With all that’s gone on in the last year, it’s easy to forget the biggest crisis our world faces – that of the changing climate. Together, we need to take action.

Climate change is putting millions of lives in danger, through increased air pollution, rising sea levels, extreme and erratic weather, drought and floods, and the melting of the polar ice caps. 2020 was the hottest year on record.

Science tells us that this is overwhelmingly a problem caused by humans – by our use of fossil fuels, our overconsumption of natural resources, and our greed and lack of regard for the planet on which we live. This is deeply at odds with what the bible tells us about God’s plans for the world. Colossians 1:16 tells us that creation was made by Jesus, through Jesus, and for Jesus – that the earth is as important as it gets for Christians.

Throughout the bible, we see that God, humans and the world are deeply connected – that we all depend on one another, and those relationships are to be valued, stewarded and looked after. If one aspect of them breaks, it impacts on everything else.

Being made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) means we have a duty to steward and care for the whole of creation – to enable relationships between God, humans and the world to flourish.

The climate crisis isn’t just about looking after the resources that God has provided – it’s about justice. We see every day that the climate crisis is hitting the most vulnerable the hardest - affecting access to food, land, and security and safety. From rising sea levels and cyclones in Bangladesh, to flash floods and drought in Tanzania, the climate crisis is a matter of urgency, and as Christians, we are called to ‘Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.’ (Proverbs 31:9).

It’s easy to be overwhelmed by the scale of the problem which faces us. It’s easy to look away from the news, and to ignore the impact our daily habits have on people who live across the world, or on the abstract notion of greenhouse gasses or plastic consumption. But the answer to this fear is given to us by Paul, in his letter to Timothy. He tells us that human fear is not from God.

As Christians, we have not been given the spirit of fear, but the spirit of power – power to take action, to love one another, to have compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves, and a sound mind. These are the very tools we need to stand strong in the fight against the climate crisis, and to take the kind of radical actions which will protect the most vulnerable, and the earth gifted to us from God, which we all rely on.

To learn more about how Traidcraft Exchange’s Regenerators appeal is supporting communities on the frontline in the battle against climate change, please go to www.traidcraftexchange.org/regenerators

Donate to the Regenerators Appeal before 7th June 2021 and the UK government will double your gift to help the most vulnerable stand strong in the face of climate change.