

Stander's Daily Devotional
31 Days

Powering
through Pain



*Powering through the daily struggles of Standing
through God's wisdom and direction!*

Sheila Hollinger

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Powering through Pain *and the daily struggles of Standing through God's wisdom and direction!*



Creating this 31-day devotion for you, was truly a beautiful experience.

Each and every time I sat to write, I was reminded of my standing journey and how I was transformed from a very lost, broken woman who never saw the second option in life to take the higher road. I only knew one way of doing things. I didn't want to make better choices or power through.

Now I am a woman who LOOKS for that second option, the road that takes you higher and helps you power through the obstacles and as you do, brings transformation in your soul that makes you more Christlike.

With each devotion I wrote for you, I could see the crossroads and choices we could make. I was transferred into a place where I went higher. I had to come up from what I was thinking, feeling, believing, and challenge myself to put on a kingdom mindset and belief, and this is where I hope this daily devotion will challenge you to go as you power through pain.

HIGHER!

Higher in your understanding and in the way you challenge yourself to think, grow and posture yourself.

Standing is challenging, we can power through the pain with the love and strength that wisdom and knowledge give us. In God's kingdom, we ARE powerful through Him.



Sheila Hollinger

Forced Reactions

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, Joel 2:13

My name is the LORD! I won't let idols or humans share My glory and praise. Isaiah 42:8



After years of going around the same mountains with my spouse and finding ourselves back at the same places. Instead of going up, thinking we were making progress because we were moving, I had to press deep into God and seek His wisdom. This is when He showed me that I was making my husband rend his garment, and not allowing God the space to rend his heart.

What does that even mean? When my husband did something to hurt me, I right away had to take charge to give him consequences for his actions and let him know his wrongs. I had every right to do this, right? Maybe the first hundred times it accomplished what I wanted, but when there was only a temporary change, not lasting change, we found ourselves back in the same exact situation over and over again. I started to reject his "I am sorry." Because while I had accepted the apology before and truly believed that I had done what it took to make the necessary change in him. When we kept finding ourselves back at square one, I had my own choices to make.

Do I step up my reprimands? Do I give out harsher consequences to his actions? Clearly what I was doing was not working, I needed to change things on MY end in order to make HIM change. So I tried. And failed. Tried harder and failed worse, and what was worse than that - was a noticeable tension and gap in our relationship. Instead of getting the sorries, I was used to, I started getting half or no apologies.

Getting someone to react the way you want because it makes you feel better, is not the same thing as them reacting the way God wants because their hearts are convicted. My husband was trying to please ME and that is why he was not being set free from his struggles. I was interfering with true Godly conviction and repentance. I was forcing my husband to react to me and tear his outer garments while preventing him from seeking the Lord to please HIM which would lead him to rend his heart in repentance.

We need to step away from repetitive cycles when we keep seeing the same patterns, the same behaviors. I was correct that in order for him to change, I had to change MY behavior. However, I was not supposed to increase my reaction, instead, I needed to decrease it entirely. I needed to step away from the whole situation and learn to take my hurts to God. Because not only was my husband trying to please me, I was making my husband heal me with his apologies. None of it was working for us.

God was seeking a relationship with my husband, one that would teach him how to want to please Him more than me!

Day One

Mixed Messages

*Show me the right path, O LORD; point out the road
for me to follow. Psalm 25:4*



Don't be afraid of giving God the wrong idea!

So many times we hold back smiling, letting ourselves express a feeling or emotion that is anything less than giving God the message that we are not ok with our situation. We worry that if we appear ok, have peace, or (God forbid) joy.....then we are telling God "I am Okay, and I don't need You to restore my marriage."

Sometimes a feeling of guilt or fear will come if you laugh, if you wake up that day with anything less than feeling devastated. A fear that you are healing, you are moving forward. What does this mean? What message are you sending? Could it mean you really are getting over your spouse and would be ok living without them? Are you ok with this? And if you are, do you think it's wrong? If you are not ok with it, is that wrong as well?

So many questions arise that we must work through. But God doesn't change His mind according to our moods, or how we are handling things each day. He created marriage to remain, endure, and last. He created restoration as a solution for those marriages that go astray. He doesn't restore based off our will or if we are capable of living life married or not.

He restores what is broken according to His perfect will - that is meant to not only bring Glory to Himself but what is best for His children. And He already said that it was not good for man to live alone.

So put off all worry that you will give God the wrong impression. He is not out to restore your marriage according to your impressions but in accordance with His character and nature.

*Morning by morning He wakens me and opens my
understanding to His will. Isaiah 50:40*

Day Two

Zippering my fears

“You will keep in perfect and constant peace the one whose mind is steadfast [that is, committed and focused on You—in both inclination and character], Because he trusts and takes refuge in You [with hope and confident expectation]. Isaiah 26.3



Zippering our lips is the easy part, it's addressing the things inside of us that cause us to speak that is hard. When our hearts are in perfect peace, then peace is what comes out of our mouth.

***And the work of righteousness shall be peace;
and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever. Then my people will dwell in a peaceful place, in safe and secure places of rest Isaiah 32:17:18***

When we are in fear, worry, concern, and working from that place, then the effects will not be quietness and assurance. We won't be in a peaceful place, safe and secure. And because of this, fear will lead and motivate us to control the situation to make ourselves feel safe and secure.

When we cannot zip our lips and are always trying to turn someone around it is because our hearts are letting us know that we are not being controlled by trust. Instead, we are being ruled by fear.

Our fears can be numerous. And discovering the exact thing we fear takes some investigative work. When we understand the driving need that causes us to continue to unzip our lips and work to change those with "ears that cannot hear" and a heart that is hard and cannot perceive the truth, we can learn to zip our fears in a way that surrenders them to the Lord.

Fears are very unreasonable and unless you present them with something trustworthy to believe in, they won't just go away. Fears are supposed to be driven out of us by the driving truth of God's love that comes in. But for those that struggle with how to open the door to this love, fear will remain a constant struggle.

With constantly exposing fear for what it is—a manipulating and intimidating lie that tries to bring you into total darkness and keep the truth from you, fears can be subdued by exposing them for what they are. The Truth can set you free from them. And when you come to know and understand the love that God has for you, that love will come and drive those fears back because the security and peace that comes from knowing Who you belong to is no match for fear.

