



# LIVING REFRESHED

RECEIVING HIS HEART FOR US

by beth moss

Hi Friend ~

I wanted to share with you a bit about what you are holding in your hands

I believe the greatest hunger of every human heart is to know the Creator; and in that knowing, to experience His engagement in every aspect of their life, from the brutal to the beautiful

Part of the challenge of recognizing His ongoing Presence and activity in our own life is due to our close proximity to our own story. We *are* the character on the screen. Our struggle comes with being unable to pull back and see a more expansive view of His activity; to gain a deeper perspective. We are hindered by our up-close-and-personal placement within the story of our life

When we choose to pull back the curtain on our own life and step forward into a life of honest communal living with one another, we offer ourselves. In that offering we afford others with an avenue to behold Him. Not because the life on view is perfect, but because His faithfulness within our lives is without end

The snapshots we offer each other depict the control we often long for in our life. But the reel to reel version, gained within communal living, displays the love of a Father who won't let go in spite of our mishaps and mistakes. This is the version of our life that brings hope to others. It inoculates us all against the daily lies of the enemy

We risk being judged and discarded. We open ourselves up to loss of reputation. But oh, the possibility of gifting another with glimpses of Him, it's worth the leap of faith. Our lives were meant to be given away in the hopes of another seeing Him for who He is

So this is my offering to you. Coupled with the public telling of a piece of my story, these are interactive devotional pieces reflective of His activity in my life over the last several years

May He be glorified across this screen of my life

*"Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul." (Psalm 66:16)*

## Week #1 - Listening Guide

1) None of my \_\_\_\_\_ of who He is will ever \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

2) So too, you and I, our greatest " \_\_\_\_\_ " most often originate in our moments of feeling forsaken by Him.

3) Somehow in my theology I had come to see Him, not as a source of \_\_\_\_\_ but of \_\_\_\_\_; a God of \_\_\_\_\_.

4) I now know it is possible to be a woman who is saved by the blood of Jesus, serving Him, enjoying and learning His word, and yet \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with Him.

5) There has been no greater pain I have faced in my life than this -- to have grown to \_\_\_\_\_ Him, to have \_\_\_\_\_ of Him in my life -- and yet to believe His heart is not for me.



Week #1 - Day One

Quote from our group time:

*“None of my false ideas of who He is will ever change Him”*

Your turn:

Write out John 3:16 below

What *Gift* did God give to you?

Let Him tell you further what that *Gift* means for you if you have received His Son as your Savior.

Read Isaiah 9:6 and write out the four descriptive titles contained in your *Gift*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

As your *Counselor* He offers you clarity and direction for your today. Whether you need wisdom for the future or knowledge and understanding for a task you are facing, He is your Source

As you seek His *Strength*, your weakness becomes the perfect place for Him to show Himself strong on your behalf. His resources and power have no limit

Do you long for the unconditional love of a *Father*? One who knows every one of your fears and flaws and sees them as relationally rich places of opportunity for you to know Him. He's a without-end Father. Your mishaps will never be a cause for Him to forsake you

Is peace possible? Yes! God gave His Son to be your *Prince of Peace*. He is the Captain of your contentment and the Supplier of your tranquility. His desire for you is a sound mind and wholeness of heart

This wasn't a one time *Gift* nor is it a future *Gift*, it's a lifelong, everyday *Gift* given to us to access and apply.

Have you received His gift? Is Jesus your Savior? Is He even now preparing a place for you or is He still in pursuit of you?

I invite you to take a couple moments to journal, perhaps about the day that lies in front of you. What would it be like to take each challenge or concern you face today and apply His *Gift* to it? To ask for His *wisdom*, to be reminded of His unlimited *power*, to be reassured of His unconditional *love* for you and to rest in His provided *peace*?

My prayer for your today ~

*Lord, please help her to mentally take You with her into her day. Don't let her leave you behind as a finished check mark on this page. Thank you for being abundantly all that she will need for her day; her source of wisdom, strength, unending love and peace. Nudge her today in the hard places and remind her of who she has in You ~*

*"We must focus more on our relationship with God's heart than on our character, because the source of character reformation is His love" - Shawn Bolz*

Week #1 - Day Two

Quote from our group time:

*“So too, you and me, our greatest “whys” most often originate in our moments of feeling forsaken by Him”*

Your turn:

Write out Jesus’ heartfelt cry from Matthew 27:46 below:

Jesus’ cry wasn’t about the load placed on Him. His lament was of the loss of His Father’s Presence *with* Him. That was the true cry of His heart as He hung, punished for you and for me. He had to be *forsaken* by God as He dealt with every moment of depravity we have lived out on this earth

He paid the price to purchase this promise for us:  
Read Deut. 31:8 -

What condition did Jesus suffer on the cross that Deut 31:8 tells us we won’t ever have to face?

1. being \_\_\_\_\_ by God.

As His child we have been assured that we will never *be forsaken* by Him. But that doesn’t mean we will never *feel forsaken* by Him. Oft times it seems to be that our sense of being forsaken by Him comes from events that have caused us to ask Him “why”; when His choice to act or not act on our behalf is out of line with who we have believed Him to be

*Why haven’t you brought healing Lord? Why has this innocent little one had to suffer so? Why am I still unemployed after so many prayers of request? Why.....?*

Peter directed a *why* of his own towards Jesus. Turn to John 13

Jesus’ disciples had assembled at His request. He had been preparing them for what lay ahead. He was going to be leaving them. Now they had assembled for their final meal together and Jesus, of all things, begins to wash their feet; the act of a lowly servant. Peter is confused. Jesus is their Teacher and their Lord; their longed for King

Why is He behaving as a servant? That’s not who Peter needs Him to be. It’s not fitting. It’s not helpful. It’s not comfortable or comforting

Write out Jesus' response to Peter in v. 7 of John 13

Jesus could communicate with His disciples the Who, What, When, Where and How of what was taking place but not the *Why* of what He was doing, not yet. He needed them to trust Him. He needed them to listen, and hear and do what He was telling them to do even when they couldn't understand *why*; even when He was being Someone different than who they had expected Him to be -- who they wanted Him to be in their need

So too with us. We feel that same pain when He chooses to act differently than we had imagined He would. When He seemingly refuses to intervene in our circumstances when we feel we need Him most

He isn't toying with us in not answering our *why*

Who, What, When, Where and How typically have concrete and fact based answers. They are line items on an invitation we might send out to summon others to a gathering. They are of a more factual nature

But *Why* is different. It's unveiling reveals the heart of a matter. It goes deeper. It's swath is often far reaching. *Why*, in God's Kingdom, can span centuries of time. His *why* in our life can encompass people we've never met

We often search for the *why* of a trial in our lives. Somehow, it seems, if we can come up with a reason of benefit for someone else through our suffering there is a measure of relief for us. But God's *whys* for our lives don't just entail the length of our own days. His work is so much more vast than that

How does an Eternal God explain to a finite being like us the vast scope of His *Why*?

