

Week 3

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

An Emergency
Devotional

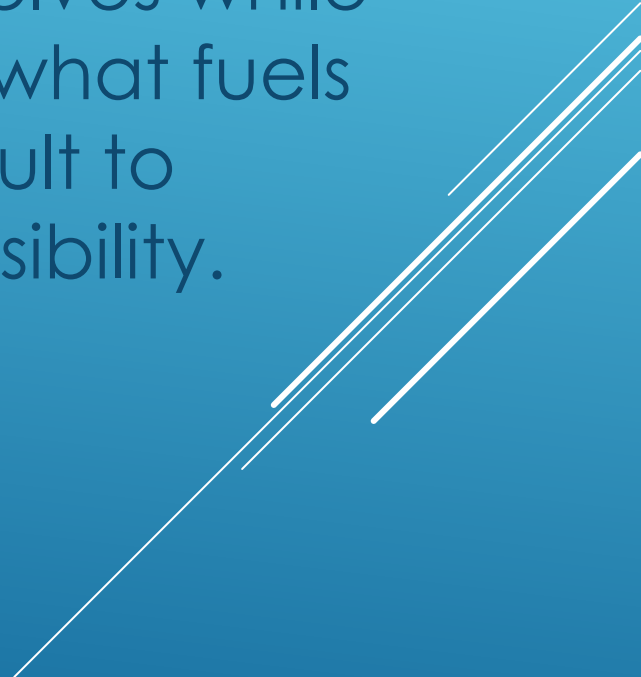
Hanna Reichel

“God is in control” some will say. “Be silent, be still, wait for the Lord.” Sentences like these can excuse inaction, dress paralysis in pious garb, and frame cowardice as an act of faith.

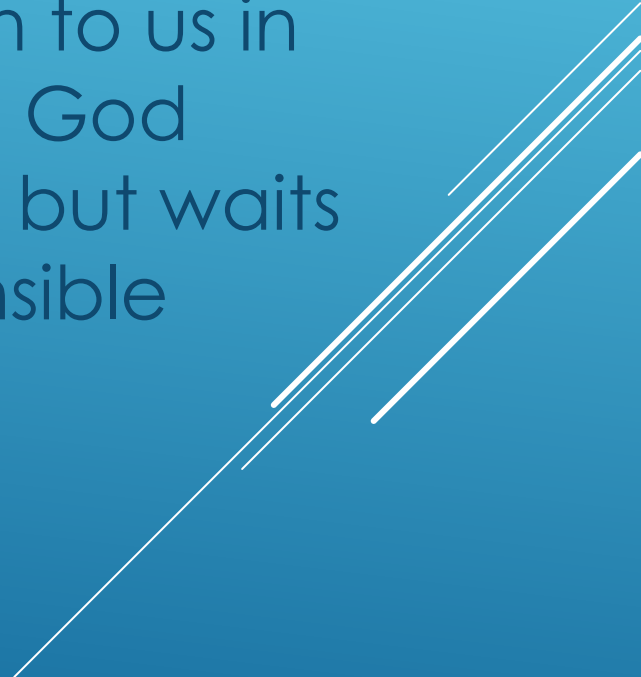
It's true: the Psalms urge time and again to “wait for God.” But in the Psalms, it does not mean “be inactive.” It means “do not take revenge.” That's a big difference... “Wait for God” means to watch out for God's action in history and participate in it. (p.27).

“Wait for the Lord” might today mean to examine our conscience... and to acknowledge with honesty and contrition our shortcomings that have contributed to this moment.

A reckoning is necessary, not to lacerate ourselves while evil triumphs, but to understand and disavow what fuels its rise. Repentance is required, not to add insult to injury, but to reclaim agency by taking responsibility.
(p.28)

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, set against a blue background.

From Dietrich Bonhoeffer: I believe that God can and will let good come out of everything, even the greatest evil. For that to happen, God needs human beings who let everything work out for the best. I believe that in every moment of distress, God will give us as much strength to resist as we need. But it is not given to us in advance, lest we rely on ourselves and not on God alone I believe that God is no timeless fate but waits for and response to sincere prayer and responsible actions. (p.29)

The image features a solid blue background. On the right side, there are several white, parallel diagonal lines that appear to be part of a decorative graphic element, extending from the top right towards the bottom right.

“God is in control” means: Do not fear. It means take heart and be confident: “The Lord goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”
(Deut. 31:8). (p.30)

