

BlogBooker

From Blog to Book.

'WWW.WATEREDSOUL.COM'

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Chapter 1

2010

1.1 March

Spring Is Here-What's Springing Up Within You? (2010-03-16 00:38)



[1]

It's beginning to look like spring around my place. Plum trees and other bushes are beginning to bloom. Upon closer observation of one my plum trees, I see several branches without any signs of spring. Instead these branches are bare, while others around them are covered in blooms. It reminds me of how our lives often are. Certain aspects of our lives can be blooming with newness like spring, while other parts seemingly are in winter -the juxtaposition of being both the best of times and the worst of times. Thank God for a master gardener that knows how to properly prune away every branch in us that produces not fruit and how to lovingly nurture us until it's our time to bloom. As you take in the sights of spring, take a little time to observe the newness that's happening with you. Perhaps there's new ideas/mindsets, new relationships or new ministry opportunities. I pray that you'll find new and greater levels of His presence, peace, joy, hope, strength, faith and love springing up within you.

Isaiah 43:19a Look at the new thing I am going to do. It is already happening. Don't you see it? Father, open our eyes that we might see what you're already doing among, within, and around us. We

thank you for the new thing that you are doing in our lives. Thank you for new understanding, new revelations, and new mercies. In Jesus name. Amen



[2]

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/S5685SnmoII/AAAAAAAAACk/I2WvKF1bXLk/s1600-h/spring+tree.jpg
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

mom2six (2010-03-16 01:52:56)

Just came to your site from High Calling Blogs. Great analogy - great encouragement. Thanks.

Just Be Real/God Whispers In The Wind (2010-03-16 10:10:57)

Wanda, thank you for sharing and the prayer has touched me. Also, thank you for your kind comments of encouragement to me on my blog. I needed to read them.

Mike (2010-03-16 10:10:57)

take a little time to observe the newness that's happening with you. I like that. Thanks for an encouraging post!

Living Water (2010-03-17 07:32:51)

I can understand the feeling of juxtaposed spring and winter very well. Not all things turn out the way we hope, and even if we pray about it, certain things may be addressed for now, while others are still in waiting or may be something we have to go through.

In all these, may we learn to understand that God knows His plans for us, for welfare and not for calamity to give us a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11).

God bless.

Finally Free (2010-03-17 12:40:51)

Thanks for stopping by my blog. :) Last year was a year of major pruning for me, so I can relate.

Blessings,

Tammy

Proverbs 27:19 (2010-03-18 01:11:28)

Hello Wanda! Thanks a bunch for stopping by "My Heart Speaks..." and leaving a comment.

It's nice to "meet" you!

smooches,

Larie

Any Mud on Your Soul? (2010-03-18 05:01)



[1]

I keep seeing the image of the Red Sea parted with walls of water piled on two sides with dry ground in the middle. This image first came to my mind during Sunday's praise and worship service. Not only was the waters of the Red Sea parting a miracle but also that the Israelites didn't encounter mud. In my own backyard when it rains there are parts of the ground that remain wet and muddy several days after the rain has gone. The ground beneath the Red Sea should have been muddy. And you know mud has a way of sticking onto your shoes and getting tracked into places that you enter- uninvited nonetheless.

I believe some of us are entering into a season where God is going to "clean away the mud" from our souls. In places where our Red Sea has parted, He's going to dry up the ground so that we're no longer stuck. No longer tracking the "mud" of our past into our present or future. The Red Sea represents the hard places He has moved you out of rather than be the pain of physical abuse, sexual abuse, bad relationships, loss of a loved one, bad childhood, addictions, divorce, or whatever your Red Sea may have been. Funny thing is an event can no longer be physically occurring but yet you carry it with you emotionally or psychologically like mud on a shoe. Yet in places that you should have remained stuck or continued with muddy foot tracks, even if nowhere else but in your mind, God is going to wash away the mud.

While reading an article from Prophetic Insights from Charisma by Nicki Pfeifer entitled, Five Keys for 2010, I was surprised and delighted to receive confirmation by the words she wrote regarding key #2 God is releasing an anointing to leave your past behind. She writes, "There is a special anointing for inner healing this year. There is a release of grace in the body of Christ to finally put the pain of your past behind you." Read the entire article [2] here.

Photo credit: [3][4]<http://www.flickr.com/photos/uxud/> / [5]CC BY 2.0



[6]

[7]

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/S6EMz0IYz-I/AAAAAAAAADE/pMep8o71lCs/s1600-h/mud+print.jpg
2. <http://charismamag.com/index.php/prophetic-insight/26521-five-keys-for-2010#readmore>
3.
4. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/uxud/>
5. <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

6. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

7. <file://localhost/mnt/ext/blogbooker/tmp/4c1nyqhk/4c1nyqhk-body.tex lynx.html>

Dena Dyer (2010-03-23 15:05:48)

I love that image of God washing "mud" from my soul.

Welcome to High Calling Blogs, by the way. It's great to have you! :)

Wanda (2010-03-24 01:30:57)

Thanks for the welcome Dena and I appreciate you stopping by.

Mindful Ponderings (2010-03-20 04:10)

My mind is pondering about peace. Are there certain images that come to mind when you hear the word peace? What does biblical peace look like in comparison to worldly peace? Jesus declares that he left me a gift of peace for John 14:27 says I am leaving you with a gift-peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn't like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid (NLT). A gift unopened or tucked away is useless. Have I opened the gift or settled for a substitute?



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Faith Imagined (2010-03-20 14:10:00)

I was reading about this topic just yesterday! It seems that a lot of Christians, including myself, tuck this precious gift away!

Pet (2010-03-22 22:07:09)

Hi Wanda, thank you for the visit and the comment. Be bless and please come again.

Hide & Seek (2010-03-22 14:00)



[1]

[2]Photo by SashaW

No point in HIDING from a God that knows how to SEEK you out, SURRENDER instead.

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Julie (2010-03-24 15:56:27)

Wanda, This beautiful truth is such a comfort, isn't it.

So much swirls around sometimes in ways that just don't make sense that without knowing He is with me I don't know if I'd make it...

Thank you for your visit to my blog and your sweet words left for me. You have blessed me!

Just Be Real/God Whispers In The Wind (2010-03-25 10:17:34)

Amen Wanda. Thanks for sharing dear.

LaMecia (2010-03-28 22:51:01)

enjoyed this

LisaShaw (2010-03-30 00:42:28)

Amen and Praise the Lord!!!

I'm thankful that He is always with me and as such I shall not be moved. As I read Acts 2:25 (Acts being one of my favorite Books in the Bible) it reminds me also of Isaiah 41:10.

God bless!!

If Not Him, Then Who? (2010-03-29 11:01)

By golly, who knew that I'd find God at the zoo? Yes it's true! If not Him, then who could have created such animals? Although it wasn't my first time to visit a zoo, I couldn't help but be awed by the creativeness used to design each of these animals. Some were big and others were small. Many displayed graceful elegance, while others looked down right strange. As I looked around, I said to my sister if I'm created in God's image then He's given me creativity as well and I'm convinced I have some that I've yet to use. Although, I don't understand the full significance in why each of the animals were shaped the way they were, I realize that God did have a purpose for doing so. Each animal is equipped with what they need to survive and thrive in the specific environments that they live.

Reminds me of us humans; we do not all look alike and each of us come packaged with our own unique set of personalities, giftings, and abilities. Only God knew what each individual would need to survive and thrive in the places He designed us to operate. Often times I'm guilty of wishing I was a little bit more of this and a little less of that but I have to be mindful that He's given me everything I need to accomplish His plan and purpose for my life.

[1]Click to play this Smilebox scrapbook: Zoo trip

[2]Create your own scrapbook - Powered by Smilebox

Make a scrapbooking design

Thirsty for Him - Wanda

[3]

1. http://smilebox.com/play/4d5455334f4449784e54513d0d0a&blogview=true&campaign=blog_playback_link
2. http://www.smilebox.com/?partner=smilebox&campaign=blog_snapshot
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Up for a Challenge (2010-03-31 20:29)

I Want You



For The April A to Z Blog Challenge!

[1]

Although I have never been one to take on a dare (always been more of a play it safe kind of girl), one challenge mentioned over at [2]Faith Hope & Love caught my attention. Arlee Bird at [3]Tossing It Out has issued a challenge to fellow bloggers to blog using an A to Z theme for the month of April. So I have decided to dive in and hopefully I will not sink. Some of those letters could be pretty tricky to navigate not to mention that I don't usually blog daily. But since it is a new year, I might as well try some new things, huh. Be sure to check out [4]Tossing It Out for more details about the challenge. Now wish me luck as I start tomorrow, April 1st, with a post relating to the letter "A".

Thirsty for Him, Wanda

[5]

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/___Tx8k6-aLY0/S7GZBLtCuHI/AAAAAAAAAfg/cAXaT3m-TeY/s1600/blog+challenge.jpg
2. <http://shananagins2468.blogspot.com/2010/03/z-challenge.html>
3. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/2010/03/blog-boggled-blogging-from-to-z-april.html>
4. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/2010/03/blog-boggled-blogging-from-to-z-april.html>
5. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

arlee bird (2010-03-31 21:00:21)

Thank you for being so quick to get this on your blog. I have added you to the blog roll and become a follower. I will be posting an update on my site later today acknowledging your post today.

I am thrilled to have you joining us and I hope you find the challenge to be fun and rewarding.

Lee

Shannon (2010-03-31 23:54:44)

Thanks for naming my blog in your post wanda..glad to see your joining in on the fun! Can't wait to see what tomorrow brings!

The Alliterative Allomorph (2010-04-01 08:48:11)
Hi! I'm a new follower. Good luck fellow challenger :)

Wanda (2010-04-01 11:03:02)

@Arlee and Shannon, you are welcome. This will definitely be an interesting challenge.

@ Alliterative Allomorph, glad to have you join my blog and I appreciate the well wishes on the challenge. I'll definitely need it.

1.2 April

Ready, Set, Go (2010-04-01 10:25)

Well today kicks off the A-Z challenge. Today's theme is the letter "A". Lots of "a" words come to mind but the one sticking out to me at the moment is available. If you call my phone on a regular basis, from time to time my answering machine is bound to pick up with a recording, which says "sorry I'm not available to take your call right now but please leave a message." When calling others, one of the messages I dislike the most is "the mailbox is full please try your call later".

With the use of cell phones, instant messenger, and emails, one's ability to be reach has certainly been expanded. Before the widespread use of such technology, the car was a quiet place to unwind from the days happenings. Vacations were sacred getaways but now even there we are available to be reached. DVR and TIVO make television programming available to be watched later at a more convenient time.

Merriam Webster's online dictionary defines available as present and ready for immediate use. I cannot help but wonder how many times God has attempted to reach me only to receive the message that I'm not present and ready to be used. I know that God can reach us anywhere. But just like there are times when my phone rings and I'm actually home but I don't hear it because I'm busy being distracted by other things, I would imagine there has been times when He tried to reach me. However, my spiritual ringer was turned too low or perhaps I did not feel like talking and decided to let the answering machine pick up instead. Some calls, television shows, blog posts, and emails we can afford to miss but being unavailable to God can leave us void of valuable information for our lives. Wonder how many divine appointments I missed with the Father because I was not available.

Father forgive me for the times I've let the cares of this world make me unavailable to you. Help me to not only be present but ready to be used in service to you. Attune my ears that I might hear you. Thank you for loving me enough to keep calling me back to you when you find that I have drifted away. Amen

[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-04-01 11:08:42)

A wonderful start to the challenge, will be looking forward to reading more. We have, in this world come along way in techology sometimes I do wonder if it's all for the best.

Have a good day.

Yvonne.

The Alliterative Allomorph (2010-04-01 11:12:32)

Thanks for joining my blog :) Lovely post. One does wonder when we are ever going to be available nowadays. Our lives are so chaotic ...

arlee bird (2010-04-01 13:44:03)

It's probably ridiculous, but my wife and I each have our cell phones and we have a land line– and nobody hardly even calls us.

That should make me plenty available to pick up God's calls. I know I don't sometimes or just pretend I'm busy and say "I gotta run!". I hope I'm doing better—I keep trying. That is an exceptionally important post for us to hear. A very good way to start with the letter "A".

Thank you

Lee

Dee (2010-04-01 14:26:24)

Oh, girl. I had tears in my eyes by the end of your post. I love the way you used something we've all dealt with as a lead-in to something many of us seldom think of!

ModernDayDrifter (2010-04-02 01:29:19)

This is a really great kick off post for the challenge! You're so right, there's so many ways to get hold of people now! Great job and good luck!

Carol Conway-Fleisher (2010-04-02 02:22:46)

What a great post. All too often I am guilty of not being available when God tries to speak to me. Thanks for stopping by my blog. I look forward to learning more about you during our blogging challenge.

Will Burke (2010-04-02 04:25:38)

Nice take on "A." Wouldn't have thought of that! The trouble with ignoring our Maker is that it keeps getting louder! It's taught me to cultivate silence :)

Grammy (2010-04-03 03:07:33)

Hi, Wanda,

Thanks for visiting my blog. I am just now reading as many blogs as I can. It is late at night (11 p.m.) and I am reading and writing as quickly as I can. I am going to really enjoy reading your postings. God bless you and your unique way of looking at the ordinary.

Best regards to you.

Ruby

Tori Cooper (2010-04-03 05:12:02)

Wow... such a great example you used... I could relate to alot you were saying...:-) Great take on "A"!

Bare But Not Barren (2010-04-02 05:01)



[1]

B is the letter for today. While out listening to the birds chirp as I waited for my Bella to take her potty break, the phrase bare but not barren blew into my mind one winter morning. As I looked intently on the beautiful bird perched in the tree, the unadorned branches of the tree caught my attention. It was still winter so the tree's nakedness was not unusual; it actually had a natural beauty to it. The tree was bare but not necessarily barren. To the outward eye bare and barren can look the same. However, bare is to be empty but barren is to lack the ability to produce. Just like the tree was bare (empty of leaves), there are places in my life that are currently bare. The tree's bareness was simply due to the season the tree was in. It didn't signify the tree's eternal state. Beneath the surface, the tree was connected to some life-nurturing sustenance yet it had no outer appearance of growth. As you know seasons change and now that same tree is now budding.

When I actually took the time to look up the definition of the two words it was in alignment with what the spirit revealed. BARE= lacking a natural, usual or appropriate covering; open to view; unfurnished or scantily supplied; devoid of amplification or adornment. BARREN= not reproducing; incapable of producing offspring; habitually failing to fruit ; not productive; lacking interest or charm. Depending on the length of time or the severity of your bareness, some people would have you inclined to believe that particular place in your life is actually barren - it lacks the ability to produce fruitful relationships, ideas, or ministry. Therefore be careful who you connect with during your "bare" seasons; otherwise you might find yourself disconnected from the Source (the innate power within you to reproduce). Bare is momentary while barren can be for a lifetime. Thank you Lord that every bare place in my life will produce fruit in its proper season.

Photo by: [2]plentyofants

[3]

1. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/S7UuZAsLQPI/AAAAAAAAADk/btNcGAYovT8/s1600/bare+tree.jpg
2.
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Critty (2010-04-02 05:33:12)

Powerful thoughts.

And that last sentence. Amen.

The Alliterative Allomorph (2010-04-02 08:30:17)

You have a very beautiful writing style. Nice work!

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-04-02 10:51:26)

Profound thoughts and a very good way of writing. I wish I could write a straight blog, but I find I can express myself better in poetry form. Good luck with the challenge.

Yvonne.

Dee (2010-04-02 13:39:28)

You have such an amazing way of bringing one subject into the same field as another, and having it all make sense. I'm in awe.

Slushpile Slut (2010-04-02 13:46:34)

Hi Wanda!! What a beautiful thought provoking post...I'm impressed and if I was a preacher, I would so be doing my Easter sermon on this...Awesome...Thanks for this and I am bare but not barren :)

Ginny the Sock Monkey (2010-04-02 15:20:46)

I love this picture. Also the topic, creative and thoughtful. Thanks for doing the challenge with me, and yes, I am a rebel. Always gotta go against the crowd :)!

arlee bird (2010-04-02 15:33:48)

You have really made a great connection here. I agree with Slush that this would make a great sermon topic. This is such a deep and rich message that you have presented in such a beautiful way. Your writing touches me.

Lee

ModernDayDrifter (2010-04-02 15:36:38)

I love the deep thoughts in this blog. I agree, despite the fact that the tree is bare, it is still very beautiful. Nicely done.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-02 15:56:34)

hi Wanda:)

thank you for your encouragement. i really liked my first read here.

Grammy (2010-04-03 03:10:23)

Hi, Wanda,

Thanks for the challenge to remember the difference between bare and barren. What a lovely posting.

I'll be back. Best regards to you!

Ruby

Lisa (2010-04-03 03:33:34)

What a great post. :)

Not enough hours! (2010-04-05 04:15:31)

Lovely post. It is so easy to confuse the two words, but there is a world of difference between them, isn't it?

Buried in Him (2010-04-03 03:38)

BURIED IN HIM

Today marks the day we remember them crucifying Jesus
and carrying Him away to be buried in the tomb.

When I think of the word “bury”, heaps of dirt marking a fresh grave comes to mind.

To bury marks an ending of what was and memorializes what now ceases to be.

When they crucified my Lord, they had no idea what significance that would be
to someone like you and me.

How could they have known that precious seed
would serve to set so many free

I heard a man of God say the most dangerous thing you can do to a seed is to bury it.

For there its greatest potential is released.

Beneath the ground beyond what they could see,

God was preparing a way for you and me.

Because they buried Him and He rose again,
my sins and bondages no longer have the power to imprison me.

When they buried Him, they made resurrection available to me

When they closed the tomb that day, they couldn't fathom
the way of escape made possible on that eventful day.

Because he was bruised and battered, there's healing here now for me

Because He was buried, I can now live freely

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[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Tori Cooper (2010-04-03 05:09:09)

Amen! That's why today is called "Good Friday"... because we can celebrate the hope we have in Jesus because of the fact that he was buried & rose again! Wanda, I wanted to thank you for stopping by my blog... I a greatly appreciate you taking the time! :-)) Added you to my blog reading list! Talk soon!

arlee bird (2010-04-03 13:25:40)

Blessings to you, Wanda and a big amen to what you have said here.

Lee

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-04 00:23:00)
hi Wanda,
like what the man said about the seed:)
Have a Wonderful Easter!

Contractually Connected to a Covenant Keeping Christ (2010-04-03 07:00)

Ok, perhaps I went a little bit crazy with the c-words in my title. But oh contraire, it does complement my post. Yes, I admit I confiscated the idea for this post while listening at Wednesday night Bible study. Inspiration can certainly come from all sorts of places.

Employment agreements, marriages, mortgages, and car loans are a few of the many contracts we enter into and dissolve in today's time. The terms or conditions of each one differ slightly but its function of connecting two or more parties are the same. Each party agrees to offer or bring something to the deal. Thus each reaping some benefit of sort. Before accepting job offers, we are told the salary, insurance policies, vacation days, sick leave or other perks available. As the speaker pointed out in Bible study, we fully expect our employer (flesh) to fulfill what was outlined in the contract. We place great confidence in mere humans (flesh which is often fickle like you and me) that they will uphold their part of the deal.

If we can place such assurance in human contracts, as believers, how much more confidence should we have in our covenant? A covenant sealed in the blood of Christ Jesus. A covenant made over 2000 years ago by a God, who cannot lie. God, who remains the same today, yesterday, and forever more and who does not change His mind. He is the one who remains faithful even when we are faithless.

In reading about covenant in the Nelson's Illustrated Dictionary of the Bible, I found this particular passage interesting. "A covenant, in the biblical sense, implies much more than a contract or simple agreement. A contract always has an end date, while a covenant is a permanent arrangement. Another difference is that a contract generally involves only one part of person, such as a skill, while a covenant covers a person's total being. "Isn't that just like our God, He goes beyond and makes provision for our whole being-mind, body, soul, and spirit. When signing natural contracts, there is often some print we only glance over and soon forget. Maybe it's time to pull your covenant out and read through the pages again. You are sure to find some provision in His Word that you have yet to partake.

[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-04-03 07:56:59)
A most enjoyable post to read and an excellent one for the challenge.
Have a lovely day.
Yvonne.

arlee bird (2010-04-03 13:31:52)
C-Saturday is indeed a day for many C words. Christ sent his followers to fulfill the great commission— how many are doing it? Contracts between us here on here can be easily broken. We often lack commitment. Wanda you have stated a message that many should hear and heed.
Lee

LaMecia Pree (2010-04-03 13:50:57)

That it awesome. Never thought of covenant dealing with the whole you. Awesome!

The Voice (2010-04-03 16:50:26)

I must admit, that at the moment God and I are in deep negotiations. Obviously, somewhere in our contract I must have misread and messed up somewhere. What I did to lose everything I haven't figured out yet and I haven't understood what I was supposed to learn. Situations are smacking me hard and maybe I jumped a few paragraphs or wasn't listening clearly during the interview process. Anyway, I'm signed on for the Eternal Life deal and there is no turning back.

Caledonia Lass (2010-04-03 20:50:58)

You know, the fact that commitment is lacking in society, even the smallest of commitments, is what makes things we should cherish become so disposable.

Not only that, there are so many out there who don't truly understand what a commitment is and just desire instant gratification.

Great C post, Wanda and I'm very glad to meet you through the A-Z challenge. :D

Lisa (2010-04-03 22:17:42)

A great and eye-opening post! Thanks Wanda and I hope you have a blessed Easter!

Lisa

Alex J. Cavanaugh (2010-04-03 22:27:40)

You're right - we can't put our faith in people, because humans are imperfect and will fail us every time... but God will not. Ever.

AprilC - GaFlyGirl (2010-04-04 02:08:41)

Great C- post. So true! Always something new to gain from God's word each day! New insight! Thanks for the post!

Wanda (2010-04-04 03:31:05)

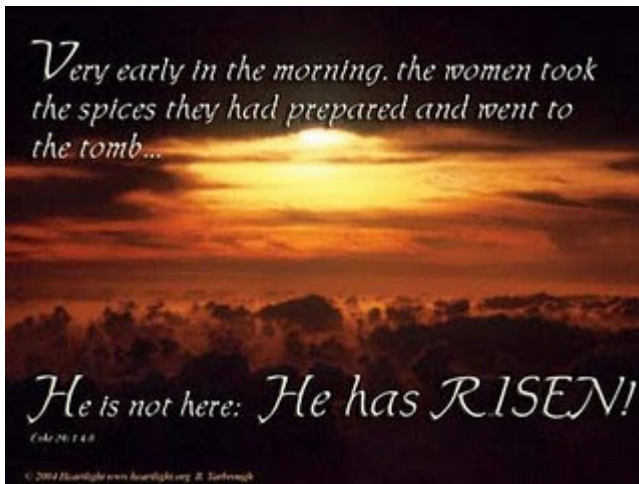
Thanks everybody for stopping by. @Arlee-the great commission is another great c.

@Caledonia-nice to meet you too. I've stumbled across lots of interesting blogs through the challenge. And you make an excellent point about commitment lacking in our society.

@Voice-God often doesn't give us the memo about the mess in the middle but he's definitely promised us VICTORY in the end.

Time for Revisiting the Tomb (2010-04-04 03:42)

This is actually a repost from March but felt it fitting as we approach Easter.



[1]

I finished reading the book of Mark today. In Mark Chapter 16. We see Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary the mother of James going back to the tomb to put some spices on Jesus' body. In verse 3, it says that "on the way there they were discussing who would roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb. Yet we know when they arrived at the tomb, they found the stone had ALREADY been ROLLED away. Like you, I've heard or seen this passage of scripture many times and it's often quoted/illustrated around Easter time. However, today the Holy Ghost allowed me to see the text with fresh eyes and new application. I'm saved, so I've already believed and confessed that Jesus died and rose again.

Yet, is there not some other things that are DEAD in our lives? Are not there some things that have been BURIED and TUCKED AWAY in the recesses of our HEART and MIND? Some for many years. Some things have been so deeply buried that we don't even think about them often. Our emotions, heart, mind have become deaden and we've longed since forgotten about their existence, if it were possible. When we see these women in the beginning of chapter 16, they're preparing to go say their FINAL goodbyes to Jesus. They were going to put some sweet smelling stuff on a DEAD body -a DEAD Jesus. Jesus represents HOPE, LIFE, LIGHT, HELP, SUPPORT as these are all the things He promised He was. Yet, now they find all that DEAD but they were preparing to send it off smelling good. Not unlike what we do at times when something we've hoped for, supported, or that brought light into our life fades away. We'll dress it up with sweet smelling phrases like, "must not have been for me anyway", "I'm just fine". However, they weren't in denial that Jesus was dead. And we don't need to be either. Reality is that some things DIED in us, around us, and even through us.

Just as the women went back to the tomb, we need the courage to revisit some tombs in our lives. Their expectation when revisiting the tomb was to put some things to rest. Probably expected to leave in MOURNING and ANGUISH. Unexpectedly, the stone had already been moved away, while they were attempting to ponder how they were going to get the thing done. Some of us are pondering within our selves, "how am I going to get past this" but if we'll muster up the courage to not only revisit the tomb but ENTER in the places that's been BURIED/TUCKED AWAY. We will find that the experience WILL NOT be the same. RESURRECTION POWER had visited the tomb! Just like Mary and the other ladies, instead of leaving the tomb in SORROW, we'll leave in AMAZEMENT and JOY. The Holy Spirit isunctioning us to REVISIT the TOMBS of dead DREAMS, RELATIONSHIP, HOPE, JOY, LOVE, PASSION, PROMISES or whatever may be dead in your life, and TRY AGAIN. The RESURRECTOR has already gone before you to MOVE the STONE away and He promises that it absolutely will not be the same. EXPECT some thing different because DIVINE RESURRECTION has already ARRIVED but you must go to the place you left it.

Father, I pray that you'll give us the courage to go back to those places in our lives that we've locked away and given up hope of any change. Out of obedience to your word and by the power of the Holy Ghost, we move believing that the place may be the same but what we encounter will not be. Thank you for moving

us past places and things in our lives that was too hard for us. Thank you for moving us past old hurts, old mind sets, old baggage, old hang ups. We thank you for resurrecting life, love, hope, joy, passion in us. In Jesus Name-Amen
Happy Resurrection Day!

Thirsty for Him - Wanda

[2]

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/S4xZn0q_MbI/AAAAAAAAABo/nOUAfjgmFNM/s1600-h/luke24_1,6+-+Risen.jpg
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Mike (2010-04-04 06:25:38)

A blessed Easter to you!

Gregg (2010-04-05 00:33:49)

Thank you for stopping by and leaving a comment. I appreciated it. I enjoyed looking over you site. I will be back. I trust you had a great Resurrection Sunday!

Just Be Real/God Whispers In The Wind (2010-04-06 01:04:52)

Wanda thank you so much for sharing and thank you for your encouraging words to me. Mean a lot! Blessings.

D is the Day (2010-04-05 05:01)

D-day has dawned and I found myself in a dilemma. Didn't quite know what to decide. Do I discuss delicious desserts, determined dedication, dreadful driving habits, or daring Daniel. I dare not go on. So after much deliberation, I have chosen to designate the day as doggy day. Yep, I've chosen to detour from deeper topics and instead deal with my dear dog Bella.

Sweet little girl was deserted at the pound. And since the day I discovered her, she has brought such delight.



[1]

First day at her new home

She detects the faintest sound and dashes to the door in record time.

Occasionally dines on paper and other strange dishes.

And she definitely has a deafening high pitched shrill.



[2]

Someone did away with my coat

Loves to dangle her head outside the car door and is ever satisfied to cling to my side.

From time to time, she even lets me dress her and does not dare complain.



[3]

Do I have to wear the sweater?

Check out other A-Z challenge participants [4]here.

Thirsty for Him - Wanda

[5]

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/S7gAXWb0f9I/AAAAAAAAADs/2yhwGKk5D2k/s1600/102_0307.JPG
2. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/S7gBVuW0yHI/AAAAAAAAAD0/1t0TxNpaV7c/s1600/102_0315.JPG
3. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/S7gDVB7sGfI/AAAAAAAAAD8/qSK9wDsBn0A/s1600/bella+clothed.jpg
4. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>
5. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

arlee bird (2010-04-05 05:26:14)

I think doggy day definitely works. I'm sure a lot of people will really like the photos.
Lee

Not enough hours! (2010-04-05 06:02:10)

What a cutie! And that's not D for doggie, it is C for cutie :-)
There is a little something for you on my blog.
Rayna

The Alliterative Allomorph (2010-04-05 09:24:26)

Do I see a little dabbling of alliteration there? Nice!

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-04-05 13:05:29)

There's a lovely dog, I love animals and this one is no exception. A wonderful blog and I certainly enjoyed looking at the photo's.
Take care.
Yvonne.

Jen (2010-04-05 15:56:08)

Thanks for stopping by and I love your D!!! It's awesome and your doggy is super cute!!!

Raquel Byrnes (2010-04-05 16:24:24)

Delightful ditty on doggies. Dare to be different, my daddy dictated. Great post. Cute pictures.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-05 18:57:33)

my wife does the same thing! she dresses our two "kids." they tolerate it. our kids are large too. one weights 97 lbs. and the other is 112 lbs.
too bad she makes Rocky into a cross-dresser though... poor guy.

Wanda (2010-04-05 19:54:55)

Oh poor Rocky :)

Watery Tart (2010-04-05 21:28:01)

Ahhhh! We have a humane society rescue too, and we love him! I love your D-word intensiveness here!
scratches Bella*

Belbin9 (2010-04-06 02:17:46)

Adorable dog! Dogs really are best friends. Their great company and just want to be loved

Lisa (2010-04-06 04:27:12)

What a cutie patootie! :)
Great D word!!
Have a blessed Tuesday,
Lisa

Niki (2010-04-06 05:38:38)

aw what a lucky and lovely dog she is :o)

Julie (2010-04-06 12:21:53)

Oh Wanda, that was so cute. I love the "D". I am going to follow you so I can see what the rest of the letters do plus what else is happening in your life.

Take care and have a blessed and wonderful day.

Tori Cooper (2010-04-07 00:00:57)

Ay Que Cute! Totally love the pics! Definitely enjoyed reading your topic for D! Yay!

The Eyes Have It (2010-04-06 05:10)



[1] [2][3]When you look into the mirror, what color are the eyes peeking back at you...hazel, blue, brown, green, gray, black or perhaps a little red from all the blog reading? Throughout my life, I've been said to have dreamy or sleeping eyes. Eyes come in all shapes and sizes but their essential purpose remains the same-to see.

However, several people looking at the exact same scene often see very different things. Such is the case of many of the people in Bible times (just as we are today). The deeply religious Pharisees and Sadducees were exposed to the same teachings and miracles of Jesus. Yet they were unable to see that He was indeed the Messiah in which they searched the Scriptures. Even the disciples were privy to close encounters with Jesus seeing first hand his many wondrous works but on several occasions He rebuked them for not being able to perceive who He was really. Looking and seeing does not automatically translate into perceiving what is seen. Matthew 13: 13-14 This why I speak to them in parables: Though seeing they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

I've worn glasses or contacts for several years due to a condition called myopia or nearsightedness as it's commonly known. Myopia is a condition in which one can see things close up but things at a distance appear blurred. Another definition of myopia is a lack of discernment or long range perspective in thinking or planning. Reminds me of how sometimes in life, we're so busy looking at the everyday things that we fail to see the glorious works of God being displayed before our eyes. It was myopia, that prevented the woman at the well from seeing Jesus as the source of everlasting water. Enveloped with daily struggles, myopia prevents me from perceiving they are producing endurance, character, and hope within me.

And what about those who are always looking into the future, planning for a later date and time. Waiting before enjoying, encouraging, or enlightening themselves and others. Certainly preparation for the future is important but not so much that it eludes us of partaking in today's blessings and joys.

So how does one correct their eyesight so that they're not just looking but perceiving. The Message's translation of Matthew 6:22-23 offers a few suggestions like opening your eyes in wonder and belief. Distrust and greed causes distorted vision. Essentially being open and receptive leads to more understanding.

Photo Credit: [4]Chispita _666 via Flickr



[5]

1. <http://i988.photobucket.com/albums/af9/wateredsoul/whatyousee-bychispita666.jpg>
2. <http://i988.photobucket.com/albums/af9/wateredsoul/whatyousee-bychispita666.jpg>
3. <http://i988.photobucket.com/albums/af9/wateredsoul/whatyousee-bychispita666.jpg>
4. [http://www.blogger.com/%3Cdiv%20xmlns:cc=%22http://creativecommons.org/ns#"about="http://www.flickr.com/photos/gusilu/2798744891/"><are1="cc:attributionURL"href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/gusilu/">http://www.flickr.com/photos/gusilu/<are1="license"href="http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/">CCBY2.0</div>](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
5. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

The Alliterative Allomorph (2010-04-06 06:30:12)

Personally I believe eyes are overrated. As you say, many of us just 'look' rather than 'perceive'. This is so true.

Eyes may allow us to see, but what we truly perceive comes from our hearts. We need to make use of all of our other senses and instincts to see what's really ahead of us.

To me, eyes are just like the amber traffic light. They warn us, caution us, but they do not tell :)

Beautiful post.

Mike (2010-04-06 07:44:52)

Great reflection! May the Spirit open our eyes :)

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-04-06 09:52:58)

A most interesting post, very pleasurable to read.

I find about eyes if a person can't look you straight into your eyes they have something to hide. Eye contact is very important to me.

Take care.

Yvonne.

Pet (2010-04-06 16:36:33)

Interesting. God bless.

LaVonne (2010-04-06 19:07:57)

Amen! It is tragic, in the spirit and in the natural, to see without really seeing and observing and taking in what is in the line of vision. Sight is a line, not a dot...it is long, it points toward. Sight is a beginning of a thing, not an end. Continue speaking the Word in this time of famine of the Word.

LaVonne

Raquel Byrnes (2010-04-06 19:39:02)

That was a great post. I loved the way you started out with eye color, moved onto types of vision, and then likened it all to spiritual perception. Nice work.

Tori Cooper (2010-04-07 00:09:46)

Great job on your E post! Excellent insight on perception... sometimes we get so caught up in what we "can" see that we forget to use our other senses... another great verse is 2 Corinthians 5:7 We live by faith not by sight... :-)

Wanda (2010-04-07 00:47:02)

That is another good scripture indeed Tori.

Interesting analogy alitterative regarding the amber caution light. Thanks for all the encouraging words LaVonne, Yvonne, Pet, Raquel and Mike

F is for F.A.M.I.L.Y. (2010-04-07 10:06)

Short or tall. Young or old. Big or small. We all were born into some type of family of sort. The composition of families in society has changed. Dynamics in families vary but having a family provides us with a few fundamental ingredients.

Foundation: Families provide us with a foundation for trust and developing relationships with others. There we learn the fundamental skills needed to forge into the future. Who we become is built upon the experiences we had as children.

Faith: Church and faith has been a part of my life as far back as I can remember. It was through fierce determination of my mother that my siblings and I grew up with the knowledge of the Heavenly Father. All those times spent in Sunday School, YPWW, and even choir practice (which I soooo dreaded) was sowing seeds of faith that would reap an eternal harvest within me.

Fun and Fond Memories: Just during ordinary days I've share so many laughs and good times with my family. And holidays bring back fond memories of Christmas, Thanksgiving, Fourth July, and Easter past. My extended family has a habit of gathering on any and every occasion.

Fan Club: It has been my family that has cheered me on from award ceremonies, graduations, and birthdays. There has not been one occasion that someone was not there encouraging me.

Families are often filled with faults as well. As I was reading a post over at [1]Coffee Rings Everywhere about the author's father, I couldn't help but feel a tinge of sadness that I don't recall any such tender moments with my dad. Dysfunction in families is nothing new simply read your Bible and you'll find some major feuds and favoritism in families. We are unable to choose our natural families, but we all have to opportunity to become a part of a much greater family-God's family.

P. S. Trying to come up with posts for the A-Z challenge has been fun and frightening. Find other F-related posts [2]here.

[3]

1. <http://coffeeringseverywhere.blogspot.com/2010/04/d-for-daddys-darling-daughter.html>
2. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

LisaShaw (2010-04-07 13:49:31)

Very true that we can not select our natural families and often there are situations (dysfunctions and large hurts which I experienced growing up) that happen but I'm grateful for being a part of the Family of Christ! Being adopted into ABBA's Family through Jesus Christ is awesome!

Thanks for sharing!

Blessings to you...

Shannon (2010-04-07 16:18:42)

Oh so true! Being in God's family is so much better than being in our own dysfunctional families...don't get me wrong, I love my wonderful family, but I love being an heir to the Throne, don't you! Following you now, so glad I found you! This has been a fun challenge so far!

Raquel Byrnes (2010-04-07 18:57:56)

Great ponderings on the disfunction of families being a timeless, human, folly. Great post.

Dee (2010-04-07 19:41:00)

I envy you your family. Make sure to tell them how much you love them, and hug them a lot. Many of us can't...

Lisa (2010-04-07 23:38:23)

I enjoyed reading this and agree that the greatest family we can be a part of is the family of God!

Kierah Jane Reilly (2010-04-08 00:46:01)

Your post reminded me of what my mother told me when I got engaged. She told me "you can't choose your family, but you can choose your spouse, and you only live with your family for 18 years or so, but you will live with your husband for the rest of your life." And marrying my husband was the best decision I've ever made. Thanks for sharing!

Wanda (2010-04-08 03:48:25)

Indeed being apart of family of Christ is the best. He super exceeds what any human can do. @ Kierah I'm glad to hear you have a happy marriage. Great news to a single girl :-)

Will Burke (2010-04-08 03:54:30)

Thanks for sharing! All good thing to remember as I have a fresh people that needs to learn everything about this place!

Are You Growing? (2010-04-08 05:15)



[1]

Oh my gosh, I must admit lately I've been feeling like a girl back in grade school working hard to get my A-Z challenge assignments completed. I could never be glad with an incomplete. Gees let's get to my post. Babies, flowers, and definitely my grass seem to grow so fast. I've been reflecting on those things needed to ensure healthy growth in our lives. Using each letter of the word grow, I discovered some helpful things to help our spiritual lives bloom.

G-for Ground. The ground or the type of soil we're planting in hampers or helps the seeds sown. Jesus, Himself illustrated through the parable of the sower the impact the ground of our hearts have on the Word in our lives.

R-for Rain. Just as plants require water, we need the rain of his presence to fall upon us. Life has a way of leaving us burdened, burned, and bare. Searching for water sources to quench our thirst leads us to broken relationships, food addictions, alcohol and drug abuse, promiscuity. All promising to quench our dry places but only leaving us more drained and parched than before.

O-for Opportunities and Obstacles. Yes, I did say obstacles. Obstacles and opportunities for growth present themselves in very obscure ways. Trials and tribulations produce (if there is production, there is growth) something within us according to Romans 5:3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials,

for we know that they are good for us. They help us learn to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation. So the next time you find yourself facing an obstacle, remind yourself that you have been granted an opportunity to grow.

W-for Weapons. Oh indeed you need some weapons if you're going to grow. Any good farmer or gardener has specific tools that help him cultivate the ground and gather the harvest. And the devil is just like pests are to plants, he comes to infect and ultimately destroy your growth. Therefore, appropriate pesticides (weapons) are needed. Being as gracious as He is, God has prepared armor for you to wear so that you might stand against the wiles of the devil. 2 Corinthians 10:4 tells us The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. (NIV)

I pray that the ground of your heart is soft and receptive to God. And when you find that you are hardened that you'll allow the rain of His presence to make you supple again. When obstacles and opportunities come along, may you not shrink back in fear but fearlessly forge ahead knowing that God is right at your side and that He's equipped you with the weapons to overcome.

See what other g-related topics A-Z Challengers are discussing [2]here.



[3]

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/S71NLW_z4BI/AAAAAAAAAEM/gesSVWbStYU/s1600/Garden.jpg
2. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

arlee bird (2010-04-08 06:48:17)

Wanda, that was a creative approach with an important message. I'll give you an A+ for that one.

Lee

[1] Blogging From A to Z April Challenge

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/2010/03/blog-boggled-blogging-from-to-z-april.html>

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-04-08 09:37:18)

A wonderful post to read, a real pleasure.

Yvonne,

Wanda (2010-04-08 11:36:29)

An A+ really, Arlee...oh my I'm excited. Always did love to receive that grade.

Thanks Yvonne.

Lisa (2010-04-08 18:11:01)

Such a beautiful post. As I go through a time of growth in my spiritual life right now, I can so relate to what you've said. Interesting that you talked about the appetites for "other things" when what we're really hungry for is more of Him. I read another post similar in content to that just the other day. Maybe He's telling me something?

I'm listening Lord! :)

Have a blessed day!

Pet (2010-04-08 18:47:18)

This is a nice post. Thank you. I have to check out the challengers.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-08 20:00:03)

what an amazing day! love this post! getting fed today, that's for sure!

Linda (2010-04-08 23:28:55)

Loving your blog! I am going to be a follower cause I think you are going to have great things to say. I love this challenge - I write about the first word that comes into my head when I think about each letter. Sometimes it is random. . .

melodygreen (2010-04-09 00:50:27)

Love the truth amid creativity. :) I am so in agreement with you on areas we need to grow... even the not-so-fun parts like obstacles...

Patricia Stoltey (2010-04-09 02:26:43)

Hi Wanda – Thanks for dropping by my blog. I just finished reading through several of your posts and really like your style and topic choices. I'll be checking back for more.....Patricia

Wanda (2010-04-09 03:55:33)

Thanks Lisa, Pet, Patricia, Bud, Linda! You've definitely brighten my day. God bless you.

Tori Cooper (2010-04-10 21:25:01)

I hear you on the whole feeling like a girl back in grade school... I'm so behind on my comments! Catching up is not an easy task... thank God I have today and tomorrow! Wanda, thank you for visiting my blog and commenting... I want you to know that I'm doing my best to keep up with you and your beautiful postings! Your entries are always refreshing and graceful! Love it!

Shanda (2011-05-15 16:26:19)

Thank you so much for this post. I am on my personal A to Z challenge of thankfulness and slightly regretting it as I have limited myself so much in my decision to make the word something I am grateful for; especially as I am getting to the end with the 'hard' letters. This post was just what I needed to encourage me to keep going and also to focus on the scriptures you gave RE obstacles and weapons.

Power in Your Hands (2010-04-09 06:00)



[1]

Photo Credit: [2]Nojahn via Flickr

With my hands I shuffle endless heaps of paper at work, add my signature to notes, wash dishes, fold piles of laundry, and click through my favorite channels with the remote. I use these hands to pat Bella and fill her doggy dishes. Through these same hands money passes to pay bills. And often within their grip is the latest book or Bible verse I'm reading. Each of these ordinary and seemingly insignificant tasks keeps my hands busy. But could this be all that God had in mind for these hands of mine?