Day Three

Mountains out of molehills

***“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” Matthew 5:9
Abundant peace belongs to those who love Your instruction; nothing makes
them stumble. Psalm 119:165***



The funny thing about offense is that it doesn't care that the punishment doesn't fit the crime. It often cares much more about the steps one takes to smooth things over and how they are seeking to undo the damage they caused than just how much damage YOU are causing out of being offended.

Offense says “as long as you are hurt, as long as you are offended, you have every right to act out until you get vindication and retribution for what was done to you”. It doesn't care that you are blowing things out of proportion. Making things much worse for those all around you. It doesn't care that your whole entire life is now being affected.

It cares that until this offense gets resolved, life cannot go back to normal.

I remember well being in this very place when God came and set me straight. God told me that I had made a mountain out of a molehill. That while He very much cared that I was hurt, He was asking me to shrink my hurt back to its rightful size and to not allow that hurt to infiltrate every single area of my life. Right away I saw how my hurt had taken on giant proportions because I had not gotten a grip and had just let it run away with me. My hurt had taken on a life of its own, and it seemed that with it being so out of proportion, a normal-sized apology was not going to work.

I had to really analyze my hurts and see why I was so upset. Was I tired of something that I was feeling he was always getting away with things? Was I fed up and this was just the straw that broke the camel's back? Or was it just a regular ol' offense that because it didn't get resolved in a normal manner, normal amount of time, it grew and grew into ginormous proportions?

Could fear, worry, or frustration be feeding it?

All her ways are pleasant, and all her paths are peaceful. Proverbs 3:17

While holding onto my offense, nothing about my ways or the path I was on was peaceful. It was bent on making that person who hurt me pay dearly, even it meant they had to pay for a mountain when all they hurt was a molehill.

The only way to bring this back to reality was to release, forgive and fix my heart and eyes on my Healer!

Day Four

Is it Let Go, or Hold On?

*Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; Psalm 55:22
Pray in the Spirit at all times, with every kind of prayer and petition. Ephesians 6:18*



So which is it? Am I to let them go, or hold on and pray without ceasing?

We often get mixed messages in the standing community about making our spouses an idol, or not praying enough for them. Either we are too fixed and focused on them and need to get our eyes on God, or we are not following the "pray without ceasing." curriculum.

It helps to know what exactly we are to let go of, and what exactly praying without ceasing means.

When something is troubling us, we should be praying about it, not having those discussions that speak of it, but never offer solutions. We are to pray for an answer or pray to let God have it because there really is no answer for us to be trying to handle it, it belongs to God.

Letting go means to encompass all those things that don't belong to us or those things that hinder us. We are to let go of fear and worry. Not let go of hope and expectations that God is going to heal and save my spouse. We are to let go of what we can't control and hold on to Who we know God to be and how much He is faithfully pursuing our spouses.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Letting go is a way of swapping out all those things that confuse, hurt, and torment us for a new and better way of handling things. We learn to make the choice not to stay in the hurt and offense, or the fear and worry, not to take those things and make it worse by talking about it, but instead choosing a higher and better way.

Look at letting go and praying without ceasing as a form of maturity! And not just any maturity, but Kingdom maturity!

Day Five

Stop Overthinking

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

— *Philippians 4:8 ESV*



I come from a very, and I mean VERY long line of bakers, all the way back to my family baking for the king of Sicily! So when I got the inspiration to compare overthinking, to over-kneading bread dough, I was delighted.

When you over-knead dough, you actually change the texture and it makes the dough dense and tough. This really spoke to me because that is exactly what happens when you overthink something. When you are given information, it's best to come to a quick and firm decision on what you are going to believe about what you just came to possess. If you decide to speak the truth to the situation, trust God with it and end it at that. The information stays the same, but you have added in truth and are letting it rest.

BUT if you keep overworking it, you will work that truth right out and start to manipulate the information with “non-truths”. Hurt and pain will have to work their way in. And so will pride, offense, and maybe even a touch of revenge. The more you work it, the tougher and harder it will become. And there will be no way to go back to the original information and regain control.

The more you overthink, the more opportunity you have to lose peace and go down the rabbit holes of fear and worry. Those snares take you further away from trusting the Lord and giving it to Him because fear makes us want to control the situation.

Once fear enters the picture, more time and energy must be spent to climb out of the snare and it can be exhausting. Overthinking opens the door to half-truths, speculations, accusations, and teaches us how to depend on our own understanding instead of yielding that to the Lord and learning to lean on Him. Proverbs 3:5

He who trusts in himself is a fool, but one who walks in wisdom will be safe.

Proverbs 28:26

Day Six

Still

Show me the right path, O LORD; point out the road for me to follow. — Psalm 25:4 NLT

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 2 Corinthians 4:17



We can understand what our spouse is struggling with, why they are struggling, and STILL react badly. God can speak the truth to us, we can hear Him, believe Him, and STILL be upset. We can even relate, and STILL be hurt, angry, and behave out of that place.

What do we do? Do we give in? Do we press in? Make the choice to let our feelings and emotions lead us to make things worse for them, us? Or do we dig deep and come higher?

We STILL react badly, STILL get upset, STILL get to that place in our feelings and emotions because we want to. I know they are struggling, but I STILL want to be hurt, angry, upset and I STILL want to let my feelings go uncontrolled and be loosed on them. I still want to be walking free and not be walking controlled in the spirit.

That is OUR struggle. To know the truth, yet STILL chose to go the opposite direction. It won't always be this way. We will grow. Over time we will learn because when we walk in our choice to STILL behave and react out of feelings, it's usually going to bring us further from where we really want to be in life. We want peace, love, security. We want to be in the will of the Father. And when we follow anything that takes us into chaos, confusion, unrest, and disobedience, we start to learn our lesson.

We learn that having that attitude that says, "I don't care what I am supposed to do, I am STILL going to react the way I want, because that is how I feel" is not the attitude of a follower of Christ. Our behavior should not follow our feelings. Our behavior should be trying to nail those feelings to the cross.

How?

