

Blossom Ministries

Preparing Women To Bear Fruit

Greetings...

Dear Readers,

As always, we come to you with a message of hope and encouragement. We want you to be uplifted by the articles and the knowledge that what we are prompted to write about is the things God is walking beside us and working on in our hearts.

God is available to us in all seasons, inviting us deeper into a relationship with himself, one that includes others as well. How is He walking with you in this season? How is He supplying your needs? Who else is a part of your journey?

Take some time to savor this season, lifting gratitude toward heaven for all that you have been given with hope for what is coming next. As you rest, wait, struggle, and weed the garden of your heart and the garden in the backyard may you be refreshed and prepared for the future. May God guide and protect each of you as you navigate both the unknown and the mundane.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters. ~ Col 3:23

We wish you joy, courage, and many blessings,

~Melisa Turner and the Blossom Team

2026 Retreat

**"Results
of Grace"**

October 23-24

River House
Lone Point Cellars
Brewster, WA

**But God's grace has
made me what I am,
and his grace to me
was not wasted.
~ I Cor 15:10**

**God's gifts and his
call are irrevocable.
~ Romans 11:29**

**Registration will
become available
in August.**

***There is limited
space available,
those staying
overnight will be
given preference.***

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Quotes

"God's word never passes away and it cannot fail to accomplish what it was dispatched to do." **Dr. Anita Phillips**, The Garden Within, p.196

Our eyes become so focused on goals that we forget to wonder in the presence of a rose. ~ **Sam Keen**, **The Passionate Life**

"Whatever makes good men Christians, makes them good citizens."
~ **Daniel Webster**, **US Senator 1820**

Fear God, and thou shalt not shrink from the fears of men.
~ **Thomas A Kempis**

Where you have victory, you have authority! ~ **Mark Batterson**, Gradually then Suddenly

Wherever there is a loss of hope, you have believed a lie of the enemy.
~ **Heidi Scanlon**, **NCC Pastor of Prayer**

Dormancy isn't death; it rest... Dormancy reminds us that wildflowers are never in a hurry to get to the next season or skip to their blooming best. **Ruth Chou Simons - The Way of the Wildflower**

With each breath he's given,
Praise the Lord!

In these times we live in,
we will praise the Lord.

Throughout ev'ry season,

I am sure we have ev'ry reason
to praise the Lord. - from **Rejoice**

by **Bryan Fowler**, **Keith Getty**, **Kristyn Getty**, **Skye Peterson**, **Ben Shive**

You came near when I called you,
and you said, "Do not fear."
~ **Lamentations 3:57, NIV**

Tending the Seeds of Discipleship

I came across the following Scripture in a devotional:
“This is what the LORD All-Powerful says: “Think about what you have done. You have planted much, but you harvest little.” ~ Haggai 1:5-6

A lot of effort without a lot of reward or results!
The book of Haggai is written to a specific people and for a specific time in history, but it is also teaching an ongoing principle that we should intentionally prioritize God’s Kingdom over our own.

...the people... obeyed the LORD their God and the message from Haggai the prophet, because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD. Haggai...gave the LORD’s message to the people, saying, “The LORD says, ‘I am with you.’”
~ Haggai 1:12-13

When Haggai spoke God’s Word to his contemporaries, they listened and obeyed. Sometimes we are busy doing what we think is right, and God, in His goodness course corrects us. These people of God were teachable! As we respond to God out of obedience and humility, we also can be assured that God is with us. Have we planted seeds and are not seeing a harvest? The author of the devotional indicated that perhaps we have been spreading seed a little too thinly and have not been taking the time to maintain what we have planted.

Jesus Explains the Seed Story

The farmer is like a person who plants God’s message in people. Sometimes the teaching falls on the road. This is like the people who hear the teaching of God, but Satan quickly comes and takes away the teaching that was planted in them. Others are like the seed planted on rocky ground. They hear the teaching and quickly accept it with joy. But since they don’t allow the teaching to go deep into their lives, they keep it only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the teaching they accepted, they quickly give up. Others are like the seed planted among the thorny weeds. They hear the teaching, but the worries of this life, the temptation of wealth, and many other evil desires keep the teaching from growing and producing fruit in their lives. Others are like the seed planted in the good ground. They hear the teaching and accept it. Then they grow and produce fruit” ~ Mark 4:13-20

Jesus says that the seeds we should be planting in people are God’s message. Do we plant the Gospel in others? Remember that the Seed is always 100% good seed, it was the soil that was the variable. The Sower shows us that there is always hope. Every seed can grow, all types of soil can be improved, and you can reseed any field.

