WAITING

By: Caroline Choppa

Read: John 1:5

*‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it’*.

Waiting…waiting for healing, waiting for strength, waiting for peace, waiting for the Knowing that I am not alone.

I’m battling a bizarre illness that has racked my body for years. My limbs become lead weights, my tongue cannot form words correctly in my mouth, my eyes squeeze closed. The pseudo-seizure that hits this time is particularly evil. My brain jerks and my entire body seizes. I lay on my bed, convulsing… grunting. I lay waiting.

I am waiting for answers. I am waiting for courage. I am waiting for grace. I am waiting for the knowledge that I am not alone.

My beloved husband has taken my sons on a Boy Scout hiking trip today and I feel alone and scared. Normally I know these episodes will pass, but this one is strong, and I grow frightened. Then I feel my amazing German shepherd guarding me. He doesn’t leave my side. He sees that I am struggling and bravely breaks a rule. He jumps on my bed and buries his bear-sized head in my belly to comfort me. In my waiting I am not alone.

The convulsing continues. I am afraid…this is a strong seizing. It has been over an hour already. I call my siblings, but no answer. I call my friends, but no answer. Finally, a voice answers on the other end. It is my Father. He can hear my struggle over the phone line from states away, and I can hear his worry as he asks, “What can I do”?

I grunt and convulse and say, “Just wait with me, I do not want to be alone”.

My Father and I stay on the phone line for another 30 minutes…we don’t really talk but just stay connected. Words are not necessary. I simply needed to know my Father was there.

And he was…

And HE was…

Finally, the seizing stops. I feel peace. I feel grace. I realize I was never waiting alone. HE was with me. HIS LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND SHALL NOT BE OVERCOME.

*Prayer:* Heavenly Father, In our times of waiting, may we have the knowledge that we are not alone, that YOU are with us. May we feel YOUR peace and grace enfold us. Amen.