God is always there for us to talk to and confess. He is always there to help us each and every time to make progress and improve in our choices. And He is right there to help us when we fall and have to suffer from those choices, pick us up, listen to our confessions and start over again. He is STILL there to always go through this learning and growing process.....STILL there, and always will be.

Day Seven

Game Changer

For the LORD has comforted His people, and He will have compassion on His afflicted ones. 14 But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me; the Lord has forgotten me!" 15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or lack compassion for the son of her womb? Even if she could forget, I will not forget you. Isaiah 49:13

If God:



- draws near to the brokenhearted,
- promises to never leave nor forsake us,
- is a good Father with good intentions toward us
- then why do we argue and say *"The LORD has forsaken me; the Lord has forgotten me!"*?

When we refuse the Word, refuse to believe that God is Who He says, it implies that something far more sinister is at work than just unbelief. When we willfully chose to play the game of "if you won't help me, give me what I want. Then I am not going to give You what You want from me." Are we refusing to admit God is good? God is love? God is Holy? Are we falling into a trap of self that demands that we tempt God into doing our will? God will wait.

He is patient and He knows the games we play. He understands the human heart far better than we ever could. And when we act like a child and demand His attention through our pouting, manipulation, and plain ole temper tantrums, He will treat us like a child and wait on us until we are done and ready to talk like an adult. He will comfort us. He will provide and He will never leave us. But He won't play our game. He can't because that would teach us the wrong kind of lesson. The kind that He is trying to break us free from.

That when we are hurting and unsure of life, we can ALWAYS be sure of Him and His truth. His Word. But when we want to play games and mess with something that can't be messed with, God can't cater to our game. He can't let us have even a moment where we believe we are winning. God needs to prove that He is always and forever the same with us. He is going to draw us to Him instead of bending the rules to meet our needs. He is a Father that is always teaching us to come higher and higher and to climb out of those places that snare and trap us.

Babies are those that require a parent to stoop low and coddle them. But to keep doing that is not going to be good for their well-being. There comes a time when the parent must step back and require that child to learn to walk.

If God was anything less than a good parent, He would not earn our devotion and respect. He is worthy of our praise BECAUSE He does the hard things, like not giving into a child who doesn't want to grow up but would rather choose to say they don't believe simply so they can get their way. God will parent the way only He can in this situation - with enduring patience to wait out the stubborn heart until it feels the prick of their rebellion as they kick against the goads. Acts 26:14

Day Eight

Getting There

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 1 Peter 6-7



The Word says that we GREATLY rejoice when we are in distress from various trials. Of course, no one really starts out GREATLY rejoicing when that storm comes blowing in. I was not rejoicing in the middle, or towards the end either.

Greatly rejoicing actually means: getting so glad that you will jump for joy. At first, I thought, now that I can relate to it I will be jumping for joy when this storm is over and all my prayers have been answered and I can live in the fulfillment of the promise. Wrong again. Wrong context!

The reason we will be "greatly rejoicing" or "getting so glad" is that we have come to understand what the trials are doing to us and for us. They are not simply there without a purpose, but to embrace as an opportunity.

Now, after the storm has ended, I have a different view of trials and struggles. I see them as a chance for me to change in those areas that are displeasing to God and don't reflect His character - that change came to me through my storm. At first, becoming like Him was not on my radar at all. All of that changed when I found His love, when I desired to know more of Him so that I would know the love that was drawing me. Through that pull to know love, came the pull to be free from anything that interferes or pushes against love.

This is the "getting to" that God is getting us to: to see different, to want different, to rethink what has been important to us in the past and change our desires to line up and care about what God see's as worthy and important. I never considered inner change, healing, transformation in me as important or on my list of life's goals. I do now because pleasing Him, loving Him with my whole heart has become my focus and that is my motivation now.

God is getting us there.

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

Day Nine

Obviously

And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and has appointed us to serve in the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18



"God has never told me to Stand."

I would like to think that God just doesn't need to state the obvious to some people. And obviously, I was NOT one of those who could come to that place on my own.

It's obvious if a parent had a lost child who was snared in darkness and deception, we would not need Him to speak to us to stand for their healing and deliverance. Nor would we keep asking God to encourage us with signs that He heard us and was going to answer our prayers. It's obvious that we don't need to ask, we don't give ourselves the option of quitting because when it's our child we are going to stand no matter what because it's not about us.

But for a spouse, everything changes in how we approach God because now it's personal. "God, let me know if I should be standing because I don't want to waste my time. If there is going to be no change, let me know now, because I have this fear that I am going to be wasting a lot of time and hope in something that You are never planning on doing."

This may not be how we word it, but it's what our hearts are thinking and feeling. There is a level of personalization that comes when we are comparing a spouse to a child. This has to do with the spouse's choice to pick us as their chosen partner in life. And this then becomes very personal to us in regards to the struggle to not get our value and worth from this 'chosen' place.

We need to always remember that FIRST, we are chosen by God and that trumps all things.

Next, we need to understand that our desire to want to be partnered with someone is going to tempt us to question God in hopes that He will tell us to go ahead and give up on them so we can then appease that part of us that is crying out for love and acceptance from our one flesh.

Asking is always a sign there is something in the heart that is struggling. It might be with fear, unbelief, or selfish desires that wants to put self first.

Day Ten

Tunnel Vision

1 I will stand at my guard post and station myself on the ramparts. I will watch to see what He will say to me, and how I should answer when corrected. 2 Then the LORD answered me: "Write down this vision and clearly inscribe it on tablets, so that a herald may run with it. 3 For the vision awaits an appointed time; it testifies of the end and does not lie. Though it lingers, wait for it, since it will surely come and will not delay....Habakkuk 2:2



One of the ways that come to defeat us is when instead of standing guard waiting on the Lord for His Words and direction we (without realizing it) become very narrow in vision and understanding. We do this because we are focused on certain things that we should not be looking at.

Certain details can pack a big punch. And when we let them have all our attention, we can become stuck in a tunnel of only seeing that one perspective. Nothing else can get to us in that tunnel and it's very dark.

We have to come out of that tunnel vision, station ourselves in the right place before the Lord, and stand there until He speaks. And when He does, WRITE IT DOWN. Let that be the vision that bears all fruit. Let that be the vision that guards you against details. Let that be the vision you stand on and use to defeat all other visions that don't produce the same end result.

