



The Waiting Game

I just cannot WAIT for things to be normal again! That sentiment, in all its variations, seems to be on continuous loop in so many of our conversations.

During these unusual times, I find many people waiting it out. Waiting patiently for the pandemic to be over. Waiting until there is certainty. Waiting until times are better. Waiting for the steady background hum of anxiety fades.

As the pandemic and related economic upheaval drags on, I have started to notice a common theme in conversation. We are all so tired. So ready for it to be over and for life to resume. It is as if someone hit a cosmic “pause” button back in early March and we’ve been waiting for the “play” button to resume the activities of our lives.

Waiting. For some of us, waiting is an exercise of patience and surrender. There is peace in the waiting. A quiet acceptance and deep sense of calm. For others, waiting is a torturous place where our driving, “Type A” inner selves long for action, decisiveness, and bold steps forward. Admitting that there are some things (gasp!) that we have absolutely no control over can be an uncomfortable confession. Waiting seems to go against the grain of our capable, efficient nature.

I believe our circumstances call for waiting. I also believe our circumstances require action. Striking the right balance is where things can get a bit uncomfortable. But, like so many things in life, a bit of discomfort is a sure sign of growth, when we focus on learning and continuous improvement.

Waiting is the right response for certain activities not currently encouraged during this pandemic. For the present time, we are asked to wait before removing our masks or gathering in large groups. We must also wait before traveling abroad. Our daughter was planning an August wedding, but is now waiting until 2021, so she and her fiancé can celebrate this important milestone surrounded by as many family and friends as possible. Waiting is hard. It is disappointing. But in some cases, waiting is the best we can do.

Lest we get too comfortable in the waiting, I would suggest that in some cases, we should not wait a single second. Action is required. Immediate action. Anne Frank’s famous quote springs to mind as she celebrated, “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” This gets to the heart of the matter: We must not wait to improve the world. As we consider our place in dismantling systemic racism in our great nation, action is required. As we wonder



whether that family member, friend, colleague, or neighbor knows of our work with Impact100, now is the time to act. As we hear news of struggling nonprofits and worry how they will bounce back, the time to do more is here.

These are a few suggestions and I do not mean to over-simplify a very complex set of circumstances. Each of our decisions – to act or to wait – must be weighed and reviewed against our personal circumstances. But here is what I know for certain: If now is not the time, then when? If we are not the ones to act, then who? These are the questions we wrestled with in the wake of the attacks on 9/11 as a mighty group of women, answered affirmatively and Impact100 was born. I believe the answer is as clear today as it was then. Now is the time to act. We must do more, give more, help more, serve more, and lead more. It may not be the easy road, but it is the right road.

“Let us not be content to wait and see what will happen but give us the determination to make the right things happen”. Horace Mann

Gratefully,

Wendy