You've probably read the poem entitled, Whose Hands It's In, if not I've included at the bottom of the post. Through the hands of a murderer like Moses, God placed deliverance for a whole nation. In the hands of a persecutor like Paul, God placed healing for many. The hands of a little shepherd boy like David laid the assassination of a giant named Goliath. God placed a baby born to be the Savior of the world in the hands of a virgin girl named Mary. In the hands of fishermen, Christ placed the authority and power to spread the

Gospel. The hand of one blogger with a single idea was able to unite bloggers across hemispheres to join an A-Z Challenge. In the hands of a scared farmer named Gideon, God placed the ability to be a rescuer. These were all ordinary people, whom God choose to use, going about their daily lives. But how did the insignificant become a candidate for such inspiring and honorable feats? They simply chose to place their hands in God's hand.

Now go ahead and take a look at those hands of yours and know that God wants to use those hands as well. Father we not only place our hands in your hands but our whole lives as well.

Whose Hands it's In.

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19.

A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands

Is worth about \$33 million.

It depends Whose hands it's in.

A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6.

A baseball in Mark Mcquire's hands

Is worth \$19 million.

It depends Whose hands it's in.

A tennis racket is useless in my hands.

A tennis racket in Pete Sampras' hands

Is a Wimbledon Championship.

It depends Whose hands it's in.

A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal.

A rod in Moses' hands

Will part the mighty sea.

It depends Whose hands it's in.

A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy.

A sling shot in David's hand

Is a mighty weapon.

It depends Whose hands it's in.

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands

Is a couple of fish sandwiches.

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in God's hands

Will feed thousands.

It depends Whose hands it's in.

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse.

Nails in Jesus Christ's hands

Will produce salvation for the entire world.

It depends Whose hands it's in.

So put your concerns, your worries, your fears,

Your hopes, your dreams, your families

And all your relationships into God's hands.

Because as you can see

It matters Whose hands their in.

Author Unknown

Check out other A-Z challenge participants [3]here.



[4]

1. <http://i988.photobucket.com/albums/af9/wateredsoul/hands.jpg>

2. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nojhan/1571935892/>

3. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-04-09 11:03:46)

An amazing blog, It was such a pleasure to read, set me up for the day. Thank you.
Yvonne.

Linda (2010-04-09 15:02:46)

I have chills reading your blog - good chills. You are a fantastic writer - and you are so right about the hands of the A-Z challenge creator uniting us in a way that would never have happened in our ordinary lives.

Watery Tart (2010-04-09 15:07:34)

Very interesting way to think of it. I hope some day a pen in my hand is worth more than the 3 for a dollar it cost me...

Makes me think we should all listen to the voice that is telling us what WE ought to be doing to best use our hands.

Wanda (2010-04-09 15:33:16)

Thanks Yvonne. @Linda, God bless you. I've never thought of myself as much of a writer but the challenge has been a blessing to meet so many other talented bloggers. @ Watery Tart, there's just no telling the plans the Master has for those hands of yours.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-09 16:06:47)

i think you're post today IS a real winner!!!
very impressive, Wanda!!!

Rae (2010-04-09 22:19:19)

What a gentle, thought-provoking post...I love realizing that God does guide our hands. It would do us all well to fold them together in prayer more often.

Looking forward to "I".

Just Be Real/God Whispers In The Wind (2010-04-10 10:52:58)

Wanda, words to touch my heart. Thank you. I needed this.

Andrea (2010-04-10 12:13:51)

Awesome post!

Thank you so much for your sweet comments on arise 2 write. Sorry it has taken me a couple of days to get over here.

You have an awesome blog. I have joined to follow and look forward to getting to know you.

Blessings, andrea

I is for (2010-04-10 12:25)

I is for the many ideas for topics that are swimming around in my head. However, I've yet to pull them together into a cohesive post. Perhaps my brain will be better organized later today. In the meantime, I would like to invite you to visit a fellow blogger who has written an intriguing post entitled [1]Master of Integrity. You will certainly be blessed. Now head on over there and enjoy a great Saturday.



[2]

1. <http://swordofgoliath.blogspot.com/2010/04/master-of-integrity.html>
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-04-10 12:50:43)

Wanda, enjoy your day swimming in inspiration. Can't wait to see what flows from you. Thanks for the mention. Love above all,

Andrea (2010-04-10 13:43:50)

Hope you have an awesome day.
Blessings, andrea

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-10 18:29:54)

will be keeping an eye out for it. pun intended:)

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-10 18:31:05)

which reminds me...eye haven't written my own yet!

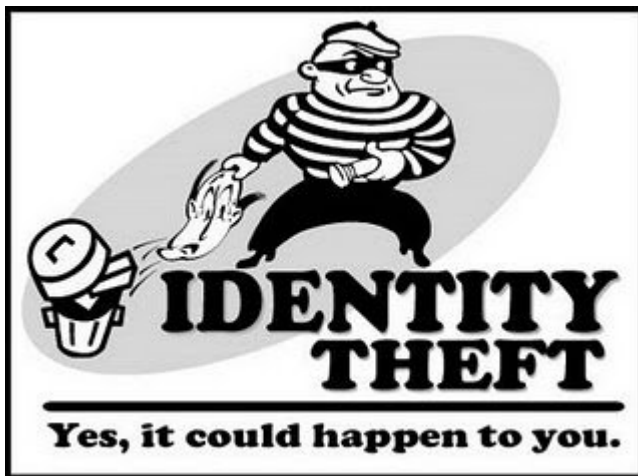
LaTonya Bynum (2010-04-10 19:10:48)

I feel the same way about the many ideas in my head. I wrote a post titled Why I Don't Blog As Much As I should. It helped me to overcome some of the shyness about blogging.

Will Burke (2010-04-11 11:02:21)

Yeah, I had the hardest time sitting to write before the challenge too!

Imposter on the Loose (2010-04-10 23:31)



[1]

According to statistics identity theft is on the rise. One report states that one in four households in the US is affected by it. While certain age groups have higher incidences of id theft, it happens to people from all

walks of life. Encarta dictionary defines identity as the name or essential character that identifies somebody or something; the set of characteristics that somebody recognizes as belonging uniquely to himself or herself and constituting his or her individual personality for life.

What things or characteristics do you identify with yourself? There is a song I listen to from time to time by Lacrae called Identity. The words of the chorus are:

I'm not the shoes I wear, I'm not the clothes I buy
I'm am not the house I live in, I'm not the car I drive
I'm not the job I work, You can't define my worth
By nothing on God's green earth, my identity is found in Christ.

I believe one of the greatest thefts in the body of Christ is stolen identities. The enemy fights hard to keep us locked away from the truth of who God has called us to be. As long as we don't know who we are and the power and authority that he has placed within these earthen vessels, the enemy is able to steal, kill, and destroy our love ones, our hopes, passions, and faith. Keeping us chained to our old man thus rendering us ineffective in the kingdom of God. Our true identity can only be found by fellowshipping with the Creator.



[2]

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/S8EBQg40E1I/AAAAAAAAAEU/7b_5neNefjg/s1600/identity_theft+photo.jpg
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-11 00:04:31)

you nailed this one, Wanda! i was here a few month's after losing it ALL to the enemy. one of the problems when this happened to me was when i got back into sin, it was ten times worse to get out of then before. what a lot of people fail to recognize is that the enemy really wants to kill us literally not figuratively. if he can't get to us, he will use someone closer to us. abiding is my only hope!

Wanda (2010-04-11 01:31:04)

Oh yes, he's a real enemy who aims to complete his assignment by any means necessary.

Raquel Byrnes (2010-04-11 02:50:16)

Awesome post. I agree whole-heartedly.

Roland D. Yeomans (2010-04-11 04:00:41)

I read your profile and loved it. You're right. The Father would not have given us the Dream if He did not want us to follow it with all our heart.

If you have the time and inclination, would you check out my entry in the murder scene blogfest. It is a historical fantasy, set in 1853 aboard a transatlantic steamer bound for Paris. 1853 where morality was as razor-edged for men of principle as it is now.

<http://rolandyeomans.blogspot.com/>.

Thanks, Roland

Linda (2010-04-11 11:46:24)

Good choice for I-day. If my ID card has heaven as my "home address", do people who know me and "look" at my ID card see me as identified with Christ? That is my question to ponder today.

Gregg (2010-04-11 12:32:13)

Good post and great analogy! We do need to know who we are in Christ. Although we have a large part in the responsibility of knowing this, the fault lies with poor teaching on the part of biblical teachers. We have such a shortage of them today and it the problem continues to grow worse.

Wanda (2010-04-11 13:21:24)

@Raquel-thanks

@Roland, thanks for stopping by and when I get a moment I'll be sure to stop by your place.

@Linda, good point, I was reading a scripture the other day and was pondering the same thing about self.

@Gregg, true we perish due to lack of knowledge.

Lisa (2010-04-11 15:36:52)

Great post Wanda. I read the last paragraph twice so that I could fully grasp what you were saying, with my heart. And grasp it I did. My hearts desire is to live as close to my Master so any deception by the enemy falls on deaf ears. Thanks friend for being His vessel.

Hugs,

Lisa

Ellie (2010-04-11 17:17:45)

Great post, you put a lot of great info in here Love the lyrics, you really tied this up nicely!

Wanda (2010-04-12 03:14:37)

@ Lisa being close to what is authentic helps us to recognize the counterfeit.

@ Ellie thanks!

Mike (2010-04-12 15:48:20)

Great post. I pray that God will reveal more and more who we are in Christ. Awesome :)

Tori Cooper (2010-04-15 22:12:45)

So true what you say... we got to get to the point where we believe what God says we are instead of all those lies... the bible says Satan is the father of lies... although it is easy to believe them... freedom lies behind truth... They shall know the truth, and the truth shall set them free! JOHN 8:32 God's word is truth (JOhn 17;17)

Capturing the Journey (2010-04-12 05:01)

A place to reflect on days gone by...

A safe place to dream and envision life as I wish it could be...

A place to juggle my thoughts and release the rage or disappointment within...

A journal has been my place to release all the rumblings in my head for quite some time.

When I was much younger, I wrote in it daily but find that now days, weeks, and sometimes even months go by without writing in my journal. It's interesting to read back through my journal to see how I've progressed in my journey through life. So many of the things I was once consumed with now have little significance in my life. Other things that I thought I never could get through I found that God has moved me pass. It's the place I write the whisperings from God and in times of drought, reviewing them makes my heart glad to recall the promises He's spoken. How do you document your life's journey?

This post is a part of the A-Z challenge. Find other J-topics [1]here.



[2]

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Rae (2010-04-12 10:24:55)

I have a cardboard box full of journals from the past 30 years or so. Sometimes it's fun (and funny) to pull one out and read some of the things that were happening at the time. It is strange how some worries were so petty and some wishes were so shallow. And it is bittersweet to see my family and my life's story bloom from the pages. Sadly, I haven't kept a journal (other than my blogs) for several years now.

Just Be Real/God Whispers In The Wind (2010-04-12 10:44:22)

That is wonderful that you were able to journal your feelings and progress over the years. Blessings.

Linda (2010-04-12 12:43:56)

Well friend, we were thinking alike. I wrote about journey also. My journal is becoming my blog - and hopefully this will progress into a journal for my children and grandchildren to read and learn about life and about me.

Andrea (2010-04-12 15:10:15)

I have journaled every day for years. It has been my way to release and work through many things in my life. Blessings, andrea

Lisa (2010-04-12 15:34:19)

I have recently started a gratitude journal. I try to document, every day, 10 things I'm thankful for from that day. It puts so much into perspective and makes me realize how incredibly blessed I really am. Great post!

Debra Harris-Johnson (2010-04-12 16:13:34)

Hi Wanda it's Debra from Dream Weaver thanks for visiting me this morning. I love your blog and I love that you said "a safe place to dream in." Talk again soon. Trying to leave everyone at least 1comment this month.

Gregg (2010-04-12 16:47:15)

I have just started journaling in my morning devotions. it is strange for. Funny how things change as time goes by, huh?

Jen (2010-04-12 17:24:20)

Beautiful word, Journey is definitely true for me in every aspect of life and I love to document my journey's in notebooks and with photos when I can!

Wanda (2010-04-12 17:34:04)

-Linda, that's great that you're leaving a legacy for your children and grandchildren through your blog.

-Andrea, I just can seem to muster the discipline to journal daily.

-Lisa, a gratitude journal is a great idea. So many times we're too busy complaining or whining that fail to realize there's a lot to be grateful.

-Debra, thanks for stopping by.

-Greg, yes it's funny to see the progress made in life.

-Jen, life's a journey indeed.

Mary McDonald (2010-04-12 17:40:42)

Beautiful post, Wanda. You definitely have a way with words. I never did any journal writing until about six weeks ago. I'm enjoying it and hope it becomes a habit.

Ellie (2010-04-12 17:48:09)

I love how journaling has helped you so much! I love what you shared and you are right, we are thinking alike today! ;-D

Lorena G. Sims (2010-04-12 18:05:12)

I love reading my journals, it gives me mix feelings, well, it depends on what journal I come across with and read. I have many journals but never used all the pages.. I just can't seem to be faithful in writing and documenting my daily life.

arlee bird (2010-04-12 18:59:06)

Journaling really is a great idea. I've tried doing it at times, but never keep up with it. I guess my documentation of my life's journey is a hodgepodge of random writings, photographs, video, letters, and all of the miscellanea that I tend to keep.

Good word for J.

Lee

[1] Blogging From A to Z April Challenge

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/2010/03/blog-boggled-blogging-from-to-z-april.html>

Raquel Byrnes (2010-04-12 19:36:49)

All this talk about journaling is making me want to go buy one.

ModernDayDrifter (2010-04-13 00:40:48)

I document my journey with a blog too. This is a great J post.

Also, thanks for your warm comments on my blog. I hope you have a great evening.

Trudy (2010-04-13 01:32:09)

I used to journal constantly but sadly, have gotten away from it. I'd like to start again after the baby is born...I think those would be some wonderful years to look back on. I also used to keep a prayer journal and it was wonderful to look back and see how faithful God was...even if I didn't feel it at the time.

Blessings to you Wanda!

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-13 01:54:46)

guess i'd say my blog is my journey/journal:)

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-13 01:55:49)

btw...you're putting a lot of thought into your posts!

Not enough hours! (2010-04-13 15:13:50)

Isn't it wonderful to read your journal and see how far you have come. I used to journal, but now, it is my blog that is my journal. And it is wonderful that I have people like you on my journey.

Rayna

Beth (2010-04-15 01:17:22)

I never really felt the call to journal when I was younger. When I first began blogging a journal was all I doing it for.

K is for King (2010-04-13 06:00)

When I think of the letter k, king is the first word that comes to mind. Attired in royal robes and commanding His subjects is the picture I see of a King. A king governs with power and authority. He's one who is served and doesn't entertain the common folk. Instead he dines with other rulers and leading authorities.

Yet I'm reminded how so many people in Bible times missed the King of kings because He didn't come packaged in the stately garments in which they expected. Rather than glitz and glamour, my King arrived on earth's scene in a plain and humble manner. He didn't grow up with a silver spoon in His mouth but as the son of an ordinary carpenter. The kingdom He came to establish was not about lording over others or seeking positions of grandeur. Instead he taught that servanthood is the way to true greatness.

Grateful that He chose to utilize the ordinary, mundane, often-overlooked people in society to advance His Kingdom. Otherwise, there would be no hope for a girl like me. His kingdom is not based on race, age, or economic status but open to all who will believe and confess. Matthew 21:32 John came to show you the right way to live. You did not believe him, but the tax collectors and prostitutes believed him. Even after seeing this, you still refused to change your ways and believe him. Have you accepted the invitation to be a part of the Kingdom? If not, there's still time left.

Be sure to visit other A-Z challengers [1]here.



[2]

1. <http://tossitout.blogspot.com/>
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-04-13 07:13:25)

Thank you for a wonderful post,most enjoyable to read.

Yvonne,

Wanda (2010-04-13 12:04:05)

Thanks Yvonne!

Linda (2010-04-13 13:07:21)

Beautifully said. Reading your posts is always an inspiration.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-04-13 13:53:47)

Wanda, thanks for the reminder that the least will be the greatest. Some people stress themselves trying to be No. 1 with man while forgetting the God who created them to just be...be still and know that He is.

Love above all.

Andrea (2010-04-13 14:41:13)

Blessings and prayers,

andrea

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-13 19:09:08)

wish i could say things so well as you do....in shorter posts:)

Raquel Byrnes (2010-04-13 19:46:30)

Inspirational and thought provoking. Great post.

Kierah Jane Reilly (2010-04-13 22:46:43)
You said that so well!

Gregg (2010-04-13 23:09:48)
Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess!

Jen (2010-04-13 23:30:50)
Awe what an amazing post!!! Thank you for sharing!!! King is an excellent word!

Lisa (2010-04-13 23:45:03)
"Otherwise, there would be no hope for a girl like me." Powerful words. I'm so glad He came!
Great post my friend!

Grammy (2010-04-14 00:49:43)
I think that sometimes we are so busy with "life" that we tend to forget about giving honor and allegiance to the King of Kings. Thanks for the reminder to us.
Ruby

Lorena G. Sims (2010-04-14 02:19:51)
Such a great post. Thanks for sharing.

Ellie (2010-04-14 02:22:45)
Very inspirational! A wonderful reminder

Niki (2010-04-14 02:39:03)
I enjoyed reading this, thank you :o)

Lifting the Labels (2010-04-14 14:15)



[1]

Clothing, cars, bottles, bags, boxes, purses, shoes, and cans are just of the few places that you can find a label. There are designer labels and others are just generic names. Companies spend big bucks trying to market their labels so their brand stands out. When we see a particular label or logo, we instantly recognize the company that produces the product. Amazingly before children are even able to read, they know those golden arches means McDonalds is nearby. We don't have to see the words Nike but that little swoosh sign easily makes the shoes recognizable.

Labels serve to describe something or identify an item, its contents or manufacturer. And we associate certain characteristics with a specific label thus defining its value or potential. However, labels also limit our expectancy. If a can is labeled as corn, we don't expect to open it and find green beans. In life sometimes we acquire labels that attempt to define us and affect our perception of ourselves and others. Teachers might have labeled you has dumb. Maybe, your family called you the black sheep. Of course, not all labels are negative. Whether the label is smart, you're just like your father, or you're no good, those who have been labeled find themselves living out those labels at times. I remember reading about an experiment with a group of students. Divided into two groups, one group of students labeled as smart and the other as average. Surprisingly, each group's academic performance was at the level they had been identified.

It reminds of the story of Jacob in the Bible. His own mother gave him a name that means trickster, deceiver or supplanter (to take the place of another through force, scheming/strategy) and he certainly fulfilled that role. Not only did he steal his brothers birthright but also his blessing. But the good news is that although labels sure have a way of sticking to us, they don't have to be attached for a lifetime. Just like Jacob was given a new name (Israel) so do we when we accept Christ as Savior. No longer am I stuck living out labels or stuck in sin. For He gives me a new label of overcomer, chosen, righteous... just to name a few.

My mom being the recycler that she is often reuses jars and although she would remove the label, they hardly ever all came off at one time. Even after repeated washings, parts of the label would still be attached. As believers we are the same way, having lived much of our lives with certain labels, we don't always find it easy to lift the labels of our past and walk in the freedom of our new labels. But as we continue to bathe our minds in His Words and declare what He says about us, those old labels will lose their stickiness.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new. (CEV)

2 Corinthians 5: 16-17 Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! (The Message)

Check out other A-Z challenge participants [2]here.



[3]

1. <http://i988.photobucket.com/albums/af9/wateredsoul/dr.p.jpg>

2. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Ellie (2010-04-14 14:55:32)

Wanda, Bravo, this is so well done!

Sad, but true! You brought so much to the table with the label. I loved it! I recycle and can relate to removing the labels. We as a society need to stop summing people up with labels. There are many facets to a personality and people's talents. Great post!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-04-14 15:08:13)

Wanda, it is all so true and sad. Many opportunities are missed when we look at labels. We miss the chances to give and receive.

May we continue to do all to God's glory.

Lisa (2010-04-14 16:22:53)

My goodness what an interesting spin you put on labels and the effect that can have on our lives. I'm so glad that our Redeemer has the "Goo Gone" to remove those labels once and for all!

Great post!

Mike (2010-04-14 16:40:20)

Great post. I had this experience where God gave me a new name. I've never told anyone what it is. My challenge is, can they 'see' what my new name is through my life? Blessings :)

Beth (2010-04-14 17:18:43)

What a wonderful post! LOVE this! Sorry I seem to have missed you before. I keep thinking I have made it to all the A to Z blogs and then I find another that I had managed to miss. I'll blame it on my blonde roots! :) Anyway ... I'm following your blog now and look forward to hearing/reading more of your heart!

Andrea (2010-04-14 19:39:03)

WOW..great post! Very thought provoking.

Blessings, hugs, and prayers,

andrea

Raquel Byrnes (2010-04-14 19:40:07)

Awesome post. So true and hopeful to know that we are not what people say we are.

Elizabeth West (2010-04-14 20:41:50)

True. I lived with a label growing up that made my life very hard. I'm still fighting it because family originated it, and is still perpetuating it in some ways.

How very difficult it is to shed those labels. We should try our best to avoid categorizing people as much as we can.

Gregg (2010-04-14 21:31:49)

Very good use of the idea of labels. Very imaginative and a good analogy.

Linda (2010-04-14 22:35:53)

I love your take on labels - especially about the part where sometimes the old labels don't always come off. I am so thankful God gives us a new label. I talked about labels today too though in a totally different vein.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-14 23:02:12)

loved your approach. encouraging too:)

Grammy (2010-04-15 01:42:41)

Hi, Putting the wrong "label" on someone can totally mess up their lives. You are correct in your take on labels. Thanks for a really thought provoking post.

Ruby

Debra Harris-Johnson (2010-04-15 03:23:07)

I hate when someone label kids dumb, ugly, fat etc; all those negative things tend to stick and stay.

What a great blog. I love it!

Wanda (2010-04-15 04:20:02)

Thanks to each of you for sharing thoughts. Blessings to you.

Tori Cooper (2010-04-15 22:07:50)

Love it! I like how you talked about bathing our minds in His Words... when we fill our hearts and mind with the Word of God and start to belief it all those "labels" start to fade... great post topic!

My Mind is Pondering (2010-04-15 06:30)



[1]

"M" is the letter of the day for the [2]A-Z Challenge. I considered mentioning mothers and even money matters. But the subject of marriage has my mind mesmerized at the moment. Not because I'm some expert in the matter but as a young, single, professional Christian woman, I'm concerned about getting it right. The fact that so many marriages, even among Christians, today end in divorce is rather alarming to me. Understandably being Christian doesn't exempt one from the pressures and challenges that any marriage faces, I've just always believe that somehow two Christians entering marriage could certainly beat the odds.

So my questions is to those of you who are happily hanging in marriage, what's the secret (for the lack of a better word) to making marriage work? Or what tools are essential to having a happy marriage?



[3]

1. <http://i988.photobucket.com/albums/af9/wateredsoul/weddingbands.jpg>
2. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Andrea (2010-04-15 13:34:37)

Essential tools:

Focus on GOD

Lots of prayer

Unconditional love

Hugs, andrea

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-04-15 13:36:15)

Hello Wanda! Marriage...what a word to think on. Trust is the core. We can't have a relationship with God if we can't trust Him, and we can't have a marriage without trust.

Trust in marriage begins long before the marriage. Each person must have developed a trusting relationship with God. That trust in God gives us what we need to make wise decisions, including that critical decision of who we should marry. TRUST, TRUST & TRUST! Without it, there is no honesty, no humility, no Godly submission, no love. There must be trust.

arlee bird (2010-04-15 14:52:00)

As one who is on his 3rd marriage I might not seem like the go to guy on this topic. Believe me, I was not happy about any of my divorces and would have never let them happen if it had been totally up to me. I think divorce laws should be much more rigid and biblical.

Aside from the good advice given so far I would add extreme patience and commitment. 1 Corinthians chapter 13 should be the study guide for you and any prospective partner before you enter into a marriage and throughout the partnership.

I hope you find the partner you deserve and that when you go into the contract that it is intended for life. Divorce is one of the worst things I've ever had to deal with and I don't recommend it for anyone.

Lee

[1] Blogging From A to Z April Challenge

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/2010/03/blog-boggled-blogging-from-to-z-april.html>

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-15 15:52:32)

...disqualify myself to answer this one:)

but agree 100 % with what Lee said AND experienced...

Shannon (2010-04-15 15:54:54)

There is no secret, love each other the way God teaches you to do in His word, don't just give 50 % of yourself to your mate, give 100 % of yourself to the marriage...communicate every day, it is a wonderful tool...lol...men cannot read our minds, so don't make them, tell them what you want because they really don't know..we are wired emotionally, men are wired visually, it's a fact, God made them that way! These are my secrets, if you want to call them that, to a wonderful marriage!

Linda (2010-04-15 17:30:32)

Commitment. Start like you want to finish - together. And everything Lee said.

Faith Imagined (2010-04-15 18:58:45)

I agree with everything. I also want to add that you be physically intimate with your hubby as much as possible. He will greatly appreciate this advice!

Tori Cooper (2010-04-15 22:04:24)

Totally agree with Shannon and Faith Imagined... unfortunately no one is exempt from tough times. So it is important to remember we all have to fight to keep the marriage healthy and strong.

Marriage is hard work and not for the weary. My husband & I decided at the very beginning that if we married, divorce wasn't an option, that we would do whatever we could to make it work, and we would always put Christ in the center of our relationship.

We believe that marriage is a full time ministry in itself. I am called to minister to my husband and he to me... as long as we are keeping our minds on loving Jesus and loving each other... all is well.

Some Christians run off elsewhere to participate in "ministry" neglecting their #1 ministry- their family. A family starts when a man & woman marry not when they have children. I guess that's why Paul remained single- so he could focus on saving the world and not have to worry about saving his marriage. Marriage is not for everyone. There is a great book out there by Dr. Emerson called "Love & Respect"... boils it down to two basic needs... a women generally needs to feel loved and a man generally need to feel respected. Check it out sometime. :-D

Wanda (2010-04-15 23:46:00)

All such good advice. Thanks for sharing guys. I'll have to check that book out, Tori.

Mary McDonald (2010-04-16 00:00:35)

This year, I'll be married 25 years. I wish I had some secret, but I don't. I guess it's mostly being committed and realizing that that there are going to be rough patches but that there will be good times too.

Lisa (2010-04-16 00:20:57)

Since I'm divorced Wanda, I really have no right to address this question, but I do feel like I know the answer. When my husband (ex) and I allowed ourselves to fall away from God and started doing our own thing, our marriage fell apart. If Christ is the center of ANYTHING you do, everything will be okay.

Living Water (2010-04-16 01:34:48)

I guess it's about truth, trust, tolerance, communication, commitment, companionship, communion, and completeness. Personally, it has much to do with accepting one another for who we are inspite of.

I love my wife and I am still growing in love for her even after 20 years. We do things together and we hide nothing from each other. We share and communicate in times of joy and in times of sorrow, in prosperity and in poverty, to hold each other up and to go through difficult times together, without forgetting to be thankful to God always, knowing He is always in control.

As in the marriage vow, it is being there for each other to have and to hold, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness or in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.

[1] *Read more ...*

1. <http://livwater.blogspot.com/2010/04/keeping-marriage.html>

Ellie (2010-04-16 03:51:33)

I have been married 25 yrs... The secret is to have your own hobbies, respect for one another and marry a sailor, they go away a lot. I'm kidding, though it is true. We probably have been together only 15 yrs. It is a give n' take relationship, sometimes you have to take the high road. It takes a lot of faith, trust and communication.

LaMecia Ward-Pree (2010-04-16 04:16:59)
Enjoyed each comments. Really good blog also

Wanda (2010-04-16 22:28:08)

Thanks Mary, Lisa, Living Water, and Lamecia. Lisa experience is a good teacher to know what to avoid. I appreciate you sharing what you learned.

Kathleen (2010-04-21 05:55:31)

I have pondered this often what makes a good marriage. I have been married for almost 17 years now.

Most of these keys have already been mentioned but I just wanted to agree: a 100 % commitment; it is not a 50-50 deal. Each of you has to give 100 %.

Communication and an ability to resolve conflict. A good sense of humor! Laugh a lot together. When times were tough and we needed to communicate – my husband also needed (and so did I but didn't know it) was to go have FUN together and laugh and remember how & why we fell in love.

We have had to make each other a priority, especially in these season of kids and high-demand in careers. Sitting next to each other (not letting children between), once-a-month date nights, talking with each uninterrupted when kids are awake (small increments of time).

And prayer, the grace of God, godly examples of long marriages (both my husband & I have great examples in our parents & grandparents, etc).

I also highly recommend marriage conferences at all seasons of life. They usually get you talking about topics that are easy to go undiscussed especially because a spouse gets defensive when you bring it up. But here the conference people said to talk about THIS and so you're talking about THIS because they said to not because one of you had an agenda and that helps.

The Love & Respect book is good. I recommend that as well.

Kathleen

prochaskas (2010-04-21 12:49:18)

Realistic expectations. Honeymoon infatuation and the chills don't last and aren't designed to. Expect lots of ordinary days. You will – and should – argue / discuss, because you will have conflicts – you're two different people. Toss out the fairy tale ideals, and set your sights on "good enough," with gratitude.

We've been married thirteen years. I wouldn't call it a fabulous, thrilling, inspirational marriage, but it's good enough. We are committed, we keep trying to stay connected and to trust God and one another and to forgive. We've both made lots of progress in accepting each other and the chronic conflicts we have, and accepting baby steps instead of sweeping changes. There are still dark days, but we trust.

Wanda (2010-04-21 17:38:02)

Kathleen and Prochaskas what a wealth of wisdom you've both shared. And thanks for the book recommendation.

Never Say Never (2010-04-16 07:00)

NEVER...not ever; at no time, not in any degree, not under any condition. Have you ever found yourself using the word never? Nope not ever going to do that again. Under no condition will I do this or that. When I was in college there was certainly some courses, I didn't think I'd ever use. One such course I did everything possible to avoid, but as luck would have it, I was force to take a certain social gerontology course due to scheduling conflicts. Well I had NO intentions of ever using the material from the course BUT for the past 8 or 10 years I've been working in the field of aging. NEVER saw that coming.

So much in my life hasn't quite turned out the way I expected. But I find comfort in knowing that although I don't always know the way that I'm to take, I serve a God who had a plan for me (and you) before I was

even formed in my mother's womb. And His plan is good and not evil. I'm learning to trust Him more and more to lead me and not seek my own way.

And to use another n-word NEW. I would like to say thanks to all the new followers. It's been such a pleasure getting to read all the new blogs, I've discovered through the [1]A-Z challenge.



[2]

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

The Alliterative Allomorph (2010-04-16 09:38:48)

I never say never, either :) OOPS ...

Just Be Real/God Whispers In The Wind (2010-04-16 10:43:28)

Wanda, I really like this post. I need improvement in my "never" category. Thanks for this inspiring post. Blessings to you.

Will Burke (2010-04-16 11:28:30)

I noticed that "Never" (and "Always") work better as poetic devices than actual statements. There's usually an exception to whatever defining statement I wish to make!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-04-16 16:23:31)

Wanda, I laughed as I read your post. I tend to say NOPE, NO and NEVER to stuff that doesn't seem to fit my purpose, but I've learned along the way that the stuff I'm trying to reject is exactly what is in God's plan for me. Love above all.

Linda (2010-04-16 18:16:39)

Some of the most fun I have had has been when I said Yes to God especially on something I knew nothing about! I agree with the Never say Never - except for what Gospel Drive Disciples wrote today! Check that one out.

Wanda (2010-04-16 22:21:03)

@Alliterative- :0)

@JBR-God bless you.

@Will, that's true.

@ Bluebutterfly, those are usually the things we most want to say nope/never to but end being a great blessing in the end.

@Linda, I'll be sure to check out that post. Always interesting to see someone else take on a subject.

Gregg (2010-04-17 00:02:09)

First of all, Linda, thank you for the plug.

Second, Wanda, I agree we have to be very careful about saying never, especially to a sovereign God who is Lord over this universe!

Beth (2010-04-17 01:52:07)

I've found that every time I say that I will never do something God makes a point of making sure I eat those words! :)

CeCe Wilson (2010-04-17 02:12:05)

I said NEVER once when I told God and my husband (before we got married) that I would NEVER, NEVER, NEVER live in Tennessee! Those five years in TN were the best I've ever had and when I grow up I plan to go back. . .

Lisa (2010-04-17 02:41:50)

I have really enjoyed your posts, Wanda. I know that when I come here, I will be uplifted in some way. Thank you!

Ellie (2010-04-17 04:00:02)

I said, Never once, and then I never did again! I like how you ended on a positive note, with New! It is a pleasure to read your view...great stuff!

Tori Cooper (2010-04-20 05:18:57)

Once I said, I would never move to San Diego... and guess where God told me to move...? San Diego. God is good... and he does have a plan! Not for evil but good! Yay!

Open to Opportunity (2010-04-17 15:02)

Opportunities are around us daily. Opportunities to choose joy over sadness, to try something new over being stuck in the mundane, to walk in obedience, to touch the life of someone else, or to share the good news of the Gospel. Chances to rejoice rather than complain are available. Occasions to smile instead of frown. You know opportunities, big or small; our lives are full of them.

When I look back over my life, I wonder just how many opportunities have I missed. Much of my life has been lived out confined into a small, safe box, in a way. Having been the shy, introverted type didn't lend itself to exploring new frontiers. Stifled by the fear of rejection and insecurities, I lost chances to meet and fellowship with new people. At times, I failed to obey the voice of God, preventing Him from revealing Himself to me in new ways. Immobilized by the fear of failure or fear of what others might think, I didn't take the chance of engaging in new activities. Being so self-absorbed and consumed with the "what-ifs", I neglected to share a word of encouragement that could have rendered aide to a fellow brother or sister.

I heard a lady once say that Passing Over Opportunities Repeatedly leaves you POOR. And I must agree. Hearing the word poor, we might immediately think of it economic terms but it simply means less than what is normal, necessary, or desirable; or low quality. Not seizing opportunities for new relationships can leave you with a low quality of companionship and less than normal chances for growth. For iron sharpens iron. As we walk in obedience, our faith increases. Lately, I've began to step out in small areas of obedience and I've seen my confidence in not only God's willingness to use me but His great desire to use me in service to Him. He wants to use me, despite my insecurities and my personal temperament.

You may find that like me, you have overlooked a few opportunities. Don't despair. Every day that you awaken you are given the chance to begin again. The same ones do not always come around again but rest assured that if you're living, God is opening doors of opportunity to you each and every day. It's up to us what we do with them.

I found a few keys in maximizing opportunities:

- 1) Conquering fear –some things you have to do afraid.
- 2) Being alert/aware- live consciously knowing that opportunities are available daily
- 3) Obeying God's voice/word
- 4) Preparation – it's too late to get prepared when opportunities present themselves.

A few scriptures to meditate on regarding opportunities:

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (NIV)

Ephesians 5:11-16 Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness.

Expose these things for the sham they are. It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ.

Wake up from your sleep,
Climb out of your coffins;
Christ will show you the light!

So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!
(The Message)

Colossians 4:4-6 Pray diligently. Stay alert, with your eyes wide open in gratitude. Don't forget to pray for us, that God will open doors for telling the mystery of Christ, even while I'm locked up in this jail. Pray that every time I open my mouth I'll be able to make Christ plain as day to them. Use your heads as you live and work among outsiders. Don't miss a trick. Make the most of every opportunity. Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out.
(The Message)

Mark 13:9 When these things begin to happen, watch out! You will be handed over to the local councils and beaten in the synagogues. You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell them about me. (NLT)

Luke 4:13 When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.

James 1:2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. (NLT)

Lord, forgive me for all the times I failed to take advantage of the opportunities presented to me. Open my eyes that I might see the opportunities all around me. And give me the courage and boldness needed to not only see but seize every God given opportunity. Amen

Now go in peace and may you enjoy a blessed weekend. Be sure to check out other "o" related topics in the [1]A-Z challenge.



[2]

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Will Burke (2010-04-17 15:13:07)

I can see why "conquoring fear" was #1. I've found that the absence of fear is a mental disorder, and the spite of fear is courage.

Will Burke (2010-04-17 15:13:12)

I can see why "conquoring fear" was #1. I've found that the absence of fear is a mental disorder, and the spite of fear is courage.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-17 15:34:22)

...so true! Wanda, you've written some terrific posts. this one especially i can relate to all too well!!! you deserve an award for this one...IMHO! i hope you have a WONDERFULLLL weekend IN HIS PRESENCE!!!

Shannon (2010-04-17 16:33:47)

Wonderfully done and well said! I so agree that we do miss so many opportunities because of one thing or another...thanks for sharing and for the reminder to just trust God!

Mary McDonald (2010-04-17 17:37:08)

I wonder how many opportunities I've missed because I didn't know they were staring me in the face?

Grammy (2010-04-17 18:07:09)

Oh, my goodness, gracious yes! How awful it is to realize we let wonderful opportunities pass us by. This was a really great posting! Thank you for reminding me.

Ruby

Linda (2010-04-17 21:43:02)

Such a wonderful reminder and wonderful scripture references. I am especially drawn to Col. 4:4 when it says we should keep our eyes wide open In gratitude! Thank you for challenging us on this Saturday.

ModernDayDrifter (2010-04-17 23:51:49)

Such a good post to make us think. I know I've missed so many opportunities myself. I guess it's a rule of life or something. Awesome bible readings to share too! Thanks!

AmbitiousSingleMom (2010-04-18 00:08:09)

I too often sit back and think of all the different opportunities that I let slip by and it sometimes saddens me. I get sad because I cannot go back. But I try my best to now notice when something is right in front of my face so to speak. I don't always see what's there, but I'm a work in progress.

This was a really good post. Thank You...

Raquel Byrnes (2010-04-18 00:57:49)

Passing Over Opportunities Repeatedly leaves you POOR...I liked this. Inspirational post.

arlee bird (2010-04-18 05:54:01)

You have spoken for me. I am poorer now because I did not take advantage of so many, many opportunities when I was younger. That is indeed part of the foolishness of youth. That was a really fine post that spoke to many of us.

Lee

[1]May 3rd A to Z Challenge Reflections Mega Post

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/2010/04/overview.html>

Tahereh (2010-04-18 06:19:33)

a beautiful post. thanks so much for sharing :)

Wanda (2010-04-18 14:08:41)

@ Will, I believe that fear is a natural response, otherwise, scripture would not be filled with statements telling us not to fear.

@Bud,thanks and hope you have blessed weekend too.

@Shannon,trust is vital

@Mary, I believe there's so much we're blind to but I pray God opens are eyes.

@Grammy, bless you

@Linda, Col 4:4 is a good one indeed.

@ModernDayDrifter, we all have missed some; just have to make the most of the present.

@AmbitiousSingleMom-being present in our present day is the best we can do.

@Raquel-thanks, I had never thought of that way until I hear another woman of God speak that phrase.

@Arlee-I think missed opportunities is something we all have in common.

@Tahereh-thanks for stopping by.

Gregg (2010-04-18 22:45:01)

Good post, always good to be reminded by these things and to take stock.

Ellie (2010-04-19 00:59:59)

Great post; I love the way you think and how you bring key points to attention, Well Done!!!

Essential P's in the Race of Life (2010-04-19 20:25)



[1]

Today the A-Z challenge continues and the letter of the day is P. As I pondered on various p-topics, two words were plastered in the forefront of mind—patience and perseverance. Unlike you perhaps, I don't always like the sound of the word of patience. It conjures up ideas of extended periods of waiting, waiting, and waiting. Rather it's waiting in line, being delayed by a slow driver in traffic, or sitting idly in the doctor's office, I don't always exhibit much patience. I become antsy, anxious, and complain because it seems like such a waste of time not being able to progress at faster speeds. Merriam Webster's dictionary defines patience as the capacity, habit, or fact of being patient. Patient is defined as bearing pains or trials calmly without complaint; not hasty; manifesting forbearance under provocation or strain; steadfast despite opposition, difficulty, or adversity. In some cases, the only choice we have other than waiting is forgoing the item or experience. Patience has to do with my attitude during the wait. And did you know that God is concerned about how we wait in life? The Word of God is filled with promises but they don't appear overnight; there's a time to wait on the fulfillment of the promise. Because He is God we can't control the timing of the promise's arrival; so waiting is inevitable but our attitude during this period is pretty important.

In my reading, I came across Colossians 1:10-12 which states, And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. (NIV) I like to compare various translations of scripture and really like the Amplified version of verse 11- [We pray] that you may be invigorated and strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, [to exercise] every kind of endurance and patience (perseverance and forbearance) with joy. The Message gives another look at Colossians 1:9-10 Be assured that from the first day we heard of you, we haven't stopped praying for you, asking God to give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, and so acquire a thorough understanding of the ways in which God works. We pray that you'll live well for the Master, making him proud of you as you work hard in his orchard. As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. We pray that you'll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us.

These passages of scripture speak volumes to me today. If I'm to have any increase in fruitfulness, productivity, or knowledge of God in my life, patience and perseverance are going to be essential. To accomplish

any goal, like weight loss for example, one must persist in a particular state or undertaking in spite of counterinfluences, opposition or discouragement. And God knows that I have failed to complete some things I started in life. Some things I started out strong but quickly became discouraged or too impatient to see the end results. Looking at the passage, I see two other important P's to incorporate in my life-prayer and power. My human power alone will only get me so far but being infused with His power gives me the ability to wait patiently and persevere. And prayer helps to tap into the greater power.

Discover what other A-Z challengers are discussing [2]here.

Flickr photo by [3]Jacob Garcia



[4]

1. <http://i988.photobucket.com/albums/af9/wateredsoul/runnerintrees.jpg>

2. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

3.

4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Lisa (2010-04-19 22:14:12)

I love this! I'm struggling with waiting, but know that He has already answered – but I still have to trust Him. "In your patience possess ye your souls" Luke 21:19

Wanda (2010-04-19 22:43:20)

Thanks for sharing that scripture Lisa. I'll be meditating on that one.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-04-19 23:32:01)

Wanda, the proof is in the pressing. Endure to the end in His unfailing love. – "Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak." -Isaiah 40:28-29

Peace, wonderful peace.

Ellie (2010-04-20 00:42:09)

I have patience, but not when it comes to myself. I will have think about my soul more and God's will!

Wanda (2010-04-20 02:16:54)

@ Bluebutterfly, good reference verse.

@ Ellie, it's often easier to be more patient with others than ourselves.