Hold onto the vision while waiting for the appointed time, though it tarries, it will come to pass as God spoke it. Be courageous and brave through the truth that the vision does not lie. It may take longer than you expect, it may come with lots of extra painful details you didn't see coming, but when it comes it will be what was promised to you.

God understands how we can get snared into a dark place where sight is the only thing we are going by. He calls us to come and station ourselves to hear Him, to receive that Word that would encourage us, to increase our faith, and give us a powerful weapon to be used against the details that say otherwise. For those that continue to be trapped in tunnel vision - pray for God to deliver you from that conductor that keeps snaring you and bringing you to fear and worry. His perfect love is enough to keep you stationed and positioned to hear Him. Don't let fear tempt you away!

Day Eleven

Missing Him

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” John 14:26

Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. Psalm 19:2



MISSunderstanding what is before you, will make you MISS Him.

When we turn our hearts to God, our journey involves putting down our go-to things that we have leaned on, trusted in, relied on, and shifting ALL of that onto the Lord. It is not easy to blindly trust in something that has not yet been revealed to you as trustworthy through your experience. What if you are experiencing Him, and how trustworthy and reliable He is all the time and not realizing it's Him?

This happens all the time when we don't see God behind what is going on. When we get touched by a worship song, a sermon, something written in a book, or a video we watch. We see people. We trust people. We relate and understand it as people, and not that it's a vessel, a person being USED by God to help you, minister to you.

If we can open our hearts up to the fact that God is using someone to help you because He loves and deeply cares for you and what you are going through and we recognize the person is a vessel being used by Him, then that will become one of the many experiences used to win and gain our trust! We need that.

The more experiences we have in our bag to dig through and look back upon the more arsenal we have to use against fear, doubts, worry. We can look back, reach into that bag and say "Look how God helped me!" That is the personal encounters that we all need to encourage us, uplift us and teach us valuable lessons about Who He is. We come to realize that He is not ignoring us at all. He has been there for us the whole entire time!

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will glorify Me by taking from what is Mine and disclosing it to you John 16:13-14

Day Twelve

I don't Want to!

He rebuked them for their stubborn unbelief, hardness of heart because they refused to believe those who had seen Him after He had been raised from the dead. Mark 16:14



Just as a lost spouse can choose a path of being stubborn and rebellious, a Stander can enter that same place. Even after years of hearing the reason why their spouse is doing what they are doing, they are still asking the same question and choosing to not believe in the answers of why.

Why is not good enough for them because their pride wants to hear something more validating. A heart full of pride doesn't want to hear that that spouse is hurt, lost, snared by the enemy. It doesn't want to feel compassion or mercy so it will harden in heart and chose to not listen to anything that suggests a reason as to why a person could just walk away from God, spouse, and their children.

Are they looking to hear that their spouse is really a monster? If they chose that path, then they damage their hope for standing for restoration. Do they embrace the spouse really is lost, hurt, full of shame and the enemy came in and took advantage? Then that will force them to have to feel mercy and compassion for them and they don't want to feel that.

Because pride needs something it can live with, and it can't live with feeling anything that lets the spouse off the hook at all, can't live with compassion or mercy - it settles on the best option. A place of choosing "I don't understand this". It feels safe with this choice. Believes that it's not being rebellious, sinful, or disobedient. Pride is always lying like that.

The truth is any time we deny truth and side with choosing our will above God's truth, we are choosing the sin of self and rebellion.

Many times we will have to visit this place where we need to make the choice to believe the hard heart is behind it, because so many new details emerge. You may find yourself at this crossroad many times and suddenly you just don't want to believe it any more simply because "how long does a hard heart last?" You have believed in it long enough, and now your compassion and mercy have run out. Your pride says "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH."

In those circumstances, pride is going to have to be dealt with in the same manner that all pride is dealt with, which is looking to Jesus as our example of humility. He never runs out of patience and says "Enough" because He is long-suffering and understands that it will take as long as it takes to find that lost sheep, because the alternative is them being lost forever.

Day Thirteen

Sin Not?

Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for Himself; the LORD hears when I call to Him. Be angry and do not sin; on your bed, reflect in your heart and be still. Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the LORD. Psalm 4:3-5



Anger has a way of coming in and convincing you that because you are angry, you are now privileged with a right. A right to express yourself in the manner you deem fit. All reason, self-control, and logic, go out the window when anger comes in. No wonder God has to warn us to not sin, because oftentimes when we are angry, we will even argue that because of the anger we were not sinning.

Get that? Anger will even argue there is no sin in the presence of anger. But the Word of God tells us very differently and sets us straight. It tells us that when we are angry we are going to be tempted to "miss the way." And because we belong to Him, that way got narrower! We are called higher and it's no joke that when we are angry, we want to throw that knowledge right out the window and operate out of the feelings of the offense and hurt.

He wants us to make a sacrifice! When we are angry, He wants us to be still. Go lay in our beds alone instead of reacting, search our hearts, and lay to rest all of those "rights" that come up and try to claim the freedom to do what it wants to do out of that anger. Young's literal translation says "Sacrifice ye sacrifices of righteousness."

Psalm 4:5 is telling us to put to death what we have come to believe is our right to go our own way, miss the mark, sin, and instead be righteous and TRUST IN THE LORD instead. To really search our hearts as to what makes us feel we have the right to miss the mark? We have the right to miss the way and why do we give ourselves that permission to sin when we are angry?

God expects those that are His to reflect a certain behavior when we are angry. Knowing full well that anger triggers us to do wrong, His word says that He HEARS US WHEN WE CALL TO HIM - I take that as knowing just how tempting it is to sin when we are angry.

When we are choosing to go lay down, cool off, trust in Him, reflect what is going on in our hearts, God is going to bless us with what we need to overcome being angry because of the choices we made to be still.

Day Fourteen

How are you Waiting?

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Psalm 37:7

The LORD preserves the faithful, but fully repays the arrogant. Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the LORD. Psalm 31:23-24



Seeing someone prospering in their sin can make a person get all bent out of shape and twisted up in their feelings and emotions, especially if they believe that God is the one helping them succeed or doing nothing to stop them. This is further exacerbated when the Stander is struggling greatly while doing good - you now have a perfect recipe for bitterness OR the perfect opportunity for a person to learn to really let go of what they don't understand and be still before the Lord as they wait patiently with a GOOD attitude. We can wait it out, but how we wait is what God looks at.