Restoration is not a quick, prefabricated project that is thrown together. It is a deliberate and planned removal of the unwanted, a detailed refining of that which is to be preserved, and an addition of that which was not before.

Barbara Stephens, Psalms of Recovery:
Meditations for Strength and Hope

Restoration of the soil of our hearts is what Jesus came to do. Remove the weeds and thorns, refine what is good about how God made us, and add in what is missing: His righteousness and the Holy Spirit. Jesus made disciples by inviting others into a relationship that left behind their old life, teaching them to prioritize His Kingdom, and to invite others to join.

We are only servants of God who helped you believe. Each one of us did the work God gave us to do. I planted the seed, and Apollos watered it. But God is the One who made it grow. So the one who plants is not important, and the one who waters is not important. Only God, who makes things grow, important. The one who plants and the one who waters have the same purpose, and each will be rewarded for his own work. We are God’s workers, working together; you are like God’s farm, God’s house.

~ 1 Corinthians 3: 4-9

Here I see the principle of maintenance for each of us. We see that God produces the growth, and we keep allowing Him to improve our soil. Farm work like restoration is an ongoing process.

The Gospel grows best in the dirt of friendship.

~ Will Hansen, Chi Alpha

Somewhere between the passage in Haggai and the Parable of the Sower is the balance of consistently planting the good seed of the Gospel into other people and then relying on God to make it grow. At the same time, we participate in the maintenance of both reseeding the Gospel in others and working on improving the soil in our own hearts.

~ With all My Love, Melisa Turner

Friendship

A while back, I was thinking about friendship or, more directly, how friends and friendships affect us in how we live our lives, what we do, and our walk with God.

These thoughts were triggered while reading *A Hobbit, A Wardrobe, and a Great War*. Author Joseph Loconte examines the faith and friendship of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien and how WWI influenced both of them and their writings.

Tolkien's influence was part of C.S. Lewis coming to faith in Christ. But the quote that got me thinking was Tolkien commenting on Lewis' impact on his writing. "*But for his interest and unceasing eagerness for more I should never have brought the L. of the R. to a conclusion.*"

You see, after publishing *The Hobbit*, Tolkien had the idea for *The Lord of the Rings*, but wouldn't have kept writing to completion if Lewis hadn't kept asking for updates and wanting to hear what else he had written.

My first thought was of some of the friends in my life who have pushed me to complete projects and do things I never would have on my own.

Then, I thought, "What kind of friend am I?" I don't know if I can answer that question. But I know what kind of friend I want to be. And I know that I fall far short of it.

Proverbs gives us several examples of good friendship.

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. Proverbs 17:17

Faithful are the wounds of a friend.
Proverbs 27:6a

The sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel. Proverbs 27:9b

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

Being a friend isn't all about agreeing on every thing and having a good time together. Being a good friend, in the end, should push us to be better as a person and closer to God.

Here are some examples of friends in the Bible. Which are you going to be like?

...like Haman's friends who encouraged him in his hatred in Esther 5 & 6

...like Job's friends who didn't believe him, accused him, and spent the book of Job trying to prove themselves right.

...like Ruth who left her home and family for Naomi.

...like David's friend Hushai who stayed behind and helped save the kingdom for David.
2 Samuel 15:32-17

...Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah who together chose to follow God and his commandments rather than the King of Babylon.
Daniel 1 and 3

...Aquila and Priscilla who worked with Paul making tents and also teaching to help support his ministry. Acts 18

We can choose friends who build us up and push us toward God, or we can choose friends who pull us away from God. We can choose to be the friend who builds up and pushes other people toward God, or we can choose to be the friend who pulls people away from God.

~ Heidi Tonseth

Book Recommendations:

Prayers from the Battlefield - **Heidi St. John**

A Hobbit, A Wardrobe and a Great War
- **Joseph Loconte**

The River - **Evonne Krell**
(A kid's book, set after Babel)

The Garden Within - **Dr. Anita Phillips**

When the Heart Waits - **Sue Monk Kidd**

Waiting on God

Have you ever felt like God is not listening or like He is never going to deliver you from your circumstances? It can be so easy to feel like God is just not there. He is allowing things to happen that you cannot figure out: “Why would a good God allow that?” You cry out, over and over, begging that He would end the wait, the pain, the suffering. But He does not.

I understand this feeling all too well. There are prayers I have spent years contending for with God. Some prayers, I have begged Him to heal hurts, fix situations that broke, and change outcomes. Other prayers, I have been asking that He would end something, create a path out, and frankly, just get me out of dodge.