Andrea (2010-04-20 02:22:43)

We definitely need patience and perseverance...I am a work in progress with both of these GODLY traits.

Blessings, andrea

Julie (2010-04-20 03:05:58)

Wanda, It sure is hard to be patient in losing weight.

I want it to fall off of me instantly. But it's taking it's own sweet time. It's hard when you don't see the fruit of the choices you are making...

It's hard in waiting on God as well. So often I want to see some evidence that something is happening, but so often I don't get to see that. It's when the perseverance kicks into gear... I must continue on even when I can't see things happening.

Thanks for your visit to my blog and your sweet words. I've been out of pocket for these last few days as my daughter miscarried last week. I've appreciated your visits to my blog and your sweet words.

Have a blessed day!

Grammy (2010-04-20 03:57:29)

Hi, I once heard that if one prays for patience, then God is going to send us situations that will test our patience, because that is how we build it up. I don't know if that is true or not, but it could be. I know I am certainly learning it with a husband who has dementia.

Ruby

Tori Cooper (2010-04-20 05:16:32)

Yes & Amen! Thank you for sharing those verses... love it! I like how you said it plain- patience is my attitude during the wait! :-D Great reminders- I think we all have to deal with learning patience... it's a humanoid thing!

Mike (2010-04-20 08:05:55)

Great encouragement! Thank you :)

Wanda (2010-04-20 21:33:38)

@ Andrea, me too!

@ Julie, I certainly understand. I've failed and given several times.

@Grammy, I believe that our answer to prayers do come in ways in which we least expect them.

@ Tori & Mike, God bless you

Gregg (2010-04-20 23:26:28)

Patience is tough. No one including me likes to wait. It is a virtue that by God's HS and our responsibility He adds to us. Great post!

Quiet Please (2010-04-20 10:30)

Life can be quite noisy at times. We're inundated with music, television, family and friends to occupy our time. Even things that we don't consider to be loud carry a sound. When I shut down my office computer, I'm amazed at how quiet the room suddenly sounds. Although I've sat in there for hours, I had been oblivious to the amount of white noise that was filling my space.

Likewise our inner selves can be full of white noise. Noisy expectations, frightening fears, negative self talk, constant worries speak loudly in our souls. At times it is necessary to pull away from all the hustle and bustle and just quieten ourselves. Frequently it is easier to live with the rumblings in our head than to be still and wait on God. Take some quiet time to rest from all your toiling.

A few scriptures to meditate on:

Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." (NIV)

Mark 6:31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." Psalm 131:2 (English Standard Version)

Psalm 131:2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. (NIV)



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Mike (2010-04-20 11:00:18)

Great advice. Very appropriate as I live next to Heathrow and the quiet is just amazing, made me realise the noise that we put up with!

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-04-20 11:25:17)

I always have music in the background, to me that is relaxing and I can get an inner peace, living on a busy road the hustle and bustle of everyday life is all to evident so to me music is the answer,
Everyone is different otherwise how dull a world this would be,
Have a smashing day,
Yvonne,

Rae (2010-04-20 11:59:11)

I totally agree! I wrote my "Q" about quiet, too! Thanks for your reminder that we should all take some quiet time.

Wanda (2010-04-20 12:04:16)

Thanks Mike hope you find time to enjoy a little bit of quiet today.
Yvonne, you're right we're all different. I find that music or listening to water soothes my inner being as well.
Rae-great minds think alike I guess, I'll be sure to take a look at your take on "quiet" after work.
Hope you all have a blessed day. And may your souls be quiet even if there's noise all around you.

SonshineMusic i.e. Rebecca T. (2010-04-20 12:52:48)

That was a sweet post. Thanks for stopping by my blog :) When I have some time I'll try to get to some of your other A-Z posts

Kelly (2010-04-20 13:44:44)

Wonderful scriptures. Quiet time with God is SO important.

Andrea (2010-04-20 14:29:58)

I need quiet time with GOD to keep me sane.
Blessings,
andrea

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-04-20 17:23:19)

Amen, Wanda. One of my favorite things to do is to walk down to the lake just before sunrise. No cars, gadgets ... nothing but being still and silent. Always refreshes and restores.
Peace and love,

Linda (2010-04-20 18:40:35)

I especially love the scripture that says He will quiet you. Some of my favorite - and very rare - days are those when I am home alone and nothing is on - no radio, no TV, quiet. Love it.

Robin (2010-04-20 19:08:07)

So true! I found myself blogging this message too this past week. Love your blog! Robin

arlee bird (2010-04-20 21:02:47)

I like your take on the different kinds of white noise – hadn't thought about it like that before but you are right. Sometimes some real quiet is necessary to allow the power of the Holy Spirit to move through us.

Lee

[1]A to Z Challenge Reflections Mega Post

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/2010/04/q-is-for-quotes-what-people-have-said.html>

Marjorie (2010-04-20 21:43:33)

Patience and quiet really do go hand in hand. I tell my oldest all the time that we should be happy to wait, because if we are waiting we are alive and life is a gift.

Lisa (2010-04-20 21:43:46)

Goodness, yes! This seems to be a running theme in blogland today - staying quiet and listening to God. I feel like He's been telling me to do that for a while now. I'm listening Lord!

Thank Wanda for visiting my blog and commenting too. Your kindness is always appreciated!

Lorena G. Sims (2010-04-20 22:05:11)

Thanks for the scriptures. I had a lot of quiet time lately but not spending it with the Lord. Thanks for the post, it's good reminder for me that I need to spend quiet time with my God and not with the earthly things.

Ellie (2010-04-20 22:26:02)

Thanks for the gentle reminder; This is a wonderful post! We do need quiet time for reflection and prayer!

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-20 23:44:41)

hi Wanda!:)

love the Zeph. 3:17 one of my favorites. i need some time out with Him, definitely!

it's a busy time now for me and i apologize for getting here late...lately!

agree with Ellie. thank you for the reminder!

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-20 23:45:11)

need some praise music!!!

Grammy (2010-04-21 01:43:02)

You are right about noise, we always have either the radio or television on most of the time. However, sometimes we do sit on our front porch and just enjoy the beauty of nature all around us. It does us good to just sit and soak up the sounds of birds.

Ruby

Dragons Muse (2010-04-21 04:54:10)

Yes so true, I often have to remind myself to take time out and be quiet, listen for God's message.

Kathleen (2010-04-21 05:42:26)

Thank you for the well-written encouragement to quiet ourselves...including the white noise inside of our heads. Thanks, too, for the lovely Scripture verses.

Wanda (2010-04-21 18:09:14)

Sonshine-I enjoyed my visit at your place. I'll be sure to stop by again.

Kelly-it sure is.

Andrea-me too

Bluebutterfly-I like walking early in the morning and listening to the birds chirp. Such peace.

Linda-I love that verse too.

Robin & Arlee-thanks

Marjorie-I never look at waiting in the manner but that's a good point.

Lisa-Heed His voice :)

Lorena & Ellie-you're welcome & thanks to you

Bud-I just recently came across that scripture and I just love it. I understand about being busy. I'm having a hard time keeping up these days.

Grammy-yes it certainly does.

Wanda (2010-04-21 18:16:11)

Dragon's Muse, it's easy to get busy and forget just how essential quiet time with Him is.

Kathleen, thanks for the lovely comment.

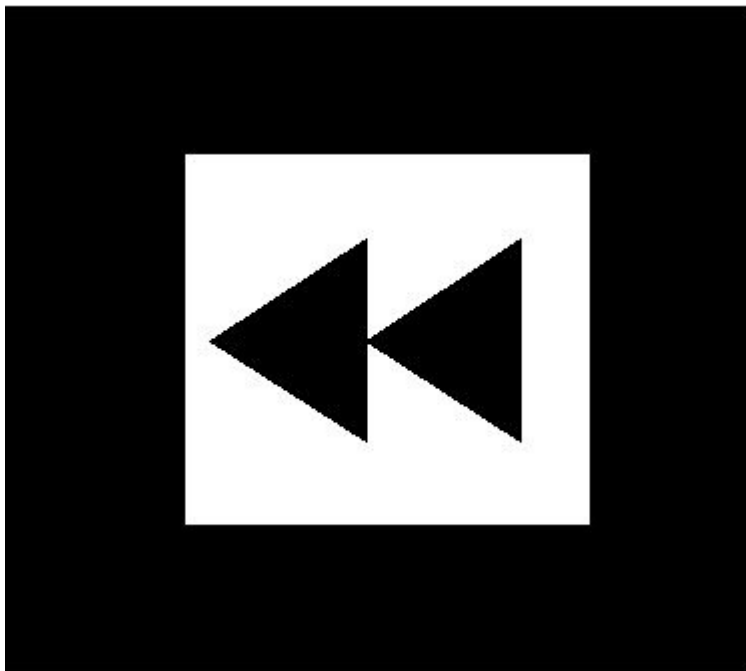
Blessings to you guys

Trudy (2010-04-27 05:50:20)

A beautiful 'Q' post...I'm a bit late catching up on blogs here. It is so easy to get away from the quietness of life without realizing it, but I know when I haven't had my quiet time with the Lord, I can feel it after a few days!

Love the Scripture you have chosen to accompany your post too!

Re (2010-04-21 13:20)



[1]

Re is a prefix meaning again or anew. One of the first re(s) to come to mind is reruns. I don't know about you but I'm not very fond of watching television reruns, although certain channels in my satellite package are racked full of them. On the occasion that I forget to set the DVR, I can appreciate the encore presentation of

my favorite shows. For some shows, it looks like certain episodes are repeated more than others. Kind of like how certain life events keep making reoccurrences in our lives. Sure the characters, dates, and times might be different but the underlying issue is repeated. Like the guy or gal's name is different but the relationship ends up the same as all the others. The job is new but the results are same. Your location changes but the same problems follow you. Could it be that in the midst of the repetition God is giving us another opportunity to catch the lesson we missed before?

Retaking a life test is not always fun but I'm grateful for some do over's in my life. Christ coming offers me REDEMPTION. When I'm empty He REPLENISHES me. Even when it looks like I'm on the losing in end, He promises to RESTORE. In my brokenness, He REPAIRS the breaches. He even offers a REWARD. As discouragement and feelings of giving up begin to overtake me, He will send along a word to REVIVE me.

Thank you Lord for the things you're doing anew and again in my life. It's only because of your loving kindness that I'm not without hope or utterly consumed. May He continuously redeem, replenish, restore, repair, revive and reward you in any and every place that you stand in need today. You've done it before, oh God, now do it again I pray. In Jesus Name Amen

Now review some other interesting "R" related post from other [2]A-Z Challengers.



[3]

1. <http://i988.photobucket.com/albums/af9/wateredsoul/rewind.jpg>
2. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Andrea (2010-04-21 14:05:38)

I, too am thankful for the do overs in my life.
Blessings,
andrea

Jen (2010-04-21 15:20:32)

Thank goodness for do-overs, sometimes they are necessary in life, oh I can't wait for the Rewards when I get to heaven!

Shannon (2010-04-21 16:05:37)

Great post...so glad for God's renewal and rewards!

Pet (2010-04-21 16:08:18)

Great post.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-04-21 16:09:51)

My, My, My...you had me humming like Aretha through this post. God is soooooo faithful! Let's release the past and rekindle the fire for the future.
Blessings,

Wanda (2010-04-21 17:42:41)

Thanks Andrea, Jen, Shannon and Pet for stopping by always glad to have you.
@Bluebutterfly, lol...God sure is GOOD.

Beth (2010-04-21 19:54:37)
How blessed we truly are! :)

Linda (2010-04-22 01:05:25)
Oh I loved this post. And I hope in the reruns of life with the name and location changes, I do learn the lessons placed in front of me! Thank you for the reminder.

Lisa (2010-04-22 02:11:05)
Wanda - this was beautiful to read. My soul is rejuvenated! Glory to God for His unspeakable gift!!!

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-22 20:33:16)
He will along a word to revive me...or sisters/brothers:) thank you for helping Him yesterday, sis:)

Ellie (2010-04-23 03:17:34)
R was a rewarding post to read; I almost did reinvent. Great post!!!

Satisfaction Guaranteed (2010-04-22 22:02)

Rather late getting my post up today. My mind was not settled on what "s" topic I wanted to discuss last night and didn't have time to gather my thoughts before heading to work this morning. Ok, so on with my post.

You ever notice that on the back of many products there's a promise of satisfaction? On the back of my Suave lotion in small fine print it reads: We guarantee your full satisfaction or we will replace or refund your purchase. Now I like the lotion and have had no problems with it. But, I have acquired some other things in life that I was certain would bring me satisfaction. I obtained positions, car and house-the supposed American dream. Yet some how it didn't seem enough. I found myself becoming disillusion and discontent after the newness wore off.

Marketing in today's society aims to capitalize on our insatiable desire for more, more, more. Right when you think you have the latest and greatest something more improved comes along. I would not consider myself to be materialistic so my dis-ease was not because I was seeking more things. Just that the place I was in did not fit. I simply was not satisfied and questioned within myself that surely there was more to life. In Philippians 4:12-13, Paul states (my paraphrase) he has learned the secret to being content despite whatever situation he found himself. I remember a while back a book titled The Secret was all the rage. Oprah had the author on her show. Maybe it's human nature to seek out those secrets that tend to allude us at times. Here we find Paul saying he finally figured it out that it's through Christ that true contentment comes. He didn't give any false guarantees that the happenings in life would always be favorable. But in spite of it, one could still be content. I found that passage to be challenging. How can I be satisfied when I don't like what is occurring around me? Honestly, I haven't mastered the art of contentment. But in reading something the other day, I gained greater insight on contentment. When I know and trust that where I am is not outside of God's radar, I can be confident that He is orchestrating all things and that there is indeed a plan for my life. Therefore, I can patiently wait on Him.

Of course possessions alone can never bring true satisfaction. It's only found in Christ and our relationship with Him is one place we shouldn't settle. There is always more of Him to know and experience. I have provided link to a beautiful worship song by William McDowell entitled Show Me Your Face.

[EMBED]

Until "T" time tomorrow, I hope enjoy a wonderful evening.



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Shannon (2010-04-22 23:31:30)
Beautiful Wanda, thanks, it was worth the wait!

Andrea (2010-04-23 01:28:19)
Praising GOD with you,
andrea

Lisa (2010-04-23 01:53:32)
What you wrote about today is something I am continuing to learn. I don't have a job and no income at all (denied for unemployment because I quit), but God is showing me that HE is ALL I need. Now and forever. It's not an easy lesson to learn, but I am learning. My Jesus NEVER ceases to amaze me. I'm glad I'm His. :O)
This song is beautiful. "Show me Your Face, I want to see You" that is indeed my heart's cry!
Praise Him!!

Ellie (2010-04-23 03:15:49)
Well put and so true!

Grammy (2010-04-23 04:33:02)
Paul's words on being satisfied in what ever condition he found himself is one of my very favorites. Thank you for bringing it once again to our minds!
Ruby

Mike (2010-04-23 09:58:47)
When I know and trust that where I am is not outside of God's radar, I can be confident that He is orchestrating all things and that there is indeed a plan for my life. Therefore, I can patiently wait on Him. Those are great lines and bring me particular comfort with a situation I am going through. Love the song too!

Rae (2010-04-23 12:21:22)
Thanks for a great start to my blessed morning!

Wanda (2010-04-23 12:40:04)
Bless you Shannon & Andrea.
Lisa, many are the afflictions of the righteous but God delivers them out of them ALL.
Ellie, thanks
Grammy, something I'm certainly trying to learn.
Mike, glad you found encouragement here. He certainly knows right where you are.
Rae, blessings to you

Gregg (2010-04-23 13:17:29)
Apart from the bible the best book on satisfaction or contentment that you will ever read is a book called The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment by Jeremiah Burroughs.
It is published by The Banner of Truth Trust - it is a must read for every believer!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-04-23 16:27:16)

Amen! Amen! The one place we should never settle is in our zeal for more of God. Oh, how I love Jesus (I'm humming that little Sunday school song).

Have a blessed day!

Linda (2010-04-23 17:14:29)

Your posts never fail to stimulate thought. The idea of satisfaction - being satisfied where we are - but most of all with Jesus.

Quench Your Thirst (2010-04-23 17:57)



[1]

On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and said in loud voice, If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within. John 7:37-38

In this particular passage of scripture Christ issues an invitation to anyone whose thirsty [that would include me] to come and drink from Him and that if you would believe, from within you would flow streams of living water. In the natural when we thirst we look for something outside of ourselves to quench our thirst. Water can satisfy the thirst but each individual has his own preference of drink [for me, coke]. Because I don't settle for the most basic thirst quencher "water", there has been numerous additives and weight added physically. Water in it's pure state has nothing added and has zero calories. Other synthetic thirst quenchers are man

made attempts to satiate our thirst sensation but each comes along with unnecessary additives. Spiritually speaking, Christ, is the purest thirst quencher that is available within us but many times we seek to fill the dry place with other external things like relationships, eating, shopping, alcohol, drugs, careers, or possessions. These other sources' thirst quenching abilities are only temporary and they bring along additives like addictions, perversions, debt, stress, or soulish weights that continue to cause us to be parched again. Thus, initiating the thirst cycle repeatedly.

Is your soul parched? The invitation to come drink still stands.

Now teeter on over and see what other A-Z Challengers are discussing [2]here.



[3]

1. <http://i988.photobucket.com/albums/af9/wateredsoul/glassofwater.jpg>
2. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-23 18:26:41)

Great job, sis! sometimes other things draw me away from Him. but He picks me up every time:)

Chris Weigand (2010-04-23 19:19:56)

Great post. It's amazing when the most perfect quencher is out there and attainable how we always reach for the things that will only quench for a short time if at all. What is even more amazing is that Jesus continues to wait for us long past the time when we would have given up.

Beth (2010-04-23 20:13:58)

Perfect Q Post! :) Guilty of some times trying to quench those thirsts with other things. Silly! Cause I know that NOTHING satisfies like Jesus!

Gregg (2010-04-23 22:36:58)

John 4 & John 7 tells us Christ is the living water. How sad and tragic that we don't believe him, that we run back to the leeks, garlies, and onions like the Israelites did. May God's grace continually call us to drink deeply of the living water!

Marjorie (2010-04-23 22:39:33)

Beautiful post!

Ellie (2010-04-23 23:31:43)

Really nice; I prefer water, but once in awhile, I enjoy the artificial, but there isn't anything like the real thing! Thanks for the reminder

arlee bird (2010-04-23 23:40:24)

Jesus used a great metaphor in referring to "Living Water" and "quenching our thirst". We should accept no substitutes. Good post, Wanda.

Lee

[1]A to Z Challenge Reflections Mega Post

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/2010/04/q-is-for-quotes-what-people-have-said.html>

Linda (2010-04-24 00:34:09)

Oh good tie in between substitutes for water and substitutes for Jesus. There is no substitute for Him.

Grammy (2010-04-24 01:20:33)

Yes, He is the Living Water. Did you know that our tissues are 75 percent water? How apropos that He used that simile to describe Himself. When one is thirsty, nothing can be substituted for a drink of water. We have well water, and it is wonderful too. Thanks for the wonderful post.

Ruby

melodygreen (2010-04-24 01:42:27)

This reminds me that... though I often say I don't prefer water, when I start drinking it more I crave it more. The same is true for Bible study and Christ. I really love this post!!

Wanda (2010-04-24 01:49:23)

Bud, ditto for me.

Chris, thank goodness that He does wait.

Beth, same here with me.

Gregg, yes we do sometimes.

Majorie, thanks

Ellie, good that you prefer the pure form.

Arlee & Linda, thanks

Grammy, I always heard that well water is good.

Melody, you're correct the more of Him you get the more you want.

Lisa (2010-04-24 03:23:24)

This reminded me of the chorus of Susan Ashton's Song, "Hunger and Thirst"

I hunger and thirst for mercy

I hunger and thirst for Your name

If I hunger and thirst for anything but You

I hunger and thirst in vain.

Great post.

Have a great weekend my friend!

Charmaine Clancy (2010-04-24 11:17:14)

Lovely post Wanda. I wanted to say a special thank you for taking the time to visit my daughters' book review blog (<http://paperdollsbooks.blogspot.com/>) they were so thrilled and it shows your generous spirit that you spend your time encouraging others :-). I have an award for your blog on my blog post today as my way of saying thank you: [http://clancytales.blogspot.com/2010/04/t-is-for-timelines-and-thank s.html](http://clancytales.blogspot.com/2010/04/t-is-for-timelines-and-thank-s.html)

Slushpile Slut (2010-04-24 12:45:52)

Hi Wanda! Excellent use of the letter Q...Very true!

Jen (2010-04-24 14:21:51)

Beautiful post Wanda!

Until When? (2010-04-24 19:31)

U is the letter of the day in the A-Z challenge. My word I chose for today is “until”. I remember when I was a kid in school I couldn’t wait until I was grown and able to make decisions on my own. After reaching adulthood, I realize those carefree years weren’t so bad after all. How many times have you put something off until a more favorable time? Or you failed to enjoy your present because you were focused on a time in the future?

As singles we’re often tempted to put off enjoying life “until” our mate comes along. Waiting to buy homes, cars, investments, or take trips. Those of us who struggle with our weight will put off engaging in certain activities “until” reaching our ideal size. We can delay getting involved in opportunities to serve others. Waiting to share a smile, give kind word, or make a difference in someone’s life “until” we have gotten ourselves together. Waiting to step out “until” we’re absolutely certain it’s the best time. Choosing to use the good china “until” company comes. Refusing to take a moment for yourself “until” everyone else needs are met. Not trusting until we see evidence.

There are all sorts of reasons (or excuses) we give for not moving on or making the most of our lives. Like I can’t forgive “until” they apologize. The myriad of excuses is unbelievable. I’m not proposing that we take on foolish risk or get ahead of God. But that we take some time to observe what we’ve been putting on hold “until”. As I wrote in a previous post, I journal sometime and one day I was reading over some of the whispers from God. There was a statement that said you’re ready now. More ready than you’ve ever been. Within your own self, you will never feel ready. I once read a quote that said something like you have to do a thing first and then your feelings will follow. There’s some truth in that statement because I sure didn’t feel like getting on my treadmill this morning but I feel better now that I did. So again, I encourage you to examine the “untils” in your life and decide or discover the ones that you can begin making steps toward today.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 Those who wait for perfect weather will never plant seeds; those who look at every cloud will never harvest crops.

On another note, a few months ago, I knew very little about blogging. Even now that knowledge is limited. But until I started, I never knew how much it would help me to give voice to the rambles in my head. Until I dared to leap into the A-Z Challenge, I never knew so many of you. And it’s unlikely that our paths would have crossed. But I’m thankful for the opportunity to have been in union with you. Until next time, I hope you enjoy a wonderful weekend.

[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Will Burke (2010-04-24 19:56:31)

Timely message, this challenge has definitely been a 'Dive-Right-In' experience, alright!

Raquel Byrnes (2010-04-24 20:27:46)

It's been a pleasure to go through this challenge with you as well.

The Alliterative Allomorph (2010-04-24 21:28:59)

I couldn't agree with you more. If we don't live the moment we miss out on life. Beautiful post. ::)

Dragons Muse (2010-04-24 22:22:36)

What a great post. I'm all for doing things in God's time but there are days when He is nudging and I say wait until... I need to remind myself everyday that God is not going to wait until when He has decided the time is right. So I had better be ready to go when He is or I will miss out on something glorious.

Ellie (2010-04-24 22:29:21)

Wanda, I am so happy you leaped; Your post struck a nerve with me.

I have done this and still done..it is time to journal more and help myself move forward! Thank you,this really speaks to my fears and being stuck

Lisa (2010-04-25 01:00:15)

I see myself in this post too. Great one. It's been a great pleasure getting to know you as well and I will continue to tag along after the challenge as your posts always seem to resonate with me.

Thanks Wanda!

Gregg (2010-04-25 01:28:01)

Very good post! Excellent use of the letter U! Until, until when?

What a reminder that we can not put off what we need to do and be for the glory of God!

Excellent insight Wanda!

Grammy (2010-04-25 02:30:34)

Good post! We too often procrastinate until it is too late. Seize the day! Carpe Diem! And yet, sometimes we do need to be still and wait. It just depends on what it is.

Ruby

Wanda (2010-04-25 02:58:07)

Thanks to each of you for stopping by. Grammy, your right we have to be able to discern when it's time to launch out or wait.

Ellie-I pray your mobility would be increased.

Dragon Muse-I don't want to miss to many more God given opportunities.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-25 03:44:16)

great post, Wanda:) been sittin' here for awhile thinking about it. had it not been for the urging from the A-team,i would have waited.....until

arlee bird (2010-04-25 05:02:23)

Wonderful post that is very appropriate to what we've been doing.

As is sometimes said: "There's no time like the present."

The waiting can even be good if you take advantage of the opportunities it presents. No sense wishing one's life away – enjoy it now!

Glad you got so much out of A to Z (I did too!). Hope you will post some more of your thoughts on May 3rd.

Lee

[1]May 3rd A to Z Challenge Reflections Mega Post

Lee

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/2010/04/overview.html>

Jan (2010-04-25 10:53:09)

Thanks for commenting on my blog. I found your and have read all the A to Z posts. Great insight! Enjoyed reading them.

Linda (2010-04-25 13:07:39)

Wanda: What you said touched a nerve - I have a single daughter who will sometimes put off _ _ _ _ until she gets married (or if). I am encouraging her not to put off - live her life like she wants to live it. As to A-Z I will continue following your blogs - they are too good to miss!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-04-25 13:55:28)

Wanda, Ecclesiastes is one of my favorite Books. It has such wisdom on living with balance and living a "meaningful" life in the now.

Shalom Shalom!

Karen Walker (2010-04-25 14:17:53)

Wanda, thanks so much for the visit, and thanks to Arlee for the birthday shout out. Nice to "meet" you.

Karen

wolfie 402 (2010-04-25 21:00:30)

Thanks for leaving a comment. I appreciate it. I've been looking through your blog and I really like it. Isn't it funny? If the A-Z challenge hadn't existed I wouldn't have known how many great blogs there are out there. Nice "meeting" you.

Things happen for a reason.

Mike (2010-04-26 12:46:38)

Love these thoughts. Yes, the time is now, unless we hear God say No or Wait. We already have so much we can act on. Thank you.

Rae (2010-04-26 20:52:08)

I used your Bible quote for my Facebook status this morning. I always like to post a positive thought for friends to start their day.

Thanks for sharing and for brightening my day!

You're the Vessel (2010-04-26 14:11)



[1]

The A-Z challenge continues with the letter V. My focus word for the day is vessel. Vessel is defined as a hollow or concave utensil for holding anything or a ship or boat. Just as ships carry goods, we as humans are carriers as well. Now, I really don't know a lot about ships but I do understand that they operate in the water. And I would imagine that on occasion these vessels run into some storms at sea while attempting to transport their goods to the appropriate port. Not unlike ourselves, we become battered by life storms or events such as childhood, work, relationship, or health issues. The storms are designed to delay or detour us from reaching our divine destination and ultimately destroy us, if possible. But why? Because you're carrying something valuable. No matter how the vessel has been damaged or looks on the outside, its real treasure is found inside. Every human has been created with purpose. And what you're holding someone else needs.

Our inner enemy would often have us believe that based upon the look of the vessel-damaged, broken, and bruised parts-that we couldn't possibly possess anything of significance to someone else. In our eyes, we may

appear as just a small boat in a vast ocean full of larger more pristine looking ships. Yet if you're sailing along in this life, there's a void that only you can fill. Our individual voyages differ and the size and shape of our vessels are not the same but the fact remains that your cargo is full of treasure.

However, we possess this precious treasure [the divine Light of the Gospel] in [frail, human] vessels of earth, that the grandeur and exceeding greatness of the power may be shown to be from God and not from ourselves. 2 Corinthians 4:7 (Amplified)

If you only look at us, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us. 2 Corinthians 4:7 (The Message)

If you have a minute, take some time to listen to The Corinthian Song by Micah Stampley.

[2][EMBED]



[3]

1. <http://i988.photobucket.com/albums/af9/wateredsoul/vessel.jpg>

2. http://www.blogger.com/%3Cobject%20width=%22500%22%20height=%22405%22%3E%3Cparam%20name=%22movie%22%20value=%22http://www.youtube.com/v/cwLcYyRa44I&hl=en_US&fs=1&color1=0x2b405b&color2=0x6b8ab6&border=1%22%3E%3C/param%3E%3Cparam%20name=%22allowFullScreen%22%20value=%22true%22%3E%3C/param%3E%3Cparam%20name=%22allowsriptaccess%22%20value=%22always%22%3E%3C/param%3E%3Cembed%20src=%22http://www.youtube.com/v/cwLcYyRa44I&hl=en_US&fs=1&color1=0x2b405b&color2=0x6b8ab6&border=1%22%20type=%22application/x-shockwave-flash%22%20allowsriptaccess=%22always%22%20allowfullscreen=%22true%22%20width=%22500%22%20height=%22405%22%3E%3C/embed%3E%3C/object%3E

3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Faith Imagined (2010-04-26 16:07:15)

Very encouraging post and filled with truth! I especially love this sentence, "Our individual voyages differ and the size and shape of our vessels are not the same but the fact remains that your cargo is full of treasure." I also love the song!!!

Lisa (2010-04-26 17:05:34)

"I'm a vessel full of power, with a treasure from the Lord." AMEN! I'm so glad to be a vessel that is being steered by the Creator of the Universe! Beautiful song!!

Andrea (2010-04-26 18:37:21)

AMEN!

Blessings and prayers,

andrea

Linda (2010-04-26 22:38:47)

Always love your posts. Thinking about the ships and life's storms I was reminded of the song "In Times Like These" - some of the words talk about being sure our anchor holds and grips the solid rock: Jesus.

Gregg (2010-04-26 23:07:00)

That treasure is Christ. There is nothing within us that warrants being called or considered treasure. He chose to place Himself, as the greatest gift to be treasured in this earthen vessel in order for us to reflect His glorious character to this world so that they too might desire this treasure!

Wanda (2010-04-27 01:00:15)

Faith Imagined & Lisa, glad you enjoyed the song.
Whom we allow to steer our lives is very important.
Andrea, blessings to you.

Linda, no greater anchor than Christ.

Gregg, certainly Christ is the ultimate treasure. Yet He created each us to fulfill a purpose in this life, which makes us significant.

melodygreen (2010-04-27 04:31:02)

I really liked this post! It is so easy to let storms of life beat us down and forget that we carry precious cargo – thanks for posting this reminder!

Trudy (2010-04-27 05:34:08)

I LOVE this post Wanda! Such a fabulous analogy between the ship as a vessel and our own lives as vessels! Praise Him!

Have a blessed day!

Never Walk Alone (2010-04-27 11:02)

It's something about walking in the morning that clears my head and helps to get my day off to a great start. As I walk, I hear the gentle whispers of instructions or inspirations. Often it's then is when the answers to things I've longed pondered seem to be revealed to me. But there are just as many other times that I don't sense any overwhelming presence of Him. But as I gaze at the sky or listen to melody of the birds sing, I see His handiwork. I'm awfully grateful that even when I can't sense Him and I can't hear His voice because of the noise in my head, He never leaves me to walk alone. He's always watching and knows my exact whereabouts even when I'm lost.

Isaiah 43:2 When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.

[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Just Be Real (2010-04-27 11:08:31)

Amen Wanda. I love my early morning walks as well. On those walks I get a lot of inspiration that I know is only from the Lord. Thank you for sharing dear one. Blessings.

Will Burke (2010-04-27 11:23:45)

That's one of my favorite part of having a dog, daily excuse to go for a walk! Well-said, have a great day!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-04-27 14:18:43)

Hallelujah! Getting out in the morning is a great reminder of His presence. I always think of His grace in those moments.

Blessed beyond,

Shannon (2010-04-27 16:22:40)

I love to walk with the Lord in the morning, but sadly have not been able to as of late due to being ill! I enjoyed this very much!

arlee bird (2010-04-27 17:34:27)

I've been doing the morning walks and think of those things like you say as I look at the trees, plants, and flowers. Of course, where I am I also have to watch out for the traffic and walk past a lot of businesses and houses. But I'm still thanking and praising God for letting me have such a blessed life.

Lee

[1]May 3rd A to Z Challenge Reflections Mega Post

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/2010/04/whats-next.html>

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-27 19:03:01)

:)...you know, i love this post! it's along my thought patterns today. God bless you, sis!

PRAISE ADONAI !!!

Ellie (2010-04-28 01:57:00)

Hi Wanda, I feel the same way! It is like moving meditation, it frees us, so we are open to listen!

Patricia Stoltey (2010-04-28 04:11:05)

There is something about being alone outside in the early morning that reaches all of us. When I lived in Florida, it was the ocean in the early morning. Now in Colorado it's the hiking trails. It's a good feeling.

Wanda (2010-04-28 16:52:01)

Thanks guys for stopping by. Good to see so many of us find fresh manna in the mornings.

Mike (2010-04-28 21:32:19)

Wonderful scripture! Thank you :)

Random Things about Me (2010-04-28 00:37)



[1]

It's time for the Single, Sassy Blogger link up for April at [2]Exemplify Online Singles. This month we're asked to share seven random things about ourselves. So here goes my list:

1. The first car I bought was purple Pontiac Sunfire.

2. I happen to be afraid of anything that creeps and/or crawls.
 3. I'm a recovering perfectionist.
 4. I absolutely love books and I can spend hours browsing in a bookstore. Speaking of books, my new favorite thing is swapping books via paperbackswap.
 5. I love Tex-Mex food.
 6. My favorite Bath & Body scent is Moonlight Path. Nothing like a nice bubble bath :)
 7. Never thought I'd own a dog but I've been sharing my place with Bella, my furbaby I adopted from a shelter, for almost two years now.
- Well that's a pretty random view of me. Find other single, sassy bloggers and join the fun [3]here.



[4]

1. <http://i113.photobucket.com/albums/n202/cmaemac/Blog%20Items/singleblog1.jpg>
2. <http://exemplifyonline.com/singles/>
3. <http://exemplifyonline.com/singles/2010/04/27/ssb-april-link-up-7-random-things-about-you/>
4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Critty (2010-04-28 01:07:51)

Furry babies are fabulous. They help when you are lonely. Tex-mex yum. I want to go to Texas and try some authentic goodness.

A purple car? LOVE it. And my fave from B &BW is Butterfly Flower...I use to love Gardenia but sadly they took it away.

And books? Girl. Don't get me started ;)

Thank for joining us today Wanda! I love learning more about you beautiful ladies.

Alyssa Rose (2010-04-28 01:15:06)

Thanks for stopping by, Wanda! That is so cool that you had a Pontiac as your first car! I did, too! But mine was a Grandam and a pain to fix!

My favorite B &B Works scent is Enchanted Orchid but they discontinued it. So, now I am starting to fall for Twilight Woods!

Hope you are having a fabulous day!

ModernDayDrifter (2010-04-28 02:31:33)

I love these random fact things that people do! You learn so much cool stuff that normally wouldn't come up in conversation! So cool! I think you inspired me to do one of these soon.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-28 03:45:10)

hey sis, love the photo and the verse.

recovering perfectionist?

that made me smile. what are you recovering toooo???

Melissa Lea (2010-04-28 06:53:39)

OH MY GRACIOUS.

I love paperback swap. :)

Thanks for stopping by my blog earlier! I love your layout...very chic!

Rae (2010-04-28 11:00:02)

It's always nice to know personal little things about the people who write my favorite blogs! Thanks for sharing!

Wanda (2010-04-28 15:17:16)

Critty, it was my pleasure. Sorry I missed it last month.

Alyssa, my sunfire ending up being a pain.

ModernDayDrifter, I'd be interested to see yours.

Bud, lol...I'm recovering to peace in Christ. I never realized how up tight trying to be/do perfect made me but as I'm learning to relax more Him I feel more at peace.

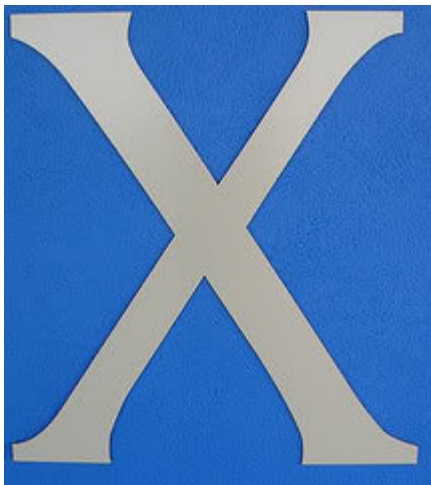
Melissa, thanks

Rae, oh gosh u list mine among your favorites :)

Tori Cooper (2010-04-29 22:53:41)

Fun, Fun, Fun! By the way, I'm really liking your new blog format! :-D

X Marks the Spot (2010-04-28 15:10)



[1]

Well we're back to our regularly scheduled A-Z Challenge post and today's letter is "X". Now I must admit that I had to sneak a peak in the dictionary for some ideas since I don't regularly use words beginning with that letter. However, none stuck out to me as much as the plain old letter "x". I often "x" things off my to-do list or mark an "x" when filling out forms. But did you know that even in today's time, some people are unable to write their name and have to sign forms with an "x"? Reading and writing are fundamental things that I often take for granted. Yet, many of my ancestors labored to ensure those behind them would have the opportunity to read and write. According to the Department of Justice statistics, 21 million Americans can't read at all, 45 million are marginally illiterate and one-fifth of high school graduates can't read their diplomas.

However, in my line of work, I see people using "x" as their signature not because they're unable to read but because they're physically disabled due to some type of medical condition or motor vehicle accident. I can't imagine the daily struggle to perform even the simplest of task. Today as I go about reading posts, typing and adding my signature to copious notes, I do it with conscious gratitude for not just the knowledge to read and write but for the ability to use my hands.

As this month long A to Z challenge quickly comes to an end, it will soon be one of the tasks I can mark "x" through as completed. Many of the participants will be joining a mega post on May 3 to discuss what we've

learned through this event. In the mean time find out what other ~~x-rated~~ (oops I meant related) topics are being expounded today [2]here.



[3]

1. <http://i988.photobucket.com/albums/af9/wateredsoul/x.jpg>
2. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-04-28 16:25:55)

X-Rated? Ha Ha! Thank the Lord He's not shown me the eXit yet!
Blessings,

Wanda (2010-04-28 16:49:58)

lol...x-rated NOT. Yep, I'm grateful that my sins has been X out. Thanks for stopping by.

Lisa (2010-04-28 21:48:39)

Thank goodness it's not x-rated! I know that's not how you roll though sister! :)
Great "X" post!

Wanda (2010-04-28 22:58:35)

Lisa, I'm glad you've come to know that about me.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-28 23:34:56)

ahhhh:) three more posts. do you think you would do another A to Z challenge, Wanda?
you nailed this one!

Patricia Stoltey (2010-04-28 23:41:45)

Well done, Wanda – seems like this challenge went really fast, now that it's almost over.

Ellie (2010-04-29 02:55:12)

Hi Wanda, fun post, nice curve ball!

Hard to believe we are near the end; it went by quickly! Phew, the dreaded X is over!

Wanda (2010-04-29 03:28:19)

Bud, I just might give it a try again in the future. It's been a learning experience.

Patricia and Ellie, it seems like yesterday I was debating about joining the challenge and not it's practically over.

Niki (2010-04-29 07:51:34)

I agree, this challenge has gone so fast. It will be good to get some sleep now though. haha

Linda (2010-04-29 12:03:57)

New design on the blog? Love it! And great X post. I had to do a little dictionary reading also, then decided to go with the only X word I could think of. Another A-Z challenge? I don't know. . .

Watery Tart (2010-04-29 13:17:16)

What a great reminder to be thankful for what we have—healthy enough limbs to write AND literacy. It is so foreign to think about a day when people couldn't do that (or had to carry about a stamp to mark themselves because so few read and write) but we forget that there are people today with huge challenges. I think if I lost my ability to write, my sanity would soon follow right behind.

Tori Cooper (2010-04-29 22:56:30)

Funny how our posts correlate... :-) I wrote about XO's- Hugs & Kisses... how legend has it that people used an X to sign their name & then they would kiss it to finalize everything...I had no idea people still signed with X's! COOL!

Y is for Yield (2010-04-29 20:31)

Hi y'all (in my southern drawl). Hard to believe that we're already at the letter "Y". Today Y is for yield. I remember when I was kid in church there was a song we used to sing that lyrics said, "young people yield yourself to God, while you're young and in your youth, yield yourself to God". Hadn't heard that song in years. The songwriter understood that the younger we are the less opportunity we have had to build up a resistance toward God.

When I think of the word yield, the yield traffic sign comes to mind. The yield sign is a place where I have to pause momentarily and possibly give another driver the right of way. Makes me wonder about the things we often give the right away in our lives. As a Christian, God is the person we are suppose to submit ourselves unto but there are times when I find myself fighting not to succumb to frustration, disappointment, fear, offense, depression, or doubt. Of course, it's important to pause a moment to acknowledge our feelings because denial does one little good. But giving those negative feelings free reign in our lives yields bad fruit. There are times when it seems easier to hold onto those feelings rather than saying yes, I choose to let that go. For the past couple of days, after receiving some unexpected news, I've found myself feeling grieved and confused. But I've been hearing the words, let not your heart be troubled. It's up to me to choose what I'll give the right away to-my feelings or God's Word.

Isaiah 55:10-11 10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Romans 6:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Are you yielding to the right things in your life? Have you given the Master a yes? [EMBED]



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Mariel (2010-04-29 20:33:09)

oh, this is so good! love your A-Z Challenge!

Linda (2010-04-29 22:46:22)

Oh you did good. Yield is a great Y word, especially the way you explain it. I am sorry to hear that something is bothering you and I hope that won't last.

Lisa (2010-04-29 22:48:57)

I will say YES! Great song and great post. I have issues with yielding those same things that you mentioned. I want to ALWAYS give God the right-of-way in my life – YIELD to Him! :)

Tori Cooper (2010-04-29 22:52:44)

Love it! God is good! Thank you for sharing this... and the verses too! :-) Yield to the LORD! Connects well with what I posted today... :-D

Ellie (2010-04-30 02:33:37)

I agree great word, you did it proud!

It makes me think, I have had moments that were easy to yield and some that were not! Powerful, as always

Grammy (2010-04-30 03:25:26)

Hi,

Another great Christian song is "Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin". It has long been one of my favorites. Good post for Y.

Ruby

Rae (2010-04-30 10:43:14)

I hope your worries are lessened with each day. Thinking of you and my need to yield...Thanks!

Wanda (2010-04-30 18:34:55)

Thanks to each of you for stopping by. Linda & Rae, I appreciate your concern.

CeCe Wilson (2010-05-01 01:23:21)


Thanks for your insightful and thoughtful posts. Always a good word when I need it. Yield. Let go of the right away and let God. I like it :0)

Z is for (2010-04-30 13:34)

Z is Zenith TV.