Psalm 31 says that the Lord repays the arrogant and that we are to be of good courage and our hearts will be strengthened. Courage in this context means to be alert, mentally (in courage) -- confirm, be courageous (of good courage, steadfastly minded, establish, fortify, harden, increase, prevail, strengthen (self), make strong (obstinate, speed).

Courage is how we must become stubborn and steadfast to resist how much it's going to bother us as we watch someone getting away with sin and not suffering consequences right away. Since we know and understand that God is after the heart to change, He is a long-suffering patient, and we are not, we want to see those sinning reaping from their poor choices.

As we struggle through overcoming the inward bitterness that threatens to overwhelm us, we can become even more angry and hostile. This is just for the fact that this is yet another thing that we are expected to do, while they just get to live a life of freedom in the flesh.

Embracing Kingdom principles means understanding how the kingdom reward system rewards differently than our human hearts want and are used to. If we are set apart on how we must act, then we have to be set apart on how we want to be rewarded. We can't sow kingdom seeds of righteousness and expect God to reward us with less than a Kingdom harvest. God is love, mercy, grace, forgiveness, patience, and kindness. Yes, He is a God of justice and will repay, but He will first set out to turn the heart to repentance before the consequences fall. If we have an issue with that, we are going to wind up like Jonah sitting in the scorching sun with a heart full of bitterness.

Day Fifteen

Send Nathan

For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. John 3:34 But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD sent Nathan to David. 2 Samuel 11 and 12



We have to learn to give up our right to speak to those who are deaf and unable to hear or perceive the way we want. We have to learn to adopt an expectation and hope of God sending the Nathans to speak to our spouses the way He wants.

I love the story of where God had Nathan speak to King David after he committed adultery and murder. It shows that David's heart was hard to truth, that Nathan could not approach him from the front, but had to come in from a totally different approach.

Those with hard hearts, expect to be confronted and they are ready and waiting to defend themselves and resist the truth. God knows this. That is why He had Nathan come in such a way that David didn't see it, so He didn't have his guard up. He had him approach the King in a way that would not trigger his pride.

Pride is an exceptional protector. It rushes forward the moment it suspects someone is after their character and putting it down. It comes to defend by pointing the finger elsewhere and does everything in its power to never allow the one it's protecting to feel embarrassed. But it's no match for wisdom!

Wisdom and strength belong to God; counsel and understanding are His. Job 12:13

God knows how to approach a person so that pride won't suspect a thing. His wisdom is without measure and His ways are exceptional. It's OUR pride that interferes and says we can get the job done, we can get those who are blind to see, who are deaf to hear. Our pride is what is going to trigger the pride of the hard-hearted and soon it's a battle of the proud.

God uses those that walk in the spirit, to talk to the spirit inside a person and together it brings sight, humility, and repentance to the heart and soul of a person before that pride can even react! That's why we must leave the counsel up to the Counselor!

But there is a spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding. Job 32:8

Day Sixteen

Expectations

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121:2

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us...” Eph 3:20



Great disappointments come from great expectations. I was so terrified of being disappointed you would think I would never venture out in expectations, but I did, especially in places where I expected I could control things that made me fear.

The thing I learned about expectations was the more I expected something, the more I was let down. The more I was let down, the more I expected myself to make it change. It seemed that expectations had an evil twin sister who expected me to be ruled by expectations for myself too.

But praise God when He sees things out of order, He has a solution for everything. "Put your expectations in me, lay the burden down you are carrying for yourself and others, and be free. If you get disappointed that something didn't go the way you wanted, don't look at them. Come to Me instead. Let ME give you the answers why."

He will always be honest, truthful, and give you real understanding especially when you expect Him to! He is the One that you can expect is not going to ignore you. He's not going to mislead you. You can expect Him to keep His Word, His promise. You can expect Him to be driven by love, morals, good intentions for you.

*Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
Psalm 34:8*

There is no one else that can have all those expectations put on them and come through in every area and pass the tests. He is worthy to have our expectations on Him. He can handle all our expectations, people can't. This is why we get hurt and disappointed. But God is for us, so if He says "No" Or "Not yet" then there is a good reason that He will have to help us see and understand. You can and should still let Him be where you put all your expectations because He is the safest place.

Day Seventeen

Comeback

***5 Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God!
I will praise Him again— my Savior and 6 my God!
Now I am deeply discouraged, but I will remember You—Psalm 42***



Discouragement and hopelessness have a way of making you feel like the breath of life is being sucked from you and will never be happy again. They pack a powerful punch. "I feel it, therefore it must be real."

But feelings are not forever. They may be there for a night, but God's joy is there in the morning to greet us. Take heart that those feelings are nothing but a whim for the moment and can change with a whisper from Him. Turn to Him and meditate on His faithfulness.

***6 I lie awake thinking of you, meditating on you through the night.
7 Because you are my helper, I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings.
8 I cling to you; your strong right-hand holds me securely. Psalm 63***

He can satisfy the soul. He can bring the light into the darkness and chase away the lies that threaten to overtake your peace. He can speak to your heart and ease your fears.

You may feel out of place, but you WILL come back. You may feel hopeless but you will come back. God won't leave you here. He won't let you stay here for long.

***Sorrow and mourning will disappear,
and they will be filled with joy and gladness. Isaiah 51:11***

The power that comes with knowing you will comeback rests on you knowing where that comeback comes from. HIM. He is your comeback. He has already defeated those areas that try to defeat you, and He has comeback to pull you out!

Day Eighteen

Conformed

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. 29For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. Romans 8:28



The more time I spend with Jesus the more the logical things of this world become illogical. The more time I spend in this world the more I long for things I can't explain. As I read His Word, see Who He is, the more I am drawn to what makes sense, and the world is not what I am drawn to. Jesus is the One that pulls me closer.

I am being conformed, changed. My desire is being altered as my inner man awakes to what I was created and designed to love. The more I come to understand Him, the more I want to be like Him. My Savior, my Jesus, The One that my heart longs for and Who my hope is in. He sets the way before me to show me what a hope I have in Him.

