

WEEK FIVE
DEVOTIONAL



Waiting and Trusting

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To “wait and trust” might sound simple, but it’s often difficult in practice because it requires us to relinquish control.

Many of us know Proverbs 3:5-6 well: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.” This is a beautiful promise, but to experience its fulfilment we must cease to rely on our own understanding.

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Waiting and trusting means giving God permission to direct our paths according to His wisdom, not ours. The path that He has in mind for us might be very different from what we had envisioned for ourselves, and trusting Him means clinging resolutely to the truth that He always knows best. To surrender our wills in this manner won't be easy, but it's through such self-denial that we can experience the work of God in our lives.

Henri Nouwen described waiting and trusting as “a very radical stance toward life in a world preoccupied with control”. He spoke of how letting go of his own wishes—which he said were sometimes petty and superficial—and trusting that his life is precious to God allowed something new and unexpected to happen in him.

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Waiting and trusting means choosing to hope for God to do in us something that's beyond our imagination.

Nouwen elaborates on this point as follows: “It is giving up control over our future and letting God define our life. It is living with the conviction that God moulds us in love, holds us in tenderness, and moves us away from the sources of our fear. Our spiritual life is a life in which we wait, actively present to the moment, expecting that new things will happen to us, new things that are far beyond our own imagination or prediction.”

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God invites us to give up control and allow Him to unfold something unexpected in our lives. He wants to do a beautiful work in each of us, but that cannot happen unless we're willing to wait and trust. Are you willing?

Reflection Questions

- How do you feel about God doing something unexpected in your life?
- What might be holding you back from “living with the conviction that God moulds us in love, holds us in tenderness, and moves us away from the sources of our fear”?
- In which areas of your life do you need to surrender control to God, and wait and trust for Him to act according to His wisdom?

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Prayer

Heavenly Father, I surrender to You my hurts and pains, my doubts and fears. Help me in my unbelief; help me to trust You. Enlarge my vision of life so that I may receive the work You want to do in me. Enable me by Your Spirit to live not in insecurity and fear, but in openness and trust, waiting with hope unshakeable for You to fulfil all that You have promised. I ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

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FAITH IN ACTION

As we reflect on how we can serve and give during Lent, we invite you to consider supporting and giving to some of our Diocesan ministries.

This week, we are spotlighting the work of our Community Service Chaplaincy.

Community Service Chaplaincy

The Diocesan Community Service Chaplaincy Ministry provides emotional, social and spiritual care for the beneficiaries (patients, etc) and staff of St Andrew's Mission Hospital (SAMH) and Singapore Anglican Community Services (SACS).

While befriending, empathetic listening, reminiscence, social engagement, practical help, etc., offered on a non-religious basis can be funded by public funds, the Chaplaincy Ministry has to rely on the non-tax-exempt donations of Christians and churches to support the religious portion of our work. Such non-tax-exempt donations enable our chaplains to conduct chapel services, devotions, prayer meetings and bible studies, and offer care and counseling of a religious nature.

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Your generous non-tax-exempt donations through the Diocese will help the Chaplaincy Ministry to meet its fund-raising target of S\$800,000 in 2025.

Will you consider giving to the SAMH-SACS Chaplaincy Ministry this Lent?

Your contribution will support our Chaplains to share God's Love and His Word to the wider community.

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If you would like to contribute to the SAMH-SACS Chaplaincy Ministry, you may contribute via PayNow.

PayNow via UEN T08CC4016J.

Please indicate SAMH-SACS Chaplaincy.

Thank you for your unwavering support and your fervent prayers!

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Notes