We had a floor model TV for years. I thought it was a Zenith but Mom said ours was a Magnavox.

TV service technicians name Zenith for the two things you want most in color TV.



I. Best Picture.
 In a recent nationwide survey of independent TV service technicians, Zenith was named, more than any other brand, as the color TV with the best picture.

Question: In general of the color TV brands you are familiar with, which one would you say has the best overall picture?

Answers:
 Zenith.....38%
 Brand A.....20%
 Brand B.....10%
 Brand C.....7%
 Brand D.....5%
 Brand E.....3%
 Brand F.....2%
 Brand G.....2%
 Brand H.....2%
 Brand I.....1%
 Other Brands.....3%
 About Equal.....1%
 Don't Know.....4%

Note: Answers total over 100% due to multiple responses.

II. Fewest Repairs.
 In the same survey, the service technicians named Zenith as the color TV needing the fewest repairs. By more than 2-to-1 over the next brand.

Question: In general of the color TV brands you are familiar with, which one would you say requires the fewest repairs?

Answers:
 Zenith.....38%
 Brand A.....15%
 Brand B.....8%
 Brand C.....6%
 Brand D.....3%
 Brand E.....2%
 Brand F.....2%
 Brand G.....1%
 Brand H.....1%
 Other Brands.....4%
 About Equal.....14%
 Don't Know.....5%

For survey details, write to the Vice President, Consumer Affairs, Zenith Radio Corporation, 1900 N. Austin Avenue, Chicago, IL 60639

The Bordeaux, Country French style, with beautiful simulated wood finish and genuine wood veneer top. Model SQ2569P. Simulated TV picture.

ZENITH 100% SOLID STATE
CHROMACOLOR II
 The quality goes in before the name goes on.

[1]

Z is for Zoo

Lisa over at [2]Bombastic Bandicoot posted a cute pic from the [3]Ft. Worth Zoo the other day. So I decided to post a similar snapshot I captured from my visit.



[4]

I'll probably be zipping back to write a more thorough Z-post for the end of the A-Z Challenge, when I get some extra time. But in the mean time, zap over to [5]Tossing It Out find out what others are talking about.

Thirsty for Him - Wanda

[6]

1. <http://i988.photobucket.com/albums/af9/wateredsoul/zenithtvviaflicker.jpg>
2. <http://arrogantrat.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://arrogantrat.blogspot.com/2010/04/116365-and-blogging-from-to-z-x.html>
4. <http://i988.photobucket.com/albums/af9/wateredsoul/SANY0164.jpg>
5. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>
6. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Shannon (2010-04-30 15:05:08)

Love the picture of the deer..so funny! So glad to have met you sweetie!

Raquel Byrnes (2010-04-30 16:39:35)

My grandma totally had one of those monster televisions! Loved the cute picture. Congrats on finishing the challenge!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-04-30 16:53:43)

A Zenith! Oh my Lord. My Aunt had one of those TVs, and I swore at least one child could hide in there for days. She refused to give up that TV no matter what technology advances were made. She is in heaven now. I hope there's a Zenith up there!

Wanda (2010-04-30 18:25:48)

Good to have met you too Shannon.

Raquel congrats to you as well.

Bluebutterfly lol, hopefully she's watching the Zenith in the sky

Linda (2010-04-30 18:42:28)

Okay I am feeling a little old. Dear Hubby and I had a Zenith and it looks just like the one in the pic! DH has kept right up with technology though so we have all the latest and greatest, I think. Wanda - where did you find the beautiful blog layout?

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-04-30 18:49:50)

hi Wanda! looks familiar to me as well. you're stirring up memories now sister! looking forward to reading many, many,many more posts from you and others!:)

Gregg (2010-04-30 19:53:04)

WE had a Zenith floor model way back in the day. I saw my first console TV when I was in the 6th grade.

Just Be Real (2010-05-01 00:51:27)

That is one skinny deer. I remember having a tv similar growing up, but it was b &w.

Blessings and thank you for sharing.

Lisa (2010-05-01 02:29:23)

I remember those floor TVs. :)

I just love that picture. Did you get it at the Ft. Worth zoo, too?

Great post Sister!

Amydeanne (2010-05-03 18:17:08)

oh I remember those tvs! lol great letter Z posts! & thanks for visiting my blog too!

1.3 May

Z is for Zachariah (2010-05-01 03:54)

Well before getting some zzz's for the night, I thought I'd actually write a post to finalize the A-Z Challenge. On this round, Z is for Zachariah, who was married to Elizabeth. Their story is found in Luke 1. As I read through this particular chapter, a few things stood out to me.

Zachariah and Elizabeth were described as being righteous and walking blameless before the Lord. Yet they found themselves lacking something in their lives that they had dearly wanted. On an ordinary day as Zachariah was serving in the house of God, he had a divine visitation bringing news that not only had his prayers been heard but now would be answered. Yet Zachariah was fearful and in doubt. Which tells me that you can be serving in ministry in the house of God, the place where God is suppose to be, but be surprise when He actually shows up. Could it be that we're often going through the motion of things without real expectation of God making an appearance in our personal lives?

The angel was bringing him the answer to their prayers, which quite possibly had long been forgotten since their condition (Elizabeth's barrenness) had remained the same. And their position in regards to age had changed for the worse. However, the fact that the angel showed up with news that their request was to be answered tells me that at some point they had been praying the will of God. But the proper time and season

had to coincide with one another. God had a greater purpose for Zachariah and Elizabeth having a baby than just reducing her shame or keeping up with the Jones. John needed to come on the scene at a certain time.

I also noted that Zachariah was made mute because he didn't believe the angel's message. But after the baby was born and he named the baby as the angel had instructed, he was able to talk again. Which leads me to believe that there are times when we should be quiet until we bring our speech into alignment with God's Word. I wonder what was going on in Elizabeth's mind when her husband came home speechless.

Their story makes me want to reexamine the things I once prayed for but have silently relinquished by stance because after all that area in my life is still bare and I have only increased in age. I find myself looking to see if there's some topics I need to refrain from discussing until I can get the mind of Christ on the matter. As I reflect on their story, it has me calling out to God asking Him to raise my expectation and help my unbelief.

Watch for the May 3 A-Z Mega post. Until then hope y'all have a great weekend.



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

SonshineMusic i.e. Rebecca T. (2010-05-01 04:04:01)

What a great reminder of how we need to be open to the things God has for us, even if we think it's past the time we thought it would come. :)

Lisa (2010-05-01 04:05:39)

I always glean something from your posts Wanda. It's obvious you know the Word of God. I enjoyed reading your take on this well known portion of the Bible. :)

Tori Cooper (2010-05-01 04:33:07)

Congratulations Wanda! You did such a great job on all of your posts! I wish I had more time to give your blog more attention. However, every time I was able to visit I was blessed! I'm glad to have met you in this challenge! I hope to keep connected after this challenge.. looking forward to May 3

Ellie (2010-05-01 05:10:19)

Wanda, you posts always make me pause and reflect on what is going on in my life. It is a difficult journey, sometimes to wonder why our path is a certain way! I think your insight is amazing! I look forward to following you, after the challenge! Thanks for all your valued, inspiring posts!

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-05-01 16:39:50)

hi Wanda!:) congratulations on another wonderful post and finish!
looking forward to many more...

Carol Fleisher (2010-05-02 00:32:19)

Great post. I think we all struggle sometimes with trusting God as much we should. Great job on the challenge. I also love your new blog layout. Have a great weekend.

arlee bird (2010-05-02 01:28:03)

You have brought your A to Z posting to a very appropriate conclusion. It was a thought provoking post. Thank you, Wanda, for the wonderful job you did with your posts and your encouraging comments. You did a great job.

I look forward to reading your Reflections post.

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

Debra Harris-Johnson (2010-05-02 17:39:27)

Wanda I loved all your postings and you really inspire me. I am happy to call you friend and want to congratulate you not only for completing the challenge but for the many comments you took time out to make. Love you girl!

Tori Cooper (2010-05-02 23:47:05)

Wanda,

just awarded you with the "Sunshine Award" you can pick it up here: <http://www.journeycalledlife1.com/2010/05/shout-out-sunshine-award.html>

Come & get it!

Tori Cooper (2010-05-04 03:33:43)

Did you pick the award yet? Make sure to come & get it! :-D

<http://www.journeycalledlife1.com/2010/05/shout-out-sunshine-award.html>

Reflections on the A to Z Challenge (2010-05-03 16:51)

As with any endeavor you undertake, I found a sense of personal satisfaction in not just starting but completing the A-Z challenge. Ecclesiastes 7:8a states, something completed is better than something begun (CEV). And better I am. I decided to join the challenge on a whim after reading about it on [1]Shannon's blog. As a newbie blogger (just started in February), I'm not exactly sure what gave me the audacity to launch out into such deep waters. But, I have found myself being open to lots of new things in this year and blogging itself is one of those.

Being a part of the challenge increased my awareness of the variety of blogs available. It was quite interesting to visit other participants' blogs to see how they would incorporate the letter of the day in their post. Many of the challengers were either professional writers or aspiring to be; therefore, splashing around at their blogs was like being a pet goldfish dumped into the ocean. Also, I discovered poets, photographers, artists, mommy bloggers, spiritual blogs, teachers and even a [2]Blabbin' Grammy, who is a master storyteller. The gamut of blogs is amazing. Many I would not have found otherwise. Each time I visited one, I was exposed to new ideas, concepts, words and inspiration.

Prior to starting the challenge, I wrote down topic ideas for each letter on the calendar but I found that I didn't always go with my initial thought. For some letters, I was able to get my posts completed early, edited and scheduled to post (which is a feature I discovered). However, the inspiration for the majority of posts came the same day, which added stress initially until I came to terms that it was ok if my posts were not perfect but authentically reflected me. I found blogging, visiting other participants, commenting and replying to comments daily to be challenging along with working full-time. And I sure have a respect for those who are able to post daily or multiple times during the day. However, that is not something I plan to continue but I do see the importance of maintaining a regular posting schedule.

I don't believe I ever considered quitting but sometimes wondered if I could keep up. The things that kept me going were the determination not to be a quitter and the lovely comments I would receive from those that stopped by. To all of you who came by, I say THANK YOU! And a special thanks to those that dropped in consistently and left me such encouraging words. You'll never know how much of a boost of confidence

and courage you've been to me. In accordance with Proverbs 11:25, I pray that just as you have refreshed me during this challenge, that you will be refreshed. Thanks to Rayna at [3]Coffee Rings Everywhere who gave me my very first blog award and I will be passing it forward soon. As a newbie, I didn't know awards existed. Also, thanks to Charmaine over at [4]Wagging Tales who bestowed three awards to me. I'd like to take this opportunity to pass on the Sunshine Award to a few people who have been a great support to me: Lisa @ [5]Bombastic Bandicoot, Bluebutterfly@ [6]Sword of Goliath, Ellie @ [7]Ella's Edge, Andrea @ [8]Arise 2 Write, Rae@ [9]Porch Ponderings by Rae, Bud@ [10]B-E-ing Transformed, Linda@ [11]Whit's End, CeCe@ [12]Thirsty Living and my sister, LaMecia, who always gives me words of encouragement.



[13]

Overall I'm satisfied with my performance in the challenge. As with most things we do, there is room for improvement on my part. I wish that I had more time to dedicate to researching, writing, and editing my posts. While I tried to visit as many of the challenge participants as possible, I would have liked more time to read and comment on their posts. And I found that I gravitated to some blogs more because I found their subject matter more in line with my interests. Since my blog deals with spiritual matters, I'm sure some participants were less likely to visit. I did see an increase in the number of followers but I think it'll be interesting to see how many continue to follow and/or comment from time to time. From the experience I learned that networking among bloggers is a good means for increasing exposure of your blog and for finding other blogs you like. However, I tend to shy away from the follow me and I will follow you theory. After seeing how beneficial a comment was to me, I plan to be more disciplined about leaving comments on the blogs I read. I liked Arlee's idea of having a schedule for specific blog topics.

In closing I'd like to give our challenge host, Arlee at [14]Tossing it Out, a big round of applause for a job well done in organizing and marketing a successful challenge that was able to unite so many bloggers across the globe. He seems to have mastered the art of blogging and blog promotion. I wish him much success in his future endeavors and look forward to reading more from him. If you have not already, be sure to visit his blog. I appreciate the opportunity to have joined the challenge with so many talented and creative bloggers. Find out what other challenge participants had to say:

[15]

1. <http://shananagins2468.blogspot.com/>
2. <http://rubyndub.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://coffeeringseverywhere.blogspot.com/>
4. <http://clancytales.blogspot.com/>
5. <http://arrogantrat.blogspot.com/>
6. <mailto:swordofgoliath@blogspot.com>
7. <http://ellasedge.blogspot.com/>
8. <http://arise2write.blogspot.com/>
9. <http://frazierfauxpaus.blogspot.com/>
10. <http://b-e-ingtransformed.blogspot.com/>
11. <http://whitsendhome.blogspot.com/>

12. <http://thirstyliving.blogspot.com/>

13. <http://s988.photobucket.com/albums/af9/wateredsoul/?action=view¤t=Sunshineaward4-24-10.jpg>

14. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

15. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-05-03 17:26:12)

hi Wanda! i have to say that this challenge was a bit overwhelming even for me. i really appreciate yours and the other's dedication to our Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. it makes/made a difference in my life having brothers and sisters standing alongside me. i loved reading your posts that always reflected Him in your life. "we" have a long ways to go together, sister:) congratulations and thank you for the award as well!

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-05-03 17:43:54)

btw Wanda, i can certainly understand why you received the comment award!!! you have commented on all of my posts, i think. if not all, then certainly the majority of them. it really surprised me to get your award and Tori's. when all this hoopla dies down after today, i'm surely going to pass them along:)

Kierah Jane Reilly (2010-05-03 18:00:14)

Wanda, I really enjoyed your posts and I'm glad to have "met" you through this challenge. Even though I didn't comment everyday, I did read often!

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-03 18:18:18)

Wanda I would like to thank you for the support you gave me and congratulations on finishing the challenge AND the well deserved award. I enjoyed your blogs and I know you will go far.

Take care. see you soon.

Yvonne.

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-03 18:18:19)

Wanda I would like to thank you for the support you gave me and congratulations on finishing the challenge AND the well deserved award. I enjoyed your blogs and I know you will go far.

Take care. see you soon.

Yvonne.

Beth (2010-05-03 18:18:33)

Wanda You are a blessing to me. I haven't been the most faithful of commenters lately but I always enjoy my visits to your blog!

Andrea (2010-05-03 19:02:54)

Blessings and prayers,

andrea

Gregg (2010-05-03 20:29:28)

Good job - it was a pleasure to read your blog!

Lisa (2010-05-03 22:02:19)

YOU DID IT!!! :O)

Your blog has been one of my favorites, Wanda. You always had a great Word to give and it truly blessed my soul! I felt a kinship with you because of our sistership in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Thank you for the sweet award – I appreciate it so much! :O)

Linda (2010-05-03 22:13:26)

Just blogging since February? No way. . .you are too good! I love your insights, your thoughts - and I will keep reading what you have to say. And as soon as I can figure out how to post the award, I will (have a lesson on blogging lined up for Wednesday) and will pass it on! Thank you.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-05-03 22:16:49)

Congrats, Wanda, and thank you...you have refreshed me. In reading this post, I thought about a Scripture in my favorite Book, Ecclesiastes: "Whatever you do, do well. For when you go to the grave, there will be no work or planning or knowledge or wisdom.

11I have observed something else under the sun. The fastest runner doesn't always win the race, and the strongest warrior doesn't always win the battle. The wise sometimes go hungry, and the skillful are not necessarily wealthy. And those who are educated don't always lead successful lives. It is all decided by chance, by being in the right place at the right time." Ecclesiastes 9:10-11

Be blessed beyond.

Elizabeth West (2010-05-04 01:35:04)

Thanks so much, Wanda, for your comments. I appreciate that you took the time to read my blog and I plan to return to yours as well. :)

Debra Harris-Johnson (2010-05-04 05:17:30)

Double congrats Wanda, one for the challenge and one for the awards. Also the one's you passed the awards to are also very deserving just like you. I'll be following you.

Mike (2010-05-04 09:07:09)

Very interesting post. Yes, for me blogging is more about networking than anything else. I've enjoyed reading your posts.

Nf1andprek-whisper (2010-05-04 10:36:01)

hi, I have only visited you once or twice during this challenge and I am upset that I had less time than everyone I started the challenge late, but I finished on time. LOL

It was good to meet you and I will continue to follow you.

Shannon (2010-05-04 15:40:49)

Wanda, so glad you were in this special challenge! I feel I made a new friend in you!

The Alliterative Allomorph (2010-05-04 17:22:23)

Congrats on completing the challenge! I'm sorry I didn't make it to your blog as often as I had hoped! All the best and take care :)

Lisa (2010-05-05 00:56:01)

I've tagged you for a blog thingy if you're interested. Stop by and check it out my friend!

Ellie (2010-05-05 01:48:50)

Wanda,

I found your post the most inspiring of the challenge. You always made me ponder, wise words. I am so happy you were part of the challenge. I look forward to your blog and what is to come! Thank-you so much, for award, It is my first! I love it!!!

Congrats on crossing the finish line!

Wanda (2010-05-05 03:13:21)

Bud, it's been a pleasure reading your posts and I look forward to more.

Kierah, I understand and you're more than welcome to drop by whenever you have time.

Yvonne, you're welcome. I love your work :0)

Beth, that's quite alright dear, I've had a hard time getting up with everyone myself. Unfortunately we only have so much time in day.

Andrea, blessings to u

Gregg, thanks

Lisa, yep we made it, hooray.

Linda, thanks for your kind words.

Bluebutterfly, Thanks and I'm honored that something I said has been a blessing to you. Thanks for that Scripture reference.

Elizabeth, thanks

Debra, I'll be in touch.

Mike, Thanks

Nflandprek-whisper, congrats to you on finishing what you started and thanks for dropping by. I'd like to visit your blog but your profile is not available.

Shannon, glad I discovered it through you.

Alliterative Allomorph, no worries

Ellie, you're quite welcome and quite deserving. I love your posts.

Carola... (2010-05-05 06:48:30)

Hey! I hadn't heard of the A-Z challenge before, but I have to say, I love it when people do something, unique, like this and set out to take on the challenge, conquer, and appreciate what they have achieved! Its super awesome! And - what a nice blog of "Thanks!" you are a genuine soul and I really enjoyed reading your appreciation of others!

I popped over to say hi, from Australia, via the Sassy Single Bloggers link-up. Because, frankly, we simply just ROCK! GBU!

Ellie (2010-05-05 13:21:03)

Hi Wanda,

I tagged you, if you are up to it!

I'd like to know what you would say...

Hope you have a Wonderful Wednesday

I like the look of your site!

Patricia Stoltey (2010-05-06 05:17:12)

I enjoyed the blog challenge so much, but honestly, Wanda, I still haven't visited all the blogs on Arlee's list. I'm determined to get to all of them though.

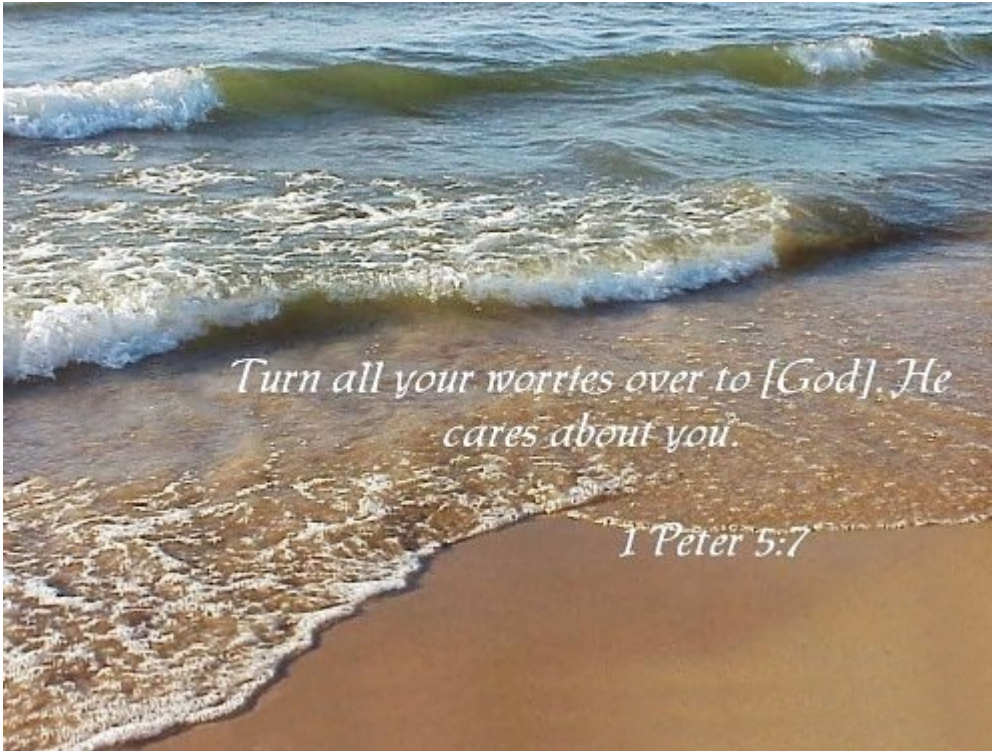
One thing I've noticed is that some blogs are especially restful and comforting places to visit. Yours is like that. I'm glad you're here.

Word Filled Wednesday (2010-05-05 05:21)



[1]

This Wednesday I decided to take part in Word Filled Wednesday created by [2]The 160 Acre Woods. It's designed to share God's Word through photos and a Bible verse.



[3]

Photo courtesy of Webshots

Visit today's hostess, Penny at [4]pennyraine.com/blog to find what others are sharing this Wednesday.

Thirsty for Him - Wanda

[5]

1. <http://www.the160acrewoods.com/>
2. <http://the160acrewoods.com/>
3. <http://family.webshots.com/photo/2478543780045146464EonwIA>
4. <http://pennyraine.com/blog>
5. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-05-05 06:55:22)

...so this is going to be your posts for Wdenesdays i take it? this will be interesting to follow because we'll find out what things appeal to you:)

Andrea (2010-05-05 07:54:02)

AMEN Girlfriend!!

Blessings, hugs, and prayers,
andrea

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-05-05 09:26:01)

"Surely I will bless you and multiply you." Hebrews 6:14

Faith, hope, and above all, love.

Lisa (2010-05-05 09:58:56)

I love that scripture and the photo is beautiful, too. I need to get back to WFW. I did it for a while, but let other things take precedence. Nothing should take precedence over God's Word!!

GlowinGirl (2010-05-05 10:00:40)

Wanda, I love your blog's theme verse and the one you chose for WFW. I'm glad to get to meet you! I'm off to poke around here a bit! :)

Wanda (2010-05-05 15:27:31)

Bud, I think i'll use the theme for Wednesday posts for now. Until another inspiration comes along. Andrea, blessings to you.

Bluebutterfly, you always come up with some good scriptures.

Lisa, it happens to all us but you're not limited to Wednesdays girl.

GlowinGirl, thanks for stopping by and feel free to poke around here any time you like.

One Heart (2010-05-05 16:27:50)

Hi Wanda, thanks for stopping by my little corner earlier on this Word-Filled Wednesday. I love this verse and the picture so refreshes me. I wish I was right in that picture today as I am grieving the loss of our 10 year Golden Retriever and almost didn't participate this WFW. I'm glad I did because with every click I am simply refreshed with His Word and I got to connect with you. I clicked on your google follow and look forward to more visits. Love and blessings!

Carol Fleisher (2010-05-05 16:43:13)

What a beautiful reminder! Thanks for sharing. I totally needed to be reminded of that today.

Susan (2010-05-05 17:16:56)

Hi Wanda,

So nice to meet you. Your blog is o nice.

Great word!!

Hope you are having a great WFW.

Happy Mother's Day

LeAnn * ~ See Great Things (2010-05-05 18:04:37)

I'm glad you participated. I really liked your post!

Missie (2010-05-05 18:29:03)

Thanks for your WFW!

Pia (2010-05-05 20:19:41)

thank you for this wonderful reminder. i needed to hear/read this at this very moment. God bless you, wanda.

Denise (2010-05-06 01:04:40)

Bless you for this comforting scripture.

Tracy Berta-daughter to the King, wife, mother, speaker, writer (2010-05-06 02:38:43)

Wanda, this is beautiful! I think you will love WFW!

Thanks so much for stopping by today and leaving such kind comments.

Blessings, friend!

Deborah (2010-05-06 04:29:38)

So glad you decided to join. Beautiful photo/verse that truly spoke to my heart this morning.

ozjane (2010-05-06 07:59:36)

I feel like a paddle in those waves.....how wonderful that we can cast our care on Him and then with empty hands reach out for His blessings.

Kaye Swain (2010-05-06 11:01:52)

What a lovely photo! And I have to tell you, that encouraing Bible verse is exactly what I need today! :)

Karen (2010-05-06 11:42:11)

Amen! Great scripture promise...lovely picture....

melodygreen (2010-05-06 12:25:03)

I needed this reminder today (and every day)... I think I'll be joining in on this from time to time!

Amydeanne (2010-05-06 14:35:19)

yes he does! Amen!

Wanda (2010-05-06 21:31:14)

Thanks ladies for stopping by. God bless each of you.

Just Be Real (2010-05-06 21:44:55)

Wanda this was beautiful and touched my heart. Thank you for sharing and all your encouraging comments to me as well. Blessings.

Sherry (2010-05-07 19:06:57)

Beautiful verse and pic! He will fill us with peace, when we give Him our worries! :D

Sherry

jo.attalife (2010-05-08 00:20:54)

Hi, Wanda, thanks for visiting and commenting on my blog. Thanks, too, for sharing this verse... this meme is greatly used by God to give me gentle nudges and reminders and I always end up being so blessed. Like with the verse you used today. Amen.

I'm It but You May Be Next (2010-05-06 11:59)

Two of my blogger friends, Lisa and Ellie, tagged me to participate in the 5 for 5 meme. I'm suppose to answer 5 questions 5 times.

Where were you five years ago?

1. Living in the same house I am now
2. Stuck in a place of spiritual darkness and frustration
3. Journaling more faithfully than I am now
4. Contemplating going to graduate school
5. Dreaming about starting a nonprofit organization

Where would you like to be 5 years from now?

1. Happily married hopefully
2. Walking more freely & closely to God

3. Working a job that I love
4. Living, loving, and laughing more than ever
5. Traveling

What is on your to do list today?

1. Answering these question and posting to my blog (guess I can check that off)
2. Read my Bible
3. Finish my case notes for work
4. Listen in on a virtual women's summit
5. Watch Survivor tonight (yep I love that show)

What 5 snacks do you enjoy?

1. Chocolate Chip cookies
2. Peanut M & Ms
3. Yoplait yogurt
4. Harvest cheddar sun chips
5. Chex mix

What would you do if you were a billionaire?

1. Give tithe and offerings first
2. Invest
3. Ensure my mother was financially secure
4. Create trust funds for my nieces and nephews
5. Build a youth development center in my hometown that would teach character development, life skills, financial literacy and business planning.

Finally, I'm suppose to tag 5 other people to participate. If you've already been tagged, I send my apologies. I missed your post. For anyone who would rather not participate, I promise not to be offended and will still be visiting your place. :0)

[1]Linda, [2]Heiress, [3]Chris, [4]Bluebutterfly, and [5]Tabitha you're it!



[6]

1. <http://whitsendhome.blogspot.com/>
2. <http://heiresstothekingdom.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://christina-weigand.blogspot.com/>
4. <http://swordofgoliath.blogspot.com/>
5. <http://www.ichoosebliss.net/>
6. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-05-06 16:47:16)

i used to love watching survivor. but after the second show i lost interest. the best show was Roger(school teacher) and the young woman. imho
think it took place in Australia? i'm not into TV like i used to be.....

Ellie (2010-05-06 20:33:08)

I loved your answers, very admirable!

I love sun chips, I totally didn't put any chips, but I do love them!

I use to watch Survivor, I want them to go to Alaska...or have Men have to function like women. Nails, perms,manicures, pedicures, panty hose, rollers, perms...they can't do the pregnancy thang. They could do the high heels and see how long they survive!

Wanda (2010-05-06 21:29:30)

Bud, I didn't get into the show at first but the past few seasons I've been hooked. Ellie..lol, men functioning as woman would make a very interesting show.

Lisa (2010-05-10 18:32:31)

How did I miss this? I don't know...I just haven't seen any of your posts coming up in my reader. Thank you for participating Wanda. I enjoyed reading your answers. You and I seem to have a lot in common. The #1 thing being our love for Jesus Christ! :O)

Imprisoned Thoughts (2010-05-07 03:58)



[1]

Stop! What are you thinking about at this exact moment? What thoughts have been swimming through your mind lately? During the course of a day, many random thoughts flow through my head. At times I'm thinking about work, family, blogging, TV shows, Bible verses, or some spark of inspiration.

Being in church I've heard 2 Corinthians 10:5 which states, Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ, quoted on several occasions and I have read it a few times. After reading Mark Batterson's book Primal a few months ago, that verse took on new meaning to me. He states, "This verse is not just about capturing sinful thoughts and keeping them out of our minds; it's also about capturing creative thoughts and keeping them in our minds. It means stewarding every word, every thought, every impression, and every revelation inspired by the Spirit of God". Now this was a fresh perspective for me. Having been someone immobilized by fears and irrational or negative thoughts, I understood the impact of failing to get a grip on your thought life.

But I never considered the responsibility I had to be a good steward of those passing inspirations or God thoughts. I can't tell you how many times an idea came to mind but I failed to hold it captive and it was soon forgotten until something triggered the memory again. Of course, every idea that comes to mind is not necessarily a God thought but I do wonder what could I do or be, if I did more to arrest those thoughts. If I wasn't so quick to cast them away as being meaningless or impossible, there is no telling how different my life might be.

Are your thoughts holding you captive to people, places, events or are you holding your thoughts as prisoners? There is a world of difference between the two. Have you come across any quote or book that has changed your perspective on a matter lately? If so, please share.



[2]

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/S-ORfoKuo2I/AAAAAAAAAGQ/HC_PKPPihy4/s1600/jailed.jpg
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

AnooCre8ion (2010-05-07 12:06:09)

You know Wanda, this is very interesting. I too am so guilty of not being a better steward of my creative thoughts. I know many times I see or hear things and I see a devotional or a poem coming out of it but I do nothing, it comes back another time, I do nothing and it goes.

I too have never seen that coming from that familiar verse, but it is a fresh perspective.

Thx for dropping by my blog. You have a lovely home here.

Blessings,

Vickie

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-07 13:15:09)

Most interesting to read.

Have a good week-end.

Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-05-07 16:30:28)

Wow! Great things to meditate on. "I know the thoughts that come into your mind." "As a man thinketh in his heart." All through the Bible are references to the thoughts and words of our heart.

We spend a lot of time thinking about the past and the future, often forgetting to appreciate the present, but Ecclesiastes, one of my favorite Books, contains some Verses that are ever present with me, because they make me live in balance:

Never make light of the king, even in your thoughts. And don't make fun of the powerful, even in your own bedroom. For a little bird might deliver your message and tell them what you said. - Ecclesiastes 10:20

In the day of prosperity be happy, but in the day of adversity consider—God has made the one as well as the other so that man will not discover anything that will be after him. I have seen everything during my lifetime of futility; there is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his wickedness. Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself? Do not be excessively wicked and do not be a fool. Why should you die before your time? It is good that you grasp one thing and also not let go of the other; for the one who fears God comes forth with both of them. - Ecclesiastes 7:14-18

Everything has already been decided. It was known long ago what each person would be. So there's no use arguing with God about your destiny. - Ecclesiastes 6:10

The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil. - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Trudy (2010-05-07 20:59:25)

A very powerful verse indeed. So important to remember that it is a twofold process, getting rid of the old (sinful thoughts) and replacing it with the new (creative thoughts).

Great post Wanda! God bless you!

Just Be Real (2010-05-07 22:23:53)

Wanda, my first reaction to what I was thinking while I was reading this post was, I was thinking about what I was reading. Great post. Thanks for sharing.

Tori Cooper (2010-05-07 23:04:56)

Excellent Post! I know what it feels like to be a prisoner to my thoughts and feelings... thank God I have been able to escape. Great word of encouragement! Keep up the good work!

Faith Imagined (2010-05-08 13:11:32)

Great post! Our thoughts have such a huge influence on our spiritual life! I am trying to get in a habit of writing "God thoughts" down so I don't forget.

BTW, great picture!

Ellie (2010-05-08 20:46:10)

This really gives one something to ponder! I know my head is swimming with ideas, at times! Interesting way to look at it

Wanda (2010-05-09 02:38:08)

Ladies,

Thanks so much for stopping by and sharing your thoughts. I pray that each of us will be more diligent in capturing the God ideas.

Blessings to you!

Slushpile Slut (2010-05-09 14:31:05)

"It means stewarding every word, every thought, every impression, and every revelation inspired by the Spirit of God". Loved this Wanda, your quote inspired me...Thanks for this!

Lelia Chealey (2010-05-10 03:08:28)

Hi Wanda!

Wow, I never thought of that verse like that before. I've only thought of it what I can't do. Thanks for sharing this!!

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-05-11 01:52:04)

you certainly give your posts a lot of thought, Wanda:) excellent!

For Mothers (2010-05-09 05:01)

In whatever way you choose to spend it, I hope that you enjoy a wonderful Mother's Day.



[1]

[2]Mother's Day | [3]Forward this Picture

Thirsty for Him - Wanda

[4]

1. <http://www.commentsyard.com/>
2. <http://www.commentsyard.com/comments/mothers-day/>
3. <http://www.commentsyard.com/happy-mothers-day-graphic/>
4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-09 07:18:17)

Thank you for your best wishes, the flowers are lovely.

Have a peaceful Sunday.

Yvonne.

Slushpile Slut (2010-05-09 14:28:32)

Happy Mother's Day to you too Wanda!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-05-09 14:33:09)

Blessings to all who do the work of mothers! Be blessed and highly favored, Wanda.

Ellie (2010-05-11 02:44:12)

Wonderful wishes with gorgeous flowers! Thank you,so much!!!

The Blahs (2010-05-11 12:38)



[1]

Blah, blah, blah.... I seem to have woke up with the case of the blahs this morning for no apparent reason. There's nothing out of ordinary that has occurred in my life. Perhaps it's more of the ordinary that has plunged me into this depth of the blues. I find myself asking the same question the Psalmist did, "O my soul why art thou disquieted within me?" Guess I should put the rest of the verse in practice and a change of mood will come.

Psalm 43:5 *Why are you cast down, O my inner self? And why should you moan over me and be disquieted within me? Hope in God and wait expectantly for Him, for I shall yet praise Him, Who is the help of my [sad] countenance, and my God.* (Amplified Bible) Psalm 43:5 (The Message)

Psalm 43:5 *Why are you down in the dumps, dear soul? Why are you crying the blues? Fix my eyes on God— soon I'll be praising again. He puts a smile on my face. He's my God.* (The Message)

[2]

1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/S-10In075SI/AAAAAAAAAGY/ncxoj6kQHqs/s1600/blahs.jpg

2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Will Burke (2010-05-11 12:45:47)

We all kinda go in these cycles, and they're hard to weather. My preferred antidote is music; something I haven't heard in awhile (see: cassetts!).

The Alliterative Allomorph (2010-05-11 12:53:18)

Everybody has these down days. I sure do! Imagine what boring people we would be if we were happy all the time. We would never have opinions, questions, or inspiration to learn new things if we were always happy. I think sadness makes us better people. I'd cherish it now and again, if I were you. I do. I embrace it, feel it, then let it fly away. I hope you feel better soon. xx

Carol Fleisher (2010-05-11 13:17:01)

Hang in there. We all have days like that. What helps me is music and to get out and soak up some sun. ((HUGS)))

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-11 13:24:11)

I think everyone suddenly they realise they do the same routine everyday, go to the same shops.....they can't have changed overnight, what direction is their life taking them, it may last a few days then you think Hey! there are people worse of than myself and suddenly those shops look different, your routine becomes a joy and you feel back to normal again.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-05-11 14:18:05)

Relax in His arms: I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me. - Psalm 131:2

Andrea (2010-05-11 14:50:10)

Blessings and prayers,
andrea

Lisa (2010-05-11 16:51:46)

You've raised up a standard against the enemy by relying on the Word of God. You've got the weapons of warfare and are using them. YAY for you! I know your day will be better.

((hugs))

Wanda (2010-05-12 03:17:57)

Thanks to each of you for your encouraging words. A drive, sun and P & W music helped to lift my spirits some. Blessings to each of you.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-05-12 03:25:58)

now that's good to hear, sister!:)

i get days like that too. never know from one day to the next wether i'm going to be standing, sitting, kneeling, on my face, or groveling...

...love that song, God on the Mountain

Pet (2010-05-12 11:10:46)

This was my feelings for the pass few days. But I can tell you God is good and peace will follow before you know it. Blessings!

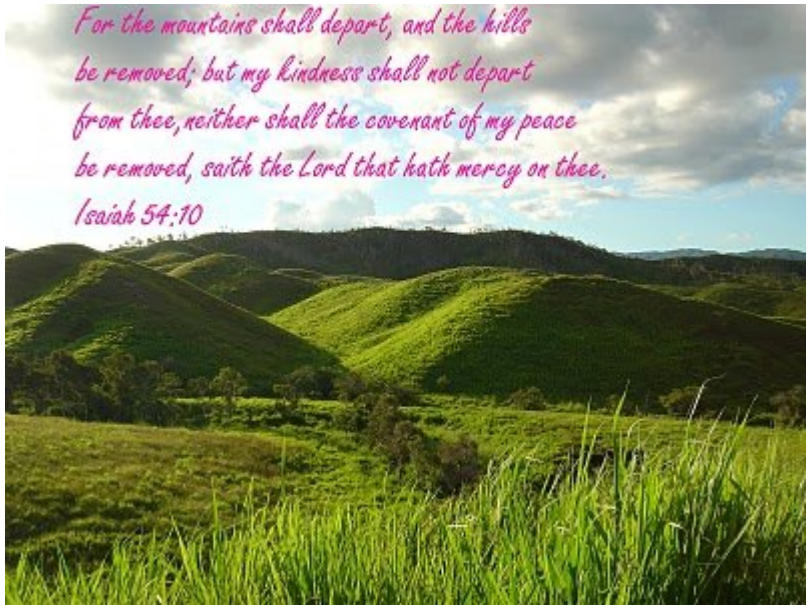
~ Being Woven (2010-05-13 13:45:06)

Yes, I must remember this verse as well!! Waiting and praising... yes indeed.

Thanks again, linda

Some Things Don't Change (2010-05-12 06:30)

Life is full of changes-seasons change, businesses open and close, relationships that started out full of hope end in divorce, children grow up, jobs are changed, laws change. Even with so many things seeming constant, change is all around us. Just yesterday I was feeling blue but today I'm feeling like my old self again. As I came across Isaiah 54:10 in my reading this week, I was grateful that amongst all the changes I encounter, there are still some things that remain the same.



[1]



[2]

This post is a part of Word Filled Wednesday. It is designed to share God's Word through photos and a Bible verse. Fill up on other verses this Wednesday by visiting today's hostess, Lori at [3]All You Have to Give.



[4]

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/S-qW2I-58BI/AAAAAAAAAGg/9zzyo_4r6qk/s1600/hills+Isaiah+53-10.jpg
2. <http://www.the160acrewoods.com/>
3. <http://www.allyouhavetogive.com/>
4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

ozjane (2010-05-12 06:59:37)

Oh I love those green mountains...and I love that book of Isaiah.

Thanks for being my first visitor.

It is after 11pm so I am going to stop reading for tonight and head for bed.

Will Burke (2010-05-12 07:49:11)

Welcome back from your funk!

Julie (2010-05-12 08:08:49)

It's hard to function when you're done and out but you're a woman and we always bounce back. I love your picture and verse. Thank you for sharing.

I hope that you have a great and blessed day. Take care!

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-12 08:48:09)

A lovely post and those beautiful green hills was a joy to see.

Yvonne.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-05-12 09:01:04)

hi Wanda:)

agreeing with others here. it is a beautiful picture! love the verse too. think i will set it aside:)

Chelle (2010-05-12 09:20:43)

Excellent post, thank you for sharing!

Andrea (2010-05-12 10:04:52)

Praising GOD for HIS faithfulness!!

Thank you for your love, encouragement, and prayers,

andrea

PS: Sitka has an award for you on All Gods Creatures.

<http://andrealuvsallgodscreatures.blogspot.com>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-05-12 10:34:55)

Yes, Wanda, His unfailing love and mercy. Thank You, Lord.

Faith, hope, and above all, love!

Maxine (2010-05-12 10:55:44)

Amen. The goodness of the Lord will never change. Our God is changeless. Thankful for that.

Lisa (2010-05-12 11:01:29)

Glad you're feeling better today my dear! :O)

Pet (2010-05-12 12:20:40)

Amen!

Lisa (2010-05-12 13:13:39)

What a wonderful verse of reassurance. Happy WFW!

partialemptynester (2010-05-12 13:15:56)

What beautifully lush mountains...Unbelievable to think that one day those mountains will depart, what comfort knowing that His kindness will endure forever!

Great post, happy WFW!

lori (2010-05-12 13:23:42)

What a beautiful reflection for my afternoon!

Thank you for sharing this one!

Peace,

lori

Mystiqua K (2010-05-12 14:50:05)

Beautiful picture and love that scripture! God bless!!

Denise (2010-05-12 15:52:28)
Such a great post.

LivingforGod (2010-05-12 16:00:46)
I've always loved this verse. God is so good all the time!
Thanks for visiting my photo blog today.

Joan Davis (2010-05-12 16:16:13)
Yes, the Lord never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. What a comfort that is! Thank you for sharing this wonderful verse from Isaiah!
(I deleted my previous comment because of a type-o! Sorry!!)

Lorena G. Sims (2010-05-12 18:28:04)
Amen! that's a wonderful verse. You know it's funny because last night I was thinking of posting something with a title "Some things don't change" but I didn't had the time to do it..We would have the same title..

Trisha (2010-05-12 19:32:59)
Such a comfort it is that He never changes nor do His promises! Such a wonderful reminder from His Word, and your picture is breathtaking. :)

Susan (2010-05-12 20:06:50)
Praise God, no matter what, He never changes!!
He is faithful, true, always there.
Great word!!!

Ellie (2010-05-12 22:21:39)
I'm glad the blues, didn't last to long! Take Care

Christine A Mayo (2010-05-12 22:45:22)
Thank you for the visit, I am following you! have a blessed day!