Later in his life, Peter would write letters to others undergoing hardship. He had followed in Jesus' footsteps and knew the pain of persecution. He had been changed by the fires of trial and he wrote to encourage and strengthen others in the truth. He might have thought then..... *could this be the reason I went through what I did; so I could encourage these ones going through persecution of their own?*

He knew whom he was writing his letters to ..... or did he?

Could he possibly have imagined a woman like me in 2013 in a hospital room on a campus like UCLA? Could he have imagined the pain and uncertainty of a four organ transplant? Could he have known how God would use his (Peter's) pain to comfort me in mine? How could God have explained the scope of all the *whys* involved in that day to His followers

I remember the blank confusion I felt as I looked at my own computer screen one day in that same hospital room. There was a map of the world stretched out in front of me. Spots were lit up in other countries. They represented people who were reading our story of transplant. I don't know people in those countries. My reality was a stark white hospital room and a computer next to the bed of my boy. I thought I was simply writing to friends and family back home to keep them updated on what was happening

Oh to trust His *why* in our lives; to choose to obey His word even when we don't understand! We can't fathom the design He is weaving with our pain, obedience and trust

Do you have a *why* that you are struggling with today?

The Son of God endured being forsaken so that we who belong to Him would never be forsaken, ever. Hold fast to His promise. Trust His heart for you. The cross is His arms spread wide for you. His *why* is more grand than our wildest imaginings

*“ If I want the impact of my life to transcend the border of the length of my days -- and I do -- I have to let go of the why”*



Week #1 - Day Three

Quote from our group time:

*“Somehow in my theology I had come to see Him, not as a source of supply, but of demand; a God of Expectations”*

Your turn:

Read Psalm 103: 1-5

In these verses what does the author, David, want us to be sure not to forget?

When interviewing for a job, one of the discussions that comes into play is about *benefits*. Other than a paycheck, what else can I look forward to in taking this job; healthcare, bonuses, paid vacation time, maternity leave...? *Benefits* are the perks we receive because of becoming united with a company

Listen to David again as he burst forth in awe of God's *benefits*:

*“Bless the Lord Oh my soul and forget none of His benefits”*

Salvation of our soul by Christ's blood is a gift unequaled to anything we have known. As David rejoices in this relationship with his Savior the richness of this gift flows forth from his pen to the needs of our daily lives. He wants us not to miss the grand supply of this gift, not just for our future, but for our now. For our today. He wants to unpack its contents with us

His call to us reminds me of the product commercials on TV.....”but wait, there's more.”

Let's unpack those benefits. From verses 2-5 list out His five actions taking place in our lives if we are in relationship with Him

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Have you experienced these in your life?

Which one(s) can you point to with surety and say “yes”? \_\_\_\_\_

Which one(s) do you feel deeply in need of today? \_\_\_\_\_

His *pardon* covers and removes our sin as far as the East is from the West. His *healing* brings faith to our unbelief. He relentlessly pursues each area of our lives with a *redemptive* plan of love, and He has the power to *satisfy* our deepest longings without changing any of the externals of our lives

And His *crowning* of us with loving-kindness and compassion? It's a wonderful two-part picture I so want to share with you! The first is of His crown that slips down and encircles our life with His compassion and loving-kindness. It surrounds all that concerns us. Picture an enclosure of loving-kindness and compassion. That's where you live when you belong to Him. Glory in that for a minute. It's a reality for us no matter how we feel today

And the second is His crowning of us. When we are crowned with something we become that crowning. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor of England became the official Queen of England when the crown was placed upon her head in 1952. So too with our crowning. Not only are we encircled with His compassion and loving-kindness but with His crowning we become a dispenser to others of that same loving-kindness and compassion

Only He could do such a thing to and through our lives!

*Bless the Lord O my soul and forget none of His benefits*

My prayer for your today ~

Lord, with all the demands that face your child today, let her see You as her supply and not as one more demand. Let her sense Your crowning of her life. Help her to believe, in spite of her felt reality, so it becomes the truth to her. You are our Everlasting Source and Supply of all that concerns us. Thank you ~

*"All you need is nothing"*  
*- Tim Keller*

Week # 1 - Day Four

Quote from our group time:

*"I now know it is possible to be a woman who is saved by the blood of Jesus, serving Him, enjoying and learning His word, and yet participating in a malfunctioning relationship with Him"*

Your turn:

Good morning friend,  
I want to further clarify my quote above. It's intent is not meant to have you turn inward on yourself in wondering if it could apply to you too. But instead, to become more intent on Him. Please don't try to self fix. He sees us perfectly in all of our stages of learning with Him. I saw Him falsely as my "God of Expectations" He saw me perfectly as the object of His love, in need of more of Him

Life has a way of clamoring at us. It's demands make us feel unworthy. We can find ourselves transferring that mind set onto Him as well. He becomes one more thing that can make us feel inadequate; that we are missing the perfect mark in living for Him

Turn to Song of Solomon 7. Read verses 10-13

Does that read like some sort of foreign speak to you; a bit of an Elizabethan production you might watch from your chair in the audience for entertainment?

How different would your mindset be if you received this as His way with you, His heart towards you? Would your day ahead look any brighter?

You and I ARE the object of the greatest Love biography ever written. We are invited into it's pages to live it out with Him

The hardships and hurdles we face aren't allowed in our life to defeat us. No! They are invitations to experience Him and His heart for us. My time in California at UCLA revealed to me how puny my resources were to meet the hardships of my life. But in turn, that sojourn imprinted on me how vast His resources are and how great His desire is to show Himself strong on my behalf

He expects nothing from me

Instead He invites me to know Him, to join Him, to walk with Him, to figure out life with Him.

He doesn't look with expectancy for what I have to bring to the table. He desires that I have the faith to look with expectancy for what He will bring, for what He will do

This is the fountain from which true service to others flows. It's in worship to Him. A heart made confident in His love turning to share the bounty of that love with others

Not out of Expectation but out of Exaltation. Not because I have to but because I can't help not to. He isn't part of my to do list for today He is the Source for all I have to accomplish today

I don't feel stupid when trying to hang window blinds with Him. I don't feel inadequate when we make cupcakes for a demanding earthly audience together. He gives me another helping of His patience when I simply ask for it. He strengthens my feeble "no" when I'm afraid to say it

His love never fails

Reread Song of Solomon 7:11-12. I invite you to let your heart respond below for a few minutes... whether that's with questions, concerns or worship

My prayer for your today ~

Oh Lord, envelop her mind with Your love for her this morning. Help it's truth to infuse her thinking as she tends her life. Let her see the trials of her day as invitations to know you. Help her to sense your Presence beside her as she faces what is challenging her. May you be more real to her than what she sees with her eyes. Thank you for not only saving our souls but actively loving us all the way home. It's in Your name I pray ~

