–17). Living righteously and wisely in this life is to devote our time, to the best of our ability, to serve the Lord.

The author of Psalm 119 understood the importance of using his time well for God's glory and service. Here are a few instances where he shows what he prioritized in his life:

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will keep it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to

selfish gain! Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways. Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared. Turn away the reproach that I dread, for your rules are good. Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life! (vv. 33–40)

The rest of the psalm follows in a similar vein, but the point is clear. To the psalmist, the best use of his time was studying and applying the Word.

The apostle Paul also wrote about making the best use of our time in the context of spiritual warfare. In 2 Corinthians 10, he wrote, "For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ" (vv. 3–5). Our minds are susceptible to the ideas and opinions we expose them to. If we don't have a strong foundation in the Word and our faith in Christ, we run the risk of being carried away by the opinions of sinful man.

Each of us is susceptible to "lofty opinions" in different areas of life. You can set up safeguards against those topics that you are easily tempted to address, but that's not a sufficient way to battle for your mind and your time. You need to address your heart as the source of your troubles. Paul was able to "destroy arguments and every lofty opinion" because he took "every thought captive to obey Christ." Filling your mind with the truths of Scripture, and dedicating time to study and learn about God through His Word, lays a foundation for righteous living and begins to crowd out anything that Paul would consider "unwise" or "foolish."

The best way for you to make the most of your time this year is to habitually study the Word of God and let it teach you how to live righteously.

Kids' Corner

Swens in Fedrusky

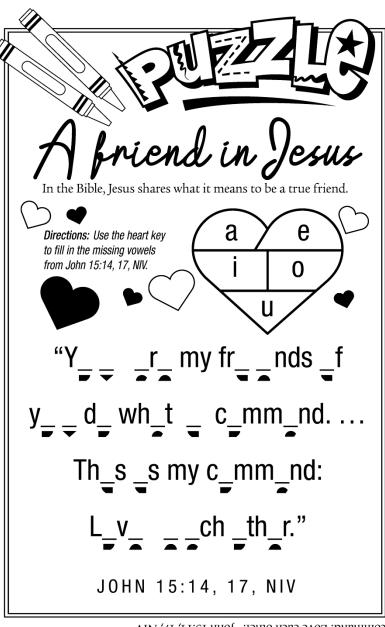
Saturday, February 1– Awana Grand Prix. Get your car prepped for racing at the ever-exciting Awana Grand Prix. Trophies will be awarded in the categories of design and speed.

February 5th – Use Your Noodle! Be prepared to be challenged at game time as we play games with noodles... the toy type...or the food type (yum!)

February 12th - Have a Heart. We celebrate Valentine's Day and learn about the greatest love of all.

February 19th – No Awana. Enjoy your winter break and we'll see you back at Awana next week.

February 26th. Guardians of the Galaxy! Along with your teammates, you'll have to defend your galaxy during game time!





Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other." John 15:14, 17, NIV



February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Drew Maier 2/1 Natalie Reeves 2/1 Jared Guthrie 2/1 Sardoine Ndjoli 2/3 Donovan Elliott 2/5 Pat Haylor 2/6 Marina Carlton 2/6 Megan Cummings 2/6 Kaitlin Hammett 2/7 Chris Morales 2/8 Addie Skeith 2/9 Jann Hughes 2/9 Kaylea Merrill 2/9 Kim Rasmussen 2/11 Claire Yoder 2/12 Kim Olson 2/13 Felicity Elliott 2/14 Floyd Johnsen 2/14

Curtis Blake 2/16 Ron Grimstad 2/16 Stephanie Knipp 2/17 Karen Diehl 2/19 Anna Williams 2/19 Cora Hurst 2/21 Chloe Tibbetts 2/22 Caleb Mickelson 2/23 John Bonn 2/23 Susan Rehberg 2/23 Shannon Guevara 2/23 Briana Borton 2/24 Jeff Robinson 2/25 Silas Tuthill 2/25 Kim Turnbull 2/25 Ethan Keating 2/25 Tom Horne 2/26

Benjamin Kerr 2/26 Elle Skeith 2/28

<u>Anniversaries</u>

Ryan and Natalie Reeves 2/1

Mike and Diane Carlton 2/3

Ken and Laura Botka 2/8

Josh and Amy Peyton 2/16

Curtis and Jean Foster 2/18

Chuck and Bobbie Stockton 2/21

Kent and Jolyn Barber 2/21

Bill and Joanne Thomas 2/26



Don't see your name in our birthday and anniversary list? We'd love to celebrate you!
Simply contact the church office at 253-630-2327 or kim@eastridgebaptist.org and we'll include your special day in our newsletter!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February						1 12:00pm Awana Grand Prix (Auditorium)
2	3 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Apologetics/ Evangelism Class 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	9:30am Ladies' Study @ Rehberg's 5:00–8:30pm TaeKwonDo 6:30pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00pm Young Marrieds' Bible Study	6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs	9:30–11:30am Ladies' Bible Studies 5:00–6:45pm Youth Bible Quizzing 6:30pm Co-ed Adult Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	7	7:00am Men of the Book
9 6:00pm Monthly Prayer Meeting	2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	11 10:30am Missions Prayer Meeting 9:30am Ladies' Study @ Rehberg's 5:00pm-8:30pm TaeKwonDo 6:30pm Handbell Choir Practice 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Young Marrieds' Study	6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs	9:30–11:30am Ladies' Bible Studies 5:00–6:45pm Youth Bible Quizzing 6:30pm Co-ed Adult Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	Valentine's Day	10:30am- 3:30pm Primetimers' "Young at Heart" Cruise (meet at EBC) 5:00-8:00pm Marriage Matters
16 1:00pm College/ Career Ladies' Lunch & Study (@ Mickelson's) 2:00pm Youth Leave for Winter Camp	2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Apologetics/ Evangelism Class 7:00pm Men's	9:30am Ladies' Study @ Rehberg's 5:00–8:30pm TaeKwonDo 6:30pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00pm Young Marrieds Study	No Awana (winter break)	9:30–11:30am Ladies' Bible Studies 5:00–6:45pm Youth Bible Quizzing 6:30pm Co-ed Adult Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	21	9:00am Sunday School Teachers' Meeting (Downstairs, Building B)
23 Communion	24 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Apologetics/ Evangelism Class 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	9:30am Ladies' Study @ Rehberg's 5:00-8:30pm TaeKwonDo 6:30pm Handbell Choir Practice 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Young Marrieds Study	6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs	9:30–11:30am Ladies' Bible Studies 5:00–6:45pm Youth Bible Quizzing 6:30pm Co-ed Adult Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	28	29