GlowinGirl (2010-05-13 04:04:28)
Wanda, I have an award for you!
<http://sugartails-glowinggirl.blogspot.com/2010/05/is-my-face-red.htm> l

Joan (2010-05-13 04:43:09)
I've read several WFW posts using verses from Isaiah. Great verse and I'm glad you are feeling better.
Blessings,
Joan

~ Being Woven (2010-05-13 07:43:28)
Thank you, Wanda, for visiting and encouraging me. I needed your kind words and by coming here to visit you, the verse and your words have added to that. God is faithful. And what a God we serve.
Thanks, linda

Laurencita (2010-05-13 08:24:00)
Amen! very nice photo.

daylily777 (2010-05-13 09:51:59)

Amen ! I am so glad he never changes ! Beautiful image !
Blessings,
Myrna

Wanda (2010-05-14 13:53:19)

Thanks to each of you for stopping by and I'm glad that glad to be feeling myself again. May continue to bless and keep you.

Steps Along the Way (2010-05-14 20:30)



[1]

As I walked this morning, the phrase-the steps of a good man are ordered came across my mind. In fact I've read this verse before but I hadn't read it lately. As I began to ponder that in my mind, I thought about the many situations I didn't foresee stepping into. Here is not the place in life I thought I'd be walking. At times it seemed like I've crept along in the valley of the shadow of death. The shadows and echoes of the enemy threaten to overtake me. You mean even those tiny steps in the darkness were ordered too, Lord? But what about the steps I took along the paths that I was sure to be the right way but it only led to a dead end? And what about the steps I consciously made away from rather than toward you? Could they have been ordered too?

While I walked up this steep hill, that I usually choose to walk down because it's easier, I was reminded of the hard places that I have journeyed through. Countless days I was unsure if I could press out another step and other days I was tempted to turn and walk the opposite way. But with the passing of time, I found those small strained steps had taken me to another place. With the change happening so gradually, I had not realized I had moved. The movement was not always physically but my perception, my hope, my faith, my attitude, my thinking moved.

Perhaps if we had to choose, most of us would prefer to walk continually along the smooth path. But despite where you find yourself (even those detours we knowingly take) there is One, who never loses sight of you. If you're in a dark, dry or hard place just keep walking for the landscape is sure to change. No, I don't give the false claim that it'll happen today, tomorrow, or even this month BUT it could. Yet with assurance, I

say that if you refuse to stop, you will step onto new terrain.



[2]

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/S-2oypmS5oI/AAAAAAAAAGo/z6io6twKEwY/s1600/step+in+the+path.jpg
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-14 20:23:04)

very thought provoking, I suppose it's always easy to walk the safe way but how dull and predictive it would be, I enjoyed your post very much, I hope you have a wonderful week-end.
Yvonne.

Nativa (2010-05-14 20:56:01)

You know many of us take the wrong path in life but hopefully we eventually get back on track. These 'detours' make us better human beings if we decide to learn from the experience.

Lisa (2010-05-14 22:32:38)

Amen Wanda, Amen! I am learning this truth through my current journey and have realized my need for Jesus more than ever before. It's a great feeling knowing He's there beside me, every step of the way; just as He is with YOU! (((hugs)))
Lisa

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-05-15 01:30:32)

:)
this reminded me once again of His promisee. all too often i've taken those detours because i didn't fully trust where He was taking me. yes, He brought me back to the path. again. and again. and again...and again. this journey has been incredibly long for me. but i know it's He who is bringing me to a better place. grat post sister Wanda!:)

Amy in Peru (2010-05-15 02:43:43)

Don't give me the easy path!
"Life's not a level or a smooth road; but it's a blessing to breast the hills and trudge over the stones with a good heart, and I think one sometimes does one's best work on the uphill bits, though one may not know it." Bishop Paget
"Have no fear... You have chosen the roughest road, but it goes straight to the hill-tops." John Buchan
Thanks for your thoughts today and the inspiration to meditate on these truths :)
amy in peru
ps. Your blog is beautiful!

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-15 07:39:57)

Hi if you go to my post "A New Beginning" there's an award for you. I appreciate all the support you have given me.
Yvonne.

Rae (2010-05-15 13:33:52)

Words I will keep with me on my journey... Thank you!

Mike (2010-05-15 14:34:11)

Thank you :)

AnooCre8ion (2010-05-15 16:26:40)

Great post Wanda. The beauty about it all is that even when we take steps out of the plan HE has for us, He always has a back-up plan to bring us right back on track. That's because nothing surprises Him.

Blessings,

Vickie

Gregg (2010-05-15 22:22:09)

All of our steps are ordered by the Lord. Even the "ones that seemed to lead to a dead end." God orders them for a reason, hopefully, as He reveals the reason we are open and responsive. There is no plan B or back up plan with God - everything He does is sovereign and ordained prior the creation of this world.

He is also teaching, blessing, discipling, disciplining, correcting, buidling us in every step. I am afraid we miss so much of it becasue we are not in tune to him but to the things around us.

Wanda (2010-05-17 01:02:21)

Thanks to each of you for sharing your thoughts. I believe that God in His sovereignty always knows the steps we will take even before we take them. However, I believe that sometimes we make choices that lead us into taken longer routes than He had wished for us. Just like in the case of the Israelites. But He is able to reroute us back to the correct path.

Finding My Strength (2010-05-16 03:14)

For the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says, "Only in returning to me and waiting for me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength. But you would have none of it. Isaiah 30: 15 (NLT) This is the passage of scripture I'm meditating on today. I also like the message translation of this passage. God, the Master, The Holy of Israel, has this solemn counsel: "Your salvation requires you to turn back to me and stop your silly efforts to save yourselves. Your strength will come from settling down in complete dependence on me—The very thing you've been unwilling to do. (The Message)

Do you find yourself tired of toiling while trying to hold things together or come up with some type of solution? Perhaps it's time to silence the ranting, turn back and confidently wait on Him.

[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-05-16 04:21:25)

Amen, Wanda, Amen. Hope in Him, wait on Him.

Be blessed above.

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-16 06:14:30)

Wonderfully inspirational.

Yvonne.

Will Burke (2010-05-16 10:40:33)

Silence is becomming harder to acheive, but well worth the effort.

Lisa (2010-05-16 20:24:33)

It's so simple if we'll just obey. What are we gonna do with our hardheaded selves?!
Wonderful Wanda – I loved this!

Wanda (2010-05-17 01:04:46)

Will, I imagine it is with a busy baby.

Lisa, yes we're so hard headed at times. Thanks be to God that He's patient and merciful.

Just Be Real (2010-05-17 11:21:51)

Wanda, this has touched me. Thank you!

Mike (2010-05-17 11:24:55)

Confidently wait.. that is the challenge. Thank you Wanda.

Karen (2010-05-17 17:35:34)

Amen...this is right on the mark! Thanks for the reminder....

Together We Save (2010-05-17 18:18:59)

So beautiful!! Thanks.

Godzheart (2010-05-17 18:44:09)

Thanks for visiting my blog and encouraging me. You have a good thing going on right here wow. To God be all glory!

Quiet Confidence (2010-05-17 22:00)

In [1]Saturday's post I shared how I was reflecting on Isaiah 30:15, particularly the part about in quietness and confidence is my strength. Today, I wanted to share some questions and insights I received while continuing to meditate.

What is it that one needs to have confidence in?

- That God exists
- That God is who He says He is
- That He can do what He says He can
- That not only can He do it but He's willing (this is important because a person may have the ability to do a thing but has no desire or willingness to do so)
- That God is concerned about you (yep, the same God that holds the universe together is interested in you)
- That He is able to hold things together even when it appears that things are falling apart

When do I need to exhibit quietness?

- When tempted to continue to argue your point, choose quietness instead.
- When you would worry and be stressed out, quiet your mind instead.
- When you be tempted to run and hide, quiet your steps and be still instead.
- When it would be easy to complain, quiet the dis-ease with thanksgiving and praise.

Thirsty for Him - Wanda

[2]

1. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/05/finding-my-strength.html>

2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-05-17 22:15:03)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! PEACE...BE STILL! So timely in all the chaos. God is speaking, in that still, small voice, to those who choose to listen.

Blessings, Wanda!

Carol Fleisher (2010-05-17 23:32:57)

great post. What a wonderful thing Christ offers if we only choose to listen and obey.

Shannon (2010-05-17 23:54:30)

Thanks I needed that today Wanda!

Andrea (2010-05-18 00:02:54)

Another great post!

Blessings and prayers,

andrea

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-05-18 00:13:37)

:)...pondering

Karen (2010-05-18 02:10:55)

Very good post...I needed to be reminded of being quiet instead of arguing my point all the time...

Lisa (2010-05-18 02:31:55)

I need to write those last four points down and memorize them!

Great post Sis!

Edie (2010-05-19 02:02:35)

I'm working on developing more quietness and confidence quite a bit these days. :)

Glad you like the scripture tags!

Enjoy your week!

arlee bird (2010-05-21 21:17:59)

Such great words of advice. It's like the admonition always given to writers: "Show, don't tell."

Likewise, don't brag about what you can do, just quietly do it and speak through your actions. Or don't preach to me about what God's going to do to me, but show me how God works through you by your actions.

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

You're Unforgettable (2010-05-19 06:31)



[1]

*Can a mother forget the infant at her breast,
walk away from the baby she bore?
But even if mothers forget,
I'd never forget you-never
Isaiah 49:15 (The Message)*

[2]

Visit today's host, Amydeanne at [3]The 160 Acre Woods for other Word Filled Wednesday posts.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[4]

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/S_NRL6hSLqI/AAAAAAAAAGw/ryqV1zhLUmw/s1600/bonding.jpg

2. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/S_NhQKY1BQI/AAAAAAAAAG4/gIeBFWZTaks/s1600/Never-forget+Isaiah.jpg

3. <http://the160acrewoods.com/>

4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Karen (2010-05-19 06:56:55)

Oh...I LOVE this picture for this precious scripture promise....

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-19 07:08:46)

A wonderful picture and the words gbrought tears to my eyes (for personal reasons) Thanks for sharing.
Have a good day.

Yvonne.

Ginger (2010-05-19 10:13:47)

Oh, Wanda, that is so beautiful.

I am so glad you stopped by my sister's blog.

My hubby did our sites. I am glad you like hers. Check us out if you want him to ever do anything for your blog too.

Have a blessed day.

Ginger (and Rena)

lori (2010-05-19 10:41:03)

Wanda....

This is beautiful! What a blessing!

peace!

lori

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-05-19 11:01:19)

Wanda, that particular Scripture has given me much comfort over the years. God is faithful!

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK (2010-05-19 12:36:11)

What an awesome and encouraging Bible verse and photo. Thank you! :)

hip chick (2010-05-19 12:37:54)

Beautiful words and picture.

GlowinGirl (2010-05-19 13:13:04)

I love that God has such tender, unforgettable love for us. And what a perfect picture to go with it. I'll be thinking about this today!

Rena (2010-05-19 14:52:18)

Hi Wanda! I LOVE this beautiful picture and verse!

Thank you for stopping by and for leaving your comment. I wanted to stop by and say "Hi"! Glad to meet you!

Come back and visit!

Rena @ insertgracehere

Mike (2010-05-19 15:03:42)

Mike likes this.

Missie (2010-05-19 17:07:36)

Missie likes this too ;)

Denise (2010-05-19 18:24:05)
Such a touching post.

Lisa (2010-05-19 19:14:22)
What an amazing WFW! Love it Wanda!!

partialemptynester (2010-05-19 21:33:20)
So true! Thanks for stopping by and commenting on my post, I needed that encouragement today :)

Brian the old man (2010-05-19 22:42:38)
I love this photo and verse. Thanks for sharing and for your kind words on my blog today.

Amydeanne (2010-05-20 07:25:08)
i remember reading this book as a new mom and having it really hit me!
Thanks for the reminder today!

Laurencita (2010-05-20 23:59:29)
Beautiful and touching words, thanks for sharing.

Beth in NC (2010-05-21 04:40:00)
That is so beautiful Wanda!
Thank you for visiting me yesterday. I am going to follow you. I hope you'll visit me often as well.
Many blessings!
Beth

daylily777 (2010-05-21 12:46:18)
Beautiful promise from our God ,wonderful illustration !
Blessings,
Myrna
ps . I have a sister named Wanda. :)

Your View of Windows (2010-05-21 11:18)

I was just curious to know if any you have upgraded to Windows 7. If so what has been your experience with the new version? I've had my installation disks for months now but have not taken the time to install the software on my laptop.

Happy Friday



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-21 11:32:44)

I have to get a new laptop, on looking most are windows 7 so I'd be grateful also if anyone could let me know.
Yvonne,

Rae (2010-05-21 12:00:37)

My new laptop came with Windows 7 and I actually like it a lot. Especially when you have several screens going for internet searches- they pop up from the bar and you can see them all at a glance- click one and you are there.

Also, we got an (HDMI ?) cable, connected it to the laptop and the TV and can watch movies, read blogs and do FB on my big flat screen!

Karen (2010-05-21 12:39:21)

I have not personally, but two of my techie sons have upgraded...they really Windows 7 and said the transition was so much smoother than from XP to Vista....

Andrea (2010-05-21 14:56:46)

I have mixed emotions....

Blessings, andrea

Lorena G. Sims (2010-05-22 00:01:21)

I love it and so far I have not encounter any problems with it...it's a way way lot better than windows vista.

Ellie (2010-05-22 00:53:00)

The Techies in our house, installed and and loved it. At first a few glitches, but now, everyone is happy!

Wanda (2010-05-22 02:11:08)

Thank you ladies for sharing your experiences. Rae that sounds like a nifty set up you have, I'm jealous :) I'm sure I'll get around to upgraded my laptop soon.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-05-22 03:33:19)

...i have Vista and "detest" it! preferred XP over this OS. the only advantage Vista has over XP was/is i can have several sites open at once. perfect for blogging! 7 sounds appealing...

Lisa (2010-05-22 04:14:11)

I need to get a new laptop first. :) I'm sure when I do it will have 7 on it. Let us know what you think once you get it installed!

And have a wonderful weekend sis. I'm going to go enjoy an onion now. (just kidding) :O)

It's Him You Seek (2010-05-24 16:00)



[1]
Acts 5:42b

Photo by [2]Heartlight Jesus is the Messiah you seek.

The apostles in Acts went about sharing this message back in Bible times and that same message holds true today. We often seek salvation and satisfaction in many things-jobs, relationships, promotions, achievements, and/or accolades but there is only one that truly SAVES and SATISFIES.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[3]

1. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/S7NHKABNhCI/AAAAAAAAADU/6YQ34t68LEc/s1600/jesusonthecross02.jpg
2. <http://www.heartlight.org/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Andrea (2010-05-24 16:41:46)

Thank you for praying for my friend, MaryGrace.
andrea

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-24 17:32:48)

A lovely post, I do so like that relaxing scene at the top of your page.
Take care.
Yvonne,

Ellie (2010-05-24 20:56:39)

You really narrow the focus and it is done so eloquently!
I was going to tell you I passed the MEME of IF you were a.....it is on my blog and you already stopped by!
I changed my blog and accidentally
deleted my sunshine award. I didn't
want you to think I removed it...I love it! So, I will have to figure out how to put it back ;-D

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-05-24 22:29:51)

i agree with Ellie. this is like....simple yet carries an impact.

Lorena G. Sims (2010-05-24 23:42:21)

A very good reminder.

Karen (2010-05-25 01:06:30)

Amen! He is all we need!

Teaser Tuesday (2010-05-25 22:17)

Being the book lover that I am and having finished reading a great book, I decided to participate in Teaser Tuesdays today.

Teaser Tuesdays is a weekly bookish meme, hosted by MizB of [1]Should Be Reading, which I discovered over at [2]Readin N Writin with Patricia. Anyone can play along! Just do the following:

Grab your current read

Open to a random page

Share two (2) "teaser" sentences from somewhere on that page

BE CAREFUL NOT TO INCLUDE SPOILERS! (make sure that what you share doesn't give too much away! You don't want to ruin the book for others!)

Share the title & author, too, so that other TT participants can add the book to their TBR Lists if they like your teasers!

MY TEASER

"Each piece of jewelry felt like chains of bondage, and the clothing he had slipped to her made her burn in shame. Never had she dressed so provactively, but the garments he asked her to wear for him turned her into a Jezebel." A Stray Drop of Blood by Roseanna M. White, pg 76

Reading a good book? Do share



[3]

1. <http://shouldbereading.wordpress.com/>

2. <http://readinnwritin.blogspot.com/>

3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

smellincoffee (2010-05-25 23:49:54)

Reminds me a bit of "Blood of Flowers", a bit of historical fiction set in the old Ottoman Empire. It's about a young woman with a gift for weaving rugs who is forced to become a concubine at one point. Sad in a way, but she perseveres.

<http://www.bloodofflowers.com/>

Thanks for stopping by my own blog. :)

Ellie (2010-05-26 04:32:41)

How fun, wow, that was powerful and so descript! I'm intrigued

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-26 07:12:33)

Fun and most enjoyable.

Yvonne.

Rae (2010-05-26 11:33:22)

Neat idea! Wish I had my favorite book handy- I loaned it out!

PatriciaW (2010-05-26 13:45:53)

It's never too late for a teaser, Wanda. Glad you decided to join in. That's an intriguing one.

Lorena G. Sims (2010-05-26 19:33:28)

The book sure sounds interesting.

Overloaded? (2010-05-25 23:01)

The Lord helps the fallen

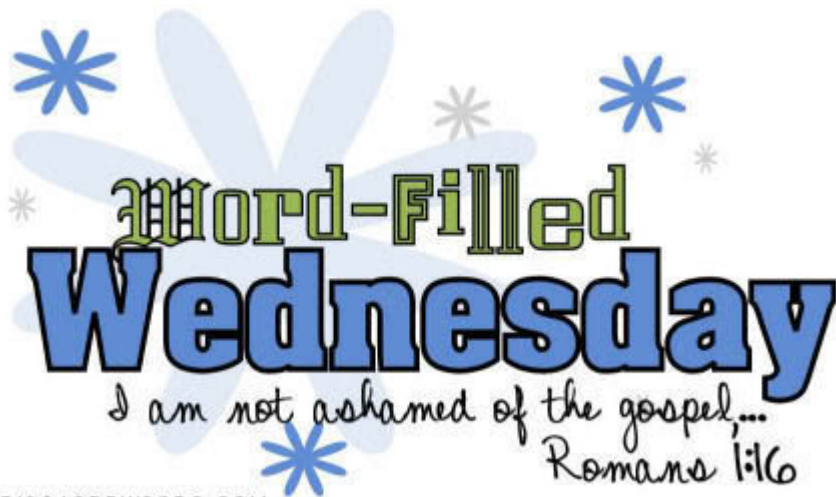


[1]

and lifts those bent beneath their loads.

Psalm 145:14

Fill up on other verses from the Word this Wednesday by visiting today's hostess [2]here.



[3] THE160ACREWOODS.COM

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[4]

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/S_yBUUnspwXI/AAAAAAAAAHE/UZngfJNPdSQ/s1600/fallen+tree-Psalms+145;14.jpg
2. <http://susan2956.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://the160acrewoods.com/>
4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-26 00:51:38)

Good day Wanda loved the quote,
Have a super day.
Yvonne.

Denise (2010-05-26 02:20:19)
Such comforting truth.

GlowinGirl (2010-05-26 04:40:16)
That He does, Praise Him!! He is so good.
(Love your picture for the verse, too!)

Susan (2010-05-26 06:16:57)
Wanda!
This was beautiful. I needed this word today.
Thanks so much for joining us this WFW?

Karen (2010-05-26 07:52:18)
Awesome! What a promise....

ozjane (2010-05-26 08:00:52)
Lovely image and verse to match.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-05-26 08:06:54)

Yes, Wanda, that is our Lord. We lift His name and He lift us up, restores us, revives us and carries the load. Blessings.

rachelwojo (2010-05-26 08:19:04)

Thanks for stopping by my blog. So needed this verse today! Thank you for it!

Debbie (2010-05-26 10:32:29)

What a great picture to go along with this verse of Scripture!

Joyfull (2010-05-26 10:34:36)

Wow! Powerful picture to accompany a very comforting and encouraging verse.

Brian the old man (2010-05-26 11:39:57)

This scripture means a lot to me. I have been going through a difficult time and I lean on Him to carry me through. Thanks for sharing.

SnoWhite {Finding Joy in My Kitchen} (2010-05-26 11:45:48)

Amen!

Thanks for reminding me of this today :)

By the way... I love your blog design!

Maxine (2010-05-26 12:45:59)

Wow. That is a powerful picture to remind us of the wonderful truths in the verse. Great WFW.

Lorena G. Sims (2010-05-26 13:05:50)

Such a wonderful verse and a beautiful picture..

Laurie (2010-05-26 13:42:37)

We have all felt like this old tree sometime in our lives. You joined it perfectly with this scripture. I am so glad He is our great Help.

In joy, Laurie

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-05-26 15:39:33)

Awesome verse and pic!

Thank you for sharing!

Sherry

Bear (2010-05-26 19:54:03)

Beautiful Photo and encouraging verse!

AnooCre8ion (2010-05-26 22:34:15)

This is so appropriate Wanda. thank you for the reminder that Jesus is always there.

blessings,

Vickie

Bogie (2010-05-27 01:05:46)

Great WFW!

Perfectly Blended (2010-05-27 01:06:28)

The picture goes well with the verse. Such a great encouragement. Thanks for sharing!

Wrigley (2010-05-27 01:07:02)

Such a comforting WFW!

One Heart (2010-05-27 21:36:55)

I needed this my friend. Just right. Thanks for stopping by my place earlier. I don't know if I mentioned this in my last comment when I last visited you, but your blog is beautiful. Blessings!

Lessons Learned Along the Way (2010-05-26 23:55)

As a part of Exemplify Online Singles Channel, Christy has asked Sassy Single Bloggers to share what God has taught them so far this year. Whether you're single or married, you are likely to find something of interest at [1]Exemplify Online. There are a number of things He's been revealing during the year but a few key things jump out at me. Here they are:

- At the beginning of the year He impressed upon my heart that it would be year of unveiling for me. I've spent several years in a sort of spiritual slumber and going through the motions of life. Only to find when I awaken, I had no clear understanding of how I got there. Constantly questioning within myself-what happened?
- He's been gradually revealing strategies the enemy has used to stifle my mobility.
- He's teaching me that it's ok to try again. Some places are worth revisiting because the experience doesn't have to be the same. See my post [2]Revisiting the Tomb for more.
- That He desires to use me in service to Him
- Teaching me to rest more in Him
- Better days do come eventually
- That I am enough
- I've never been forsaken-without support, protection, or adequate help. See my posts entitled [3]Never Forsaken and [4]Never Forsaken Part 2 for more on this.
- Importance of recognizing and celebrating the small victories. Most of the time our healing or overcoming doesn't come immediately but over time. See [5]Celebration Time Come On
- Importance of capturing the God-thoughts. So many ideas, wisdoms, lessons are forgotten and never utilized because we don't write them down.
- Expand my horizons-try new things, talk with new people, go to new places and blogging just happens to be one the new things I've been doing this year, which has given me the opportunity to meet each of you.
- Despite how long a particular place in your life has been dry or void, does not mean it will always be that way. There's a distinct difference between barren and bare and it takes a trained eye to know the difference. See [6]Bare but Not Barren for more on this.

I think that's enough for now. Are there any particular lessons that you've been gleaning from the Master Teacher this year?



[7]

1. <http://exemplifyonline.com/>
2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/03/revisit-tomb.html>
3. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/02/never-forsaken.html>
4. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/02/never-forsaken.html>
5. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/03/celebration-time-come-on.html>
6. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/04/bare-but-not-barren.html/>
7. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-05-27 00:04:55)

hi Wanda:)

an excellent post! Re-visiting the Tomb was/is...as well!!!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-05-27 00:50:52)

Just as I suspected... The Lord continues to teach me through the lessons of others. He's so faithful that way. I can relate to so many of your lessons, as well. "He's been gradually revealing strategies the enemy has used to stifle my mobility." This one really caught me. For me, the tactic used to paralyze me is always fear. I'm so thankful to the Lord for revealing this to me, then nudging me to keep moving. Thank you, Wanda, for sharing your "lessons learned along the way".

Ellie (2010-05-27 02:53:37)

These are great; for me, patience and persistence. I have some goals to accomplish, not just personal ones. I want to get my family to walk for some causes, volunteer and etc. Try, try again...

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-27 06:40:51)

An excellent post Wanda, enjoyed the read.

Yvonne,

Rae (2010-05-27 10:18:22)

I've learned to not let people suck me into their troubled worlds and hearts. When someone gets negative or nasty- I just walk away. A year ago- I would have nodded in agreement and taken their side. just to fit in and not be shunned. Life is so much better with positive insights and daily prayer.

Mike (2010-05-27 11:35:14)

Importance of recognizing and celebrating the small victories. Most of the time our healing or overcoming doesn't come immediately but over time. I like this one.

My lesson this year is that I am too self sufficient and need to lean on Him in everything, that's EVERYTHING, not just the things I don't think I can cope with.

Blessings :)

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-05-27 14:22:11)

The more I live the more I believe, without doubting, that His Word is the most important thing in my life.

Wanda (2010-05-31 19:02:47)

Thank you Bud, Yvonne!

Monica, fear has been one for me as well.

Rae, it's so easy to just go along with others are saying.

Mike, that's a great lesson. I think we're often guilty of believing we can handle the small stuff. Although God word urges us to acknowledge Him in all our ways.

Bluebutterfly, good one!

The If(s) (2010-05-27 08:30)

If, is such a small word but one that often has one looking back in regret. At other times it has us glancing fearfully toward the future wondering if I should, could or would. [1]Ellie tagged me to participate in an "If I were" themed meme.

If I were a MONTH: I'd be January because it's when everyone is focusing on the possibilities of what could be in the new year, while saying goodbye to the year gone by.

If I were a DAY: I'd be Saturday because it's a day to slow down from work and spend it doing the things you love.

If I were a TIME OF DAY: I'd be the time when the sun first cracks the sky to wash away the darkness of the night.

If I were a SEASON: I'd be spring because it's when new things are budding forth.

If I were a PLANET: I'd be Earth.

If I were a DIRECTION: I'd be pointing up towards Heaven.

If I were a TREE: I'd like to be planted by the waters.

If I were an ANIMAL: I'd be a lion bold and fierce.

If I were a: MUSICAL INSTRUMENT I'd be a flute.

If I were a FRUIT: I'd be white seedless grapes because they're my favorite.

If I were a FOOD: I'd be chocolate loved by many and useful in many applications.

If I were a COLOR: I'd be blue coloring the sky or the ocean.

If I were a BOOK: I'd be Proverbs because it holds so much wisdom for everyday life.

If I were a SONG: I'd be a slow tune.

If I were a MOVIE: I'd probably be a rather boring one.

If I were a FLOWER: I'd be a tulip swaying in the wind.

If I were a FACIAL EXPRESSION: I'd be expressing wonder because there are so many things I ponder about in this life.

Now I'm suppose to tag someone, so if you're reading this post and you've yet to participate in it consider yourself tagged, my friend.



[2]

1. <http://ellasedge.blogspot.com/>

2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-27 09:10:45)

Loved your answers Wanda, I did this one last week, had alot of fun doing it.

Take care,

Yvonne,

Rae (2010-05-27 10:03:23)
Beautiful!

Just Be Real (2010-05-27 10:21:04)
Love the "Ifs." I would be the crack of dawn also. I function better in the mornings. Blessings to you dear Wanda.

Andrea (2010-05-27 12:27:52)
If is definitely a word that can yield much power....
Blessings,
andrea

Karen (2010-05-27 12:41:05)
Enjoyed your answers....

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-05-27 14:17:04)
If I were the wind, I would have the pleasure of being called by God to bring life to dry and weary souls.

Gregg (2010-05-27 15:44:20)
Great answers! I too, have already done this one and really enjoyed it. Blessings to you!

Lisa (2010-05-27 17:57:14)
I enjoyed the way you did this tag. It showcases your beautiful writing style. I mean that sincerely.

Linda (2010-05-27 23:51:47)
Hey girl. I have been out of the loop for a while - what a wonderful way to rejoin the blogging world! I will post my "ifs" right now! Loved your take on it.

AnooCre8ion (2010-05-28 02:28:41)
Very interesting Wanda. Loved your ifs.
blessings
vickie

Linda (2010-05-28 17:38:29)
Early mornings - all about it - especially in the mountains or at the beach. We have neither in North Texas. Missed the tag for I'm it you may be next. Sorry - that was fun to read as well.

Wanda (2010-05-31 18:59:03)
thanks guys for stopping by.
@Linda, no problem in missing the tag.
@Lisa, thanks for the lovely compliment. I appreciate it.
@Bluebutterfly, I love your if, beautiful

Memorial Day (2010-05-31 05:02)



✕ [1]

[2], [3]

Grateful to all those who serve in our military and thanks be to God who provides our ultimate freedom.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[4]

1. <http://www.wishafriend.com/graphics/>
2. <http://www.wishafriend.com/graphics/>
3. <http://www.wishafriend.com/graphics/holidays/memorialday/>
4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-05-31 06:28:57)

They will not be forgotten.

Have a good day.

Yvonne.

Karen (2010-05-31 18:11:57)

Love that graphic...beautiful tribute....

sarah (2010-05-31 18:51:51)

I too am really grateful for their courage....

Favorite Finds (2010-05-31 21:35)

Last week I came across a couple of interesting or inspiring reads as I explored the blogosphere. My intention was to post this on Friday or Saturday but unfortunately, I didn't get the task completed. So here are a few of my favorite finds from last week:

- Does Facebook consume much of your time? If so you might want to take Rae's approach over at [1]Porch Ponderings by Rae.
- Feeling like arts and crafts, you might like the cute printable projects at [2]Kind Over Matter.
- Hesitant about giving love a go again, you may enjoy [3]Are You Missing Out on the Main Attraction in Life over at Highly Favored.
- If you're like me your life could be seasoned with a bit more grace. Learn about how grace presents itself in everyday living in Rachel's [4]True Grace post.
- Sonya at Becoming a Strong Wife, Mother, and Friend provides a great article about [5]Waiting on the Lord.

On another note, I'd like to extend my thanks for the awards I was given a few weeks ago. Sorry it has taken me so long to pass them forward.

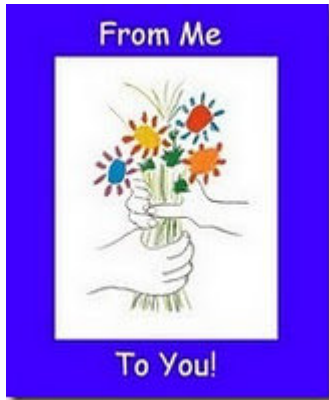
GlowinGirl at Sugar Tails was such a sweetie and awarded me (to my surprise) The Versatile Blogger award. According to the rules of the award I'm to tell you seven things about myself and pass the award on to other bloggers that I've recently discovered and think are fantastic. Here's my seven:

1. I'm basically dysfunctional late at night. Never been a party animal :0)
2. I'd choose Coke over Pepsi.
3. Reading is one of my favorite pastimes.
4. I don't have any children just my dog, Bella.
5. I hate listening to music while waiting on someone to answer their cell phone. It drives me crazy.
6. I tend to only listen to music in the car
7. I'm an introvert.



[6]

I'd like to pass the award on to: Monica at [7]Wisdom, Virtue & Rubies, [8]Empowering Your Life with Cheryl Pullins, [9]Just Another Clay Pot, [10]From His Heart to Mine, [11]Nana's Reflection and [12]A Pilgrim's Project



[13] Yvonne at [14]Welcome to My Word of Poetry recently awarded me with the From Me to You Award and I'd like to pass it onto [15]Karen, [16]GlowinGirl, [17]Patricia, Thanks to each of them and if you haven't already visited these blogs mentioned, please stop by when you get a chance.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[18]

1. <http://frazierfauxpaus.blogspot.com/2010/05/bffbye-my-facebook-friend.html>
2. <http://kindovermatter.blogspot.com/p/kind-over-matters-freebies.html>
3. <http://highlyfavored.affiliateshelpdesk.com/2010/05/26/are-you-missing-out-on-the-main-attraction-of-life/comment-page-1/>
4. <http://rachelwojnarowski.wordpress.com/2010/05/25/true-grace/>
5. <http://watchmefuze.blogspot.com/2010/05/waiting-on-lord.html>
6. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TAQo6LMLCDI/AAAAAAAAAHU/zFicWdOG0qg/s1600/versatile-bloggeraward+received+5-12-10+by+Sugar+tails.jpg
7. <http://wisdomvirtueandrubies.wordpress.com/>
8. <http://empowered4lyfe.wordpress.com/>
9. <http://justanotherclaypot.blogspot.com/>
10. <http://chelled.blogspot.com/>
11. <http://speakablegifts.blogspot.com/>
12. <http://apilgrimsproject.blogspot.com/>
13. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TAQpKLBuy1I/AAAAAAAAAHY/HYdAY8YCgFo/s1600/From_Me_To_You_Award_by+Yvonne+5-15-10.jpg
14. <http://welcometomyworldofpoetry.blogspot.com/>
15. <http://hallelujahanyhow.blogspot.com/>
16. <http://sugartails-glowingirl.blogspot.com/>
17. <http://readinnwritin.blogspot.com/>
18. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Karen (2010-05-31 22:32:16)

I enjoyed visiting your links, Wanda...

Congrats on your awards! Thanks for sharing one with me....

Lisa (2010-06-01 00:53:48)

Great learning more about you Ms. Wanda. :) Congrats on the awards and to your recipients. I hope you had a nice, long holiday weekend!

rachelwojnarowski (2010-06-01 01:28:14)

Thanks for the link girl! Keep up the spirit! You post fantastic info.

Wanda (2010-06-01 01:36:45)

You're welcome Karen and Rachel. Lisa, I definitely did enjoy the extended weekend and tomorrow it's back to making the donuts :)

Maxine (2010-06-01 03:30:44)

Thank you, Wanda, for passing your award on to me, and congrats on getting one. I look forward to getting to know you better through our blogs!

GlowinGirl (2010-06-01 10:24:19)

Thanks, Wanda, for the award. :)

OH, and I agree with your number 5! It drives me crazy too. It was fun getting to know a bit about you!

GlowinGirl (2010-06-01 10:24:20)

Thanks, Wanda, for the award. :)

OH, and I agree with your number 5! It drives me crazy too. It was fun getting to know a bit about you!

PatriciaW (2010-06-01 16:37:52)

Aawww, thanks for the award, Wanda. I appreciate your support and am loving your blog too.

Amy in Peru (2010-06-18 19:49:57)

wanda! oh my goodness. I'm sorry I haven't been over here. actually, I did come and the page wasn't loading right, and then your comment got lost in my overfull inbox... anyway... long story. ;)

we have 2,3,6,7 in common! ;)

thanks so much for thinking of me :) so sweet!

I hope you've had an excellent week!

amy in peru

Teaser Tuesdays (2010-05-31 23:02)

Today's teaser comes from Women Food and God by Geneen Roth

"Obsession gives you something to do besides having your heart shattered by heart-shattering events. It gives you the illusion of feeling everything without having to be vulnerable to anything."

Teaser Tuesdays is a weekly bookish meme, hosted by MizB of [1]Should Be Reading. Anyone can play along! Just do the following:

Grab your current read

Open to a random page

Share two (2) "teaser" sentences from somewhere on that page

BE CAREFUL NOT TO INCLUDE SPOILERS! (make sure that what you share doesn't give too much away! You don't want to ruin the book for others!)

Share the title and author, too, so that other TT participants can add the book to their TBR Lists if they like your teasers!

What are you currently reading?



[2]

1. <http://shouldbereading.wordpress.com/>

2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-06-01 00:44:54)

It's like banging your head against a brick wall.

Have a good day Wanda,

Yvonne,

JBR (2010-06-01 03:37:06)

Wanda good teaser. Thank you for sharing. Blessings to you and yours.

Creations by Laurel-Rain Snow (2010-06-01 05:12:01)

Wow, that one makes me think!

Here's mine:

<http://rainysnowday.wordpress.com/2010/06/01/teaser-tuesdays-14/>

Karen (2010-06-01 06:08:51)

Very interesting....

Marg (2010-06-01 07:30:26)

I think I will revisit this teaser in the morning. It looks good

My teaser is [1]here

1. <http://readingadventures.blogspot.com/2010/06/teaser-tuesday-cottage-by-sea-by-ciji.html>

Lisa (2010-06-01 07:44:30)

[1]Here's mine

1. <http://when-she-reads.blogspot.com/2010/06/teaser-tuesday-center-of-attention.html>

Lady Q (2010-06-01 09:47:05)

That's a thought-provoking teaser! Here's my teaser for [1]The Smoke Thief.

1. <http://letthemreadbooks.blogspot.com/>

PatriciaW (2010-06-01 10:36:05)

Oooh, interesting quote. I didn't post a teaser today, so here's one:

Yes, take a breath, dear, of course he loves "your personality and your heart" but let's get real. He looked at you and he saw lips, breasts, curvy hips, bodacious booty—you know, all that. – pg. 21, *Uncovered: Revealing the Secrets of a Sexy Marriage* by Susie Davis.

1.4 June

Teaser Tuesdays (2010-06-01 05:02)

Today's teaser comes from *Women Food and God* by Geneen Roth

"Obsession gives you something to do besides having your heart shattered by heart-shattering events. It gives you the illusion of feeling everything without having to be vulnerable to anything."

Teaser Tuesdays is a weekly bookish meme, hosted by MizB of [1]Should Be Reading. Anyone can play along! Just do the following:

Grab your current read

Open to a random page

Share two (2) "teaser" sentences from somewhere on that page

BE CAREFUL NOT TO INCLUDE SPOILERS! (make sure that what you share doesn't give too much away! You don't want to ruin the book for others!)

Share the title and author, too, so that other TT participants can add the book to their TBR Lists if they like your teasers!

What are you currently reading?



[2]

1. <http://shouldbereading.wordpress.com/>

2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-06-01 06:44:54)

It's like banging your head against a brick wall.

Have a good day Wanda,

Yvonne,

JBR (2010-06-01 09:37:06)

Wanda good teaser. Thank you for sharing. Blessings to you and yours.

Creations by Laurel-Rain Snow (2010-06-01 11:12:01)

Wow, that one makes me think!

Here's mine:

<http://rainysnowday.wordpress.com/2010/06/01/teaser-tuesdays-14/>

Karen (2010-06-01 12:08:51)

Very interesting....

Marg (2010-06-01 13:30:26)

I think I will revisit this teaser in the morning. It looks good

My teaser is [1]here

1. <http://readingadventures.blogspot.com/2010/06/teaser-tuesday-cottage-by-sea-by-ciji.html>

Lisa (2010-06-01 13:44:30)

[1]Here's mine

1. <http://when-she-reads.blogspot.com/2010/06/teaser-tuesday-center-of-attention.html>

Lady Q (2010-06-01 15:47:05)

That's a thought-provoking teaser! Here's my teaser for [1]The Smoke Thief.

1. <http://letthemreadbooks.blogspot.com/>

PatriciaW (2010-06-01 16:36:05)

Oooh, interesting quote. I didn't post a teaser today, so here's one:

Yes, take a breath, dear, of course he loves "your personality and your heart" but let's get real. He looked at you and he saw lips, breasts, curvy hips, bodacious booty—you know, all that. – pg. 21, *Uncovered: Revealing the Secrets of a Sexy Marriage* by Susie Davis.

Shammah! (2010-06-01 17:30)

Did you know that God has a sense a humor? Over the weekend, He's managed to give me my own personal illustrated lesson. As I was doing my morning walk with my dog Friday morning, we came across two black barking dogs. Startled by their presence and their barking, I momentarily halted. Unsure if I should turn around or continue going forward, I quickly analyzed my options. There was no way I could out run them and they were already inching closer and closer to us. In spite of the fear, I quickly picked up a rock and began commanding the dogs to get back. Although they didn't stop barking or completely retreat, they only came so close to us and caused us no physical harm. The closer I got to my house, I couldn't help but laugh at how courageous I would look to someone passing by. My arm raised with a rock in hand ready to slay those Goliaths. Yet fear had besieged my mind. God brought the story of Shammah to mind as I neared home. In 2 Samuel 23: 11-12, the Bible tells Shammah's story of how he courageously defended himself in the middle of a field of lentils against the Philistines while other members of the Israelite army retreated. God used the run in with the dogs to remind me that is how the enemy does. He attempts to corner us where our options seem to be one of two choices-retreat or defeat. The odd thing is that I had seen one of these dogs at other times during the week when walking but the dog always quickly turned and ran in the opposite direction of us. But on this particular morning there were two dogs, which looked like twins that had combined their forces and were now ready to attack. Double teaming is another tactic used. He comes at us in multiply ways to weaken our defenses. However, when we make up our mind that retreating is not option, we'll find that God has given us the strength to confront and win.

After getting the victory, imagine my surprise when the next evening I walked out in my yard to discover those same two enemies in my back yard of all places. They did bark but as I was urging them to get out of my yard, it was them that were confused this time. For some reason, they couldn't remember how they had entered the yard and as my nephew and I were trying to lead them out, they began to try to hide. It seemed my lesson wasn't quite over. There was still more for me to glean from this situation. Why or how the dogs managed to find themselves in my yard of behooves me. But it did show me that our enemy doesn't give up easily. Just because we face one encounter and win doesn't mean will not find ourselves confronting the exact same enemy. But do not allow their resurgence to cause you to draw back.

Are there places in your life that you've been retreating in fear? I learned that the absence of fear was not necessary. Only the courage to keep walking and not back down in spite of it was really what I needed. Did you confront a situation and assumed you had gotten the victory only to see it come back with a vengeance? If so be determined to stand your ground again.

Father, I pray that you reveal to us those areas in our lives that we've been refusing to confront due to fear.

Give us the courage, oh Lord, to forge ahead in the strength that you have given us. We thank you that you teach our hands to war. Thank you for strategic tactics to defeat our enemies. Thank you that it is you, who give us the victory.



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Lisa (2010-06-01 18:35:50)

This really spoke to me Wanda. I've been feeling attacks on every side, but I am not defeated. I've got the Lord on my side and he is will NOT be defeated.

Thanks for the good word!

PS - I like your new signature line!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-06-01 19:03:56)

Amen! Amen! Amen!!!!!!! I'm just going to step on it and do a little dance! Holy! Holy! Holy!

Lorena G. Sims (2010-06-01 20:17:07)

Such an inspirations, Wanda, thank you.. It is so true that our enemy is so persistent and doesn't give up easily..

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-06-01 21:21:45)

A wonderful write Wanda, if only you knew how the last four lines hit home to me. Thank you.

