

An Advent calendar reflection!

I love Advent, probably more than Christmas. I think I've peaked by Christmas!

There's something that warms my heart in the tenderness of God the Father preparing to amaze us with His best gift ever. Something that causes me to wonder at the impossibility of an eternal, infinite God waiting to be born of a human mother. Something about that moment when you remember that all your fretting for control and fussing over some high standard of Christmas perfection is missing the point, that God comes near in the plans gone wrong and the broken dreams; the mess and the chaos resembling the dirt and squalor of that stable where Jesus was born.

Advent is about waiting. Looking forward.

Advent looks forward to Christmas when we celebrate all that Jesus' coming means. Emmanuel. God with us.

At Advent Christians also look forward to and wait for Jesus coming again. The conquering King returning to wipe away every tear and complete his restoration.

I wonder what you're waiting for this Advent?

A good night's sleep. Chance to get the house tidy and do the Christmas shopping. Peace and quiet? Life to be back to normal?

Waiting is a big theme in the Christian life. We wait for prayers to be answered, for guidance, for healing, for provision, for God's promises to be fulfilled.

Waiting can be painful. Sometimes when we're waiting, we can wonder if God really cares. He can seem absent or at least distant.

I've been wondering what happens if we turn waiting on its head. **Does God wait for us too?**

The bible tells that God is the Father standing at the gate, watching, **waiting** for the son who rejected him to return. Ready to run to welcome him home when he sees him coming. (Luke 15:11-24)

God also gives us a picture of a gardener or a vine dresser tending the vine. Watering it, fencing it in, pruning it. **Waiting** for it to bear fruit. (John 15 and Isaiah 5:1-4)

Jesus is the one who stands at the door and knocks, **waiting** for us to invite him in. (Revelation 3:20)

He's the King returning to judge, but **waiting**, not wanting any to perish. (2 Peter 3:9)

In another passage He's like the mother hen longing, **waiting** to gather her chicks under her wings. (Matthew 23:37)

In Genesis we have the picture of the creator, the giver of life and breath, **waiting** in the garden to walk and talk with his children. (Genesis 3:8-9)

Of course, God doesn't wait like a needy, insecure friend. He doesn't need anything from us. He's not demanding in that way. God is totally sufficient.

When I wait, I get impatient or irritable. I lose hope and am easily discouraged. I struggle for contentment.

But God waits patiently; faithfully; attentively; lovingly; joyfully; expectantly; knowing the end; already there.

His waiting is not passive either. Psalm 23, that great poem about the Lord as a Shepherd, reminds us that as he leads us through the valley, his goodness and mercy will follow us...the better translation is his goodness and mercy pursue us.

So, I have an advent challenge for you. Or actually more of an invitation.

An Advent calendar full of windows to open. But not a physical one. Each day can you find a window behind which God is waiting. Waiting to meet with you. For every chocolate, an encounter that brings you closer to God!

I have some ideas about where he might be waiting.

I love the idea that he's simply waiting for me to wake up in the morning and for my thoughts to finally get round to Him, through the blur and chaos, as I pray for strength to get through the day or even remember to thank him for a new day.

Maybe he's waiting for you to delight in something he made especially for your enjoyment-a frosty morning, crunchy leaves.

Maybe he's waiting to share a quiet moment with you over a cup of tea, as you resist the urge to look at your phone and simply rest and breathe together.

Or maybe he's waiting for you in a conversation with a friend who is really struggling. Waiting for you to catch a glimpse of his compassion, of his heart aching and have you share in that with him... and love your friend.

Maybe you'll be having a precious moment with your children, when your heart brims over with love. They've said something funny or done something you're proud of. And God's waiting to say "that's just a fraction of the way I delight in you!"

Or maybe at the end of your tether he's waiting for you to lean in, rest your head against his shoulder and give way to tears, knowing he wipes them away, knowing he understands, feeling the solidness of his comfort.

Perhaps he's waiting for you to notice an answer to prayer and turn to him with a grateful smile.

Maybe he's waiting for you to take him at his word that he really will be with you and to step out of your comfort zone and enjoy seeing him do amazing things through you.

Or maybe he's waiting to relieve you of a burden you've carried alone for too long, to bring alongside you a friend who will listen.

Perhaps he's waiting for your heart to turn to him, needing to hear him say "I forgive you," to share that moment of deep peace and rightness with him.

Maybe he's just waiting at the end of the day to share that moment when you drop into bed and breathe a grateful sigh. We did it Lord!

So many ways our Father God has to draw us near to himself! So many kindnesses. So much more satisfying than the chocolate Advent calendar!

Let's pray that that this Advent is a time of finding him in those moments and sharing them with him.

Of opening windows into the Father's heart.

Of knowing Emmanuel. God with us.

Maybe you'll even want to open more than one window a day. Unlike a chocolate advent calendar, that's not cheating, that's what God longs for! **That's what he's waiting for.**

Enjoy listening to this song, Prepare Him Room, as you anticipate God meeting with you this Advent. [Prepare Him Room - Sovereign Grace - YouTube](#)

PREPARE HIM ROOM  
SOVEREIGN GRACE