The love I have for Him, that grows more and more strengthens me, changes me, delivers me from the timid, fearful coward, to a bold, courageous person who is confident in Him and His ability.

I trust in His love and it opens a whole new way of thinking and believing. As my understanding of Him grows, so does my knowledge of things that once never mattered to me. He changes what I care about, what is important to me to conform to be what is important to Him. I can trust in this, knowing that His ways, His thoughts, His direction is the absolute best.

His compassion is my compass. His heart is what I look to as a guide and what I seek to lead me in all situations. I desire to be conformed to reflect Him inside and out. For there truly is no better way to live than to live as a reflection of Him.

Day Nineteen

Your Solution has a Name!

6 Therefore, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in Him, 7rooted and built up in Him, established in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:7



Where each of us is very different in what we struggle with, we all share the same Solution. JESUS. He is our answer and solution to everything we need help with.

Because we know that Jesus is the type to leave the 99 and find the one that is lost, we know He is one that is a problem solver. And He isn't cookie cutter! We saw how when He healed people, His methods and choices were always changing. Not because He changes, but because He chooses methods that benefit us most. He will solve the problem You have in the way that best suits you. He eagerly waits for you to come and ask. Seeking Him first instead of last.

Most of our problems would never have gotten as bad as they have had we taken the time to pray beforehand and learn how to wait patiently on Him for an answer.

We tend to react out of emotions, try to handle the situation. Seek people to help, and then as an afterthought turn to Him. All the while He is our Solution to everything whether we recognize Him or not.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

One of the reasons I am able to easily approach Jesus is because I remind myself how much He cares for me. On a personal level, not just as one of the sheep, one of the crowd. He knows ME inside and out right down to how many hairs I have on my head. That caring that He has makes Him much more approachable and easy to talk to without worry of feeling condemned.

Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Day twenty

Relatable

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, Hebrews 4:15

*For this reason He had to be made like His brothers in every way, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God
Hebrews 2:17*



The more popular our ministry gets the more Jesus emphasizes and reminds me to stay close in contact with Standers.

The farther away you get from the people you are serving and helping, the farther away you get from compassion and sympathy. And one thing I have always felt from Jesus was His ability to make me feel loved through His ability to understand and relate to some of the struggles I go through.

Knowing He daily walked among people who mistreated, misunderstood, and didn't recognize His worth, yet He still loved and chose to give His life for them, makes me feel like a friend to Him. Because I cherish and adore Him, I feel safe seeking Him. And because I know He welcomes my company, I don't feel ashamed when I need help with small things. He is approachable. He is reasonable and He is gentle.

I came to see all this through His Word and through time spent with Him. Anytime I was uncomfortable it was because I was the one with the misunderstanding and the shame. Not anything He put on me, but what I was allowing to remain on me. It took me a while to start asking Him to help me be free from those things that were hindering our time together. You should always feel comfortable with Jesus, and if you don't that is a lie that needs to be squashed under your feet.

Knowing He could relate to my struggles and didn't condemn me for them, helped me see He found me relatable!

*Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted,
He is able to help those who are being tempted. Hebrews 2:18*

Day Twenty-One

Higher

1 strive for the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. Colossians 3:2



Feeling low is easy, especially when I am tired and just want to give in to what is already there. Most often the last thing I want to do is make the climb. I know I should, but it stares me in the face and says "Are you coming up?"

A day later, still in the same low. Hearing the same invitation and giving the same answer. A few days later, still in the same place. I will hear the same invitation. "Are you coming up? It's much nicer Up here!"

"I know I have been here long enough, You are right. I need to come higher." So I push back, push through with worship and praise. And I find myself higher. But why did I wait so long? Why do we agree with being low until we start to realize we have allowed it too much time. Isn't any time too much time to let the darkness have a say in our life?

Jesus was quick to never let darkness near Him. He called out exactly what was trying to happen. **"Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me. For you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."**Matthew 16:23

Some of the other translations say that satan doesn't have the concerns of God, or His purpose or interests and that is a stumbling block, which is a snare.

Letting satan have an inch of your time because you are too tired to push back and climb higher is giving him a chance to snare you - the next thing you know, you have been in that pit for days. It doesn't take much to climb out. Simply closing your eyes, thinking higher thoughts on purpose, with an attitude of thanksgiving can push the enemy back enough that the snare no longer becomes an issue and you will only lose moments, not days.

whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Philippians 4:8

Day Twenty-Two

Prisoner

Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you. Zechariah 9:12

Thus by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be strongly encouraged. Hebrews 6:18



So many times in my storm I felt like a prisoner. Prisoner to my fears, pain, and anger. But when God spoke to me and told me that He saw my marriage restored, that was one place I didn't mind being bound.

At first, that really was the only thing that kept me anchored in hope, was that I knew God had spoken the end result. But as time went on, and the storm increased, being anchored to the hope of marriage restoration wasn't enough.

There was too much pain, too much betrayal. To much damage being done that simply knowing my marriage would be 'restored' was not doing it for me. I needed to get closer to the One doing the restoring.

I know many Standers are so focused on the end result until the pain and betrayal start to wear them down to where they need something else in their life other than a restored marriage. They need a Healer to help with the pain. They need Security to help with the fears. They need a Pure hearted Person Who is not capable of forsaking them, hurting them, lying to them. They turn to JESUS as that anchor to their soul that ties them to HIM because they are tired of being tied to something unstable that makes them get tossed about.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, Hebrews 6:19

Yes, if I was going to be a prisoner to my circumstances, then I was picking the prison, and that was a prisoner of hope where Jesus was my everything. He became more important than marriage restoration and once He was my hope, I could continue to Stand and fight in the spiritual battle. Now equipped with the right boots, I was able to have more of a firm footing. When your hope is in anything but Jesus, you become a prisoner to it.

Day Twenty-Three

Partnership

***My power works best in weakness.”
So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the
power of Christ can work through me. 2 Corinthians 12:9***



We look at our weakness as a hindrance to God He looks at it as a place to partner with us. For where we are weak is the place God comes in, fortifies us with His power, makes us strong so that the world may see Who He is. So instead of changing our weakness, He comes in and shines through that weakness so all would see His work!