Yvonne,

Karen (2010-06-01 21:53:06)

Amen! Standing my ground till the victory comes....

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-06-02 00:24:34)

I'm learning that sometimes we have it twisted. We think that fear is supposed to go away in order for us to move forward, but really we're supposed to move forward in the face of fear. I love how our Father will encourage us with His word and evidence of His character and principles in everyday encounters like 2 crazy dogs on your path and in your yard. The NERVE of the enemy, and then the Glory of the Almighty! I love it! Thank you for sharing this. I'm adding it to my "list" of lessons from my walk the other day. ;-)

Trudy (2010-06-02 01:39:28)

A beautiful post Wanda and what a powerful message the Lord delivered to you through the dogs. He does show up in the most unlikely places, doesn't He?

Praise Him indeed that He has already defeated the prince of this earth!!!!

God bless you dear!

Ruth (2010-06-02 02:09:17)

what an encouraging post Wanda. its something i needed to hear. God sure does have a sense of humor...

Love your blog. following you.

God bless you mighty!!

Ruth (2010-06-02 02:09:49)

p.s: thank you so much for dropping by my blog...

Wanda (2010-06-02 03:14:03)

No mam, Lisa, you're not defeated. Many are the afflictions of the righteous but He delivers out of the ALL.

Dance!Dance! Bluebutterfly

Lorena, yes the enemies persistence causes us to retreat at times.

Yvonne, blessings to you.

Karen, victory is certain to come!

@Wisdom, I agree with you about us thinking that in order to move fear must not be present. But somethings we'd never do if we want to all the fear was gone.

@ Trudy, Yes He's quite funny. Maybe I wasn't paying close enough attention when Shammah's story was ministered at service a couple of weeks ago.

@Ruth, thank you & I'm honored that God would speak to you through something I wrote.

Ellie (2010-06-02 04:10:46)

I can relate, had a Dr appointment today and wanted to retreat and run!

I was fearful of a panic attack; I didn't have one, but I have before.

I kept telling myself, it will be over soon and I can leave. It was a victory to keep calm and carry on!

I haven't had one in awhile, but it is a reminder when I get in uncomfortable situation that it could occur

It did seem like, this was a lesson, to see those dogs in your yard...You handled it well!!!

Beth in NC (2010-06-02 11:29:04)

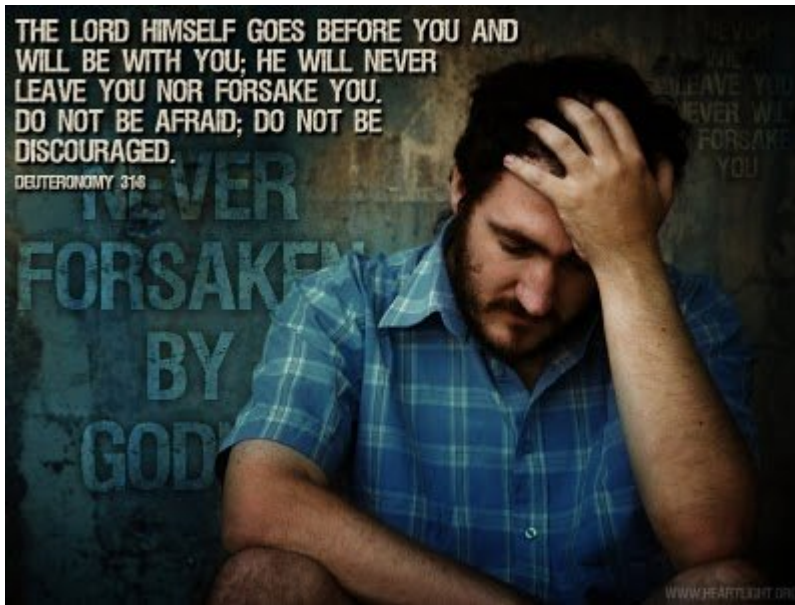
Oh Wanda! What a powerful lesson! You're right, that is just like the devil. And interesting that the attack came to your own home! And the "back yard" makes me think of a "back door" ... just looking for an opening. Argh. I can't stand him.

What a wonderful post! I'm going to ask others to come read this if you don't mind.

Love,

Beth

No Need to be Discouraged (2010-06-02 00:00)



[1]

Even when it appears that we are alone, God's word assures us that we have a God that not only has gone ahead of us and knows the ending. But He also comes along and walks down the path with us.

This post is a part of Word Filled Wednesday, which is now being hosted by [2]Internet Cafe Devotions.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[3]

1. <http://www.heartlight.org/>
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-06-02 00:21:37)

Lovely words,
Yvonne.

GlowinGirl (2010-06-02 04:04:29)

The LORD Himself!! I love those words. And what a great picture to show that verse. I need reminding that I don't need to get discouraged because He is before me, with me, behind me!

lori (2010-06-02 04:55:51)

Glowin Girl picked up on the SAME words that I did...The LORD Himself. I need this today and I have several friends that I will share this with...it's the exact encouragement they need right now!

Thank you Wanda for sharing this!

peace,
lori

Beth in NC (2010-06-02 05:25:21)

That is so encouraging. I'm glad I saw this reminder today.
Thanks Sister!

Beth

Karen (2010-06-02 06:05:32)

Amen! I love this scripture promise....

skoots1mom (2010-06-02 08:15:30)

LOVE this encouragement ;)

thanks for sharing

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-06-02 08:26:15)

Amen! We take comfort in know that God's plan for our lives is certain.

Lorena G. Sims (2010-06-02 10:39:30)

Such an encouraging words. Thank you for sharing.. Sometimes when the path is hard for us, he not only walks down with us but he carries us.

Kathy M. (2010-06-02 11:18:08)

Hi Wanda,

Thank you for this inspiring message. It's just what I needed today.

I wanted to thank you, too, for stopping by my blog. I appreciated the kind comment you left.

Take care and God bless.

Carrie (2010-06-02 11:19:27)

Wanda! I love this!! What a great WFW!!

Hope your day is blessed!

Daughter of the KING (2010-06-02 11:57:14)

Wanda, thanks for the reminder "the Lord Himself goes before us". He scouts out the perfect way and will guide us, never leaving us alone in this journey....

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK (2010-06-02 12:01:33)

What wonderful words and verses of encouragement! Thank you for a great Word-Filled Wednesday :)

Cathy (2010-06-02 12:34:21)

That is such a wonderful Word. Thank God for His promises.

AyshaNicole (2010-06-02 13:17:19)

This is so beautiful!

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-06-02 13:17:23)

Praise God that He is right beside us every step of the way - through the valley, up the mountain, on top of the mountain. God is good! All the time!

Thanks for sharing! Such an encouragement! Have a great day!

Sherry

AllyJo (2010-06-02 14:03:51)

Praise be to God...I love this verse. Thank you so much for sharing.

Whidbey Woman (2010-06-02 14:21:38)

I am sure this post will encourage many. I think about all those who are out of work, behind on the bills, facing foreclosure, or going through other trials. Thanks for sharing!

Denise (2010-06-02 14:22:14)

Very comforting.

Bear (2010-06-02 14:33:04)

Amen! Excellent pictures and thought combination!

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-06-02 14:41:21)

...He rings True, Wanda:)

Susan (2010-06-02 14:59:12)

Oh Wanda,

This word was right on time for me!

Thanks so very much

Missie (2010-06-02 16:55:07)

Such an amazing truth we so easily forget...thanks for sharing this today!

Jaime @ Like a Bubbling Brook (2010-06-02 17:04:44)

He's gone ahead of us and knows the ending. I love that!

Amydeanne (2010-06-02 17:04:58)

amen! I'm so glad he's there with us!

JBR (2010-06-02 17:31:13)

Wanda, thank you for these encouraging words. Blessings.

sarah (2010-06-02 17:42:43)

this is beautiful Wanda and so encouraging.

pathfromtheheadtotheheart (2010-06-03 05:44:37)

Wanda, this was a beautiful and very encouraging WFW post! Awesome!

HisFireFly (2010-06-03 06:10:33)

Fantastic match of Word and picture and God wanting to say "take heart.. take heart"

No Incompletes in God (2010-06-03 07:00)



[1]

This morning (which will be yesterday by the time you read this) God began to speak to my heart that He was one that finishes. He brings things into completion. Not wanting to let that God thought slip away from me I jotted it in my journal and went about my daily tasks. However, during the worship service tonight the same phrases were brought to mind again. He reminded me that He is not like humans that will start out on journey with you but drop out mid-trip. He's not even like me, who will start projects with good intentions only to end up deciding the cost to finish was more than I expected. He is Alpha and Omega and the God of the in between as well. Just like the street in front of my home eventual ends and one has to decide to either turn right or left, God is bringing some situations in my life to the end. The journey will not end put that portion will be wrapped up. I don't know where you are on your road with God but I'd just like to encourage you that God does not leave things in an incomplete state. Just as some roads or trips are longer than others, certain stages of our lives last longer than others.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[2]

1. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TacomCbCc2I/AAAAAAAAAHc/PwdOxB2SDD8/s1600/incomplete.jpg
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Mike (2010-06-03 09:55:56)
Thankyou.

Sonya Schroeder (2010-06-03 12:54:06)

Hi Wanda my first time at your blog. I love it. Thanks for your words today. I for some reason love to start things ad not finsh them as well. I stop and think about why I stop and just cant come up with an answer except I AM LAZY!! This is something that I am praying about. I want to finish strong in all that I do just like God does for us!! Thank you for the great reminder.

Serving with Joy,
Sonya

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-06-03 13:31:55)

Amen! He never leavs us, never forsakes us and is with us until completion.
Amazing God! Amazing grace!

Chelle (2010-06-03 13:36:10)
Thank you for sharing! Great post!!!

Ruth (2010-06-03 15:21:00)
Wanda, how this post encourages my heart. it's so like me to start up things and not finish them at all.
Blessings,
Ruth

Lisa (2010-06-03 18:20:17)
Great words of wisdom Sis. Thank you for sharing them with us. I for one appreciate your ministry!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-06-03 20:48:52)
Very good word, Wanda. Thank you!

Just Be Real (2010-06-04 00:37:41)
WoW! Wanda I certainly needed to see those words that I am not a mistake and that there is no incompletes in God's word. Amen. Thank you.

Barbie (2010-06-04 01:37:17)
Thank you for stopping by my blog and for your comment. I am your newest follower. I think I am going to love your blog! Blessings!

Ang (2010-06-04 02:46:27)
Wanda,
Thank you for this message today. It is exactly what I needed to hear about a particular situation in my life right now and I know God was speaking to me through you. Bless you.

Ellie (2010-06-04 03:03:03)
Well put; I have been in limbo for a bit. You are so right, about the stages! We need to know sometimes the timing isn't right! Thanks
for the gentle reminder

Wanda (2010-06-04 03:35:03)
Sonya and Barbie, glad to have you guys as my newest followers. Thanks to each of you that commented. I felt a nudge to share what God had spoken to me last night and quickly typed it up before retiring. Sometimes ideas come to me but I never get around to writing but He wouldn't let me get away with it this time. Your comments were confirmation to me.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-06-04 03:52:47)
) hi sis. my need of Him never ceases on this long journey, that's for sure.

One Heart (2010-06-05 14:47:59)
Wanda, you don't know how much this has blessed me. "God does not leave things in an incomplete state." AMEN!!!
Although I know this, it is good to be reminded and He knows how to at just the precise time. Thank you for sharing.
Love and blessings my sister.

Wanda (2010-06-06 23:41:07)
Bud, me too, it only seems to increase.
One Heart, glad that you God spoke to you through it.

Erin (2010-06-08 20:31:24)

Hi Wanda!

Thanks for stopping by my blog the other day! This post reminds me of what I wrote for Christy yesterday. It is so easy to forget that He is still working on us (and in us). I am so thankful that I have a Savior who doesn't forget or give up on me.

In Christ,

Erin

Living Water (2010-06-15 09:39:28)

So much truth in this! Yes, Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2 KJV).

Interesting Finds (2010-06-04 09:00)

As I cruised cyberspace this week, I came across some posts that made me laugh; others made me ponder, while others sparked my creativity or challenged me. This week's picks are:

- I love Laurie's analogy in [1]A Piece of My Heart-Shake Up.
- Over at [2]Organic Enchilada I was reminded why I fear the messy little ones.
- [3]Spiritual Fuel issued up a dose of reality about boredom in our spiritual lives at times.
- Susan at Forever His encouraged me to keep moving whether [4]I'm walking, running, or flying .
- Linda at [5]By the Way did a great job in pointing out possible reasons for pruning.
- Feeling lucky and want to enter some giveaways [6]here you'll find a whole list of them.
- If you find yourself gripped by fear, you might enjoy [7]Paralysis from Fear at Purposed Princess.
- Need some unique party planning ideas, check out [8]Celebrations at Home.

Those are just a few of the many great posts I've read this week. And I'd like to thank all of you, who have taken the time to stop by my place during the week. There are a lot of places to visit in blogland and I'm honored that you choose to spend a few moments here.

Now tell me about something you read this week that caught your attention or gave you a good laugh.

P.S. I almost forgot this one, ChristianAudio is giving away a free download of Francis Chan's [9]Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit audiobook this month. Use coupon code JUN2010.



[10]

1. <http://womentakingastand.blogspot.com/2010/06/piece-of-my-heartshake-it-up.html>
2. <http://organicenchilada.blogspot.com/2010/06/birth-control.html>
3. <http://spiritualfuel.org/news/?p=1280>
4. <http://susan2956.blogspot.com/2010/06/flyers-walkers-and-runners.html>
5. <http://bythewayministries.blogspot.com/2010/06/word-filled-wednesday-pruning.html>

6. <http://theblackcell.com/blogs/>
7. <http://purposedprincess.wordpress.com/2010/05/28/paralysis-from-fear/>
8. <http://www.celebrationsathome.blogspot.com/>
9. <https://christianaudio.com/free>
10. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Will Burke (2010-06-04 10:51:24)

I'm enjoying some writing blogs I've encountered through the A-Z, like Southern City Mysteries and Old Silly's Free Spirit Blog. Thanks for sharing.

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-06-04 11:03:09)

There are many blogs I enjoy so to pick one out will be an in justice to the others,
Enjoy your day,
Yvonne.

Ruth (2010-06-04 16:21:40)

these are interesting finds... thanks fr sharing with us.

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-06-04 20:27:41)

After reading your post, the post "Blogging is Powerful" over at Just Enjoy Him immediately comes to mind. Stumbled across it on the Wordpress home page this morning.

LisaShaw (2010-06-04 21:01:55)

Hi Wanda,

I'm glad I popped in today for a visit. Thank you for sharing the week's picks for you.

I have to say that three places I landed this week really hit heart spots for me: Elaine (Peace for the Journey), Sonja (bits and pieces) and Kathleen (Sassy Granny).

I'm blessed with every blog I visit but the ones above spoke to my heart throughout my times of visiting.

Blessings to you.

Lisa

Wanda (2010-06-06 23:32:28)

Will, the A to Z challenge was a great opportunity to find new blogs for me as well.

Monica, I'll have to peep over there when I get a chance.

Thanks for sharing Lisa. I haven't heard of those blogs but I'll be sure to check them out.

Making Sense of the Nonsense (2010-06-06 02:37)

Today marks a week ago since I learned about the tragic deaths of a former schoolmate and her two children in a fiery crash in Texas. When I heard the news I was shocked. Although I hadn't seen her for some time, I remembered how she was such a beautiful girl with a sweet spirit. Seeing photos of her and family, revealed the same beauty I remembered. According to newspaper articles, she and her family were living the American dream. I couldn't make sense of not only she but her two children being taken from the earth in such away. Why was her family left to mourn not one or two but three deaths in the same family?

Heading to church on last Sunday, my spirit was heavy. Of course, I knew that God was good but I couldn't see His goodness being extended to her family. I thought about how her mother and sisters must have felt and prayed that He would strengthen and comfort them. As I listened to the message, I was reminded of the sovereignty of God. Because He is sovereign nothing gets pass His ever watching eye because He neither

sleeps nor slumbers. With further reflection, I saw His miraculous work in how her injured husband was rescued from the crash by some courageous individuals.

The whys of the event are still unanswered but my heart is back in peace with the Master today. Realizing that His ways are not like mine. Daily I'm surrounded by His goodness. So many things I take for granted. Will you please join me in praying for her family at this difficult time?

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Ruth (2010-06-06 03:13:26)

absolutely Wanda, will pray for the bereaved family. Most often than not, we don't seem to understand God's ways... but we know that Father has our best interest at heart...

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-06-06 06:26:39)

I will pray for the family Wanda but it's at times like this I do wonder why?
Yvonne.

Chelle (2010-06-06 12:48:04)

Heartache of earth vs the hope of Heaven. Never easy. Praying.

LisaShaw (2010-06-06 20:50:41)

Wanda,

I began praying as I read... I will continue to pray for her precious family.

You hit it on the head with one word: SOVEREIGN. GOD is indeed Sovereign – His ways are not our ways and as such we will not understand some things especially as it relates to the death of loved ones and friends BUT I rest in knowing that HE is sovereign and His plans for us are NOT void of HIS love for us.

Praying...

and saddened for the tender hearts of the loved ones who I know are in pain. May God's peace and comfort pour over them.

Blessings...

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-06-06 22:19:03)

...okay, praying sis.

Godzheart (2010-06-06 22:38:31)

That is a difficult news. Uplifting the family in prayer even as write this comment.

Wanda (2010-06-06 23:28:58)

Thanks to each of you for including this family in your prayers. On this side of eternity the whys are often left unanswered but I believe that God will surround this family in their time of bereavement.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-06-07 12:44:04)

Thank You Lord for your You indescribable gift. Lord, we lift up this family. Peace, wonderful peace. Let us dwell in Your presence, Lord. Perfect peace.

Lorena G. Sims (2010-06-07 19:11:10)
Lifting them up in my prayers..

Karen (2010-06-08 10:04:41)
Praying for the family and friends...

Discarded Things (2010-06-08 05:01)

As I walked this morning, my mind began to reflect on my walking companion-my sweet dog Bella. Just a couple of years ago, she found herself among discarded cats and dogs at a local humane society. It's uncertain how she found herself there. Perhaps at one time, she had loving owners, who through no fault of their own could no longer provide for her. So they thought it best to send her away. Or maybe, she was a prize possession that simply got lost and couldn't find her way back home. For whatever reasons, she was among the lost or discarded.

Yet today, she smells all fresh from her bath last night. She's fed and has toys, comfy bed, ribbons and even a few clothes. She has everything that she needs and my sister jokingly says Bella is living better than she ever lived in life. If that's true or not I don't know but as I thought about her, I thought about how we sometimes find ourselves discarded by others. Whether it is through divorces, broken friendships, or job terminations, someone somewhere decided you were no longer useful. The scenarios are different but the outcome or feelings are the same-discarded like a napkin or once beloved toy.

But just as Bella found a new place to belong, God does the same thing for us. Although others couldn't perceive our value, He will connect us with others, who will embrace that which was discarded. And we'll find our latter end more enjoyable than what we experienced in the past.

Lord, I thank you that even when others throw us way, you never leave us. We thank you for connections with others, who'll embrace and cherish that in which you've placed in us. Forgive us for how we failed to see the value in others and we pray that you will connect them to individuals who will nurture them. In Jesus name.



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Ruth (2010-06-08 05:03:38)
Amen to the beautiful prayer! what an encouraging post... Thank You!!

Suz (2010-06-08 06:24:15)
Wanda, thank you for visiting. God's grace to you. Suz.

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POETRY: (2010-06-08 06:34:52)
Thanks for sharing this wonderful up lifting post.
Have a good day.
Yvonne,

Karen (2010-06-08 10:07:02)
Amen! Regardless of the value or non-value placed on us by others...we are His beloved...and that's all that matters!

Andrea (2010-06-08 12:06:23)

Thank you so much for your prayers, encouragement, and support.
Blessings,
andrea

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-06-08 14:03:39)

Hallelujah! One of my fave passages in the Bible says to pick up the fragments that remain so that nothing is lost.
Our Savior is absolutely awesome!!!

One Heart (2010-06-08 14:35:34)

Wanda, you don't know how much this blesses me today. The timing is perfect as yesterday I found myself in painful tears from this very same feeling at a home school group. I began with so much joy little over a month and poured out love and joy to others, but the leadership is harsh, cold, unreceptive of God's goodness and has basically worn me out. I felt very discarded but then God showed me how He had placed me there for the others who were receiving His goodness. To some we are a sweet fragrance—those who are being saved. So I must go on.
Would you mind if I shared this post with a group of ladies? I think it will bless them.
Thanks for stopping by yesterday. Blessings my sister.

LisaShaw (2010-06-08 15:46:39)

Amen and Amen Wanda!

As a child of GOD, a HUGE dog lover (owner of two), and someone who knows what it is to be discarded by people – I can FULLY relate to this message.

What I love is this: "But just as Bella found a new place to belong, God does the same thing for us. Although others couldn't perceive our value, He will connect us with others, who will embrace that which was discarded. And we'll find our latter end more enjoyable than what we experienced in the past."

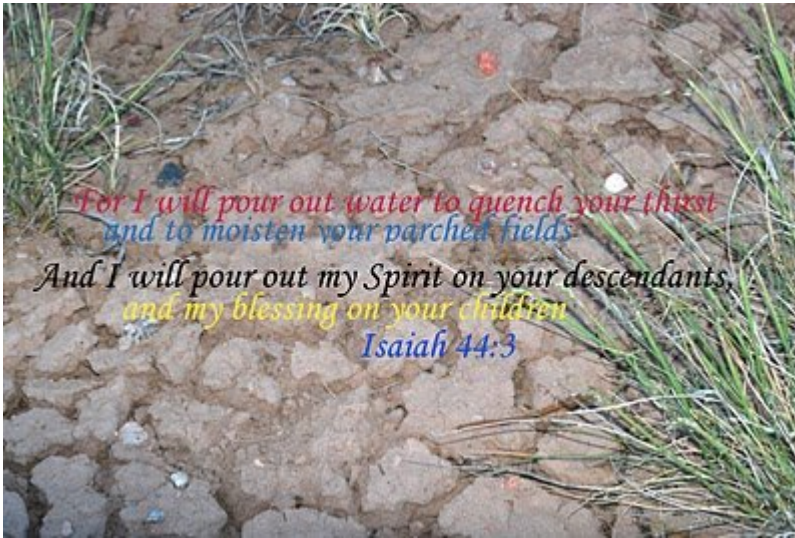
That says it all for me! So thankful to the LORD!

Blessings to you!

Monica Watkins (2010-06-08 20:33:23)

Beautiful post. Beautiful prayer. I've been on both sides of this scenario. I have been discarded, and I'm quite sure I have, for whatever reason, discarded others. I'm so thankful that the Lord has protects us all.
Monica

Extinguish My Drought, Lord (2010-06-09 10:28)



[1]

For I will give you abundant water to quench your thirst and to moisten your parched fields. And I will pour out my Spirit and my blessings on your children. They will thrive like watered grass, like willows on riverbanks.

Isaiah 44:3-4 is a scripture I've been meditating on and praying over my extended family for the past few days. Thirst has been a recurring theme for me this year.

At times, I've been guilty of using substitute sources in an attempt to quench my thirsty soul. For there are many to choose. But despite the initial happiness they bring, the satisfaction is only momentary. Thus I need the Lord to send His water as promised. Being who He is, God doesn't give a little but sends an abundance of water to not only me but also to moisten my fields.

On first reading, one may be tempted to overlook the phrase, moisten your parched fields since many of us don't have natural fields. However, the phrase is still very relevant to us today. It was in the fields were one worked, gathered food for their families and ministered to needy by leaving portions of the field for them to glean from. The field is place of activity and expected productivity. No farmer plows, plants, and waters without the expectation of reaping a harvest. Yet, when we are dry spiritually, the activities we're involved in become laborious and yield little lasting produce. We find ourselves going through the motions, while our jobs, family time, and ministry endeavors have become lifeless. The good news is that it doesn't have to stay that way. Simply go back to the real Source for a fresh drink.

Today, I extend my prayers to each of you. May every substitute water source be displaced in your lives. Thus making room for the authentic thirst quencher. I pray that every dry place would be filled to the overflow with His presence. May His Spirit and blessings be on you and your family. In Jesus Name.

To find other Word filled inspiration, visit [2]Internet Cafe Devotions.



[3]

1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TA8F1ZdklwI/AAAAAAAAAHg/1eI0zevEu2I/s1600/colored+grass.jpg
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Denise (2010-06-09 10:32:59)

I pray the same over you dear sis.

Joan (2010-06-09 10:58:53)

Wanda - my post today is about being thirsty also, and clinging to Jesus who is the life giving water.

May we always cling to Him so that we can reap a bountiful harvest for His kingdom.

Blessings,

Joan

lori (2010-06-09 11:08:32)

Wanda,

I love the analogy of "pouring out." I often imagine it...I find myself comforted and challenged by Isaiah, and it's one of my favorite books!

Loved this!

peace,

lori

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-06-09 11:26:49)

A lovely post Wanda such a pleasure to read.

Have a good day.

Yvonne.

Will Burke (2010-06-09 11:52:30)

Dry times are natural, or else, how would we know when we've been filled? Jesus wouldn't allow tabernacles to be built on the mountain top.

GlowinGirl (2010-06-09 11:58:16)

God is so good to allow us to continue to thirst until we fill up with Him! May He fill up all those parched places in all of us. Blessings to you, friend!

Karen (2010-06-09 12:12:43)

Great post, Wanda! I love this scripture promise and pray it over my family, too...

Angie (2010-06-09 12:50:51)

Great post! I receive that prayer. You have no idea how timely it was for me this morning. God bless you.

SnoWhite {Finding Joy in My Kitchen} (2010-06-09 13:21:28)

Beautiful. No alternative sources, just THE SOURCE of Life in our lives!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-06-09 13:36:05)

Amen! Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water." - John 4:10

May we cling to You, Lord, our source of life.

Mystiqua K (2010-06-09 13:53:15)

Happy WFW Wanda!!!

Please join me on Pursuit of Titus 2 for a blog party that you can not miss!!! I am hosting a True Woman Manifesto Blog Party courtesy of Revive Our Hearts with Nancy Leigh Demoss. Please, I encourage you to link up with this

blessed event. Click the link below to find out more and I hope to see you ALL there! May God Bless you!!! It is time for us as women to embrace our Biblical role as women, wives and mothers according to Titus 2 and Proverbs 31...We need to take back what the feminist movement tried to start in destroying our Biblical roles and get back to what GOD said through HIS word! I Hope to see you there!

<http://www.pursuitoftitus2.com/2010/06/new-for-titus-2-tuesday-true-woman.html>

Carrie (2010-06-09 14:16:54)

Great post, Wanda! I've been guilty of using other sources to quench my thirsts, too, but they never satisfy, do they? Thanks for sharing! Have a blessed day!

Bev (2010-06-09 14:22:45)

thank you for your inspirational post...god IS the source for quenching our thirst...nothing else can satisfy...

Amydeanne (2010-06-09 16:48:57)

praying that prayer for my friends and myself as well!! thanks!

Daughter of the KING (2010-06-09 16:55:02)

Thanks for the beautiful prayer. I accept it in faith. and echo as well "moisten my parched fields, Lord as I quench my thirst in You"

Beth in NC (2010-06-09 18:06:48)

What a wonderful post Wanda. And I am DEFINITELY guilty of going to other sources for nourishment sometimes. I love the prayer. Amen!

Bless you!

Beth

Lisa (2010-06-09 18:42:35)

What wonderful verses and great thoughts to go with them. Thanks for sharing.

Mary (2010-06-09 20:41:35)

Wonderful post. I am drinking often from the authentic thirst quencher! Bless you dear girl.

Brian the old man (2010-06-09 21:22:35)

Beautiful sentiment, it truly is a great verse to meditate with. I'm glad you were able to find your way back to my blog and Thank you for following. Peace be with you.

Missie (2010-06-09 22:56:51)

beautiful WFW!

Just Be Real (2010-06-09 23:04:18)

Wanda, what a blessing to read. Thank you.

hip chick (2010-06-10 00:49:29)

All day long today I have seen verses about God giving me water to quench my thirst. I've seen it here on blogs, both WFW posts and other blogs, I've seen it in my daily verse calendar, I have literally seen it about a dozen times today.

Cathy (2010-06-10 00:54:28)

A wonderful promise to us Blessings

Joanne Sher (2010-06-10 01:22:36)

WOW, Wanda - this is so powerful, and a reminder I so needed. So glad I stopped by today. Happy WFW!

shopannies (2010-06-10 01:22:45)

love your post

LauraLee Shaw (2010-06-10 01:32:16)

Yes, a prayer of my heart.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-06-10 01:40:19)

loved the scripture and your post, Wanda.

Laurie (2010-06-10 03:35:35)

Your prayer is so appreciated, and I pray for you also, that we would be able to be overcomers of, as you said, any substitute water source, and that we will indeed be filled to overflow with His presence. Thank you, Wanda!

Blessings,

Laurie

Donna (2010-06-10 12:35:19)

A wonderful and inspiring post! Thank you for the reminder that Jesus is our source for a fresh drink! May we drink from Him today!

Thank you for stopping by my blog. It is greatly appreciated!

You Choose What to Carry (2010-06-10 12:09)



[1]

Lord, help us to carry our cross daily.

Heal our hearts so that we may carry love rather than hate.

Help us to carry peace rather than strife.

May we carry hope rather than despair.

Remove bitterness so that we may carry your joy.

Help us to be carriers of the good news of the Gospel rather than gossip.

In Jesus name, Amen

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[2]

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TAMnERbVf8I/AAAAAAAAAHI/9iPjrQuxZWY/s1600/carrier.jpg
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-06-10 12:56:22)

Just beautiful to read Wanda,

Enjoy your day.

Yvonne.

Karen (2010-06-10 13:17:09)

Beautiful, Wanda....filling up my suitcase now....

Ruth (2010-06-10 14:55:56)

Amen Amen! oh what a beautiful prayer Wanda. Bless you...

Ruth

Beth in NC (2010-06-10 19:18:57)

Amen. What a wonderful prayer!

Godzheart (2010-06-10 20:04:40)

Amen to that.

Bev (2010-06-10 20:31:48)

soothing words for today...

thank you for visiting my blog...i am thankful to have found yours!

Lorena G. Sims (2010-06-10 23:10:47)

Amen!

arlee bird (2010-06-11 03:00:52)

Yes! and I concur with that.

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

Just Be Real (2010-06-11 12:56:48)

Wanda, so very powerful words! Amen.

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-06-12 02:05:28)

So needed to read this today.. Thank you!!

One Heart (2010-06-12 12:59:11)

Great prayer, Wanda. I also loved reading "Extinguish My Drought, Lord." Thank you for stopping by on WOW and leaving your encouraging words. My blessings to you today dear sister.

Like Three P's in a Pod (2010-06-11 13:52)



[1]

No, not your vegetables but Prayer, Purpose, and Passion. I don't know about you but I definitely need more of all three of those. So when I discovered that Beth Jones was hosting the *3 P's in a Pod for Christian Women: Prayer, Purpose, and Passion* webinar, I registered for the event. It's scheduled for today at 10:30AM CDT and you don't even have to leave the comfort of your own home or office. For more information or to register visit [2]Empowering Christian Woman

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[3]

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TBI9Y8uD9pI/AAAAAAAAAHo/VC5z3tuF2bM/s1600/pea+pod.jpg

2. <http://www.empoweringchristianwomen.com/2010/06/3-ps-in-pod-prayer-purpose-and-passion.html>

3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Karen (2010-06-11 13:54:11)

I need more of those 3 "P's", too...thanks for the link....

Brian the old man (2010-06-11 17:21:10)

Prayer, Purpose and Passion sound a whole lot better than veggies. lol I wish I could have attended, maybe next time. I hope you enjoyed it. God bless.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-06-11 18:02:46)

Not long ago I wrote a poem....about a garden pea. I think Arlee would remember it, was before the A to Z challenge.

I enjoyed your three "Ps" very good ideal.

enjoy your week-end.

Yvonne.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-06-11 19:25:07)

...could use more of that too.

Bev (2010-06-11 19:51:23)

i gotta tell ya, i love the picture of the peas for your post...too cute! and very creative...

prayer.purpose.passion

i am putting this on my monitor. right now!

enjoy the weekend!

xo

Beth in NC (2010-06-12 02:03:40)

I like that! What a great visual. I pray you enjoyed it today!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-06-12 13:35:32)

I love the "3 peas in a pod" analogy. I wish I'd been available for the webinar. How was it?

Wanda (2010-06-12 17:48:41)

Yes, yes...I enjoyed it very much. Perhaps I'll get around to sharing to a few of the notes I took.

Beth said she came up with the play on words due to the three P(s) from prayer, purpose, and passion and pod because she is playing to place the podcast of the webinar on her website as a product.

Brian, I'm with you those p's are much more advertising to me since I'm not fond of peas.

Yvonne, it surprising me how you're able to write about all types of subject matter through poems.

Thanks Bev, morgue file has lots of free to use photos.

Things That Made Me Go...Hmmm (2010-06-12 17:42)

As usual I read some great posts as I ventured out in blog world, today I'm sharing just a few of those that made me go hmmm:

- I found Twinkle Mom via Word Filled Wednesday and her post [1]Psalm 1:2-His Word made me reexamine how much time I actually spend reading the Word.
- Yvonne over at Welcome to My World of Poetry is a very talented poet. Her poem, [2]That's All I Ask of You, gives some great advice to children and parents.
- For those feeling like they may have married the wrong mate, Adding Zest to Your Nest has a great article entitled [3]Keeping Covenant. Here's a quote from the article:

"God can take our bad situations, our covenant with the wrong man, and be glorified and show Himself strong through it. There are consequences for disobedience, but God's grace can not only forgive, but it brings blessings out of sins and failures. God will fight for us just as He did for Israel."

- I'm using [4]Saucy tips, which I found at [5]Tidy Mom for the perfect cupcakes from a mix everytime today for the cupcakes I'm baking for church.
- And I'm thinking of trying to make the [6]Marshmallow Pops from Hostess with the Mostess. They're too cute and I think the kids may get a kick out of them.
- If you find yourself comparing your blog to others, Gather Inspirit offers some great words of wisdom in the post titled [7]Blogger Envy.
- Sword of Goliath has a thought provoking post entitled [8]Dance For Me, Mr. President.
- Lisa at Sharing Life with Lisa shares a timely God whisper in [9]Daughter Bare Down. Don't worry mean this word is good for you as well.
- Monica at Wisdom Virtue and Rubies had me questioning if I accept God's first answer or do I seek something better in her [10]Lesson from a Crockpot Chicken.

Those are just a few of the many inspirational reads I came across this week. I encourage you to pay these blogs a visit as you have time. My goal is only to share interesting posts from others that I feel you may enjoy reading as well. Each of your blogs offer something unique and very valuable. I encourage you to keep on keeping on because I blessed each time I visit one you. Thanks so much to each of you who continue to stop by from time to time. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Well I've got to run the cupcakes are calling. Wishing you a safe and fun filled weekend.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[11]

1. <http://sunflowerfaith.com/2010/06/09/psalm-12-his-word/>
2. <http://welcometomyworldofpoetry.blogspot.com/2010/06/thats-all-i-ask-of-you.html>
3. <http://www.addingzest.net/2010/06/keeping-covenant.html>
4. <http://www.saucysprinkles.com/2009/04/big-cupcake-party.html>
5. <http://www.tidymom.net/2009/10/wfmw-perfect-cupcake-using-mix.html>
6. <http://www.hostessblog.com/2009/09/diy-marshmallow-treat-pops/>
7. <http://gatherinspirit.com/2010/06/blogger-envy/>
8. <http://swordofgoliath.blogspot.com/2010/06/dance-for-me-mr-president.html>
9. <http://lisashawshares.blogspot.com/2010/06/daughter-bare-down.html>
10. <http://wisdomvirtueandrubies.wordpress.com/2010/06/01/lesson-from-a-crock-pot-chicken/>
11. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-06-12 19:37:46)

Thank you Wanda for including me in your list. It was strange how that poem came about, I heard the song "That's All I Ask Of You" on the radio one day and thought I could make a poem out of that title. There was a bit of an atmosphere in the family so I sat down and wrote how I felt.

Have a good week-end.

Yvonne.

Ellie (2010-06-12 20:07:44)

How fun, I love to find new blogs; Thanks for sharing...great idea!

I think I will try that next week.

I have a little something for you; Come visit me ;-D

Missie (2010-06-13 01:44:48)

I am going to start doing this too so that everyone else knows how amazing other bloggers are!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-06-13 14:45:13)

Thank You, Lord, for all you've done, and are doing, through your vessels of honor.

Faith, hope and, above all, love.

Karen (2010-06-13 19:43:54)

Great links, Wanda...thanks for sharing!

CeCe Wilson (2010-06-25 12:22:00)

Hi Wanda! I haven't been on blogger in a minute, you know, life. Anyway, thank you for sharing you blog list. I was truly blessed by Lisa's post. I spoke to right where I am and what God has been doing in my life for the last 5 years.

I'm getting ready to push! Love you for sharing so much good food ;0)

Yours in His service,

CeCe

Where Does the Time Go? (2010-06-15 08:00)

What book are you giving the most face time? God's book, Facebook or perhaps some other book? Sometimes I found myself amazed at how much time had managed to slip away as I meandered around on Facebook tending to fish, raising crops, whizzing up meals in the café, or checking the latest friend's status. And it's no secret...I LOVE books and reading has been my favorite past time since I was little girl.

Joshua 1:8 us reminds of the importance of time in God's book.

This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success.(AMP)

It can not be in my mouth or mind, if I haven't first put it before my eyes and ears. Every now and then a little adjustment is needed. So lately I've been weaning myself away from Facebook and spending less time with other books in order to give God's Word more face time.



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-06-15 09:45:05)

Yes on can get absorbed with what is going on either on facebook or blogger as long as we don't ignore what is going on in the outside world,

Enjoy your day,

Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-06-15 14:09:30)

Wow, Wanda. I did the same thing with FB about a month ago. I now only use it to connect with clients and associates outside my immediate geographic area.

One Heart (2010-06-15 14:37:34)

Wanda, right on target as usual. If you read my page titled, "About Me?" you'll see how God practically had to pry my hands open for me to let go of facebook. I fought Him for so long, but guess who wins when wrestling with God? ;) The moment I let go of the very thing He was asking me to let go of, on the other side was something better. He opened up the opportunity to minister through the blog and it is a whole other world here. Facebook tends to sap life out of us. The multitude of comments which go on your page before one can approve them and by the time you can delete them they've spread the venom causing offenses left and right. There are so many more distractions there too with the games which add up to nothing. I know that if we're not careful we can get distracted here in Blog Land too, but another friend shared how it is a much more purposeful place when used correctly. I agree.

In the end, none of it makes any sense if we are too distracted from abiding in His Word and in His presence. Good post my sister.

Missie (2010-06-15 14:48:18)

I have decided that i am only going to read novels, magazines and the like on weekend. Blogs and the Bible are my only weekday friends.

I probably should start less time on Facebook or Twitter too!

Thanks for your post!

Joanne Sher (2010-06-15 16:32:35)

Good for you, Wanda. Thanks for this reminder. I likely need to do the same. Thanks.

AnooCre8ion (2010-06-15 18:50:06)

Great post Wanda. It's something I too am very conscious of as I meander around facebook and blogland. I so love the Word and don't want to put anything before it.

blessings,

vickie

Lorena G. Sims (2010-06-15 21:45:55)

Great post Wanda. I barely check my facebook account anymore because I got to the point that it's the first thing I read when I woke up in the morning and the last thing I do before going to bed. It's just not right!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-06-15 23:09:38)

Great post, Wanda. It's funny, I just asked you what you were reading these days (see email). Then your post came. I believe the FB novelty is wearing off for many of us, as the Holy Spirit convicts about time spent there. There is just no substitute for time in God's word. Thank you for reminding us of that.

Karen (2010-06-16 00:02:28)

Amen! You are right on the mark with this post...

~Amy~ (2010-06-16 23:22:26)

This was a powerful little post! Wow...so meant for me!! I have been struggling with getting back into His Word and I love how you said "It can not be in my mouth or mind if I haven't first put it before my eyes and ears." So good and so very true!!

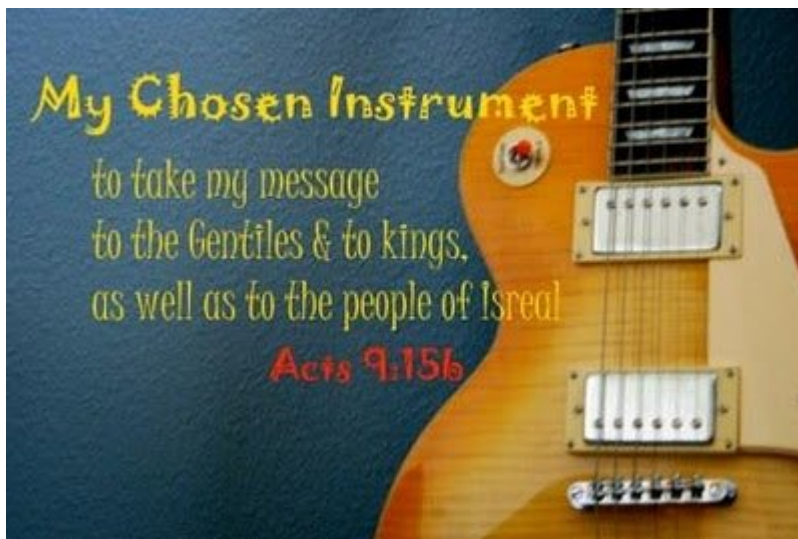
Thank you for stopping by my blog today...so glad you did, otherwise I may not have found your blog and this post! P.S. I have been praying about becoming more dedicating and disciplined to reading my Word on a daily basis that God has lead me to participate in the challenge of reading through the Bible in 90 Days! I am really looking forward to it and know I will be blessed immensely from it!

www.biblein90days.org

Wanda (2010-06-23 03:14:09)

Amy, I recently came across someone else that was talking about the the bible in 90days as well.

Don't Want to Dance to My Own Tune (2010-06-16 00:15)



[1]

God often uses the least likely person to accomplish his purposes. In Acts 9:15, God sends Ananias to commission Saul, a killer of believers, to carry the Good News of the Gospel. Like a guitar being played by one who is unskilled, Saul was making a lot of noise being used by the Devil. However, a divine encounter with the Master had him playing a different tune and fulfilling a far greater purpose.

Left to our own devices, we can engage in many noise making activities but be out of tune with our life's purpose. Surrendering to God puts us in perfect harmony with His will for our lives.