*" She didn't know how, but she knew Who"*

Week #1 - Day Five

Quote from our group time:

*“There has been no greater pain I have faced in my life than this -- to have grown to desire Him, to have tasted of Him in my life -- and yet to believe His heart is not fully for me”*

Your turn:

Write out the glorious proclamation of Romans 8:1 below

Let's unpack the word *condemnation* further to help our minds absorb what we are being graced with in this promise from His word. If we apply the definition of *condemnation* to the verse here is it's message for us

~ Therefore there is now no *unfavorable or adverse judgement put upon* those who are in Christ Jesus

~ Therefore there is now no reason for being *convicted or censured* for those who are in Christ Jesus

~ Therefore there is now no judgement of *being unfit for use or service* for those who are in Christ Jesus

~ Therefore there is no *declaration of being incurable* for those who are in Christ Jesus

So hard to comprehend! We are truly forgiven. We are redeemed in a way that we have trouble accepting. Feelings of inadequacy, of not measuring up, bring a sense of shame and failure. We receive it into our being as though it is truth, as though it has come from Him. It hasn't

Take a moment to reread those bullet points above but let your inner being receive them as truth

In this verse, there is only one qualifier for all this good news. It's found in the last seven words of the verse. What is it?

Are you in Him? You can be today by simply acknowledging the sinful state of your life and accepting His offer of salvation because of Jesus' death for you. I would love to hear from you if you have questions or have accepted His offer (253 318 1798)

Look up I John 4:16

What two steps are mentioned here that we take in regards to God's love for us?

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_

Knowing what the Bible says doesn't mean I believe (trust, rely on) what it says. It's two different steps. Oft times as Christians our "knowing" is way up and around the bend from our state of believing

We can think that because we know something it must be operational in our life

Picture a bridge spanning a swift river. It leads to where you need to go. You know it's a bridge and you know it leads to where you need to go but knowing that makes no difference to the course of your journey. Not until you step onto the bridge does belief take place and your course is altered

We too can know that we no longer face condemnation of any sort in our life. We've read it in our Bible. But has it moved to a place of belief? Am I living changed by that belief? Does my life reflect my belief? Belief invites action

Knowing scripture, for us as believers, can be a bit like loading a ship with cargo. No matter how much we load on the ship the course of the ship will not be altered. Only what enters into the wheelhouse of the ship will alter the ship's course. So too with us and His word, only what we come to rely on for our life will actually change the course of our life

Knowing isn't believing. Believing changes how we live

Believing wouldn't have altered the series of waves that were hitting my life (financial struggle, marital challenges, a boy in need of a transplant) but it would have radically changed the way I interpreted those waves

Facing hardship is a part of this life. It touches all of us. What we believe about the hardship is key to the course our lives will take. To not only know, but also to believe that He is utterly for us is life giving while we are in the struggle

We are fully loved. If we are in Him no form of condemnation can stand as truth in our lives. We may need to ask for forgiveness but condemnation plays no part in that process of being restored

He said so

My Prayer for your today ~

Lord will you reveal to your daughter where condemnation is choking her joy with you. Show her that small step of belief she needs to take to cross over to a new way of living in freedom with you. Thank you for taking all of our condemnation upon yourself. Thank you for the clean slate we get in return. True living is only found in you. You are Life ~

*"As a weak limb grows stronger by exercise, so will your faith be strengthened by the very efforts you make in stretching it out towards things unseen"*

## Week # 2 - Listening Guide

1) When you are living in \_\_\_\_\_, every issue can appear \_\_\_\_\_.

2) I've learned that it is simply \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Him correctly

when we attempt to look ahead in fear of what's to come.

3) He sends our \_\_\_\_\_ each day for that day. We receive it from Him that day

and it is \_\_\_\_\_ for that day.

4) He prepares us for the \_\_\_\_\_ of our tomorrow in His

\_\_\_\_\_ of us today.

5) Great \_\_\_\_\_ ushers in great \_\_\_\_\_.



Week # 2 - Day One

Quote from our group time -

*“When you are living in fear, every issue can appear overwhelming”*

Your turn:

Fear is such a real emotion for us as humans. Worry and anxiety just love to hang out with fear. The three of them canvas our lives on a regular basis looking for a place to party. If we aren't currently experiencing their presence in our own lives they seem to taunt us about the lives of those we love; of all that is or might be going wrong with our family members

I remember the first time I read Isaiah 8. I came upon verses 11 and 12 and read God's warning to His servant not to get entangled in the conspiracy theories of those around him and not to fear or even dread what the people around him were fearing and in dread of

Turn to Isaiah 8. Read v. 11-14

Verse 11 and 12 made good sense to me even though I knew I failed often in living them out

But verse 13 and 14 stopped me up short. They read in a completely counterintuitive way; their instruction didn't seem to make logical sense. I decided to memorize them just so I could keep an eye on them. Let's break it down together

In verse 13 what is God's title:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

How are we to regard or sanctify Him as:

2. \_\_\_\_\_

and He is to be:

3. Our \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_

*Then* in v. 14 He will become:

4. Our \_\_\_\_\_

Do fear and dread seem like the perfect building tools with which to build yourself a sanctuary? Doesn't that seem counterintuitive?

But it's not



He is giving us a weapon of truth to employ against this trifecta of fear, dread and anxiety. In simple terms He is telling us this:

*When you see me rightly as I Am, as God of innumerable angelic armies, it will cause you to know holy terror, reverence and awe. Then I will become a place of worship to you*

That night as I lay in my bed at the St James Inn the reality of His Sovereign authority over my life brought holy terror over my entire being. This is a God that cannot be negotiated with. Manipulation is out. He sees and knows everything and a victim mentality has no weight in His deciding. Good works to gain good results isn't in His design

I began to realize I had been trying to meet my perceived ideas of His expectations of me so that I might have favor with Him. And now, I found I had nothing to offer Him for the life of my son. He owed me nothing

My fear of Him became greater than that of my circumstances within the hospital walls. His sovereignty over me was all encompassing.

