

Personal Reflection – July 23, 2024

Walter

Walter Brueggemann's generous sharing of the lovely thoughts of his great heart, keeps me going. Each page I read reveals a poetic phrase of singular beauty. Here's a great one: *We sing praise and thanks, and sometimes we sing through clenched teeth.*

Reading his 1999 *The Covenanted Self* this cool July morning, I learned something new! The origin of the verb OBEY is Latin – 'ob': in the direction of, and 'audire': to hear.

Obey is listening!

Listen? To what? The song of birds in my forest, the whisper of the wind in the leaves. The events of the day! The miracle of Kamala! The people who come by! The "nudges" that awaken my heart to unexpected action.

Listen to the gentle engulfing quiet of my home, and the quiet of this time of my life. Listen and watch my daily FaceTime call with Janet in Tanzania! Listen and watch my relentless TV mystery series, discovering who dunnit? Listen and watch *The Chosen*, a prayerful TV resource.

Honestly complain, lovingly praise and thank God, then move to joyful listening (obedience) to the Word, which I find in Walter's next chapter.

--Jane Vella