Visit [2]*Internet Cafe Devotions* for more posts filled with the Word this Wednesday.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[3]

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TBgVInZ9dkI/AAAAAAAAAHs/qG1CU0IHYv8/s1600/Instrument+4+God.compress.jpg

2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>

3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-06-16 00:48:08)

A goodd issue put ina wonderful way with words.

Yvonne.

Denise (2010-06-16 03:18:32)

Well said sweetie.

GlowinGirl (2010-06-16 04:42:57)

Isn't this the truth! So much of the time I've tried to do it MY way (think Sinatra now). His ways are puzzling to us at times, but the song and dance much more amazing when surrendered to His writing!

God Whispers In The Wind (2010-06-16 04:46:32)

Wanda this was delightful. Thank you for sharing. Blessings.

Karen (2010-06-16 05:44:15)

I absolutely loved your take on this scripture...my husband and I are in the music business, so I can really relate to this...great WFW!

lori (2010-06-16 05:51:38)

You know Wanda, this is AWESOME...all I want to be is harmony...I love this! It's one that will stay with me!
peace,
lori

ozjane (2010-06-16 05:55:20)

reminds me of the chorus that says "let me dance to the beat of your heart"
I had a night some weeks ago where I listened to the Cohen song Hallelujah..it is on a CD of duets and is sung gloriously but I ended up weeping and weeping over the line that suggests that any Hallelujah will do.....the sacred and the profane....I wept and wept for the blindness of our world.

Daughter of the KING (2010-06-16 06:11:10)

Chosen - to think the God of all chose us to be His instrument - wow!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-06-16 07:20:15)

Amen! Let me be a vessel of honor, Lord.

Sheri (2010-06-16 07:25:51)

and amen.

One Heart (2010-06-16 08:37:46)

Beautiful Wanda. This really "pulls the strings" of my heart. ;) Our 20 year old son is blessed to be gifted in music. I saw it since he was a baby and dedicated it for God's glory. He is now 20. He plays every instrument without lessons although years back we took him for formal lessons for a few years. He served in praise and worship ministries, but is not using his gifts for the Lord at this time--well, not the gift of music but others yes. This reminded me how he's a bit out of tune right now, BUT I KNOW IN WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED!!!
Lovely WFW sis.

Missie (2010-06-16 08:49:25)

Beautiful WFW and great reminder to not just "make noise!"

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-06-16 09:43:11)

I so want to have a heart that is in tune to what God has for me.
Thank you for sharing your heart today.
Have a blessed day!
Sherry

Cathy (2010-06-16 09:58:36)

As a musician, I love your WFW. Blessings

Joanne Sher (2010-06-16 10:10:14)

Oh Wanda - this is an AMAZING reminder and word picture. Gonna remember this for a long time.
Happy WFW, my friend!

Bev (2010-06-16 10:11:17)

"Surrendering to God puts us in perfect harmony with His will for our lives"
thanks for re-inforcing a truth that god is driving home to me right now!
god bless...

Laurie (2010-06-16 10:22:01)

What a wonderful word picture to help me remember God's desire for me to be in perfect harmony with His will for my life. I love this, Wanda!

Bobbi (2010-06-16 10:43:12)

Amen...thanks for speaking a good word to me today! Smiles...and have a great week!

Donna (2010-06-16 10:56:37)

A beautiful graphic for the verse. May I always be an instrument in perfect harmony that He can use.

SnoWhite {Finding Joy in My Kitchen} (2010-06-16 11:04:06)

thanks for sharing that – so often the world wants us to "march to our own drum" and be "independent"! However, as you've written, truly, our goal is to be in the band with God allowing Him to use us to make a beautiful symphony.

hip chick (2010-06-16 13:30:23)

Yes. that was great.

partialemptynester (2010-06-16 14:12:02)

Aww, so great! Love the picture with the verse and the play on words...super WFW!

Monica (2010-06-16 16:05:52)

Great word for this Wednesday!

From the Heart (2010-06-16 16:19:39)

Yes, a great scripture and picture - to be in harmony with God. I'm reading Rick Warren's Purpose Filled Life, a 40 day devotional book, along with my oldest daughter. Today's devotion taught me how to have God as a friend. It was the most amazing experience I've had in a while.

I tried what Rick wrote and it works.

Thanks for sharing and visiting my blog as well.

Blessings, AE

Joan (2010-06-16 18:45:00)

Ooohhh this is so good. I'm reminded of the verse in 1 Corinthians about a clanging cymbal. Used in the right way, the cymbal enriches music. By itself, and without the right rhythm, it is annoying.

Have a blessed day!

Joan

Amydeanne (2010-06-16 18:59:26)

oh! a perfect verse for me today! thanks!

Brian the old man (2010-06-16 21:04:31)

Great analogy! Thanks for sharing. God bless.

e-Mom (2010-06-16 21:20:30)

Wonderful object lesson. Very well said! I enjoyed this post.

Blessings,

e-Mom @ Chrysalis ?

ceemee (2010-06-16 22:12:13)

I absolutely love this WFW, sometimes I forget to surrender to God and be His instrument. This is our purpose, to be in tune with His calling.

pathfromtheheadtotheheart (2010-06-18 09:02:55)

Oh, AMEN! What a beautiful post and reminder, Wanda!!! Thank you for that!

daylily777 (2010-06-19 07:08:41)

Wonderful WFW ! Great verse & illustration !

Blessings,

Myrna

God of the Detours (2010-06-17 11:52)

Being a bit directionally challenged (as I like to call it), I like to take a familiar route. And on the occasions that I'm venturing off into a new city, I refuse to leave home without driving directions from Yahoo maps. Unfortunately, I don't have GPS yet so written instructions to and from is a must! Even with directions there has been times when I missed a turned, sending me into a state of utter panic. Had one such episode this past weekend. Although I've learned to be a bit more relaxed when I've suddenly found myself off the intended route, it still causes me to grip the steering wheel tightly with apprehension. All the while looking for something that looks just a wee bit familiar. Last week one of my dear cousins shared an experience she had while driving in a note entitled, God of the Detours, that spoke to the part of me that longs to cling to the familiar way. With her permission, I'm sharing it with you today.

I think I had an" AH HA" Prophetic Moment while driving en route to the radio station. Every Wednesday I go to the radio station to record a broadcast and I always go one particular way. It's a longer route, however I don't mind the extra minutes driving because it gives me a chance to relax, reflect and regain me in those moments of solitude.

This morning with music blaring and me singing to the top of my lungs, "There's Nobody Like You Lord". I 'm driving my way when suddenly I found myself in the midst of orange cones, workmen, machinery, detour signs and construction. My way was blocked, it was being reconstructed! Needless to say I was very displeased but in the midst of my ughs and omg's, I had to make a decision to either stay barricaded in a lock down position, that would keep me at a standstill and miss the recording or I could venture on the detour roads and see where they led. Anyone that knows me knows that when it comes to driving I'm a one way kinda girl, so with apprehension in my throat I followed the one detour sign and immediately felt out of place on this unfamiliar road in this unfamiliar neighborhood and it was in that moment that I heard the Spirit of God say:

This is symbolic of you and so many of many children when it comes to your relationship with Me. I have so many blessings that I want to give to you but you keep looking and expecting me to be a ONE WAY KIND OF GOD, BECAUSE I BLESSED YOU THAT WAY LAST WEEK YOU LOOK FOR IT TO COME AGAIN THAT WAY AND WHEN YOU DO, YOU MISS THE

DETOUR SIGNS AND IT KEEPS ME BLOCKED, BARRICADED AND LOCKED FROM
RELEASING THE BLESSING. BECAUSE YOU STILL TRAVELING ON A ROAD THAT'S
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND I'M NO LONGER ON IT! EVERY DETOUR IS NOT OF
THE DEVIL MY CHILD THERE ARE SOME DETOURS THAT I HAVE PURPOSELY DE-
SIGN TO BLESS YOU ON YOUR WAY AND IF YOU'LL JUST TRUST ME ON THE
DETOURS YOU WILL ARRIVE AT YOUR DESTINATION BLESSED.

Can I tell you that not only did I arrive at the radio station, my destination, but I arrived:
SAFELY, ON TIME, and BLESSED.

Whatever DETOUR you're on right now, don't despise it, IT just may be your ROAD OF
BLESSING!

Author: Christie Williams



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Ellie (2010-06-17 13:24:41)

Thanks for sharing; this provides comfort. We all have detours in life; it is a great way to refocus and see it as sign to slow down and persist onward!

I had this kind of thing happen, last week, driving to Yorktown. We have a GPS, fell off and I'm slowing down. Meanwhile, the car behind me is flashing me warning lights. He wanted to pass, but someone had sped up in the other lane. Then he floors it and goes around me, next thing I know so does another car, with a woman, age around 80. Huh?! I was stunned...no one was going the speed limit; crazy! You are not alone in the direction, road blocked world :-D

Missie (2010-06-17 14:43:33)

Road of blessing! I love that!

Karen (2010-06-17 17:06:29)

I loved this analogy! Written directions and a GPS can sometimes give the wrong information...and we become lost...much like our spiritual life...we can only stay on track if we follow the infallible Word of God...

Lorena G. Sims (2010-06-17 18:35:03)

That is so wonderful and so encouraging..God of the Detours. Thank you for sharing that and give my thanks to your cousin too.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-06-17 19:16:14)

Yes I too join in and thank you for sharing, also it is very comforting when there are changes taking place and one is trying to reason it out.

Take care.

Yvonne,

Bev (2010-06-17 21:01:32)

amazingly symbolic and applicable to many of us...i take it to heart very much right now in my life...thank you for this insight!!

Barbie (2010-06-18 05:41:29)

That was a wonderful Word. Thank you for sharing. So true about much of my life. I need to stop looking at my detours as obstacles and start looking at them as opportunities.

Mike (2010-06-18 19:08:04)

So relevant to me at the moment as I am trying to work on listening to the Holy Spirit. Sometimes He says some surprising things... often encouraging me to break out of my spiritual routine. It's hard to trust that voice and obey but He is always right!

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-06-19 04:49:34)

...this gives me pause to wonder! great post sis!:)

Trudy (2010-06-21 03:03:29)

What a beautiful message your cousin received from the Lord, she was truly blessed. I get nervous when I lose my way too!

Thank you for sharing such a powerful message Wanda!

God bless you!

Trudy

Yolanda (2010-06-29 20:39:09)

Great post and beautiful blog! Blessings!

To The Fathers... (2010-06-20 06:00)

Happy Father's Day!

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house; and his righteousness shall endureth forever Psalm 112:1-3



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Ruth (2010-06-20 07:02:46)

Hi Wanda, Happy Father's Day! Thanks for the verse.

Mike (2010-06-20 07:09:15)

Have a blessed Sunday... great scripture!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-06-20 08:39:09)

Have a peaceful day.

Yvonne.

Brian the old man (2010-06-21 00:41:14)

First, thank you for stopping by my blog and wishing me a Happy Fathers Day. I really like and appreciate the verse

you chose for today. Thank you.

Trudy (2010-06-21 03:00:37)

What a perfect passage for fathers today!

God bless you dear!

Trudy

Heart2Heart (2010-06-21 16:34:49)

Wanda,

Just wanted to let you know that you are the lucky winner of the book, "The Six Liter Club" from my blog. Please email me with your mailing information, No P.O. Boxes, and I can get that out to you.

Congratulations again and I look forward to hearing from you soon,

Love and Hugs Kat

Karen (2010-06-21 18:16:35)

Wanda, May you have a wonderful week.

Access Granted... (2010-06-22 07:30)

Those two words were the first thoughts embedded in my mind when I awoke Sunday morning. Access granted...the phrase was not just a passing thought but words that seem only to become more vivid in my spirit throughout the day. Because I learning to capture my thoughts (not just the negative ones but even those that God speaks), I jotted it down in my journal and went about getting ready for Sunday morning service. While driving to church, I heard within me that I really didn't understand fully what the significance of those two words meant. So of course I questioned, Lord what do you mean? When access is granted, it means that places you couldn't previously gain entrance into are now open. He reminded me that some areas or arenas have been straightly shut up and they remain closed despite the amount of physical effort exerted. And even regardless of the amount of time spent in spiritual exercise. I know that statement might be a little controversial but that's what my Father revealed to me. Am I saying that things like prayer, fasting, or reading the Word don't work? Absolutely not! Those exercises discipline us and get us in proper position for when the door is opened. But until God chooses to open the door, it remains shut.

Even as I was sitting in the sanctuary, He began to continue the discourse by adding an object lesson. My attention was drawn to a door that was partially opened. From my seat I could see a small part of the room contents but the largest portion was not viewable. The door was not only unlocked but it was opened partially but in order to partake of the rooms contents I would have to choose to walk through the door. Had the door been locked I couldn't have accessed it contents because I do not possess the key to unlock.

Access granted provides the ability to get some things done where previously you hadn't been able to do so. The American Heritage dictionary defines access is the a means of approaching, entering, exiting or making use of or the right to to approach, enter, exit, or make use of. Grant means to consent to the fulfillment of or to accord as a favor, prerogative, or privilege. In essence those two words were announcing to me that I've been given consent or privilege to enter, exit or make use of some things or places that I hadn't been allowed to previously.

Those two words were inescapable all day. Even as I took Bella outside to potty, the clouds began to illustrate the point even further. A darker gray cloud was positioned in front of brighter white but in a certain place there was a window of space in the gray cloud allowing one to see the brighter cloud behind it. However, as the gray cloud moved along the window of opportunity to see the brighter cloud became smaller and smaller

to all access was gone. The bright white cloud still existed but I could no longer see it because the Creator had closed up access to it.

Perhaps He was reminding me that access granted doesn't last forever. While I don't fully understand what it is that is being opened up for me to enter, exit or make use of, my prayer is that I don't miss it. May He grant me a spirit of wisdom, knowledge, and revelation. When the door is made plain to me, Lord please give me the courage to enter in. In Jesus name Amen



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-06-22 07:57:07)

This was a wonderful post Wanda, I really enjoyed the read.
Yvonne.

Pet (2010-06-22 11:17:42)

Nice post. Good morning and sending blessings your way.

Amydeanne (2010-06-22 15:29:04)

great post Wanda!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-06-22 17:45:45)

Amen! ... Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. - Isaiah 55:6

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-06-22 23:22:45)

hi Wanda:)

what do you say you and i make a little prayer pact

between us? that comment you left in my blog wasn't just a "coincidence." leastways i don't think so. for me it was a confirmation from Him. it also means it to me that it isn't my idea....but His. this one has questions too. so lets pray for one another for His spirit of revelation. what do you think about this?

Wanda (2010-06-23 00:13:23)

Thanks, Yvonne, Pet, and Amy.

Bluebutterfly great scripture reference.

Bud, your post was confirmation to me as well. Sounds like a good idea my friend.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-06-23 01:37:57)

:)...okay and Thank You!!!

Praise Adonai !!!

One Heart (2010-06-23 12:51:00)

Wanda, this is such a spirit-stirring post. I'm filled with anticipation. Now I too shall seek His revelation. Praying with you my sister—for revelation, clarity, and the wisdom on how to handle it once the direction is made clear. You are right about an open door signifying an entrance OR and exit. Praying.

Can't Afford to Trash it (2010-06-23 00:00)



[1]

So do not throw away your confidence, it will be richly rewarded. Hebrews 10:35 NIV

Paper, plastic, computers, old furniture, cell phones, food scraps, and even unused medicines are just a few of the many things that find their way to dumpsters daily. According to the EPA, Americans discarded 250 MILLION tons of trash in 2008. Each of us contributing about 4.5 pounds of trash daily.

Whew, I knew paper had a way of accumulating around my home and office but those statistics are surprising. From the looks of the piles of paper around here, it's time for me to buckle down and do a thorough purging. Some things I hang onto way too long. Beyond the paper, there are times I have to consciously throw out stinky thinking, complaining, and clear out useless activities from my daily routine.

At times the stresses of life and work pile up so high threatening to smother out my hope and expectation. However, Hebrews reminds me to keep a firm grasp of my confidence in God.

Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence, for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward. Hebrews 10:35 (AMP)

Visit [2]Internet Cafe for more Word Filled Wednesday devotions.

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TCFQEJf0x4I/AAAAAAAAAH8/XpxPX2T-xSI/s1600-h/castaway%5B8%5D.jpg

2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-06-23 00:24:54)

If one loses one's confidence then that's a big thing in life to lose,
Whatever life throws at you confidence is needed.

Yvonne.

Wanda (2010-06-23 02:40:22)

So true, Yvonne. I appreciate your visits here. Wishing you a blessed WFW!

jo.attalife (2010-06-23 03:07:35)

What a great reminder for me today. I tend to hold on the ugly and nasty, and yet throw out my confidence so hastily. God just spoke to me right now. Thank you!
[1]Here's my word-filled Wednesday.

1. <http://attalife.blogspot.com/2010/06/wfw-job-1925.html>

GlowinGirl (2010-06-23 04:01:22)

How true! We need to hang on tightly to our confidence in Christ, and make sure we throw away the things in life that harm our walk with Him.

Mylene (2010-06-23 04:03:44)

Good traits are easier to throw away but the bad ones are easier to keep.
A very good reminder.
Blessings!

ceemee (2010-06-23 05:12:58)

This is true, oftentimes we replace confidence in God with lots of worries and negative thinking. it needs to be the other way around.

godsown (2010-06-23 05:44:23)

Such an true word!
Thxs for posting and passing at my blog
Bernice

Beth in NC (2010-06-23 06:33:09)

Wonderful reminder! Thank you for sharing it with us!

One Heart (2010-06-23 06:43:45)

Great word. "...there are times I have to consciously throw out stinky thinking, complaining, and clear out useless activities from my daily routine." So very true. We must check ourselves continuously--or better yet, have Him examine our hearts to purge all that is not of Him.
Lovely WFW.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-06-23 07:18:35)

Amen! When our confidence is in God we can endure and continue to do good in the face of any adversity.

Joanne Sher (2010-06-23 07:49:40)

GREAT one, Wanda! Needed this. Happy WFW!

lori (2010-06-23 08:17:17)

Oh Wanda! This was fantastic! We discard so much so easily...let us never discard our confidence in Him!
Great Word today!
peace,
lori

partialemptynester (2010-06-23 08:19:27)

OOoh, good one for sure! I love the accompanying picture...we do throw out soo much!

Andrea (2010-06-23 08:35:04)
Awesome reminder...I needed this, today.
Hugs,
andrea

Debra Kaye (2010-06-23 09:22:31)
Such a beautiful truth!! And a great reminder for me today!!
Happy WFW!!

Crystal Roberts (2010-06-23 09:30:29)
Love this!! great pic!

MyJourneyBack (2010-06-23 09:47:00)
Great word. Thanks for sharing this thought.
Have a Blessed Day,
Sherry

Bev (2010-06-23 09:55:07)
thank you for sharing this reminder...to purge our heads and hearts!
xo

Daughter of the KING (2010-06-23 11:42:41)
My confidence is in the Lord - may I never lose it!
Blessings,
Linda J

Missie (2010-06-23 12:23:58)
I like this! I will definately have to hang this verse up if I ever feel those beads of doubt!

Natalie at Mommy on Fire (2010-06-23 12:30:10)
Love it, Wanda! I just wrote on this exact topic last week! We must be on the same page!! :)
What a great reminder - thank you for this!

Lisa (2010-06-23 16:21:33)
Great verse and great thoughts to go with it!

Denise (2010-06-23 16:37:30)
Amazing reminder.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-06-23 17:36:50)
ooouch!

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-06-23 17:37:37)
ouch!

Cathy (2010-06-23 17:40:51)
A great WFW, thank you Blessings

Cathy (2010-06-23 17:40:54)

A great WFW, thank you Blessings

Susan (2010-06-23 20:05:18)

Amen, what a GREAT word and illustration to go with it.

Enjoyed this one?

Ellie (2010-06-24 05:49:32)

We need this on recycle bins to remind people to think again. Yes, we all need to toss, but some things can be passed on and others can be recycled, reused ! I need to work on that pile of mine, that has been smothering my hope

Sara (2010-06-24 14:08:38)

Wanda, thanks for splashing with me today! You sent a tidal wave of encouragement my way.

Friend, I too am learning to walk in confidence because of who I am!

Splashes for you today,

Sara

Wanda (2010-06-24 19:12:11)

Sara, I enjoyed splashing around at your place and happy you decided to wade around a bit here.

Ellie, it's funny how things pile up so slowly we don't even realize that our hope is being smothered.

Thanks Susan, God bless you.

Thanks for visiting Cathy. God bless & keep you is my prayer.

Joatta, I enjoyed your WFW post.

Mylene, that's interesting way to look it.

Bluebutterfly, certainly keeping our eyes focused Him helps us withstand. I then think He places scriptures like this b/c He knows our human tendency to want to throw in the tile.

Lori, we must ever remind ourselves of His goodness when we're in the trenches of life.

Thank you, Joanne. Hope you're doing well.

Andrea, God bless you. He's so faithful to send us just what we need.

Crystal,Sherry I appreciate you stopping by.

Bev, heads & hearts. I like it.

Linda, no better place for your confidence to be.

Missie, His words has the right prescription in times of doubt. Having some "go to" scriptures is always good.

Natalie, no surprise we're on the same page. For there is one Lord, one Spirit. I'll have to check out your posts. It's always interesting to see how God reveals things to others.

Thanks, Lisa & Partialemptynester, Beth, Bernice Appreciate you stopping by. God bless you.

Bud, sorry didn't mean to step on toes :)

Debra & Denise, WFW has been such a blessing as I go across visiting blogs I get so many reminders.

One Heart, yes only He can fully examine us. We're more likely to give ourselves a pass.

Cemee...you're so right

Glowngirl, very wise words for us all you've shared.

Ozjane (2010-06-24 21:07:47)

good one.....I too am overwhelmed by paper warfare. Wish Christian organizations would let your support them without overwhelming you with mail all the time.

Good reminder to cast out and also to cast onto Him all our care.

Faith Imagined (2010-06-24 21:15:48)

I've been meditating on this scripture off and on for a month. What a timely post for me! Great insights!

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-06-25 15:23:36)

There is no better confidence than in God! :D What a wonderful devotional post today! Thank you!
Have a great weekend!
Sherry

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-06-25 23:18:56)

Wanda,

What a beautiful blog. I love your banner photo.

I needed to hear your post today. The storms of life can tempt us to throw away our confidence.

Janis

Karen (2010-06-26 20:03:29)

Very timely word! Thank you!

Mike (2010-06-27 15:23:54)

It's a great encouragement to persevere... thank you :)

Lisa (2010-06-29 21:37:13)

Confidence in our Lord is a priceless commodity. One that I know I will never have to do without. Great post Sis.

I'm proud to be a part of the family of God and to call you Sister.

((Hugs))

Linky Love (2010-06-25 13:46)



[1] Sharing some link love today. Although I haven't been able to spend much time in blog land for the past couple of weeks, I would like to share a few interesting links that I've come across lately.

- [2]Noah's Ipad by Sword of Goliath served up a great kick in the pants to me.
- Several of you commented on my post [3]Like Three Peas in a Pod that you wish you could have attended the webinar. Well now you can! Beth Jones has made recordings of the 3 P's in a Pod: Prayer, Purpose, and Passion webinar available [4]here.
- Leigh over at Speaking Through Me Ministries shared a post titled, [5]Liberia, West Africa –Wanna Go? by one of her friends that was a great reminder that God sends others “along with” us in our journey.
- One Heart shared an inspiring message, [6]Be Free, about breaking free of our traditional box and finding God in fresh new ways.
- Laughing at the Future shared a bit of a stinger with [7]I am Property.
- Don't want to pay for calls to information? Personal Finance Journey shares some alternatives to dialing 411 [8]here.

- Andrea at Ponderings by Andrea shared a book review of [9]Scars and Stilettos that tells an amazing story of how God transformed Harmony Dust from being an exotic dancer to leading Treasures, an organization helping women in the sex trade.
- Lori at [10]All You Have to Give creatively reminds us of everyday essentials in [11]What's in Your Beach Bag?

Thanks so much to each of you, who continue to stop by. Hope you'll find some time to visit some of these other bloggers. Wishing you & yours a day filled with God's presence.

TGIF!



[12]

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TCSyX_1yL2I/AAAAAAAAAIE/lqhVv2axvZo/s1600-h/linklove%5B16%5D.jpg
2. <http://swordofgoliath.blogspot.com/2010/06/noahs-ipad.html>
3. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/06/like-three-ps-in-pod.html>
4. http://www.empoweringchristianwomen.com/2010/06/3-ps-in-pod-prayer-purpose-and-passion_23.html
5. <http://leighhargisgray.blogspot.com/2010/06/854-liberia-west-africa-wanna-go.html>
6. <http://inhimoneheart.blogspot.com/2010/06/be-free.html>
7. <http://swanvalleytammi.blogspot.com/2010/06/i-am-property.html>
8. <http://www.empoweringchristianwomen.com/2010/06/http://personalfinancejourney.com/2010/06/don%e2%80%99t-waste-money-dialing-information-use-these-alternatives/>
9. <http://andrealshultz.blogspot.com/2010/06/scars-and-stilettos-by-harmony-dust.html>
10. <http://www.allyouhavetogive.com/>
11. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/2010/06/whats-in-your-beach-bag/>
12. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-06-25 21:02:07)
I enjoyed your write, it was lovely to sit back and read.
Yvonne.

Missie (2010-06-26 13:41:37)
Thanks for the links!

Just Be Real (2010-06-26 21:11:16)
Thanks for sharing Wanda. Blessings.

Gregg (2010-06-26 22:04:31)
This is a good idea. I applaud you. It is nice to see what is out there that can be helpful or useful.

Beth in NC (2010-06-26 23:08:04)
Thanks for sharing these links with us Wanda.
I pray you have a wonderful evening & Sunday!
Beth

Recyclable You (2010-06-28 13:30)



[1]

Although, I don't watch it as often as I once did, HGTV is a favorite of mine. It's a great place to get ideas to spice up your living environment. Of particular interest to me are the shows that seek out flea market finds and then turn those items into something impressive. After they've finished dressing them up a bit, they no longer look like rejects suited for the garbage dumpster. Instead they look like new, store bought items deemed for a place of honor.

Most times they have to do some cosmetic work on the items. Stripping them of paint, sanding, cutting, painting and polishing are all required before the transformation is complete. Not unlike ourselves, who require some remodeling before we're ready to enter the spotlight of our God given roles. He has to strip away the painting from our old selves. You'll find that it's necessary for Him to do a pit of sanding as well. Sanding causes irritation. Do you find yourself being a bit irritable? Could it be that God is sanding to expose some areas that need to be addressed in your life?

For most of the furniture, sanding is required in order to allow the new paint to stick. The new ideas, mindset, and instructions He wants to give us will be unable to adhere without Him getting in there and scuffing up the old. I believe God wants to paint new anointings, new assignments, new connections, new creativity, and new ingenuity into our lives but we must endure the complete makeover. No skipping steps allowed. If we walk out only after the stripping or sanding has been done, we leave ourselves vulnerable to our enemy. Trying to skip past to the painting and polishing may make us appear ready but in the end the old stuff-our way of thinking and behaving-show through.

Lord, I don't always find the stripping, sanding, painting and polishing to be comfortable. But help to remain humble and submitted to you as you complete your perfect work.

[2]

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TCAVf5GIInoI/AAAAAAAAAHw/z9i90PGswmU/s1600/Recycle+me.jpg
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-06-28 13:59:10)

Thought provoking post which started my rusty brain thinking.

wonderful to read.

Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-06-28 14:17:12)

Amen! Amen! The process is not always pleasant, but oh the promise....Thank You, Lord.

Shirl (2010-06-28 16:33:53)

Amen!

Thanks for the visit and comment.

Carol Fleisher (2010-06-28 16:47:54)

Great post! True we don't enjoy it at the time but we look back and see how God really worked in our lives. Well done. :)

covnitkepr1 (2010-06-28 18:39:32)

Hi. I came across your blog through another blog I follow and have signed up as a follower. When you're free, please do visit me and let me know what you think of my blog and leave a comment. If you like, do follow as well. I am always open to great new people and interesting websites. Look forward to hearing from you.

Joanne Sher (2010-06-28 18:52:57)

This is EXCELLENT, Wanda. What a great analogy, and reminder. We so often need that pain to catch on to what God is teaching us, don't we?

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-06-28 18:58:08)

i like your analogy...:)

Bev (2010-06-28 20:49:21)

great analogy wanda...you have a way of putting our walk with the lord in great perspective...

xo

Wanda (2010-06-29 01:32:00)

Yvonne, "rusty brain"? Anyone who create poems like you...I think not.

Yes, a wonderful promise is right **Blue**.

Shirl, I enjoyed your blog.

Carol, yes hindsight seems to clear things up so well.

Covnitkepr1, glad to have you join as my newest blog follower. I'll be sure to drop by your place.

Joanne, God knows just what it takes to get us fit for His use.

Thank you, **Bud**.

Bev, thanks but God knows the perfect way to make me understand...taking my everyday objects and shedding new light on them.

Missie (2010-06-29 02:21:29)

Thank you for your post! It is a good reminder that we are still being crafted!

Monica (2010-06-30 22:07:03)

Wow...this was a very good post. I love the analogy. I know I often wish I could skip the sanding, but then don't we all. :-)

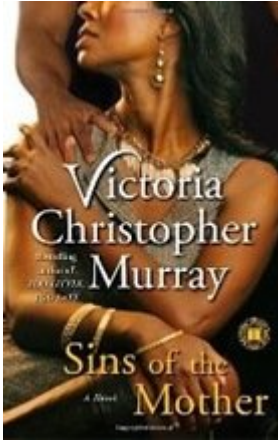
Sins of the Mother (2010-06-29 07:00)

I'm participating in TEASER TUESDAYS, a book meme hosted by [1]Should be Reading.

"Still as she carried the bouquet to her car, her plan was...to stay with the plan. But then she got behind the steering wheel, and her BMW headed west instead of east; before she could figure it out, she was in front of the condominium where she'd spent four years of immense ecstasy and

one year of total agony.”

Sins of the Mother by Victoria Christopher Murray



[2]

Want to join the fun? [3]Here's how:

Grab your current read

Open to a random page

Share two (2) “teaser” sentences from somewhere on that page

BE CAREFUL NOT TO INCLUDE SPOILERS! (make sure that what you share doesn't give too much away! You don't want to ruin the book for others!)

Share the title and author, too, so that other TT participants can add the book to their TBR Lists if they like your teasers!

P.S. Well I didn't quite play by the rules. I haven't actually started reading this book but it's next on my list. I've been waiting a while to read this one.

What's next up on your to be read list?

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[4]

1. <http://shouldbereading.wordpress.com/>

2. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TCLJ9mnUapI/AAAAAAAAAIM/1M-_YAKjXEE/s1600-h/sins%20of%20the%20mother%5B14%5D.jpg

3. http://www.empoweringchristianwomen.com/2010/06/3-ps-in-pod-prayer-purpose-and-passion_23.html

4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Jennifer @ Mrs. Q: Book Addict (2010-06-29 09:26:10)

oh, wow great teaser! I hope you're enjoying it.

Missie (2010-06-29 12:31:29)

This sounds fun!

Andrea (2010-06-29 14:04:56)

Blessings and prayers,

andrea

PS: Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Creations by Laurel-Rain Snow (2010-06-29 22:43:22)

That sounds really intriguing...wonder what that's all about?

You have a fabulous blog header!

Here's my teaser:

<http://snowconnections.wordpress.com/2010/06/29/teaser-tuesdays-4/>

Emma Michaels (2010-06-30 01:55:12)

Great teaser! I hope you will check out mine for Stephanie Meyer's latest novel [1]The Short Second Life of Bree Tanner! Also, if you check back on [2]my blog this Friday I have huge news about the novels I had been submitting to agents/publishers!

Sincerely,

Emma Michaels

[3]<http://EmmaMichaels.Blogspot.com>

1. <http://emmamichaels.blogspot.com/2010/06/teaser-tuesday-short-second-life-of.html>

2. <http://EmmaMichaels.Blogspot.com/>

3. <http://EmmaMichaels.Blogspot.com/>

Wanda (2010-06-30 01:58:43)

I hadn't actually started reading this book but I have read others in the series. I'm sure this one will not disappoint. Thanks Laurel!

Andrea, your welcome dear.

Emma, I'll be sure to check out your teaser.

Whatcha Got Cookin? (2010-06-30 00:00)



[1]

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, Hebrews 10:24

We all are presented with opportunities daily to stir up strife, murmuring, complaining, or gossip. And even if we're not the instigator ourselves, the temptation to mix in with others stirring up these troubles can be easy to slip into. However, Hebrews calls us to a greater task of stirring up love and good works in one another.

What have you been stirring up lately?

Stop by the [2]Internet Cafe for more Word Filled Wednesday.

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TCqkLad_V2I/AAAAAAAAIU/yHp6F1KvaGo/s1600-h/stirredup32.jpg
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-06-30 00:56:10)
Loved the write, I don't like to stir up trouble, so none I guess.
Yvonne,

Daughter of the KING (2010-06-30 05:59:16)
Great word for today! Think I'll go stir up my email devotional group....
Blessings,
Linda J

Beth in NC (2010-06-30 06:02:28)
Well, unfortunately – today I might be stirring up controversy. Not intentionally, but anytime I mention my political views or America it becomes controversial.
Anyway – great scripture to keep ever before our hearts sweet Wanda.
Now I'm wondering if I should remove my blog post.
Blessings!
Beth

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-06-30 06:21:15)
Amen! Hallelujah! Such a timely word. Your Word, Lord, I have hidden in my heart, that I may not sin against You.
Let us stir up the things that are of You and You alone.

Carrie (2010-06-30 06:25:42)
Wanda, this is great! Love it!
Hope you have a blessed WFW!

Joanne Sher (2010-06-30 06:37:49)
Oh, Wanda - do I EVER love this! Super reminder - and that visual is fabulous!!
Happy WFW, friend!

lori (2010-06-30 07:10:18)
Wanda! THIS is my favorite this week! LOVE it! I'll take this with me! I do a "girls Bible Study" and this would make a WONDERFUL jumping off point...we always include an "activity" to go with our verses! I think making cookies would be PERFECT! You've completely inspired me!
peace and Thank YOU!
lori

Amydeanne (2010-06-30 08:26:35)
i'm with Lori! i love tis!

One Heart (2010-06-30 08:43:01)
Great words. I'm glad I see the question today and not two weeks ago. So, today I'm stirring up mercy, grace, forgiveness, fellowship, kindness and more than anything else, love. Yet, I remind all of us that even when we do stir up trouble, He's using it all to make us more in His image and the greatest lessons are learned in our mistakes. So for those who may not be stirring up the right things today I say, be glad you stopped by here and received a reminder

and a boost, but don't condemn yourself. Get up and go love again and thank Him for His grace.
Thank you for sharing my friend.

AnooCre8ion (2010-06-30 08:47:11)

Great word Wanda. thank you for by and your prayers for my family would be most welcome as we are facing some trying times. blessings to you

Peggy (2010-06-30 10:09:54)

Blessings Wanda! This is so creative!!! Great image with the verse! I love your header for this beautiful blog as well (added you in my new WFW bookmarks).

So thankful that I'm not stirring up any of those... but more love & good works (but that seems prideful and I want none of that either).

Have a wonderful Word Filled Week!

Thanks for your visit to our team blog: The Lighthouse of Prayer.

Peggy

Donna (2010-06-30 10:25:14)

Great image and a timely reminder for all of us. What am I stirring up today? Sometime like others have said, I stir up controversy by my words on politics and America. It is my desire to always stir up love and encouragement.

Blessings to you!

Susan (2010-06-30 11:42:23)

Oh wow, this was just precious!!

I pray I'm always stirring up something that brings glory and honor to my KING!!!

Blessings to you this WFW?

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-06-30 13:30:58)

We do have a choice of what to stir up. I like the image and the reminder to be careful to stir up good things.

Thank you,

Janis

Renee (2010-06-30 14:22:30)

The picture almost gives new meaning to the verse! Love the emphasis on "stir up"!

hip-chick (2010-06-30 15:39:12)

Wonderful! I love that version! Makes me think of that song...stir it up little darlin' stir it up!

CeCe Wilson (2010-06-30 16:32:36)

Hopefully I'm only stirring up the gifts that are within me ;0) Thanks for that insight into the Word!

ozjane (2010-06-30 19:33:06)

I like this one. Masterchef over here has got us all fired up with recipes and cooking so that is a great word and visual for me.

Denise (2010-06-30 19:45:49)

Really like this.

Cathy (2010-06-30 20:42:11)
You are very creative. A great WFW

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK (2010-06-30 20:48:24)
That is such a great photo to go with that inspirational Bible verse. I'm definitely going to have to share it with my grandchildren when we're working on Bible memory verses activities for grandparents and their grandchildren! Thank you for it. :)

Lisa (2010-06-30 21:01:06)
Great visual and thoughts in this verse. May we stir up love and good works rather than contention and strife.

sarah (2010-07-01 07:39:39)
powerful...very powerful message

Belinda (2010-07-01 10:01:47)
Wanda, this is my first visit to "see" you, too. I think your space in Blogland is wonderful! I love the "link love," and may borrow that phrase as I often send people to places of interest myself. However, I will be back.
Thanks for the visit to my little piece of Word Filled Wednesday on yesterday. God bless you.

Lloyd (2010-07-01 11:12:44)
Thank you for sharing such an inspiring and uplifting post. I really enjoyed reading the posts on your blog. I would like to invite you to come over to my blog and check it out. God's blessings. Lloyd

Ellie (2010-07-01 21:41:15)
I don't like to stir up trouble, but sometimes it happens! I love the idea of stirring up love!

Wanda (2010-07-01 22:30:28)
AnooCre8ion I'll definitely include you & your family in my prayers.

1.5 July

Nobody Likes Me (2010-07-02 06:30)

Nobody likes me, everybody hates me. Think I'll go eat worms!
Those are the lines of a children's nursery rhyme or song my younger sister would sing when she wasn't getting her way or she felt like she was being left out. The other day I was reading a passage in Psalm where David was expressing similar sentiments.

I look for someone to come and help me but no one gives me a passing thought!

No one will help me; no one cares a bit what happens to me.

Then I pray to you, O Lord. I say, You are my place of refuge.

You are all I really want in life.

Psalm 142:4-5

There has been times I've felt alone and it's comforting to know that even King David, a man after God's own heart found himself in the same position. Live long enough and you're bound to find yourself disappointed by another human. (Not to mention how we disappoint others) Somebody, some where didn't show up at some time or in some way you expected but there is One who is always available.

You're never alone or without help!



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-02 06:39:37)

I think we all go through that stage sometimes, I know I did when I had my 2 berevements and it's strange one can be lonely and fell unloved in the most crowded of places.

Yvonne.

Living Water (2010-07-02 08:14:35)

We are never alone when we are with God. We need not despair because God is always here with us. In God alone we can completely trust and not be disappointed.

Andrea (2010-07-02 12:11:59)

AMEN..Isn't it amazing how HE always speaks to our hearts!

Hugs,

andrea

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-07-02 13:14:55)

He is ever present, ever loving, ever faithful and everlasting.

We are blessed in the name of the Lord, our strong tower. He is our peace.

Missie (2010-07-02 18:41:50)

i have definately felt this in my life...glad to know that we are not alone! God is always there!

Mike (2010-07-02 20:24:59)

I SO needed to hear that!

Raquel Byrnes (2010-07-02 22:09:52)

So encouraging and very true. Lovely post, Wanda!

Wanda (2010-07-03 00:29:20)

Yvonne I agree being alone is not always about the absence of people.

Living Water Your words are certainly true; however, I find that sometimes in the midst of trying situations it's necessary to remind myself that I serve a God who is ever present.

Andrea Indeed, He knows how to brings us back in alignment with His truths.

Bluebutterly Amen!

Mike to God be the glory! Glad you were able to find encouragement from it.

Raquel Thanks, appreciate you stopping by :)

Karen (2010-07-06 00:02:49)

Amen! He is so faithful....

SomeGirl (2010-07-06 22:17:03)

It's GREAT that we have David's words to read... he experienced and wrote about so many different feelings that we experience. Hey, now that I think about it, David was like the first blogger, wasn't he?! Great post! Thanks for sharing it! ? Michelle

Wanda (2010-07-06 23:50:52)

SomeGirl first blogger? I guess you could say that he was. Never thought about it like that.

Freedom (2010-07-03 14:09)



[1] weekend.

Now for a lil [2]Linky Love

Wishing each of you a safe 4th of July

- Still looking for some creative ideas for your celebration?
 - [3]Not Just a Mommy has some inspiring treat ideas
 - Visit [4]Frost Me for additional party ideas.
- If unforgiveness has you chained, why not set yourself free? Ann Voskamp's article entitled [5]The Work of All Children: How to Forgive Our Parents, offers some practical advice.
- I'm certainly glad to live in a free country and grateful to those who work to protect our freedom but let's ensure we're placing our trust in the proper place. See Linda's [6]Where Do You Place Your Trust?

BTW, Thanks and welcome to all my new blog followers! I'll be stopping by your blog homes soon. I'm so grateful for all of you that continue to peep in from time to time. May God continue to bless and keep you. I leave you with a few quotes on freedom.

It is by the goodness of God that, in this country, we have three benefits: freedom of speech, freedom of thought, and the wisdom never to use either.- [7]Mark Twain

Real freedom is creative, proactive, and will take me into new territories. I am not free if my freedom is predicated on reacting to my past.- [8]Kenny Loggins

Most people do not really want freedom, because freedom involves responsibility, and most people are frightened of responsibility. - [9]Sigmund Freud

Freedom is a muscle... you have to exercise it.- [10]Roy Scheider

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TC88ZFCZHTI/AAAAAAAAAIc/_zAA2FR75RE/s1600-h/4thofJuly%5B37%5D.jpg
2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/06/linky-love.html>
3. <http://dawnypoo.blogspot.com/2010/07/inspiring-fourth-of-july-treats.html>
4. <http://frostmeblog.blogspot.com/2010/07/more-4th-of-july-party-ideas.html>
5. <http://www.incourage.me/2010/06/why-we-all-need-to-forgive-our-parents-.html>
6. <http://bythewayministries.blogspot.com/2010/06/where-do-you-place-your-trust.html>
7. <http://www.jittery.com/quotes/mark-twain-quotes-10229.html>
8. <http://www.jittery.com/quotes/kenny-loggins-quotes-9070.html>
9. <http://www.jittery.com/quotes/sigmund-freud-quotes-13718.html>
10. <http://www.jittery.com/quotes/roy-scheider-quotes-13225.html>

Just Be Real (2010-07-03 17:59:32)

Thank you dear for the well wishes. Happy 4th to you as well. Blessings and hugs.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-03 20:01:09)

Loved the qoutations one never know when they come in handy.

Take care.