I'm finding that what I fear becomes exalted in my life. Other areas of my life have to bow down to the exalting. When fear of my circumstances had reign over me, my peace of mind and my hope for the future became enslaved to that fear. But when He became exalted, when I was in holy awe of who He is my fear of my circumstances had to bow down to His exaltation in my life

That's why worship is so powerful in combating the fear that life throws at us. Worship exalts Him within us. When my being becomes infused once again at the wonder of Him fear loses its death grip. It has to bow in the face of who He is. My cares become downsized in His Presence. They have to bow to the truth of His complete sufficiency in my life

Fear is not something we can escape in this life. But we do get to choose what we fear and dread. If it isn't Him it will be our circumstances. It's an either/or decision. Both isn't a possible choice. Only one can be exalted at a time

If we had a moment in time in which we were able to view the entirety of all there is to fear on this earth, to see it completely and fully in detail, and then could turn to glimpse Him in all the fullness of His holy splendor, righteous majesty, and terrifying power those earthly fears would be instantaneously swallowed up in the overwhelming truth of His Presence

Fearing Him gives us protection against becoming a slave to the fears that come upon us. Fearing Him provides a Sanctuary for our lives. Fearing Him sets us free from other masters

Fearing Him is bowing to the wonder of who He is

My prayer for your today ~

O Lord you are our Friend, You are our Father, and You are our God. You are intimate with us and yet Holy and Sovereign over us. Fearing you brings order and freedom to our lives. You are not an exalted version of us, You are God Most High. Teach us what it means to rightly revere You. Thank you for the cross. Thank you for the peace that comes with knowing that Your Sovereignty over us will always be intertwined with your Love for us. It's in your name I pray ~

*“The ability to instantaneously apply God’s truth helps us to conform our emotions to the shape of the cross rather than allowing them to bend us to the shape of the world”*

Week # 2 - Day Two

Quote from our group time:

*"I've learned that it is simply impossible to imagine Him correctly when we attempt to look ahead in fear of what's to come"*

Your turn:

Look up II Cor 3:5 in your Bible. Write it out below but make it personalized. Use "I" and "my" in place of "we" and "our"

My translation uses the word *sufficient* and *sufficiency*. Yours might use the word adequate, qualified or competent. They all boil down to this:

Being enough

Being enough for whatever is facing us. Being enough for whatever is expected of us by ourselves or others

Suffering and hardship in this life have afforded me a lens I didn't ask for. Through it I view the me that has fallen short. The inadequate one for the job given. Not enough patience, not enough credentials, not enough wisdom, not enough beauty, not enough love, not enough resources. Not enough.....

Have you arrived there yet?

How we can skitter away like bugs exposed under a boulder when we sense our own lack of "enoughness." We can spend our life skittering to places and pursuits of safety to avoid that horrible feeling

The wonderful news is we were never created to be enough for anything. Please let that sink in

Then look up II Cor 9:8. Write it out below and once again personalize it. Replace "you" with "I" and "me"

Both of the verses you've written out today speak of *sufficiency*

The first one clarifies what we have always instinctively known and feared: that we are not enough within ourselves for all that faces us in this life. Trials teach us about our limitations in an expedited manner. That's honestly, in part, why they are blessings in

disguise. They expose our skittering and introduce us to our Source of sufficiency; the Supply of our “enoughness”

Picture us each as a plug, the kind with prongs. We are hooked to a toaster and bread needs to be toasted. We need a Source to plug into or there will be no toasting accomplished

The second verse identifies our Source, the All *Sufficient* One

No one stares at the end of a plug and wonders why the bread isn't toasting. We understand the plug was never meant to do it on its own, it is simply a conduit for power to run through it to the need. It hasn't fallen short in its ability, it's always been created to be connected to the Source of power

When we look beyond the boundary of today at the challenges of the future we only see our dangling pronged self in that picture. We see the truth of our insufficiency minus our Source of power. That view will always breed fear in us. We aren't able to envision His Source of power and provision that will be present in our tomorrow; it's the hidden part. It hasn't arrived yet because it's not tomorrow yet

He tells us not to mentally run ahead into tomorrow because our broken vision will betray the peace He has gifted us with for today

Instead He invites us to turn fully towards Him and experience having “all sufficiency in everything”

Sometimes it feels like it will take a lifetime to kick the habit of attempting self sufficiency. We aren't wired for it. He's always wanted our lives to be engaged with Him. It's how He's created life to be lived

Take a moment to jot down your thoughts of response:

*“Man for all of his genius is but an echo of the original Voice, a reflection of the uncreated Light”*  
- A.W. Tozar

Week #2 - Day Three

Quote from our group time:

*"He sends our supply each day for that day. We receive it from Him that day and it is meant for that day"*

Your turn:

Let's start today with Exodus 16

The children of Israel are in the desert and complaint about their conditions is on their tongue. They have forgotten all that the Lord has already brought them through; all that He has already provided for them

Read v. 13-21

1. What was supplied and who was the Supplier?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who was the receiver ? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How often was fresh manna available to them? \_\_\_\_\_

Glance at v.35.

For how long did this provision take place in their lives? \_\_\_\_\_

God's provision of manna for His people is often noted as the longest running miracle in the Bible. Forty years of His faithful supply until they reached the promised land and had no further need of the manna. Wherever their journey had them that day, His delivery was there in that place for them

What about us; children of the supermarket age living in a first world country of supply? What is our true need? What is His provision for His child today?

Turn to Lamentations 3 and read v. 20-26

1. What is new every morning for us as His child? \_\_\_\_\_

When I looked at this word, *compassions*, in the original, my heart constricted with emotion in my chest. It's the picture of an expectant maiden; a baby within her womb. Her hand laid instinctively and protectively upon her abdomen. His compassions to us are as the womb is to the baby. It's the same word

Take a moment to write out below what a womb provides for a baby as it forms and grows. Be descriptive:

Now picture with me this morning's sunrise. Picture with me a heavenly Fed-ex delivery of all that you have described above to your own doorstep. It's from Him. It's fresh every morning and it's according to the needs of your day, for today

Think back for a minute to the story of the manna. It bore out an important truth for us. His children couldn't produce the manna, that was His part. He didn't receive it for them. That was their part

It's true for us as well

So how do we receive His delivery to us each day?

I believe it is with a heart of thankfulness and trust. When we give thanks each morning for His promised provision for that day and then step out in faith believing in that supply, we have received it. And some days, as we grow weary in the way, we do ourselves a favor to stop, find quietness of mind, and receive it again by faith.

It's there for us because of His Great Faithfulness to us

One last note....

If His children in the wilderness attempted to use their delivery of manna that day, for going forward into the next day, it rotted and they found worms in their manna

What we receive today from Him fully covers us for today. The supply for tomorrow's concerns will arrive tomorrow. "So do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will care for itself" (Matt 6:34). Going mentally ahead will only produce in us the rottenness of anxiety and the worms of doubt

May we choose to live in the wealth of His provision today

*"When we see calendars, not so much as rows of boxes to fill up with things to do, but as boxes that we get to unwrap --- the present moment always becomes the gift"*  
- Ann Voskamp

Week #2 - Day Four

Quote from our group time:

*“He prepares us for the hardship of our tomorrow in His ministering of us today”*

Your turn:

Why do we mentally take on more than one day at a time? Why do we crush ourselves like that? Why do we crouch under the burden of today while still reaching toward the mental weight of tomorrow?

