

James 1:2-4

Active Waiting

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. James 2:17

When in the throes of transition and decision making, we're often told to wait on God. But what if God is really the one waiting on *us*? Having recently graduated from college with no job prospects, friends nearby, transportation, or guidance, I found myself curled up in my childhood bedroom with depression. Without motivation, confidence, or dignity, all I did was beg God to fix everything for me—to drop opportunity and encouragement at my doorstep. Guess what? God didn't.

I wasted time waiting for God to make life easier while God was waiting for me to take steps of faith. As I made daily decisions to take responsibility for the life and resources God gave me, my spirits lifted and doors opened.

Yes, we are called to wait on God, but we are called to wait actively. That means taking a step even if we are unsure it's in the right direction. God expects our faith to be active.

PRAYER: O God, thank you for your patience and love. Help us to live active faithful lives in the power of your Spirit. Amen.

Megan L. Anderson—Kokomo, Indiana

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

Genesis 2:4-15

The Breath of God

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

A week of pneumonia weakened my lungs. The basic activities of life such as walking, preparing food, and grooming were nearly impossible. However, when the hospital chaplain said to me, "Keep up the good work," I realized he was confirming that I still had the breath of life.

Proper breathing is essential for the delivery of life-giving oxygen to our vital organs. Breathing also has a spiritual dimension. The secret to life in the Garden of Eden was not merely the presence of oxygen molecules in the body, but also the very breath of God. If we want to live life in all of its fullness, we need not only to fill our lungs with air, but also to refresh our spirits.

The breath of God is synonymous with the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. This life-giving breath animates us so that we can carry out our responsibilities as stewards to make the world a better place. Praise be to God—even from the hospital bed.

PRAYER: Thank you, Creator God, for the gift of life. Help us to be responsible stewards. Amen.

Peter Veugelaers—Wellington, New Zealand