

***Dave Tussing accepted an invitation to share about Saturday's visioning gathering. He offers these reflections for you, his Newberg Friends community:***

Carice and I didn't know what to expect. We were busy with coaching girls basketball games all morning and came late. While we felt a bit awkward about this, numerous people encouraged us to come anyway. When we arrived we saw the social hall full of people deep in the middle of prayer. We slipped into the back and were welcomed at a table that had clearly already done a lot of work before we got there. However, the group we joined welcomed us warmly and encouraged us to participate. As I observed the room, it was clear people were deeply contemplating our situation, seeking God, and actively conversing about what they felt led to share. It was active, unscripted, and earnest dialogue.

I felt a little bit of pressure to deliver some brilliant and succinct words we could all rally around. We have timelines and goals and things we want to get done by specific dates. We are busy and need to get this done. Why is this so hard?

Then I recognized the irony. God is in charge, not us. It was evident others felt the same way. This is the process, and God is in it. This will take time and all that really matters at this time is that we actively seek him and his leading. I, for one, felt good about how things went on Saturday and how they continue. If we remove our own expectations and timelines and just let God show us the way, we will get to where he wants us. And that place will always be changing. God is not static; he is always on the move, and we must continue to follow his lead.

I was heartened by what I heard — despite the fog and unknown terrain we are walking. We are seeking and following his leading. God brings hope and joy to us as we walk on his path. He shines a light and lends a strong hand to hold along the way.

These few thoughts have been bouncing around my mind since last Saturday:

- We want to be rooted in the word.
  - We want to be salt and light.
  - No hardship or adversity is too big for God.
  - He brings hope and joy; he destroys fear.
  - We want to be a community of discipleship and growth.
  - We seek to fill ourselves with him and overflow with love and giving hope to others.
  - We will serve, give abundantly, and bless others.
  - Opportunities abound to love our community, neighbors, and those around the world.
- Let's seize those opportunities.

I look forward to going on this journey with you all; we will never be finished. Let's continue upward, inward, and outward together.

Some books/chapters that stuck out to me this week include Matthew 5 and Romans 12.

I also heard some songs today that spoke to my heart's condition, and I knew God was speaking directly to me! Maybe they will speak to you as well (both by Lauren Daigle):

“Trust in You” (chorus below)                      Listen to the whole song [HERE](#).

When You don't move the mountains  
I'm needing you to move  
When you don't part the waters  
I wish I could walk through  
When you don't give the answers  
As I cry out to you  
I will trust I will trust  
I will trust in you

“First” (verse 1 below)                                      Listen to the whole song [HERE](#).

Before I bring my need  
I will bring my heart  
Before I lift my cares  
I will lift my arms  
I wanna know You  
I wanna find You  
In every season  
In every moment  
Before I bring my need  
I will bring my heart  
And seek You

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