

S O M E T H I N G

beautiful

A 6-DAY DEVOTIONAL
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 CHAPTER ONE
PURPOSE IN THE PROCESS

05 CHAPTER TWO
HE IS ENOUGH

07 CHAPTER THREE
JOY

09 CHAPTER FOUR
PEACE IS HIS PROMISE

11 CHAPTER FIVE
IN HIS TIME

13 CHAPTER SIX
PAY IT FORWARD

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**“HE HAS MADE
ALL THINGS
BEAUTIFUL IN
HIS TIME”.**

- ECCLESIASTES 3:11

One of my favorite visuals is the “birth” of the butterfly. Our Creator God, in His “let me blow your mind” intricacy decided that a caterpillar would become a butterfly. An insect that once could simply crawl around would one day take flight.

To bring this into being, He decided to use the cocoon as the transformative “hub”. I looked a little further into this process, and it is not a sweet hibernation period like I thought! On the contrary, this dark, isolated phase literally brings a death to the caterpillar so that a new body and being can be created.

First, the caterpillar digests itself, releasing enzymes to dissolve all of its tissues. Certain highly organized groups of cells known as imaginal discs survive the digestive process. Those discs then use the protein-rich soup all around them to fuel the rapid cell division required to form the wings, antennae, legs, eyes, and all the other features of an adult butterfly.

Once the butterfly has formed, it then goes through a struggle phase to fight its way out of the cocoon. If this process is interrupted, the butterfly will not fully develop nor will it be able to fly.

There is purpose in the process.

Sis, if you feel like you are in that dark cocoon right now, take heart! It is always in the darkness, in the desert, in the valley, in the wilderness where God speaks to us, rescues us, restores us, redeems us. It is here in the trial, when we lean on and turn to Him, that we gain the strength to soar.

Don't give up. Again, “He has made all things beautiful in His time.”.

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**“SOW RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR
YOURSELVES, REAP THE
FRUIT OF UNFAILING LOVE,
AND BREAK UP YOUR
UNPLOWED GROUND; FOR IT
IS TIME TO SEEK THE LORD,
UNTIL HE COMES AND
SHOWERS RIGHTEOUSNESS
ON YOU.”**

HOSEA 10:12

Hey sis; how you doing? Can I just take a moment to remind you that our God is good! He is FOR YOU, NOT AGAINST YOU! He desires for you to intimately know Him and to be your greatest love! Can we all just rest in and believe this truth right here and now, even as we experience loss, suffering, frustration, devastation here on this side of heaven. Our God is STILL GOOD, and He is doing a GOOD work in you.

I was reminded the other day that sometimes God doesn't change our situation because He is trying to change our heart. Woah!! This caused me to take a step back and really examine myself. If say I have faith and proclaim "Thy Will be done", but my heart longs for my way, my timing, my.... then where truly is my faith & my trust?

In that moment I heard the gentle whisper, "Am I enough? Is your heart seeking after me or my good gifts?" Ugg – heart check!

Thankfully, God is gracious despite our divided hearts, calling us to repentance & home to Him. He holds out hope to the Israelites and to us in Hosea 10:12: "Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you."

Take heart, dear Sis. Jesus is calling you to experience Him deeper this season. He longs to pour out His love to you and desires to capture your whole heart. Trust the training of this time. There is always purpose in pain & in the process; but with Jesus, that pain turns to peace and those longings of the heart can be steadied by the vast love of the Father.

Remember His love. Remember His goodness. It has always been there. Grab hold of Him – nothing more - and rest.

“

**“THIS IS THE
DAY THAT THE
LORD HAS
MADE. WE WILL
REJOICE AND BE
GLAD IN IT.”**

- PSALM 118:24

Can't you just hear the song in your head as you read that verse? As a young girl, I sang this scripture all the time, not truly taking to heart the beauty of the words. So simple, yet so full of truth. By definition, joy is gladness not based on circumstance, and if you really look at that scripture, it almost seems like the Psalmist is reminding himself to be glad in the Lord.

Sometimes we need to remind ourselves! The

Bible consistently speaks of rejoicing in the Lord, and not just when times are good. Finding joy in the character of God; in His provisions of the past; in His promises of the future is a command and a practice that God has been teaching me a lot lately, as I feel stretched thin, tired, & pulled in multiple directions.

He is teaching me to find JOY in Him despite my circumstance, and isn't it cool how we can find that joy in rejoicing!?

If you struggle in this area, think about starting a thankfulness journal. At the end of the day, make a list of things for which you are grateful. Just watch the huge difference it begins to create in your spirit. Our human nature easily falls victim to the negative, the what ifs & why nots, but that pattern of thought will only squelch our joy and cause us to forget all the good gifts God has given us. Choose joy today; meditate on His goodness; rejoice in what He has done and promises to do.