In these seasons of unanswered prayers, I have found myself constantly learning how to be content with where God has me, while also learning to not give up on God’s promises. I have had to trust that He is good in the valley, and He is good on the mountain top. I have had to accept “Wait,” as an answer, instead of yes or no. Unsure if it will eventually be a yes, or if I am truly just learning to trust His timing, His plan, and His will.

God, unfortunately, does not owe me an answer. Believing anything else would be a pride issue in myself. But God happens to be gracious enough to provide one. Now, He has yet to answer when I can get out of dodge, or when the pain of past hurts will flee my heart and mind, and He has not told me when or if He will restore specific broken things in my life. But He does, through the Bible, show us times He has provided in the past. The Israelites being freed from Egypt and slavery is one of the biggest God freed them out of dodge moments!

Ruth and Naomi, of all people, would understand what it is like to feel hurt and pain, but God rewrote their stories and redeemed what they went through. Lazarus, talk about broken things being restored. He died! God didn’t just restore; He resurrected him.

I don’t know why God hasn’t answered my prayers, and I don’t know why He hasn’t answered yours. I wish I could tell you, it will be _____ but I can’t.

If I could be freed from this place, healed of this hurt, or see God transform brokenness into something new, I would do that for you and me right now.

But something I have to recognize, or I will miss God’s goodness, is that each of these people waited first. The Israelites were in slavery for hundreds of years before they were freed. Ruth and Naomi lost so much before they found redemption in their stories. Lazarus was dead for four days before he was resurrected.

Waiting tends to be a huge part of this equation. If God has asked you to wait, you are in good company. It may not make sense to us why God waits to move, but what I have learned from these stories is that God does still move eventually, and often it is after the wait!

~ Samantha Turner

I truly believe
I will live to see the LORD’s goodness.
Wait for the LORD’s help.
Be strong and brave,
and wait for the LORD’s help.
~ Psalm 27:13-14

The LORD is good to those who hope in him,
to those who seek him.
It is good to wait quietly
for the LORD to save.
~ Lamentations 3:25-26

I wait for the LORD to help me,
and I trust his word.
⁶ I wait for the Lord to help me
more than night watchmen wait for the dawn,
more than night watchmen wait for the dawn.
~ Psalm 130:5-6

But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew *their* strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

~ Isaiah 40:31

A Devotional Thought

TAKE HEART

In this world you will have trouble.

But take heart!

I have overcome the world.

~ John 16:33 (NIV)

There will be trouble, and there will be sorrow, but God will be with us and has overcome the world. All the things in this world that defeat us have been defeated by Jesus's sacrifice on the Cross and His resurrection. We must believe that our God is a Victorious King and can conquer all. We can believe this because it is so!

Nicole Unice says in her book, *Brave Enough*, that "Our English translation says 'take heart' [in John 16:33], but the original word used here in the Greek is *tharseo*, which simply means 'courage.'" Jesus wants us to have courage to depend on Him in all things. A courageous faith believes that He will do what he said.

Our God is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev 19:16). He is above all things. He has all power, glory, victory, and majesty. His name is above all other names.

"So God raised him to the highest place. God made his name greater than every other name so that every knee will bow to the name of Jesus—everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. And everyone will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and bring glory to God the Father."
~ Philippians 2:9-11, NCV

Our Savior King has triumphed over death, hell, and the grave! He has taken captive everything that can enslave us here on earth and for eternity. He has taken captive that which ensnares us.

What can conquer us? We cannot die an eternal death, we cannot remain estranged from Him, and we cannot be trapped by earthly things.

Author Nicole Unice continues to encourage us "How freeing it is just to embrace the truth that trouble is going to happen. There's nothing we can do to avoid it completely ... We can't avoid conflict [sorrow, trouble], but we can meet Jesus with his *tharseo* power in it." So, take heart! We can have faith that if He has captured what holds us captive, then we are free. He "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us" (Eph 3:20, NIV). Praise the Lord, God our Savior, who helps us every day (Ps 68:19, NCV) can give us more joy amid sorrow than we could ever think possible.

"My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience. Let your patience show itself perfectly in what you do. Then you will be perfect and complete and will have everything you need."

~ James 1:2-4, NCV

Devote some thought to that,
~ Melisa Turner

What are you currently struggling to find joy in? Make a list of the things/situations/people or relationships in which you are asking God to reveal His joy:

Until we meet again...