

Alting har en tid

For everything there is a season

Af George Thomas

CCOVID-19 has triggered a global crisis of enormous magnitude and consequences, especially after its epicenter moved towards the West. This invisible virus does not differentiate between age, color, gender, nationality, social or economic status and is a perfect leveler.

It is becoming increasingly clear that we are in control of very little. But we do know that we are in God's hands. And always will be. Let me share a few Bible verses* which have spiritually challenged and strengthened me these days. These verses were always there, but now they confront me with a new dynamic reality. * *Dansk oversættelse: se nedenfor*

1. The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. (Deuteronomy 31:8)
2. The Lord will keep you from all harm - he will watch over your life. (Psalm 121:7)
3. For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. (Jeremiah 29:11-13)
4. Don't be afraid, for I am with you.
Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. (Isaiah 41:10)
5. Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)
6. Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. (John 14:1)
7. I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. (John 14:27)
8. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)
9. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. (James 4:8)

FRA DEN DANSKE BIBELOVERSÆTTELSE:

1. Herren selv går foran dig, han vil være med dig, han vil ikke lade dig i stikken og ikke svigte dig; vær ikke bange og lad dig ikke skræmme! (5. Mosebog 31,8)
2. Herren bevare dig mod alt ondt, han bevare dit liv. (Salme 121,7)
3. Jeg ved, hvilke planer jeg har lagt for jer, siger Herren, planer om lykke, ikke om ulykke, om at give jer en fremtid og et håb. Råber I til mig, og går I hen og beder til mig, vil jeg høre jer. Når I søger mig af hele jeres hjerte, er jeg at finde, siger Herren. (Jeremias' Bog 29,11-13)
4. Frygt ikke, for jeg er med dig. Fortvivl ikke, for jeg er din Gud. (Esajas' Bog 41,10)

5. Jesus siger: Kom til mig, alle I, som slider jer trætte og bærer tunge byrder, og jeg vil give jer hvile. (Matthæusevangeliet 11,28)
6. Jeres hjerte må ikke forfærdes. Tro på Gud, og tro på mig. (Johannesevangeliet 14,1)
7. Fred efterlader jeg jer, min fred giver jeg jer. Jeg giver jer ikke, som verden giver. Jeres hjerte må ikke forfærdes og ikke være modløst. (Johannesevangeliet 14,27)
8. Lad os altså med frimodighed træde frem for nådens trone, for at vi kan få barmhjertighed og finde nåde til hjælp i rette tid. (Hebræerbrevet 4,16)
9. Hold jer nær til Gud, så vil han holde sig nær til jer. Gør jeres hænder rene, I syndere; rens jeres hjerter, I tvesindede! (Jakobsbrevet 4,8)

In Christianskirken in Copenhagen we often say this famous "serenity prayer" written by Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971) together as a congregation:

*God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.*

Gud, giv mig sindsro
til at acceptere de ting, jeg ikke kan ændre,
mod til at ændre de ting, jeg kan,
og visdom til at se forskellen.
(også kendt som Sindsrobønnen)

I love this prayer when I find myself in a deep valley like this. Let us remain calm and composed, come closer to God in deeper introspection, uphold each other and encourage each other.

For everything there is a season: a time to keep, a time to cast away; a time to embrace, a time to refrain from embracing... (Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8)

Alting har en tid: En tid til at gemme hen, en tid til at kaste bort. En tid til at omfavne, en tid til ikke at omfavne. (Prædikerens Bog 3,5-6)

George Thomas

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