Looking Ahead at Eastridge

March 2020

Sunday, March 1	Baby Shower for Belén Emme	Time TBD
Sunday, March 1	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, March 10	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Friday, March 13	Youth Night of Worship	6:30–8:00pm (Pastor Paul's)
Saturday, March 14	Baby Shower for Megan Cummings	10:30am (Auditorium)
Saturday, March 21	Joyful Noise Musical	6:00pm @ EBC
Sunday, March 22	Joyful Noise Musical	10:00am and 6:00pm @ EBC
Saturday, March 28	Baby Shower for Michaela Rutherfo	rd Time TBD

April 2020

Saturday, April 4	Church Work Day	9:00am-2:00pm
Sunday, April 5	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Wednesday, April 8	No Awana (Spring Break)	
Sunday, April 12	Easter Sunday	Services at 8:30 & 10:30am (No Sunday School)
Tuesday, April 14	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Friday, April 17	Youth Nerf Night	Time TBD (@ EBC)
Sunday, April 19	New Attenders' Luncheon	1:00pm (Auditorium)
Sunday, April 26	Eastridge 101	1:00–4:00pm (Auditorium)

May 2020

Saturday, May 2	Church Work Day	9:00am-2:00pm
Sunday, May 3	Awana Awards Night	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Sunday, May 10	Mother's Day	
Tuesday, May 12	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Saturday, May 16	Church Work Day	9:00am-2:00pm

There will be no monthly prayer meeting in May due to schedule conflicts.



Waiting in the Wilderness from the pen of Silas Tuthill

Waiting has never been easy for me. The hardest times to wait, though, aren't when traffic is bad or my Amazon order doesn't show up in two days, but when I thought I was following where God led me and the path seemed to go nowhere. In those moments of feeling trapped, alone, and helpless, I can only wait, and it feels pointless.

David knew this kind of waiting. After being anointed as king, David ducks spears, hides out in caves, and acts like a madman to avoid death. He is humiliated, battling despair, and wrestling with weakness. As a young boy, he grew up hearing about the God who

Take heart and

wait for the

LORD...

Psalms 27:14

mightily delivered His people out of Egypt, at the Red Sea and in the wilderness. But now, as a grown man, David doesn't see waves engulfing his enemies, just barren desert. He is beaten down, alone, exhausted. In Psalm 27:10 he says that even "My father and my mother have"

forsaken me." So he begs God, "Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!" (Ps. 27:9). He can't help but ask, "How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?" (Ps. 13:1). David listens for the God who shouted with mighty deeds, but hears only silence now. Where is the God who rescues? How was fleeing from Saul and acting like a madman part of the plan of God? This sure doesn't feel like what God promised. This hurts.

As I have endeavored to listen to God's leading, it sometimes feels like the phone line is dead and I don't hear anything. Not even a dial tone. So often, the question is not, "Was God faithful?" but "Will He be faithful to me?" Like the disciples, I've left everything to follow Him, but then I seem to end up worse off than when I started. I find myself thinking, "How is this part of the plan, God? Is this your idea of

good?"

Waiting for the Lord is one of the hardest things we ever have to do. Waiting on the prognosis, the job interview, the friend to be there, the pain to go away, the next step forward, the promise to finally be fulfilled. But, dear Christian, waiting on Jesus is never wasted time. It is in the waiting that He often works most. Whatever our situation, in our waiting, our God is there. Charles Spurgeon gently reminds us, "Remember this: had any other situation been better for you than the one in which you are, divine love would have put you there." Take courage, for our God is with you to the end of the age. He is faithful, He will never leave you nor

forsake you, and He is not silent.

At the end of Psalm 27, after crying out to God for His help and presence, David writes, "I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living" (v.13). Then he says, "Wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage. Yes,

wait for the Lord" (v.14). To look upon the goodness of the Lord requires waiting with hope (Rom. 8:24–25, 2 Cor. 5:8). Heaven, the land of the living, isn't here yet, and we have yet to experience the goodness of the Lord in all its fullness. God is using this waiting for your good, and out of this hurt God is preparing a weight of glory beyond all comparison (Rom. 8:28, 2 Cor. 4:16–18).

Our Lord says, "**Be still**, and know that I AM God. I will be exalted..." (Ps. 46:10, emphasis added). God is still on the throne, and has a bigger plan that includes the refining fire of waiting. So be still, and wait for the Lord. Trust Him in the waiting. The God who has brought us safely thus far will lead us safely home. We believe that we will look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Yes, wait for the Lord.

