

Thought for the day 18th June 2020 from Katherine-Alice Grasham (All Hallows)

Although its release date is now uncertain, the film I'm most excited for this year is, without a doubt, *In the Heights*. It's a film adaptation of a musical that follows the stories of young adults living in Washington Heights, New York, written by Lin-Manuel Miranda, the creator of *Hamilton*.

One of the main themes that runs through the musical is "paciencia y fe", which is Spanish for "patience and faith". It's the mantra of one of the older characters, Abuela Claudia, who is a first generation immigrant from Cuba, and she uses it throughout the show in good times and in bad. She maintains that holding onto patience and faith is what gets her through. Her character has had a lot of ups and downs in her life, and she sings about how difficult it was to emigrate from Cuba, but she is still an upbeat, positive, caring character who looks after those in her community, hence her nickname "Abuela", which means "grandmother".

I'm really inspired by Abuela Claudia's patience and faith – it can be really tough to hold on when things are hard, but she trusts that God has her back, and she can often be heard exclaiming "alabanza!" which is a term of praise. Galatians 6:9 in the bible says "Let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest."

The bible is full of God's promises that He will not leave us, no matter what we're going through. The bible also says at many points that we should praise God through the good times and the bad. The main character, Usnavi, says during *In the Heights*: "alabanza means to raise these things to God's face and to sing quite literally 'praise to this!'" Perhaps we can try to be like Abuela Claudia and raise up the things in our lives – good and bad – to God, and sing praise no matter what.