If we were enrolled in a college course on how to write a novel we would naturally respect the process of learning. We would understand that each day in class prepares us for the next assignment and ultimately for the test to come. We would quickly comprehend the lack of wisdom we would be displaying in worrying about it all ahead of time. We would know it's not ours yet to deal with. The instructor hasn't handed it off to us yet because He has to teach us the parts that only He knows before He passes it to us to run with. It's a daily thing

We aren't the instructor for this course of Life we are enrolled in

Let's renew our mind in Who is

Turn to Matthew 11. Read v. 28-30

Verse 29 says “.....and learn from me”

1. Write out the descriptive terms that describe our Instructor. What is He like?
2. What is His promise to you for your life if He is the One you learn from (v.29)

As a farm girl, through and through, sometimes I have to stop myself mid-stride in my day and do a “yoke” test. “Head to the barn” and check which yoke I put on that morning; His or mine

Some days I find I have gone rogue and I'm attempting to be both Instructor and student. Do you ever have that problem? I think sometimes the confusion comes in wearing so many hats as a woman. Many hats are fine but just one yoke, His, brings rest to our souls

Sometimes stopping in the midst of our harried way forward to do an interior soul check helps to confirm which yoke you have on. If you are feeling “heavy laden with care” you can know it's not His that you have on

I have one more assignment for you this morning. Write a quick bullet point list of what you need to tackle today. An example might be:

- ~ 3 loads of laundry completed
- ~ dahlia's dug up for winter storage
- ~ decide dinner and get in process
- ~ Details for upcoming birthday party
- ~ Call mom and catch up
- ~ grocery shop for school lunch items

Go ahead and write out your day:

Now draw a box around your list. Mark the date over the top of it all. That's your today. The challenge is to rest there. To let your focus be on Him and His leading, not on the unknown of tomorrow. Planning for tomorrow is wise. Worrying about tomorrow is like time spent in a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but you don't get anywhere

It never ceases to amaze me how many concerns I can manufacture out of one day's worth of "to-dos." The pressure that we can feel in just planning a party or picking out *nutritious and creative* school lunch items can leave us chaffed and sore from our own yoke's torture on our backside. We can collect up worries without even realizing what we are doing; others imagined opinions of us that are none of our business and then stuff them into our mental storage

Our challenge is:

- ~ to stay mentally within the day he has designed for us
- ~ to choose His yoke over our own....to remain His student

He has much to train us in and to teach us about as we walk out our day with Him. That time with Him prepares us for the next day's walk. One simple step leads to the next one

And more than anything else.....

It's His heart for us that He wants to teach us about. It's a daily thing. It's our best preparation for tomorrow

*"There are only two days on the calendar that matter. This day and that day. How do I live this day in light of that day?"*



Week #2 - Day Five

Quote from our group time:

*“Great need ushers in great awareness”*

Your turn:

I so clearly remember that first time I stepped into the ICU and was led to Aaron’s room. The air left my lungs. We were at Tacoma General Hospital. The surgeon had just explained to us that they had lost Aaron twice on the operating table. He said he didn’t know if our boy could even survive with what he had left of his bowel but at 23 years old he couldn’t just let him go. Did we want to follow him now to the ICU; he would take us to Aaron

The room was cool and dark. The medical poles clustered like a small stand of trees around his bed, bags of medicine hung from their branches. The beeps and swoosh of the equipment was the only sound to break the silence

My eyes flew to the lit screen above his bed. Different numbers, each individually color coded played out across the monitor. I instantly knew I needed to learn this new language, all of it, because it was the language my boy now spoke

Great need can make an instant student out of us, can’t it? We suddenly become attentive and receptive to learning. It might be a diagnosis we or a loved one have received that spurs us on to learn more. Or it might be the skills of a new job that we desperately need. Or maybe the positive pregnancy test held tightly between our thumb and forefinger that has our now, undivided attention

Do you have a pressing need in your life right now? If not do you dread even the thought of one to come?

I want to tip your chin upwards for a glimpse of His posture towards us:

*“Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; how blessed are those who long for Him”*

*Isaiah 30:18*

Rewrite this verse out below but personalize it. Change the “you” to “me.” And one more thing, in the original, the phrase “have compassion” means “love deeply.” Switch those as well:

Did you read it to yourself? Do you hear its comfort? Can you hear His heart for you?

Isn’t it often true that when a pressing need enters our life we first become a student of that need. We set about to learn of it. But as time moves forward and we don’t find relief our eyes are drawn to Him, the One we know to be ultimately in control of our

circumstances. He begins to be the object of our searching to learn and understand. We begin to know longing

Look back at Isaiah 30:18

1. Who longs first? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who ends up experiencing His deep love and blessing?

It starts with His longing for us; to show His deep love and tender affection for us. Our pressing need *is* the signpost pointing to Him

He longs that we would long to know Him. He knows it's our greatest need in this life. He draws our hearts through hardship until we long for relief, for Him. We learn to long for the greatest love of our life

My great longing has the capacity to usher in a great awareness of His love for me

My prayer for you today ~

Lord, longing is not something we naturally like to entertain in our lives down here. It feels open ended and even risky to our happiness. But you teach us that longing for You, waiting on You will be a source of blessing to our lives. To crave more of you is a good thing. Help us to be willing to wait for the bounty of you and not to succumb to settling for the immediate and shallow substances that surround us today. Give us hungry hearts in pursuit of all You have to share with us. It's in your name I pray ~

*"Suffering introduces you to yourself and reminds you that you are not the person you thought you were" - Paul Tillich*

## Week # 3 - Listening Guide

1) \_\_\_\_\_ up in my own life became a daily act of \_\_\_\_\_.

2) I thought I knew \_\_\_\_\_ what I could or could not walk through. He knew

His \_\_\_\_\_ for me in what lay ahead.

3) When we see \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_ and not as a

\_\_\_\_\_ we are afforded the hope, in that pain filled moment, of all that

awaits us.

4) "Let this \_\_\_\_\_ be in you which was also in

\_\_\_\_\_ "

5) Our greatest \_\_\_\_\_ to the world is His \_\_\_\_\_ in our own lives. This is the work that truly \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_. If my \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't

\_\_\_\_\_ maybe I have nothing to say to others in regards to their life.



Week # 3 - Day One

Quote from our group time:

*“Showing up in my own life became a daily act of courage”*

Your turn:

I used to think of “having courage” as something I muster up when I need it. To think brave thoughts, positive thoughts and then after a prayer for help, attempt to be fearless and do or face whatever “it” is.

