

# REFLECTION - 8



*'Be still and know that I am God.'*  
*(Psalm 46:10)*

This is one of my favourite bible verses. It comes in a psalm that begins with the words, 'God is our refuge and strength' and sets out how we can be confident and sure in God's strength. So the psalm is in many ways one of reassurance. When all around might be in chaos and when we're struggling to find a way to turn, God is there.

And this verse, 'Be still and know that I am God' became a favourite when I recognised it could be read and heard in two different ways. There is the really calm and assuring voice of God gently speaking, 'Be still and know that I am God.' These are words of comfort and calm, words that invite us into God's warm embrace where we will receive the assurance that, however things seem, God is still there, still working, still in control.

But they can also be read differently with a more stern and strong voice, slightly raised perhaps, 'Be still and know that I am God.' When we are unsure of ourselves or where God is leading us, or when we are happily going along in our own time and strength and not paying much attention to God, we are starkly called back to take time and know that God is God!

And we need God. The concept of a God shaped hole in each one of us has been expressed by a number of different people but I particularly like the quote of the philosopher, “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of everyone which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.” The sterner voice expressing this bible verse is the one that says, ‘do what I ask, go where I lead..’

As Christians, we are called to be like Jesus, to try and model ourselves on him. And God is there for us as we generously offer his love through our words and our actions. God is there, calmly assuring us that we are welcomed into that warm embrace, but God is also there inspiring us to be people of action as well. Generosity isn't something that we just talk about or reflect on or expect of others, but something we do using the incredible gifts that God gives to each one of us.



Diolch yn fawr Archdeacon Ian Rees!