## Dear Open Door Family,

Today as I look out the window and see the snow I am struck by the beauty of it all. Yet as I shoveled it, for seemingly endless hours, yesterday I was not impressed with the beauty of it but with the weight. It is amazing how much heavier it gets the longer you are out there shoveling too. It does make me chuckle when I think that God can cripple entire cities with a couple of feet of snow. The amazing thing is that He finds that neither exhausting nor difficult in any way. We knew that some kind of storm was going to hit so we did what many others did and went to Wal-Mart to stock up on a few things. It was an amazing sight to see people frantically loading grocery carts full and to see tellers in almost every check out lane. There were a lot of troubled people hurrying and rushing and trying to get everything they needed before the big storm hit. We have all reacted to things in life by rushing around and become more and more frantic. That is why this verse is such a challenge to the hectic business of our lives and culture.

**Psalm 46:10** (NIV) "**Be still**, and KNOW THAT I AM GOD; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

**Psalm 46:10** (NAS) "**Cease striving** and KNOW THAT I AM GOD; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

**Psalm 46:10** (HCS) "**Stop your fighting** - and KNOW THAT I AM GOD, exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth."

When I am rushing around trying to get it all done, when I am desperately trying to understand and figure out what to do next, when I am so busy that I don't have time to think about anything but the many tasks at hand, God says "Be still" or "Cease striving" or "Stop your fighting". Why? Why is it important for us to STOP fighting, to let go? For me it is a reminder that when I am running around striving and struggling many times I am trying to do things in my own energy and strength rather than to seek God's help and strength. Be Still is what I am called to do. Then I am told to "KNOW THAT I AM GOD" which is God's reminder that I am NOT God. It is a reminder that I cannot control all the details and the pace of everything going on around me. "KNOW THAT I AM GOD" is a reminder that if I have joined Jesus in the yoke of discipleship I don't have to rush around trying to accomplish this or that. I have to walk with Him, and as I stay in step with Him He carries the load of responsibility. So, we need to stop - submit once more - join the Lord Jesus in the yoke. As we show that we accept the fact that He is God, that He knows what He is doing, we are exalting Him in our hearts just as He will some day be exalted in the whole earth.

**PRAYER:** Lord, I don't want to strive or fight and struggle against You in anyway. Please, Lord God, help me to remember You are God; I am NOT. May I exalt You and NOT myself. May I exalt and lift You up in my own heart and life; please be God of my whole world, starting in me.

Pastor Mark Kieft	
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