Life has changed my definition

Courage now means choosing to show up in my own life each day. My true life, not the one I design in my head. Not in the shadows of someone else's life that I imagine I would rather be living. But my life as it stands right now, in all of it's imperfections and struggles. But courage requires one more thing of me. It requires showing up with an expectant heart, a heart of hope, a heart of belief in what He can do with my act of showing up

But hope is so risky isn't it? In the walls of a hospital, hope can feel as fragile, at times, as the gossamer wings of a butterfly attempting to navigate a tornado

Turn to Deuteronomy 8 and read verses 2-3

God clearly states to His children here what He was doing in their lives while they were on their journey. What felt like unknowns, trials and hardships to them were actually events designed by Him for specific reasons. List the things He said He was doing in v.2

Save this spot in your Bible and turn to I Thessalonians 5:18. Write this verse out below. Writing something out helps input it within us a step beyond what just reading it will do

*Giving thanks. In everything*

I remember the exact morning Ann Voskamp's book “One Thousand Gifts” was placed into my hands. Aaron's first transplant was rejecting. My world was spinning. I knew by heart every prayer I had uttered repeatedly on Aaron's behalf that hadn't been answered. The seeming unanswered prayers in my life stood like a mountain range dwarfing me

And then God introduced me to thanksgiving via Ann's pen. A lifestyle of giving thanks

I had been staring so intently at what hadn't taken place that His daily mercies to me were becoming a casualty in my life

Recognizing those gifts of mercy was the first step. Giving thanks for them became the breadcrumb trail that led me a day at a time through those imposing peaks. The testing, the humbling and the hunger were necessary for my life but He would sustain me along the way. It's what He does

Some days you have to start with a simple prayer for the eyes to see. Troubles seem to come sized Large. We spot them when they aren't even there. While mercies seem to multiply in the soil of thanksgiving like tiny seeds from His hand

Turn back now to your Deuteronomy passage you saved and read v.3 of Chapter 8. It says He was doing all of this because He wanted them to learn something about their life. He wanted them to understand how life works. What was it He wanted them to know?

He wants us to know that our lives aren't simply a series of out-of-our-control events. Our hungering and humbling and testing are Him at work in us. He has great purpose in all of it. He wants us to know our need of Him. He wants us to know that our own resources will betray us one day; if not today, then tomorrow

But in that testing He is meeting us daily on our trek. He supplies us with Himself and with our daily needs. When I chose to drop my gaze from those imposing peaks and began to look for His abundant gifts surrounding me I found them in the strangest places. The more I looked for them, the more I found

Being thankful began to highlight for me just how faithfully He was equipping me for the journey through those daunting peaks

I began to see those mountains differently. The goal isn't to pray them away, but to experience victory in Him in a daily way as I pass through them; to experience what it means to have Him in everything and in every way

We are invited to ask Him to *remove* the mountains that surround us. But when they remain it isn't a sign that we haven't been heard or an indication of His lack of love for us. It's an invitation to experience Him living in us and through us as we pass *through* what looked impossible to us

There's a strange phenomenon that can happen to us as humans. We can take credit for the good things that happen in our life and blame Him for the bad things that transpire. It can lead to a belief that God isn't for us. When we fail to acknowledge that every good thing is ultimately from Him (James 1:17) we only see His activity in our life as hardship and trial. It feels like He is against us

Daily giving thanks rewires our thinking and opens our eyes

I want to show you one more thing. Let your eyes drop down to verse 16 of Deuteronomy 8.

What does He say His intentions are in the end?

We know how this story ends, don't we, because He has told us how it ends. But life still requires us to walk it out one day at a time. We don't design the peaks or the valleys. He does. But His daily mercies are like bread crumbs teaching us about His heart towards us as we traverse this uneven path of life

Take a minute to discover some of His breadcrumbs sprinkled around you this morning. What are you thankful for? Make it simple, and about today. He is a daily Companion

*"I don't see courage so much as an event -- an isolated act of bravery -- but a way of life made possible when the focus is Him"*

Week # 3 - Day Two

Quote from our group time:

*"I thought I knew best what I could or could not walk through. He knew His plans for me in what lay ahead"*

Your turn:

Which weighs more, a ton of feathers or a ton of bricks?

They weigh the same because they both weigh a ton.

You may have heard this question of equation before but did it make you pause the first time you heard it ---- maybe you even answered wrong as you pictured the solid brick and the floating weightless feather in your mind

Hold that thought and turn to II Corinthians 4:17

This verse makes me think of bricks and feathers. It also makes me sit up and take note. I feel like we are being given a secret code to work with; a heavenly equation to bring us great hope in the midst of great hardship

Here's the verse:

"For momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all compare" II Cor. 4:17 (NASB)

Let's write out some equations of sorts now. We'll start with the one found in the verse above first. I fill in the first blank and you fill in the second one to complete this equation

1. Momentary light affliction is producing for us

---

I have to be honest, "momentary, light affliction" isn't the way I would describe my three years living away from home in the hospital with Aaron. Disease, suffering, loneliness, financial struggles, death, and separation don't seem to be well summed up in this phrase. Maybe it isn't a dead ringer for whatever you have gone through or are going through right now either

Write out a personalized equation for your own life below. Take a moment to think about the challenges and hardships you have faced from your birth until now. Write them in general terms  
In the blanks below

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ~ equals ~ **Momentary, Light Affliction**

Does this look like a sound equation to you? Does it feel perhaps like trying to measure bricks and make them equal to feathers?

I believe it's an equation from the same Kingdom that compares our existence on earth with an exhale of breath and the length of our days to the passing by of a shadow. It's language that originates from a place of eternal perspective

*"Man is like a mere breath;  
His days are like a passing shadow." Psalm 144:4*

It's hard to grasp that this "bubble" of time we live in is an indecipherable dot in the great landscape of eternity

For the family waiting for their father and husband to return from war, for the woman laboring to give birth, for the child waiting to open their presents on Christmas morning, this isn't the measuring tool to use. We need our earthly measurements to make people understand how long our wait feels like to us. Sometimes it feels like an eternity

But this is where we get to apply the secret code to unlock the incredible hope found in our  
II Cor 4:17 passage. Stay with me here:

1. All of the pain and struggle of our hardships and challenges here on earth  
**(this is our earthly measurement)**

Is described in heaven's terms as:

*A momentary light affliction*  
**(this is the heavenly measurement)**

According to this verse the hardships of this life are:

2. *Producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison*  
**(this is the heavenly measurement)**

What words could possibly be used to describe what this means for us in terms of our earthly measurement of description? What is it saying awaits us in eternity?



Look back at the gulf that exists in phraseology between the way we would describe our struggles here and how they are described in this verse. Use that same gulf to imagine the words we would need to come up with to explain to each other what “*an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison*” must mean for us in our terminology.