For the weak He is strong, for the slow is speed and efficiency, for those that like to hurry, He is a brake or an anchor. He is everything we need in our lack and makes us whole as He compensates for those places where we lack.

That is how we are to look at our weakness, as a place that He comes in and fills in the gaps. He is the important element that we are missing, that helps us to overcome. He may not take those things from you that bother you. Instead, He lets them remain, so He can be seen as the one that helps you power through. The one that helps you dance in the rain, praise through the tears.

"Do not be afraid, you who are highly precious," he said. "Peace be with you! Be strong now; be very strong!" As he spoke with me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, for you have strengthened me." Daniel 10:19

As God speaks to us and gives us direction about how to look at our struggles, even if they are going to remain the same, we can be strengthened. When He comes and doesn't take the trial away, but says *"Be Still. Trust Me. Do not fear."* He didn't do a thing to change the actual detail that was causing your turmoil, He just came in and told you how He wants you to handle it until it changes. And just that alone can bring peace to you!

being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, Colossians 1:11

Day Twenty-Four

Powering Through

1 Corinthians 2:5 so that your faith would not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

Ephesians 3:16 I ask that out of the riches of His glory He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being,



If only our faith, where we put our trust, our hope, our belief, didn't rest on our ability to change our spouse, or our spouse's ability to change, but if it would rest on God's power, oh how things would be so much easier for us. Oh, how we wish that was provided to us.

But wait, it has! ASK that out of the riches of His glory that He would strengthen us with power through His Spirit in our inner being, the very place where we can be weak in faith, trust, hope, or belief!

His power is not limited to Himself. The through Holy Spirit, He shares that power, that ability, and capability with US so that we are not only equipped but that we would help others have victory over their struggles.

How do we access that power? We ask we believe, and we learn about those things that come and make us weak. We learn how to recognize them, to make the choice not to let them take that power from us, and fight and resist them.

18 I ask that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope of His calling, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, 19and the surpassing greatness of His power to us who believe. Eph 1:18-19

In God's love, He doesn't leave us helpless. He has provided ways to power through all those things that come at us while standing. Many of those things come right away with the choice we make to do His will above our own, to deny ourselves and pick up the cross and chose the harder of the two options. That right there opens the door to access His power to help us overcome the thing we chose to face with God's character instead of our own.

He sees our heart, He knows our struggle to do right, to be like Him, and choose better. And because of that, and knowing how tough some of these battles are, we can say,

all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Ephesians 3:20

Day Twenty-Five

Reliable

1 Please listen, God, and answer my prayer! 2 I feel hopeless, and I cry out to you from a faraway land. Lead me to the mighty rock high above me. 3 You are a strong tower, where I am safe from my enemies. 4 Let me live with you forever and find protection under your wings, my God. 5 You heard my promises, and you have blessed me, just as you bless everyone who worships you. Psalm 61:1-4



"I feel hopeless."

So many times I found myself in this place, and I know I will find myself there again, it's inevitable. But really? "I feel hopeless?" Do I even know what a real hopeless situation would be like if I prayed and there was no one there? If God was suddenly gone, vanished, THAT would be the only justifiable reason to say I feel hopeless. But the fact, the truth is He is there and is never going to leave us.

We have a living hope that can't leave, won't ever leave, has an endless source of LIVING HOPE, yet we still succumb to letting people and situations take hope from us. That needs to change.

When the lie comes to make us feel hopeless we must speak to it tell it to be real and stop over exaggerating. Do you want to feel real hopelessness? Imagine the One you are talking to is no longer there and you are really alone in your struggles. Imagine everything you ever believed in, relied on, hoped in was suddenly taken from you. If you're thinking "yes!", that your spouse was everything and that is why you're struggling with feeling hopeless, then it's time to realize that you need to put your hope on something more reliable!

It's ok to have hope in people. But it can't be your main source of hope. We get strength in what we put our hope in. To be strong and courageous and brave, to combat fears, to talk boldly to our situations that try to lie and steal our peace, then we must have something so much more powerful than a person to have hope in. We can't even put our hope in the end result we are believing for, because that can be taken away too.

There is only one way to stop feelings of hopelessness from coming at us over and over, and that is our hope must always be attached to the One that can't be taken from us. And that is Jesus. when He becomes that undeniable, unshakable, reliable anchor in our life, the One we look to for every need to be met, knowing that He is always there and will never deny us, that is a hope we won't lose. That is stability that will sustain us and become part of the power that strengthens us to get through life.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Hebrews 6:19

Day Twenty-Six

Nowhere

“The poison of vipers is on their lips.” 14“Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” 15“Their feet are swift to shed blood;16ruin and misery mark their ways, 17and the way of peace they do not know.” 18“There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Romans 3



Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth will speak and reveal the poison that has entered and changed the heart to one that chooses evil over good. Psalm 64:3 says their cruel words are like arrows.

Bitterness guides a person away from love, mercy, and, compassion. Choosing instead to focus on judgment and justice because the heart has perceived a lie. For the Stander, they believe that the spouse is not being selfish, but instead being spiteful. And for the lost spouse, they believe that the Stander is being selfish and manipulative trying to keep them from being happy.

When bitterness takes over a heart, it will get angry at the thought of the sinner getting any type of love, kindness, or forgiveness from God because it has taken the sinful choices very personally and wants retribution for what has been done to them. The thought of forgiveness with no consequences embitters the heart more.

The heart that is bitter is quick to assassinate and slander the character of the one they feel has wronged them. The choices the other has made have become a focal point where bitterness no longer recognizes the person behind the choice, it just sees the act and becomes obsessed with what it perceives. Bitterness will convince the person that everything was done to harm them out of maliciousness, spite, or control and manipulation and will not consider any other alternative. They take these choices from their spouse and pile them up, one by one until a very long record of wrongs has been created.

Bitterness will yield this record of wrongs as a sword to use for bloodshed. Not caring whom they expose their spouse to. Their prayers have turned to curses as they beg for justice and correction.

Bitterness blinds the heart so they do not see the danger they are in. Always keeping them looking at the others person and believing they are making much graver mistakes. Both can be so trapped in bitterness they can't see how it's destroying both of them.