Someone once reminded me of how the birds always start singing before the sun rises. Daily, they start chirping as they anticipate the sun's arrival. Might we be a people who sing & rejoice in the darkness, praising our Father for His daily faithfulness while excitedly awaiting the beauty our God is about to bestow upon us.

"I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul" – Psalm 31:7

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**"MY GOD WILL
SUPPLY EVERY
NEED OF YOURS
ACCORDING TO
HIS RICHES IN
GLORY IN
CHRIST JESUS."**

- PHILIPPIANS 4:19

Sis – did you hear that!? God promises to "supply every need of yours." Most of the time, our idea of what we need differs greatly from God's idea.

That's human nature. We look to worldly needs to ensure survival. God's promises are like a rock. Unchanging. He will provide for us.

However, trust is key. Those who will be kept in "perfect peace" are those "whose mind is stayed" on God. And a mind can only be stayed on God "because he trusts in Him."

Perfect peace and rest is like water hydrating the body. If that ceases to exist, our relationship with God begins to wither. 1 Peter 5:7 is a lifeline verse for me personally. It says in part, "...cast all your anxieties on Him, because he cares for you."

My hope is that you continue to commit yourself to the life-long pursuit of trusting God.

You will stumble in the pursuit, but remain steadfast. God's love will never fail you. Humble yourself before our King and experience the salvation given to you..

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**GOD IS NEVER
LATE AND
RARELY EARLY.
HE IS ALWAYS
EXACTLY RIGHT
ON TIME
--HIS TIME.”**

- DILLON BURROUGHS

Hello God!?! Are you there? I love the above quote for it's factual humor. God's timing will never fully make sense to us this side of Heaven, even though when He moves, we can always see those footprints in the sand: proof He never leaves or forsakes us.

We also must ask God to show us what He is teaching us during these seasons of waiting. Lisa Bevere reminds us, "Sometimes arriving too quickly is detrimental. It is dangerous to arrive without our character mature or intact."

Psalm 1 speaks of the Lord watching over and delighting in the righteous: "Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers." - Psalm 1:1-3

I love how this passage states, "which yields its fruit in season". Another reminder that even when it feels God is not working, if we remain rooted in the Lord & obedient to His ways, we will see His faithfulness in season... in His beautiful time. Take heart in these truths as you wait upon the Lord.

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**“BLESSED BE THE GOD
AND FATHER OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST...
WHO COMFORTS US IN
ALL OUR TRIBULATION,
THAT WE MAY BE ABLE
TO COMFORT THOSE
WHO ARE IN ANY
TROUBLE.”**

- 2 CORINTHIANS 1: 3-4

Don't you love seeing random acts of kindness?! A person buying a coffee for a stranger; picking up dropped items and racing to get them back to the owner walking away oblivious to their loss; a person holding a door open for those near them; or someone helping out a person lost, handicapped or in need.

Similarly, think back to a time, possibly in this season of life, where you have had someone come alongside you to lift your spirit or bring comfort & hope?

David Jeremiah writes, "Kindness begets kindness, comfort begets comfort, and no one knows how far the ripples will travel." Sometimes the biggest impact is generated from the smallest gesture of love.

When we wake up with a heart of gratitude, even when we don't feel like it, shifting our mindset back to the good provisions of God – to his faithfulness and mercies – we are reminded of and filled up with His abounding love. It is from HIS deep well that never runs dry that we can pour out kindness and comfort to others, even when we are in the valley ourselves.

As you go about your day and week, pray that God opens your eyes to opportunities to be a comfort to all around you in need. If you are open, the Holy Spirit will provide opportunities for you to be the hands and feet of Christ. Start that ripple effect & watch God work! If nothing else, you will see the heart work He begins to do in you.

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." –Proverbs 11:25

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**“REJOICING
IN HOPE,
PATIENT IN
TRIBULATION,
CONTINUING
STEADFASTLY
IN PRAYER”**

ROMANS 12:12



Looking for an infertility or miscarriage,
infant and pregnancy loss support group?

Searching for a community that will
pray for you, encourage you and walk
with you on your grief journey?

If you are, then you've found a home
here with us!

Twelve 12 Ministries provides a safe
environment for women longing to heal and
discover their purpose beyond motherhood.

Our mission is to encourage
women through community,
point everyone to Christ and find Jesus.

Infertility and/or losing a child is hard,
and no one should have to go through this
alone.

You are seen, loved and not forgotten.

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