I don't think we have words in our english language to do it any justice at all

There is a beautiful picture of this process taking place in our lives though in verse 7-11 of the same chapter. It helps us to get a different angle on what He's trying to convey to us through Paul's pen

Read II Corinthians 4:7-11:

We are an implement made out of clay carrying the Treasure of His Spirit within us (v.7). As we go through the hardships of this life, (v.8-9) the life of Jesus is being made manifest in us as we learn to surrender to the process of dying to ourselves (v.10-11)

We need our earthly measurements for doing life here but we need these glimpses of His heavenly measurements to gain perspective and hope for our today

So much awaits us! Take heart

My prayer for your today ~

Thank you for the hope of Your word Lord. Thank you for it's power to renew our mind and bring perspective to how we view our lives today. May our hearts leap with joy this morning as we attempt to imagine the depth of your heart for us. Even so come quickly Lord Jesus!

*“ Just as bread needs to be broken in order to be given, so too do our lives”  
- Henri Nouwen*

Week # 3 - Day Three

Quote from our group time:

*“When we see death as a doorway and not as a destination we are afforded the hope, in that pain filled moment, of all that awaits us”*

Your turn:

I don't know how He did it

We, as a family, had braced our feet and leaned back with every ounce of strength we had to offer. We strained at our end of that tug of war for Aaron's life. Our friends, our family and his medical team ran to join us as they saw our feet sliding toward *that line*. That line, that once crossed, causes the rope to go slack in everyone's hands because ..... it's over

Gathered around Aaron, the room suddenly quiet and cocooned, holding him in his final moments with us here, we crossed that line together, surrendered

I don't know how, in the blink of an eye, He transformed that line into a doorway, but He did. How did going through death defeat the fear of death for me that day? I thought we lost the battle

*“What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived — the things God has prepared for those who love Him.” I Cor. 2:9*

How can two such different emotions be true at the same time within us? On one hand we know that the one we love is now living in a world that we can't rightly imagine. That deluges us with such joy and longing! And in that same moment we can wish them back with our whole being; we ache to our core for their presence here with us

Then one day the ache can suddenly feel like anger

*Okay Lord we have learned and experienced you in ways we would never want to give up. You've been there, every step of the way, for us. Now, can you send him back please. Our family isn't the same without him and I'm so tired of aching. How can one live feeling busted up all the time? Why did you give him to us just to turn around and take Him back so soon again*

A myriad of feelings will forever come upon us as humans. They have the ability to reroute the course of our life over time. But feelings aren't truth. A feeling might be true but it's not truth. God's word is truth

Look up Psalm 119:165. Let's take some time together to look closely at the promise for us here

1. What level of peace does this verse talk about experiencing?
2. What will afford us great or abundant peace according to this verse?
3. What will a love for His instruction or law (His word) protect us from doing?

Have you ever stood with locked knees and had someone sneak up behind you and push on the bend of your knees quickly? What happened? Have you ever had a bat to the back of your knees unexpectedly? That's what an offense from another can feel like. You stumble forward in surprise trying to stop yourself from going down

God's choosing for us can feel like that sometimes

A love for His word is the antidote to taking offense with Him; of stumbling away from Him. We embrace what we love. When we embrace His word He can speak to us in the language of truth. He can woo our hearts with the incomprehensible of what's to come and bring comfort in the waiting

Look up Matthew 11:6

Jesus is healing people: the lame are walking, the blind see and the deaf hear. But John is languishing in prison. John, the one whose life has been all about telling others of Jesus. Jesus isn't planning on coming to save John from being put to death. John knows Jesus has the power to change his circumstances. Jesus is choosing something different. John wonders if he is in contact with the right Jesus

*He felt the bat of offense to the back of his knees*

Write out below what message Jesus sent to John in Matthew 11:6

*Blessed are those who don't turn from me when they can't understand my choices for them*

Here's how an old hymn puts it:

God is too wise to be mistaken  
God is too good to be unkind  
So when you don't understand  
When you don't see His plan  
When you can't trace His hand  
Trust His Heart

He knows we won't always understand why He chooses as He does for us. He also knows we have no idea what awaits us through that doorway and into the beyond. But He's given us what we need to make it through, His word

A love for His word will keep us from stumbling and strengthen us to live in light of what's to come. His Spirit is our teacher, our Guide and our Comforter

We have all we need for all that lies ahead when we hold fast to His word

My Prayer for you today:

*Lord, help her to recognize the hunger she feels is for You. Help her to taste and see that you are good. Help her to reach for relationship with you instead of quick and empty relief and the offenses in her life Lord, Oh Jesus keep her from stumbling away from You! Help her to hold fast to the truth of Your word. Help her not to give in or give up. It's in Your powerful name I pray,*

*“ In the life of the Spirit, there is no ending that is not a beginning “*

Today I want to add a PostScript. I hope you'll take a moment to read it:

In our western culture the Bible is often looked at as irrelevant. A process of picking and choosing what to believe within it's pages is a modern day reality. On that note I wanted to enclose this dialogue that took place between Billy Graham and Charles Templeton in 1948. They had traveled together preaching the gospel to thousands and leading many to Christ. But now Charles had begun to question if parts of the Bible might not be true. Here is their dialogue:

All our differences came to a head in a discussion, which, better than anything I know, “explains” Billy Graham and his phenomenal success as an evangelist.

In the course of our conversation I said, “But, Billy, it's simply not possible any longer to believe, for instance, the biblical account of creation. The world was not created over a period of days a few thousand years ago; it has evolved over millions of years. It's not a matter of speculation; it's a demonstrable fact.”

“I don't accept that,” Billy said. “And there are reputable scholars who don't.”

“Who are these scholars?’ I said. “Men in conservative Christian colleges?”

“Most of them, yes,” he said. “But that is not the point. I believe the Genesis account of creation because it's in the Bible. I've discovered something in my ministry: When I take the Bible literally, when I proclaim it as the word of God,

my preaching has power. When I stand on the platform and say, 'God says,' or 'The Bible says,' the Holy Spirit uses me. There are results. Wiser men than you or I have been arguing questions like this for centuries. I don't have the time or the intellect to examine all sides of the theological dispute, so I've decided once for all to stop questioning and accept the Bible as God's word."

"But Billy," I protested, "You cannot do that. You don't dare stop thinking about the most important question in life. Do it and you begin to die. It's intellectual suicide."

"I don't know about anybody else," he said, "but I've decided that that's the path for me"

-----

Their trajectories had been chosen. Ten years after this conversation Charles declared himself an agnostic

50 years later Charles Templeton sat for an interview with Lee Strobel. His final words about Jesus have stuck to me with holy glue as I've asked my own questions:

'he's the most . . . ." He stopped, then started again. "In my view," he declared, "he is the most important human being who has ever existed."

That's when Templeton uttered the words I never expected to hear from him. "And if I may put it this way," he said as his voice began to crack, 'I . . . miss . . . him!"

With that tears flooded his eyes. He turned his head and looked downward, raising his left hand to shield his face from me. His shoulders bobbed as he wept. . . .

-----

The Bible comes to us as a whole. We each choose to receive it as a whole or not

Week # 3 - Day Four

Quote from our group time:

*"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...."*

Your turn:

What does your supply house look like this morning as you start your day? How much love do you have to give to those around you? How much grace? How about forgiveness for the one who will wrong you today?

