

## “Anticipation”

Midweek Reflection # 80 November 13, 2009

I have been enjoying a little book that Renie gave me which has slowed me down and helped get me waiting and listening to God in preparation for Advent and Christmas. I would like to share some of this book with you, trusting that some of you will want to get it and use it yourselves.

A book review of Simply Wait..Cultivating Stillness in the Season of Advent.  
Pamela C Hawkins. Upper Room Books. Nashville. 2007

Simply Wait focuses on 4 words - one for each week of Advent - *Anticipation, Hope, Patience* and *Obedience*. This book is a combination of the author's thoughts, scripture, hymns and journaling reflection questions.

Week One begins like this:

**“Anticipation.** Wait with this word for awhile before you continue to read. Let anticipation settle into your thoughts. Let this word soak into your life. Let it spread across your imagination as you look toward Christmas. Do not hurry. Wait. And when you have taken some time with this word, read on.” pg 17 Simply Wait

I like that as I read on, the author posed some questions for me to think about.

“What is your first reaction to this word?” Mine was somewhat negative because I unfortunately generally anticipate negatively.

“Describe your most recent experience with anticipation?” God is helping me to shift from the negative to the positive by anticipating healing from this tumor and wholeness where I can return to full ministry service.

“What memories and stories from past Advent and Christmas seasons does this word call forth from your life?” I am still thinking about this one, but you might have something come to you right away.

I like how Pamela Hawkins uses a variety of approaches to make this personally applicable. I am anticipating positively what God has to say to me in the Hope, Patience and Obedience sections ahead.

**“I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; My soul waits for the Lord, More than those who wait for the morning. More than those who wait for the morning.” Psalm 130: 5-6**

I have much more to learn about being still and waiting for God to speak to me through His word. I am learning to anticipate how much more of God there is to know in the stillness of scripture and prayer. I am learning to simply wait.

Under His mercy, a fellow traveler,

Howie