

Sunday, December 20, 2015

4TH SUNDAY OF Advent

The fourth candle lit in the Advent Wreath represents the
“peace of God, which surpasses all understanding.” (Phil. 4:7)

Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10

Spiritual tenacity is hard discipline. Tenacity is more than endurance - it is combined with the absolute certainty that what we are looking for is going to transpire. This is not just “hanging on” and doing nothing, but to work deliberately on the certainty that God is not going to be worsted. As with all of us, we have grieved disappointments while trying to rise above to truly seek God’s will.

This year has been a challenging one for me in letting go of many areas in life: friends dying, relationships broken, family stresses, health issues.

Instead of fighting and demanding answers, which is my usual response, my prayer time now consists of my Lord’s “authentic and perfect solution” above my own desires. This release helps me understand that if my hopes are being disappointed, it means that they are being purified. One of the greatest privileges and exertions in life is the strain of waiting for God.

God encourages us with these words to believers, “Since you have kept my command to endure patiently.” In this Advent celebration of God’s promise, fulfilled in the birth of our Lord Jesus, let us remember to remain spiritually tenacious.

Thank you, Lord, for the reminder that we must be active in our spiritual belief, in thought, word, deed and in the tenacity of our prayer life. Amen.

Barbara Zech