Do you wish someone would grace you with some for your own heart and then maybe you would have something to pass on to others?

Wherever you are this morning let's realign our thinking with His truth.  
Write out II Corinthians 8:9 below:

Now let's work through the progression that takes place in this verse

1. He (Jesus) was \_\_\_\_\_
2. But He became \_\_\_\_\_
3. So that through His \_\_\_\_\_
4. We might/could become \_\_\_\_\_

Look back at those four words you filled in above and picture that process with me. The Father and the Son looking down on their creation from above. The creation they love. It's broken and dying, diseased and depraved. All of the messengers (the prophets) that have been sent by heaven have been disregarded and/or killed. The Son says He will go

Jesus stands at heaven's door with a heart of purpose and love. He is stripped of His supply. He is to become a beggar baby. He is to be reduced to want; to need. As a man among us He will thirst and hunger. The Supplier of all will need to petition heaven for His daily needs like us

*He became poor that we, through His poverty might become rich*

Why doesn't it say, "we will become rich?" Why does it say, "we might become rich?"

His heart has never changed towards us. It's always been a heart that is about relationship with us. The "might" in this verse is about our response to His coming for us. He came to die that we "might" be made rich, in His supply, to us as His child. We have a choice to make. A life to surrender to His story, to His will

So today if you are His child, if you have accepted His death as the sacrifice for your sins, you have been made rich

Let me tell you about being made rich in Him

It's not the same word as the word used to describe His condition before He came to our world. When it says "though He was rich" that means He is the Wealthy and Abounding One

When it says, "that you through His poverty might become rich," that is God's desire that you, through the death of Jesus, would be hooked up to that Wealthy and Abounding supply found in Him

He became a beggar and died in the hopes of our becoming a recipient of all of His Resources; to be in union with Him

Please don't envision this somewhere in the clouds; away from the day you face today. Something meant for us to enjoy only in heaven. Remember, He allowed Himself to be stripped of His own resources to come and die so that we might have Him and His resources here in our lives

You know how I know? I looked up our "rich" in the original and here is what it said:

*"To be richly supplied; is affluent in resources so that (they) can give blessings of salvation to all"*

Do you see it? He's made us rich so we can be a dispenser of the blessings that came with our salvation. His resources are meant to flow through us to others now, if we belong to Him

So don't check your personal resources this morning to determine what you have to give. Be renewed in Him and what He has for you to give. Picture a pipe with no cap on either end. It's top points heavenward and its other end touches earth. That's you. You're the pipe. Let His resources flow through you to others

You are richly supplied today for all that you will face. Receive it as the truth

My prayer for your today ~

*Lord, help your child to not look within herself today. Help her to look up. Help her not to assess her resources by looking in her wallet or her bank account. Let her look up. Fill her vision with Your abundance in place of the lack she sees. Help her to delight in the abundance that is rightfully hers in You. Help her to look up. It's in His Name I pray; the One who became poor for us*

*" The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's hunger meet" - Frederick Buechner*

Week # 3 - Day Five

Quote from our group time:

*“Our greatest witness to the world is His work in our own lives. This is the work that truly impacts our impact. If my life doesn’t speak, maybe I have nothing to say to others in regards to their life”*

Your turn:

God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. Genesis 1:1

The first chapter of the Bible is filled with God speaking the earth into form and function. He speaks galaxies into place. His resources and power are unlimited. He can accomplish anything He wills to be done. He can speak it into completion

What about within us? What about His work within us? How does forgiveness take place in my heart? Does He command it into action within me and it takes place at His command?

And what about the hardship He allows in our life? Is it He who decides if bitterness or beauty will grow out of us in response?

Look up Psalm 37 Read verses 3-8

Now let’s unpack them a bit together for greater clarity. Start by listing the first instruction you find in each verse listed below:

V.3 \_\_\_\_\_

V. 4 \_\_\_\_\_

V. 5 \_\_\_\_\_

V. 7 \_\_\_\_\_

V. 8 \_\_\_\_\_

It’s been said that we don’t choose what happens to us in life so much as we choose our response to what has taken place in our life. His word backs this up as truth:

*“The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps” Proverbs 16:9 (NASB)*

Ours is a life of response. We aren’t the directors. We are responding to the Director even if our backs are turned to Him. That is our response

Think about the two criminals on either side of Christ. They were on equal footing. Both were pinned to their cross like a bug to a display board. One cursed Christ in His circumstances and one confessed Christ as LORD. Each chose their response to their circumstance



I guess that means that we are never really a victim. We always decide how we will respond even if that choice comes down to cursing (like the one thief) or forgiving (like Jesus did) as we take our final breath

Whatever our life is made up of right now: the wonderful, the hard, the not understood, the scary, the monotonous.....

Look again at the instructions you wrote out above

.....only we can choose to respond to our own circumstances in this way. No one else can respond for us

He can send many others to do our acts of service but there is only one who can respond to Him within our own heart and that's us. Only us

Our yielding to Him allows Him to display Himself to the world through our life. When we stand right in the middle of all the wonderful-crazy-hard-ongoing parts of our life and choose to keep engaged with Him the world sees Him on display and He is made real to them

One life alive to Him is worth countless books written about Him

He is the driving hunger of this world. They were created to know Him. Our lives are the screen upon which He can display Himself to them. Our response to Him decides what they will see. This isn't a call to play a game of Perfection for the world to view. This is a call to a life of response to Him so He is displayed across the weakness of our humanity; thus He is glorified and made known to a world in deep need of Him

Take a moment to read the quote by Scott Sauls below. What thoughts come to mind in response?

*“ My afflictions may end up having greater impact than my preaching  
or my vision ever will “  
- Scott Sauls*

## Week # 4 – Listening Notes



*Thank you ~*

Your presence in these pages has been a gift to me.

We can share no greater story with one another than the hope filled story of Jesus. The most powerful version of telling comes in the way our life is lived out one day at a time. But sometimes we use our words in an attempt to acquaint others with what He has meant to us. This is my attempt. Thank you for meeting me here and listening. The Bible says that one day our faith will give way to sight and we will stand before Him. We will see Him face to face. Time will no longer exist. Eternity will be where we dwell.

All that our life has been about will be tested by His fire. Everything born of faith in Him will withstand the heat. How thankful we will be in that moment for every trial He allowed in our life here to test and prove our faith before that fearful and awesome day.

He is a God of great grace. His heart is always for us. He bids us come and join our story to His and to lose our will in the pursuit of finding His, for our lives.

He offers us today. We choose what we will do with it. Eternity calls out to us to ground our life in Him; to choose what matters over what doesn't.

May you choose Him all the way Home ~

“They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces will never be  
ashamed”

Psalm 34:5



