

## Wednesday Devotional

11/05/2025

One of the last messages received from Dietrich Bonhoeffer before his execution was a poem entitled "New Year 1945." Written from a Gestapo-run prison during the air raids on Berlin, Bonhoeffer's words still hold their meaning for us today despite vastly different contexts. I hope you will be as encouraged and revitalized by it as I currently am.

### POWERS OF GOOD

With every power for good to stay and guide me,  
comforted and inspired beyond all fear,  
I'll live these days with you in thought beside me,  
and pass, with you, into the coming year.

The old year still torments our hearts, unhastening;  
the long days of our sorrow still endure;  
Father, grant to the souls thou hast been chastening  
that thou hast promised, the healing and the cure.

Should it be ours to drain the cup of grieving  
even to the dregs of pain, at thy command,  
we will not falter, thankfully receiving  
all that is given by thy loving hand.

But should it be thy will once more to release us  
to life's enjoyment and its good sunshine,  
that which we've learned from sorrow shall increase us,  
and all our life be dedicate as thine.

Today, let candles shed their radiant greeting;  
lo, on our darkness are they not thy light  
leading us, haply, to our longed-for meeting? -  
Thou canst illumine even our darkest night.

When now the silence deepens for our hearkening,  
grant we may hear thy children's voices raise  
from all the unseen world around us darkening  
their universal paean, in thy praise.

While all the powers of good aid and attend us,  
boldly we'll face the future, come what may.  
At even and at morn God will befriend us,  
and oh, most surely on each newborn day!