30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, outcry and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and tenderhearted to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you... Ephesians 4

To be free from bitterness, a person must see they are choosing vindication above peace, hatred above love, evil above good because they have no fear of the Lord, they must WANT to change.

Day Twenty-Seven

But Now

7 We are like clay jars in which this treasure is stored. The real power comes from God and not from us. 8 We often suffer, but we are never crushed. Even when we don't know what to do, we never give up. 9 In times of trouble, God is with us, and when we are knocked down, we get up again.

2 Corinthians 4

grateful

In the past, when I didn't know what to do, I would handle it badly. I would get stressed out and start searching out of desperation. **But now** I have come to know that God is faithful and will come and direct me in His timing. I don't need to face not knowing what to do with fear or concern because I know the One that does know what to do.

I used to hate being still and would feel that it was wrong, that I was being led astray. Or that it was not normal and I should be doing something. **But now** I have come to know that being still can be a form of worship. A time of meditating on Him, a time to show Him I trust Him and will wait with courage.

When I made mistakes and thought I had really messed things up, the temptation to be snared in despair would be great. I would cry and ask God if I had just messed up my chances for restoration. I think about that now, and realize I was basing God's character off my perception. **But now**, I have come to realize that my perception needs to be based on God's character.

I used to think listing off everything I was grateful for was a childish act, and that I was only to do it to please God in some way. **But now**, I see that it's not childish it's powerful and that it's not for God but for us. Because when we start to thank Him, we change course in our attitude. It takes our displeasure of seeing our glass half empty and shows us just how full it is and that we didn't even see it was overflowing!

Up, down, this way, that way. That is how I lived when my hope was pinned on a person. I would look to them so I could get directions for the day. Are we going to have joy or sadness today? **But now** I have learned that with Jesus as my hope, I can have that same unchanging stability that hope is supposed to give you. Hope is neverending and should not make you go looking for it. Not with Jesus our neverending supply.

I wished I was loved, wished I was acceptable. Wished I could feel normal and free from all the shame, guilt, and condemnation I was feeling. **But now I do.** Now I have come to let those lies go, and I chose to believe the truth. So now I am loved, accepted, normal and free.

I once was lost, **but now** I am His daughter!

Day Twenty-Eight

Time Out

"For a brief moment I forsook you, But with great compassion I will gather you. "In an outburst of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, But with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you," Says the LORD your Redeemer. Isaiah 54:7,8



Good to know that God also had moments of outbursts of anger where His emotions made Him have to take a timeout! Even God was moved by the behaviors to a point where He had to regain control, work through that anger so in the anger nothing was done that would be regrettable.

Getting angry is a normal part of our DNA, and since God got angry, we can see we take after our Father! But anger is not all who we are, and if we find that we are living in a place where anger seems to be what makes up a majority of our feelings and emotions, then it's time to deal with the anger.

God got angry for a MOMENT, and the majority of Who He is brought Him out of the anger and back into lovingkindness. It was His compassion.

Each day we have a choice.

as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. 1 John 4:17

or

because lawlessness is to be multiplied, the love of the many will grow cold. Matthew 24:12

We must be careful to take those time outs when anger comes and find our way back to love, mercy, and compassion, otherwise that anger will lead us our love to grow cold. And cold hearts resist God and compassion and you will find you no longer care about what you once loved deeply. If we are quick to confess to the Lord the struggle, He is faithful to help us work it out in our hearts so that HIS love may abound in us.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 103:8

Day Twenty-Nine

More Grace

But He gives us more grace. This is why it says: "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6



During our season of standing, because so many areas of your heart, soul, mind will be tested, crushed, emptied out.....many things will come out that you didn't know you had. And since pride is a defender of your feelings and emotions, pride will rush to help you power through the pain. But pride is self-based and puts itself above others, so the methods it uses to heal actually oppose and go against God's character and nature.

Where pride will lead you is away from anything that makes you self-examine to see if you possibly need to change. Pride steers you away from any form of taking blame. It wants to protect you from guilt, shame, and accepting anything that will make you have to lower yourself and admit to mistakes. Pride hates humility! Humility goes against everything pride tries to do. Pride tries to cover up, humility tries to uncover.

During the season of standing, because you are being constantly bombarded with an excess amount of shaking, that exposes things in their hearts that they have to face about themselves. Pride will be running to catch up with this sudden flow of exposure. But God understands this and has come up with a way to pour out MORE GRACE upon those that resist pride and seek to do the right thing by choosing to be humble.

Grace is God's favor, His leaning and drawing closer to those because humility DRAWS Him, while pride pushes God away.

Though the LORD is on high, He attends to the lowly; but the proud He knows from afar. Psalm 138:6

2 Chronicles 34:27 paints a good picture of a heart that is humble. The different translations explain that a heart must be soft, tender, gentle, responsive, sorry. This kind of heart is a heart that is very open to seeing its wrongs, wants to change, and desires repentance. God HEARS those hearts and prepares a path of peace for them. God rewards the humble. In such a difficult time in your life, it's nice to know that God provides MORE Grace!

Day Thirty

Love Anyway

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2



Everything about Standing says that we are to put away self and not let pride come to our rescue, that we are being called to a greater and higher way, the way that doesn't let the hard heart of their spouse, the bad choices they make stop you from doing what is good, right, and humble in God's sight.

Each day we battle through till we come to the right choice.

It's not easy, and that battle is hard. We don't always win, and if we do, we have battle scars to prove that it was a very difficult fight. But in the end, if we keep going to will always choose to love anyway, love despite what they are choosing. That is one choice they can't take from us. Our choice to **love anyway!**

To choose to not take it personally and love anyway. We chose not to let the details lead us into hate and love anyway. Instead of seeing their shortcomings as a way to devalue them, we choose to love anyway and keep their value and worth strong.

We who are strong ought to bear with the shortcomings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Romans 15:1

This is the reflection of the cross in us. The transformation that reveals that we really are the true sons and daughters of God, because those who are not, are unable to love anyway. They don't have the power of the Holy Spirit in them that helps them make this choice.

Sons and daughters of God are peacemakers, mediators, always working towards putting God's relationship with the lost above their own, and blessed are those that chose righteousness and love anyway! (Matthew 5:9-10)

43 You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and 'Hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. Matthew 5

Day Thirty-One



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