Yvonne.

One Heart (2010-07-04 19:10:46)

Have a blessed Independence Day too, Wanda. Stay safe and thank you for stopping by.

Missie (2010-07-05 12:32:58)

Hope you had a happy fourth!

sarah (2010-07-05 22:33:36)

hope your 4th of july weekend was the best...I too am very grateful for the freedom we have in this country but even with it...I never really knew true freedom until He touched me...Have a great week and stay cool..Sarah

Wanda (2010-07-06 02:01:05)

Thanks ladies. I enjoyed a nice holiday weekend and the extra time off from work. Back to the grind tomorrow.

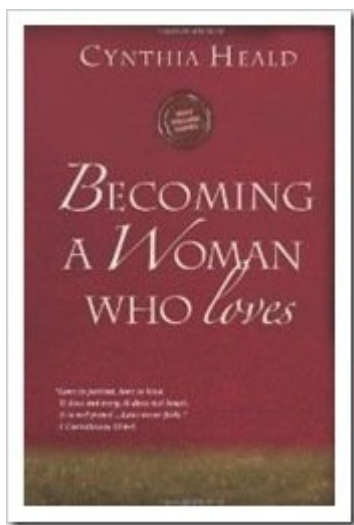
Not Just A Mommy! (2010-07-14 04:28:18)

Thank you so much for your comment and linky love! Lovely blog!

Becoming A Woman Who Loves (2010-07-06 08:18)

L. O. V. E. – four simple letters yet what does it really mean? In a time when love is used casually to describe our fondness for the latest fad, hairstyle, book, car, food, phone or cd, does the word love carry much weight today?

If you've been around church for any length of time, you've heard the love chapter-1 Corinthians 13. Verses 4-7 describe love as patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices when truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. In the past, I tended to cringe a bit every time I heard those verses because "my love" seems to fall utterly short.



[1]

[2]In Cynthia Heald's *Becoming a Woman Who Loves*, she dissects this mysterious organism called love and leads us into discovering that it's possible to reproduce this God quality specimen. The book is an 11-week study that can be tackled alone or as part of a group. It is divided into eleven chapters titled-Supremacy of Love, A New Commandment, The Source of Love, Bearing Fruit, The Character of Love, Loving the Saints, Love in Action, Love Forgives, Love Reconciles, Loving Words, and Love Never Fails.

Each chapter starts with a brief introduction, a scripture, and quotation from a Christian writer. I like that Ms Heald does not attempt tell the reader what this "love" is but guides readers into discovering it for themselves through Scripture. Only after the reader's self-discovery does the author share her personal reflections. Chapters conclude by urging the reader to seek God for specific life application. The small size of the book makes it easy to pack in your purse or bag and it contains ample space for writing responses to questions.

After completing this study, I walked away with a fresh perspective on love and how it weaves its way into every area of our lives impacting our walk with Christ, relationships, and ministry endeavors. No longer did this Christ-like love seem like an elusive, dangling carrot but as natural by-product birth from intimacy with the Lord. According to the author's bio, Cynthia Heald, has written numerous Bible studies, although this was my first time reading any of her work. I would definitely recommend this study for anyone looking to learn more about Christ-like love.

Order your copy from NavPress [3]here.

Also available at [4]Amazon.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from NavPress Publishers as part of their Blogger Review Program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I

am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TDLmuJZ66iI/AAAAAAAAAIk/KkIlyMU4GsI/s1600-h/book-love%5B5%5D.jpg
2. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TDLmuJZ66iI/AAAAAAAAAIk/KkIlyMU4GsI/s1600-h/book-love%5B5%5D.jpg
3. <http://www.navpress.com/product/9781615210237/Becoming-a-Woman-Who-Loves-Cynthia-Heald>
4. http://www.amazon.com/Becoming-Woman-Who-Loves-proud-Love/dp/1615210237/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1278369558&sr=1-1

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-07-06 12:03:47)

Thanks for the review, Wanda. Love is "the greatest of these" for a reason.

NavPressGal (2010-07-06 15:01:53)

Thanks for the lovely review. I am so glad you enjoyed this study. Cynthia Heald has an entire series called Becoming a Woman Who... I hope you can explore them, too.

Gregg (2010-07-06 17:15:03)

Loving biblically or as Christ loved is so hard to do. Thanks be unto God that His Spirit enables us.

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-07-06 20:37:28)

I'm always looking for another good bible study. Thank you for this review.

Wanda (2010-07-06 23:43:51)

You're right **Blue**. Christ left an awesome example of what true love looks like. I pray that I grow to reflect it more and more as I get to know Him.

Other studies from Cynthia Heald will definitely be on my to be read lists, **NavPressGal**

Gregg, I agree that it is hard b/c it goes against our natural tendencies, which is the way of the Kingdom. But it is possible b/c of the Holy Spirit.

Wisdomvirtueandrubies, I think you would find this study enlightening.

Flow to You (2010-07-06 17:34)

[EMBED]

Since seeing this video, this song has become one of my favorites. I'm joining [1]One Heart in Way of Worship.



[2]

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[3]

1. <http://inhimoneheart.blogspot.com/>
2. <http://inhimoneheart.blogspot.com/>

3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Karen (2010-07-06 18:34:40)
Beautiful song of worship...I have never heard it before...

One Heart (2010-07-06 19:23:21)
This is absolutely BEAUTIFUL. I literally felt like I was flowing. Yes, Lord, let my worship flow to You. Hallelujah!
I am so thankful He led to post WOW today. He knows what each of us needs. May His name be glorified.
Bless you my sister.

Wanda (2010-07-06 22:29:41)
Glad that you two enjoyed it.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-07 01:27:10)
Really beautiful Wanda.
Yvonne.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-07-07 08:09:35)
thank you Wanda for expanding my playlists:)

godsown (2010-07-07 15:41:17)
WOW I needed this at the end of this day!!
All my energy is coming back.....
Our Lord is AMAZING and so worthy to be praised!
Thxs for posting this song
Blessings
Bernice

nannykim (2010-07-09 07:31:25)
I haven't heard this one before....it was good today because it tied in with the rain we are getting right now and it is a reminder that the rivers can't flow without the rain. So I too need to swell with the rain as the song says and then I will have a life that flows.

Some things are made to last (2010-07-06 23:03)



[1]
Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. I Corinthians 13:13 NLT
But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love. I Corinthians 13:13(The Message)



Lord, help me to build my life on these eternal things. In Jesus name. Amen [2]

Thirsty for Him Wanda

- [3]
1. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/>
 2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>
 3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Denise (2010-07-06 23:26:08)
Amen, amen.

Ruth (2010-07-07 01:08:17)
This is the verse that came to mind first thing when i work up this afternoon...!!
Thanks so much Wanda, for stopping by my blog. Appreciate it!!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-07 01:09:11)
I totally agree,
Take care.
Yvonne,

jo.attalife (2010-07-07 01:28:48)

What a timely verse and lovely prayer, Wanda. I say "Amen and amen!!!"
[1]Mine's here.

1. <http://attalife.blogspot.com/2010/07/wfw-hebrews-210.html>

Valerie @ Composition-Life (2010-07-07 04:45:32)

Beautiful! It is so simple and yet we tend to make such mountains out of things. Have faith, trust Him, and love the world ...

Beth in NC (2010-07-07 05:32:26)

Amen! Simple and true. I love it!

Happy WFW!

Beth

Andrea (2010-07-07 05:43:52)

amen!!

blessings,

andrea

Karen (2010-07-07 05:48:49)

I love The Message version of this scripture....

CeCe Wilson (2010-07-07 06:00:02)

Thank you for sharing this verse Wanda! I needed to hear about love today :0)

lori (2010-07-07 07:03:48)

Yes! Yes! Yes! These three things...what a beautiful reminder, one I remind my 'people' of often!

peace Wanda!

lori

ozjane (2010-07-07 07:23:52)

Lovely Wanda....we have been looking at hope over past weeks and you cannot help but link it with faith.....but love is the greatest.

Karen (2010-07-07 07:47:28)

Do you remember how Evangelist Billy Graham would say, "God's love is Forev-uh and Forev-uh!" Isn't it good to know that God's love will never end?

~Amy~ (2010-07-07 07:49:14)

Love this verse! Great WFW!

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-07-07 08:05:42)

quote:

Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly.

...great post.

Carrie (2010-07-07 08:15:21)

What a great - and creative - reminder!! Happy WFW, Wanda!

Laurie (2010-07-07 08:15:32)

I love the Message version of this verse and your picture illustrates it beautifully. I so agree with your prayer, Wanda.
Blessings,
Laurie

Ginger (2010-07-07 09:24:40)

Wow that is good.
Ginger

One Heart (2010-07-07 09:24:44)

AMEN!! To build our lives on eternal things...AMEN!! Thanks for sharing on WFW. Love and blessings!

Michele Williams (2010-07-07 10:08:08)

Amen! Such a beautiful truth! I am so glad too! Thank you for sharing

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-07-07 10:43:46)

Such beautiful truths! Needed this today! Thank you!!

Debra Kaye (2010-07-07 14:06:58)

Oh, I liked this very much! Blessings to you!

Ginger (2010-07-07 14:29:57)

Wanda,

Thank you so much for your comments. My hubby did my design. You can see a little about him via the Web Development tab up top-right. He did Amydeanne's new design as well.

Thanks,
Ginger

Missie (2010-07-07 14:34:21)

Beautiful WFW!

Renee (2010-07-07 15:44:40)

Faith, hope, love. What a beautiful picture of Jesus we will be when we learn to walk in these more and more. What a great reminder!

Amydeanne (2010-07-07 17:14:22)

oh very cool! i love it!

Lisa (2010-07-07 20:39:23)

What a reassuring verse. Beautiful!

Cathy (2010-07-07 20:47:33)

Amen, a neat WFW

Julie Arduini.com: The Surrendered Scribe (2010-07-09 08:09:51)

Beautiful. I'm reading the Message Bible in a year and I'm so in love with Him all over again. Blessings on your week!

Julie Arduini.com: The Surrendered Scribe (2010-07-09 08:09:52)

Beautiful. I'm reading the Message Bible in a year and I'm so in love with Him all over again. Blessings on your week!

Petula (2010-07-09 14:48:59)

A favorite verse of mine... Thanks for the post and the reminder. The greatest is love. Lovely.
Thanks for following. As soon as my computer stops acting screwy I'm going to follow right back. :-)

Proclamation (2010-07-08 11:15)

The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon Me, because He has anointed Me [the Anointed One, the Messiah] to preach the good news (the Gospel) to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed [who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed, and broken down by calamity], Luke 4:18 (Amplified)

God's Spirit is on me; he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor,
Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, "This is God's year to act!" Luke 4:18 (The Message)

My prayer for you is that you'll see what you haven't been able to see. I'm praying that where you've been lame (emotionally & spiritually) there will be mobility. Lame-Places you couldn't perceive walking out of, walking through, walking in or getting over. That you'll walk in freedom in those places that you've been constricted. That TODAY you'll experience a new level of deliverance. In Jesus name

Christian (2010-07-08 12:07:01)

hi wanda... thanks for droppin by at my site...just followed you..add me please... thanks! God bless you

Beth in NC (2010-07-08 12:41:52)

Amen and amen Wanda! I need that prayer!

Thank you!

Beth

Joanne Sher (2010-07-08 13:56:19)

Amen - I love this. Thank you so much.

Pet (2010-07-08 19:11:17)

Amen, this is great.

Blessings!

Cherie Hill (2010-07-08 19:22:28)

Thank you for visiting my blog Wanda! I love your blog here...I'll be stopping by more often for encouragement in my faith walk! Blessings sister!

Cherie

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-08 20:26:28)

Thanks to all the visits to my blog and thanks for that wonderful prayer,

Yvonne,

Missie (2010-07-08 23:36:48)

Thank you for your posts!

Lisa (2010-07-08 23:43:10)
Thanks Sis. That's beautiful!

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-07-08 23:54:53)
...amen!

Faith Imagined (2010-07-09 03:06:28)
You have me so inspired right now! Thank you so much for these powerful words!!!

Karen (2010-07-09 18:32:56)
Amen! Thank you, Jesus!

Just Be Real (2010-07-10 11:33:53)
Thank you Wanda for this encouraging post and prayer. Blessings to you and yours dear one.

Jesson And Rey Ann (2010-07-11 01:24:29)
nice post!

Karen (2010-07-11 01:50:45)
I receive and agree with your prayer!

Wanda (2010-07-11 14:09:52)
To God be the glory! **Christian** I've been to your place and I'm now following you.
Cherie, you're welcome to stop by anytime.
Jesson thanks so much for stopping by. I'll stopping be by your place soon.
May God continue to bless each of you. All of you are such an encouragement to me!

Amanda (2010-07-12 09:53:17)
Amen!! I love this prayer.
God bless you and your passion for Him has blessed me so much, during this, my first visit to your blog.

No longer the same (2010-07-11 14:04)



[1]

I woke up in the same house but in a new place. Everything is new now. Nobody but you Lord can make the old be new again. I thank you for the realigning. Thank you for new perspective. For new mobility and for a fresh wind of your spirit. God, there is none like you. To you be all glory, dominion, and power forever!

Photo Credit: by [2]Gabork via Flickr

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TDnPiu6mQ7I/AAAAAAAAAI0/VRcngPdQ5AU/s1600-h/chess%5B10%5D.jpg
2. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gabork/>

CeCe Wilson (2010-07-11 14:55:55)

Isn't it sweet when God changes the perspective? Situations that were just so so bad yesterday are light and but a stepping stone today. I praise God for your blessing! To God be the glory great things He has done!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-11 16:23:37)

Wonderful moving words Wanda.

Yvonne.

Joanne Sher (2010-07-11 17:15:33)

Been there - thanks for the reminder, and the blessing.

Missie (2010-07-11 22:29:00)

I like that! We are made new and are new everyday!

Just Be Real (2010-07-11 23:13:15)

Hallelujah! Wanda I needed these words of encouragement. Thank you and blessings and (((Wanda)))

Lisa (2010-07-12 01:23:29)

AMEN, AMEN, AMEN!

Karen (2010-07-12 13:29:48)

Amen...that was our message at church yesterday!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-07-12 15:07:54)

God is good!

Wanda (2010-07-13 02:46:53)

Yes He is! God bless each of you. You're all such a wonderful blessing to me.

No Death Today: Resuscitate Instead (2010-07-12 17:43)



[1]

Have you ever felt like what you were doing wasn't working? Ever contemplated throwing in the towel or withdrawing your name from the race? If not, I sure have. Life is full of ups and downs. For me, last week just happened to be one of those down times. Although there was nothing that occurred out of the ordinary, it was the ordinary itself that seemed to sap my strength.

During a time of fellowship with the Father this weekend, I was instructed to strengthen what remains.

Blinded by the mundane, I couldn't see any remaining parts. As I pondered, I was reminded that God always leaves His people with a remnant. Though it may be small, the leftover was enough to get things done with God. Consider Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the wall for an example. His enemies thought it foolish to use the rubble to erect the wall and even if he managed to get it standing again, it certainly couldn't withstand any opposing force.

Like Nehemiah, I was challenged to strengthen the remaining rubble of my faith, hope, love, prayer, and worship. As small as it might be, it was time to fortify it. But, how you ask? Two simple ways:

1. **Put God's Word on it.** An increase in my Bible consumption and application enlarges my spiritual fortitude.
2. **Exercise it more.** Anything you don't use atrophies.

We've been given some weapons by our Commander-in-Chief but even they, like a knife that becomes dull after extended use, require strengthening at times. Our use of the Word of God has to be sharpened to allow for more precision in our lives. Let's not forget about our armor. Like clothing stretched out of shape over time, our armor can have too much slack in it making us more vulnerable to the enemy's attacks. Tighten up your belt of truth! Readjust your helmet of salvation! Pull up the laces on your shoes of the gospel of peace. Move your breastplate back into position! Lift up your shield of faith and sharpen sword! Don't get slack in clothing yourself daily with EVERY piece of the armor of God.

Having donned the proper attire with weapons in hand, we can begin picking up the rubble-[2]



broken fragments. [3]Breakdowns happen in life either through wearing out over a period of time or by sudden brute force. **Has there been a chronic problem or situation that has caused a rift in your faith, hope, love, prayer, or worship?** Or, maybe it was something unexpected-sickness, job loss, infidelity or betrayal-that is threatening to murder your trust. Regardless of the reason for your brokenness or weariness, it's vital that you strengthen what remains. God hasn't asked us to do anything with what was lost but only the remaining part. Perhaps your faith love, prayer, and worship are all intact. *But are there some spirit led activities or ministries that you started out strong, full of passion but the lack of participation or expected results has caused your commitment to wane?* If God hasn't called you to stop a thing, your assignment now is to fortify it.

Revelation 3:2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Are there some areas in your life that you need to strengthen? If so, refuse to let it die!

Father God, I thank you for your loving kindness. Only because of your great mercy we're not consumed. Thank you for giving me an ear to hear you and now that you've given instructions help me to obey. Forgive me for becoming so distracted by what was not that I neglected what remains. Today, I refocus my eyes upon you. For you are my help, my salvation, my redeemer, the lifter of my head, and my exceedingly great reward! In Jesus name, Amen.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[4]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TDtTRgkjJbI/AAAAAAAAAI8/HKr1vP0koqw/s1600-h/tired4.jpg
2. [file://localhost/C:/Users/Wanda/AppData/Local/Temp/WindowsLiveWriter1286139640/supfiles896AFFA/rubble\[3\].jpg](file://localhost/C:/Users/Wanda/AppData/Local/Temp/WindowsLiveWriter1286139640/supfiles896AFFA/rubble[3].jpg)
3. [file://localhost/C:/Users/Wanda/AppData/Local/Temp/WindowsLiveWriter1286139640/supfiles896AFFA/rubble\[3\].jpg](file://localhost/C:/Users/Wanda/AppData/Local/Temp/WindowsLiveWriter1286139640/supfiles896AFFA/rubble[3].jpg)
4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Joanne Sher (2010-07-12 19:43:11)

Oh Wanda - such a reminder. *If God hasn't called you to stop a thing, your assignment now is to fortify it.*
I so needed that. Thank you, friend.

pathfromtheheadtotheheart (2010-07-12 19:55:51)

Wow! This really spoke to me too! I have been considering throwing in the towel in several areas of ministry lately. Timely piece for me. Thank you!

Mike (2010-07-12 20:14:30)

How timely for me!! Thank you for writing for us.

LisaShaw (2010-07-12 20:58:58)

An encouraging powerful reminder but this says it all: "Are there some areas in your life that you need to strengthen? If so, refuse to let it die!"
Blessings!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-12 21:25:44)

A most inspiring post Wanda, wonderfully written.
Yvonne.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-07-13 00:02:42)

i agree with Yvonne...it is a beautiful write. was also just talking with my neighbor/friend about ups and downs. was telling him of yesterday's event while sitting and drinking a brew with him. actually, i'm slippin past my limit....

Ellie (2010-07-13 01:48:56)

Powerful words! Very inspiring
I love refuse to let it die
Thank you xXx

Will Burke (2010-07-13 02:19:32)

I'd agree that it's often not an event, but the monotony of "Life Happens" that takes us off our game. Best of luck getting back on your feet!

Wanda (2010-07-13 02:45:17)

@ Will, thank you. Every now and then a funk seems to wash over me.

@ Ellie, Bud, Yvonne, Lisa, Mike, Pathfromtheheadtotheheart, Joanne, I'm grateful that you all were able to receive encouragement from this post. Don't give up!

@Bud, well tomorrow is a new day, my friend to get back within your limit ;)

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-07-13 12:56:17)

Wanda, how true. When you said "just the ordinary itself" I could feel myself going back to yesterday. I was listening to a piece on the life of Harvey Pekar and what struck me was his desire to let everyone know that there was nothing "ordinary" about them.

We all have things in common (we're all created by God), yet we also are each uniquely uncommon...vessels fit to be used for His purpose.

Everybody's like everybody else, and everybody's different from everybody else. - Harvey Pekar

I celebrate the EXTRAordinary you, Wanda.

The Handmaid of the Lord (2010-07-13 15:03:07)

Hi Wanda: I do enjoy reading the Bible every day, preferably in the morning, before I come in contact with people. Lol. This good habit has helped strengthen me in times when throwing in the towel seems to be very desirable.

Receive peaceful today.

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-07-13 15:39:30)

Girl, I'm really wondering how you made it into my head and managed to see what I've been going through. What an AWESOME word of encouragement! I needed this more than you know. This is one I'll save for later, when I may need another dose. Thank you for allowing the Spirit of the Lord to use you.

Karen (2010-07-14 00:44:33)

"God hasn't asked us to do anything with what was lost but only the remaining part."...I needed to read this today...thank you for being obedient....

Wanda (2010-07-14 03:09:54)

@ **Bluebutterfly**, you'll never know how much those words watered my soul, my dear friend. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

@**The Handmaiden**, Morning times is my favorite too. Getting our dose of the Word helps us to be better prepared for the day ahead.

@**Wisdomvirtueandrubies**, you mean I'm not the only thinking like that :) Actually I've read/heard several reminders lately that I'm not the only one going through such. Only the Father knew what you needed and I'm honored that He used me as the vessel.

@**Karen**, Thank you. Lately I'd been too focused on what was missing/lost. Thanks to God for realigning my focus. May your eyes be firmly set upon Him.

Nikki (2010-07-19 15:06:24)

I have really enjoyed visiting your blog this morning. I love the way you write and you write Truth! Love it! I'll be back to visit again, my sweet sister!

Swept Away (2010-07-13 23:00)



[1]

I have swept away your sins like a cloud.
I have scattered your offenses like the morning mist.
Oh, return to me,
for I have paid the price to set you free. Isaiah 44:22

Fill your cup with the Word this Wednesday at [2]Internet Cafe Devotions. [3]

Thirsty for Him Wanda

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TDvRnw5gNBI/AAAAAAAAAJI/QxC0Vic4nw4/s1600-h/sinsswepaway%5B21%5D.jpg
2. <http://internetcafedeotions.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-14 00:54:59)
Wonderful comorting words Wanda.
Have a lovely day.
Yvonne,

Mike (2010-07-14 01:19:24)

He is longing for relationship with us, and has done all to make a way. Thank you Jesus!

Denise (2010-07-14 04:04:45)

This is really good.

Beth in NC (2010-07-14 05:12:30)

I love it!

Happy WFW!

Beth

Rae (2010-07-14 05:44:04)

Thank you for a great reminder that my God continues to love me, forgive me, and sacrifices all. Your post touched my heart this morning and I'll carry it in my heart throughout my day. Have a wonderful Wednesday!

Valerie@composition-life (2010-07-14 05:57:37)

I'd love that to hang in my kitchen! Great post! Great Reminder!

Thank you!

ozjane (2010-07-14 06:38:33)

Good thinking.....and I even used a broom today.

Very clear mental image. Great WFW

Missie (2010-07-14 06:38:54)

beautiful...that really touches my heart

Donna (2010-07-14 07:00:01)

A beautiful graphic to go with the verse. I am thankful that He has swept away my sins and scattered my offenses. Great reminder.

Blessings to you today.

One Heart (2010-07-14 07:14:04)

Beautiful reminder. Praise His holy name! Thanks for sharing Wanda. Happy WFW. ;)

LauraLee Shaw (2010-07-14 07:52:43)

Absolutely breathtaking, in visual and in Word. I couldn't be more thankful for this promise. thank you!

Special K (2010-07-14 08:06:37)

WOW, this is beautiful! Thanks for sharing :) Happy WFW!

<http://hisspecialk.blogspot.com/2010/07/wfw-run.html>

Susan (2010-07-14 08:30:14)

Wanda,

I loved this!!!!!!!!!!!!

Have a blessed day!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-07-14 09:45:20)

Amen!

Bear (2010-07-14 11:23:04)
Hallelujah for that Broom! Loved this illustration!

Bobbi (2010-07-14 11:24:30)
Oh, that is SO going on the fridgeitater (as my kids say)...thank you for the great image/verse combo! Love and Smiles!

LisaShaw (2010-07-14 13:51:45)
This blesses my very soul!!

daylily777 (2010-07-14 14:53:02)
Oh, what a Joy that verse is to me !
Blessings,
Myrna

Wanda (2010-07-14 16:50:32)
Isn't that such a wonderful verse. It just stuck in my mind when I came across that passage of scripture in my reading a few days ago. @ **Bobbi**, the frig would be a could place for that lovely reminder :). @**Ozjane**, I'll have have to check out your broom post.@**Mike**, He's used that broom to clear us a path to him. I don't think I'm going to look at my broom the same any more.
Thanks everyone for stopping by. I enjoy seeing everyone's WFW posts. They are so encouraging.

Karen (2010-07-14 17:15:09)
Glory, hallelujah!

pathfromtheheadtotheheart (2010-07-14 17:15:47)
Another beautiful verse today! So many of my favorites have been popping up today! I love that!

Joan (2010-07-14 17:21:53)
Amen and amen!

Karen Hammons (2010-07-14 18:02:18)
I love that He sweeps it all away. Great verse!! And thank you for visiting and commenting on my blog today. :) I love how He had you in the passage from Romans just the day before. He is so amazing in how connects people and His Word. Hope you have a blessed day!!

partialemptynester (2010-07-14 18:39:26)
Love it! I'm with Valerie,I want this in my kitchen...and with Bobbi, great one for the fridgetator...and with you, I don't ever WANT to look at my broom the same way (I'll forever LOVE the idea of Him sweeping my sin away as I sweep the dog hairs outta my kitchen...gross...just another way of looking at sin: it just don't belong!)

Bev (2010-07-14 18:47:22)
i love this wanda!!

jo.attalife (2010-07-14 19:33:27)
Wanda, this is so true and and the picture is perfect for it. How easy it is to just admit sin and rest in His cleansing and forgiveness, and yet so many do the opposite and try to hide instead.

Mylene (2010-07-14 20:05:13)

This is something to thank God, for paying the price to set us free from the bondage of sin. Praise God for His love.

Patty Wysong (2010-07-14 20:14:12)

Oh, I LOVE this!

Thank you!

Hugs! =]

MCH Boys Ranch, Inc. (2010-07-15 00:33:30)

Thanks for sharing this is awesome!....so thankful God has swept away my sins!

Christian (2010-07-15 05:16:40)

Hi Wanda!!!

Just so amazed on how the GRACE of GOD works in our lives. Just because of what Jesus did for us...our sins were swept away...When I keep thinking of it, can't help but cry in the beauty of His goodness...

Thanks for Droppin by last time!

God bless you!!! =)

Karen (2010-07-15 08:00:07)

Wanda, This is such a priceless promise! Thank you.

Renee (2010-07-15 12:34:06)

What an excellent picture to illustrate that Scripture!

Thank you for this excellent Scripture. Just what I needed to hear today.

Also, I had an award to pass out, and I gave it to you. :)

Thanks for your nice comments on my blog!

You can see the award here:

<http://reneescoffeebreak.blogspot.com/2010/07/my-second-award-sunshine-award.html>

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-07-15 15:29:56)

hi Wanda:)

see in two weeks, kiddo!

Kate Evangelista (2010-07-15 20:25:28)

Stopping by to say hello. :-)

Brian the old man (2010-07-18 17:10:54)

Praise the Lord!

Sweep a Little Love to a Sista (2010-07-16 05:30)

Don't miss this opportunity to sweep a little love and encouragement to a sister you know. Mari at [1]Out of Deep Water (You know I love that name, don't you? Especially since this whole year water has been a recurring theme for me in my walk with God. Sorry, I digress) is hosting an I SEE YOU SIS GIVEAWAY. This ministry of encouragement is the brainchild of LaKeshia, who hopes to inspire women to live on purpose and encourage one individual. For more information about this ministry of encouragement and a chance to win five I See You Sis cards stop by Mari's [2]blog but do it fast. The giveaway ends July 18th.



[3]

P.S. To all the sisters that visit this blog, God Sees You Sis! You've not gone unnoticed by Him and neither has your labor. And, I see you too. You've all been an inspiration to me in ways I unable to fully express.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

-xoxox [4]

1. <http://outofdeepwaters.blogspot.com/2010/07/i-see-you-sis-giveaway.html>
2. <http://outofdeepwaters.blogspot.com/2010/07/i-see-you-sis-giveaway.html>
3. <http://www.facebook.com/iseeyousis>
4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-16 06:07:48)

Lovely words and comforting.

Have a good day.

Yvonne.

Will Burke (2010-07-16 12:10:23)

Acknowledging tho roles of the ladies in our lives should definitely be an ongoing thing!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-07-16 13:08:08)

Absolutely...I see you. Faith, hope and, the greatest...love.

Lisa (2010-07-16 19:55:25)

I say the same to you my precious Sister. I feel so blessed to have found a wonderful group of believing friends in my blog journey. I praise God from the bottom of my heart for that.

Have a wonderful weekend!

sarah (2010-07-18 00:59:42)

I'll pop over there. I love that name Mari too. Sounds so elegant. Have a great weekend

rachelwojnarowski (2010-07-18 19:49:38)
Very cool! I requested a facebook friend. :) Thanks!!

Kristy K (2010-07-19 13:36:01)
I'm visiting your blog from a different blog :). I'm enjoying your posts!! This one especially spoke to me as there are so many special women in my life who impact me more than they will ever know!

One Heart (2010-07-19 15:05:15)
Thanks for stopping by Wanda. I love it when you visit—always so encouraging to me. Thanks for understanding the challenges we face when we walk in freedom. I knew you'd get it.
Glad to see you're participating in Mari's giveaway. She's a great woman of God and another amazing friend I've gained in this place.
Have a blessed day my sister.

Petula (2010-07-19 18:56:22)
That's beautiful. "I see you sis!" x 2.
BTW: Glad the Internet fix could help. I hope it worked for you.

Wanda (2010-07-20 02:01:18)
Thanks guys! Things we count as insignificant can mean the world to someone else.
@**Kristi**, I'm so glad you stopped by today. Thanks for your wonderful words of encouragement. Hope you'll stop by again.
@**One Heart**, I'm glad you introduce her to me. Trust me I enjoy every visit to your place. I always leave with something to ponder on.
@**Petula**, I'm sure hoping that it solves my problems. Appreciate you sharing the tip.

Lost & Found (2010-07-20 05:30)



[1] Do you ever lose your keys? It seems I'm always in search of mine. My family tells me I should tie them around my neck. Even my purse seems to enjoy playing tricks on me by swallowing up my keys. And my niece and nephews still poke fun about the time we were in Memphis and I was going berserk about my keys when I was actually holding them in my hand. Yep, my hand-imagine that. Searching for something you know you've lost is very different from discovering a thing you weren't even aware you'd managed to lose in the first place.

Recently I read 2 Kings 22-23. While cleaning up the temple a priceless treasure was discovered-God's Word.

It seemed a little odd to me that finding the Word of God in His Temple would be something unexpected. Upon reading the Words, King Josiah learned that his nation had been living against the Lord's command. The King's actions gave me some key principles when finding something I might have lost that's valuable.

1. Don't just stick a label on it and place it on the shelf again: After finding this treasure, the king didn't simply store it in an unforgettable place.
2. Use what you found: His discovery moved him to action-first he read it. Had it read to the people.
3. Clear out the clutter: He removed distractions by tearing down the idols in the land so that he and the people would be more inclined to focus on this rediscovered treasure.
4. Seek God's direction: He sought Godly counsel.

Have you ever lost something and forgot you ever had it? I have and I'm not just referring to tangible stuff. In some ways, I lost who I was. Things I once adored no longer even crept into my mind. I forgot that I ever had a passion for it. However, a couple weeks ago, after hosting a youth recognition day, my sister made a statement-"you're coming back to your old self". It was just a statement made in passing but some how it stuck with me. The event struck up some old creativity and passion that I had long forgotten existed and cease to use. But, as I was focusing on the scripture passages, I gleaned some application for right were I am. Isn't that what the Bible is for anyway?

Now that the spark was reignited, it's my job to keep the flames a burning. Not tuck it in a cute little box as a memorial but to put it to use as much as possible.

Have you tucked away some gifting, talent, revelation, dream or inspiration? Perhaps it's time you dust away the cobwebs and let the wind of the spirit blow on it again.

Lord, forgive me for neglecting to tend to and realize the value of the treasure you've given to me. Now that I've rediscovered it, Lord, show me what your plan is for it. And teach me how to use it so that it might bring you glory. In Jesus name. Amen.



Photo Credit: [2]here [3]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TEUj4y_A0gI/AAAAAAAAAJU/INhQblgN06s/s1600-h/lostbread14.jpg
2. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jaqian/308615221/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-20 06:27:51)

It's one thing to lose a set of keys, but another when one loses their direction in life, many the time I have thought hey what am I doing here and why.

Common sense soon returns but I hope I don't lose my way too often.

Yvonne,

Karen (2010-07-20 11:17:04)

Wow, this is something to think about! A very well-written post.

Missie (2010-07-20 12:36:44)

I so have, thank you for the reminder that it is a gift I need to use!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-07-20 12:55:01)

Amen! It is one thing to have something in the deep for protection, but it quite another when it's buried so deep that the purpose is never realized.

Keep ignited, Wanda!

Joanne Sher (2010-07-20 13:26:20)

SO powerful, sweetie. Great stuff to remember.

Will Burke (2010-07-20 14:38:17)

It's been about a year since I've picked-up my guitar. It's about time...

Lisa (2010-07-20 20:14:43)

Those passages about Josiah finding the covenant were my Bible reading yesterday. It felt so good to see one of the Kings coming back to God. Great post Sis. I'm glad you're coming back to who you are in Him. Praise God.

arlee bird (2010-07-20 22:26:20)

Sounds like you and I are on a similar train of thought today.

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

Wanda (2010-07-21 00:13:55)

Yvonne, you're right there's a difference b/w the two but the results are the same...I'm not able to go anywhere really :)

Thanks, **Karen**

Missie, pick it back up again dear.

Bluebutterfly, I love that thought. There is a time when things are to hidden/buried to allow for proper germination.

Thank you,**Joanne**.

Will just may be time to strike up a tune for your girls :)

Lisa, no matter how bleak things look. He always leaves a remnant who will turn back to Him.

Lee, indeed

elaine @ peace for the journey (2010-07-21 01:14:27)

Hey Wanda... thanks for stopping by the blog and leaving a comment.

I adore this teaching, and "yes"... there have been seasons in my life (a recent one comes to mind) when I've lost a bit of myself in the process of my life. I've been so overwhelmed by our recent move and, at times, have felt great discouragement. I'm rallying now, but it's been a hard climb upward.

Like Josiah, I need to keep the Word in front of me to serve as a constant reminder and encouragement regarding the holy life I've been called to.

peace elaine

Faith Imagined (2010-07-21 01:36:17)

Thank you for such a wonderfully honest post! I have done this too many times to count! Thankfully God keeps tabs on our treasures and lets us know when we lose are forget them!

One Heart (2010-07-21 01:53:38)

Wanda, it looks like there's a lot of cleaning going on today. ;) I love it.

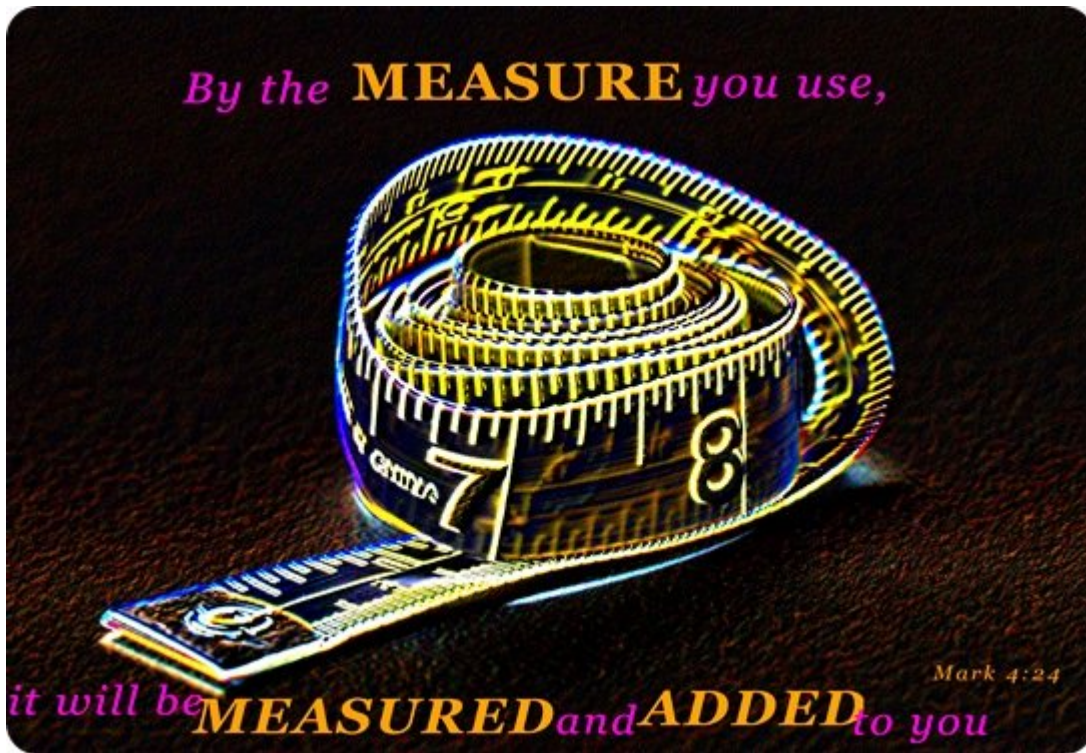
Yes, it most certainly is up to us to fan the flames. Staying connected to the body is definitely one way to keep the flame going. You know that old story of the coals burning together but if you take one out and set it apart by itself

it simply stops burning.
Loved this post.

Karen (2010-07-21 02:23:20)
Love the lesson you are teaching here....

Petula (2010-07-23 21:32:12)
Excellent post... so true and a great reminder.

A Little Out = A Little Back (2010-07-20 23:00)



[1]

Then He said to them, Pay attention to what you hear. By the measure you use, it will be measured and added to you. Mark 4:24 (HCSB)

And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you who hear. Marked 4:24 (Amplified)



[2]

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[3]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TEY86Sm1r1I/AAAAAAAAAJc/v4Fh_nkjRd0/s1600-h/measure-neon%5B14%5D.jpg
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Cathy (2010-07-20 23:31:23)

That is so neat. You are very creative. Blessings

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-21 00:37:31)

Wonderful to read Wanda,

Thanks for the visit and comment.

Yvonne.

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK for the Sandwich Generation (2010-07-21 00:47:12)

Very cool photo and so uplifting! One of my favorite Bible verses. Thank you for a sweet treat! :)

Amanda (2010-07-21 01:58:47)

Amen... a powerful Truth!

jo.attalife (2010-07-21 02:08:45)

When I read this verse I always think of weighing scales... somehow, I never made the connection with a tape measure, and to think I use it often. LOL. Wanda, you just opened up my eyes to a new picture, girl!

Beth in NC (2010-07-21 03:42:31)

You did such a great job with that! Hmmmm. I'm going to have to go back and ponder on that scripture again.

Love & hugs,

Beth

Donna (2010-07-21 06:11:10)

Wonderful graphic and scripture! Thanks for sharing!

Blessings to you today!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-07-21 06:31:48)

Pay attention! Pay attention! Pay attention! One of the most important message for NOW. Praying.

Wanda (2010-07-21 06:34:03)

Thank you, Cathy, Yvonne, Kaye.

Appreciate you drop by Amanda and Donna.

Jo.attalife and Beth, I actually had a different scripture in mine related to comparison at first but this scripture stood out to me instead. I enjoy WFW because it brings me fresh insight to scripture.

ozjane (2010-07-21 06:54:28)

wow...that graphic is so powerful...it just says..."sock it to them"

Hope that is not an Aussie expression.

It really helps the words to go slap bang whack....cop this and obey.

Alicia, The Snowflake (2010-07-21 07:37:57)

Great word! May we give graciously and wholeheartedly not holding anything back. Happy WFW!

Joanne Sher (2010-07-21 08:36:48)

Oh, Wanda. LOVE this. Makes me think of this verse in a completely different way. Happy WFW

One Heart (2010-07-21 08:47:50)

Love it. Seems like a whole new verse the way the Amplified makes it so clear. Will definitely add this one to my further meditation list for today. Thanks sis!

Karen (2010-07-21 10:43:35)

Amen...such a powerful truth....

Joan (2010-07-21 11:08:02)

I love the graphic! He has blessings waiting to pour upon us, if only we would be as generous.

Blessings,

Joan

lori (2010-07-21 11:12:44)

My friend and I were just talking about this verse when we were walking the other day...it IS one of those "hit you over the head" verses...I LOVE the graphic! Awesome!

peace,

lori

Ellie (2010-07-21 13:15:07)

Great measure; wonderful photo

You always inspire me, xXx

Denise (2010-07-21 16:13:29)

Very awesome.

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-07-21 16:15:24)

Hi Wanda,

What a great graphic and the promise from the Lord. So good to know that as we give to others, He blesses us.

Thanks for stopping by today. And by, the way, how did you add the share button to each of your posts?

Blessings,

Janis

Just Be Real (2010-07-21 16:35:49)

Great going Wanda. Blessings to you.

CeCe Wilson (2010-07-21 16:55:27)

Thanks for sharing that word today. As always thought provoking and inspiring :0)

Amydeanne (2010-07-21 18:37:00)

very thought provoking!

GlowinGirl (2010-07-21 19:15:07)

Sobering and encouraging all at once.

I love how you chose to illustrate it - it's really given me a visual that makes sense.

Brian the old man (2010-07-21 19:46:14)

Thanks for sharing this truth.

LauraLee Shaw (2010-07-21 21:05:58)
Wow, that's an awesome word!!! Love it!

Lisa (2010-07-21 21:35:02)
What a neat verse and graphic!

e-Mom (2010-07-21 21:56:24)
Now that's the most unique interpretation of this verse that I've ever seen!
Happy WFW, Wanda
Blessings, e-Mom ?

Nicole (2010-07-21 22:30:43)
Love that!! Very good..
Thanks for stopping by my site!

MCH Boys Ranch, Inc. (2010-07-21 23:29:45)
Love this verse and graphic!

More Than Conquerors (2010-07-22 03:12:34)
Hi Wanda,
This is a great verse and picture. Precious reminder. Thanks for your visit. Take care and have a blessed week.
Warm regards,
Nancie

hip-chick (2010-07-22 03:21:46)
Excellent. Very wise words to carry in our heart of hearts.

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-07-22 04:24:23)
Thank you for sharing this! Love the pic to go along with the verse.

Peggy (2010-07-22 06:27:41)
Blessings Wanda... WOW...super WORD to remind us so beautifully & creatively illustrated! Paying attention and being ever so careful!
Thanks for the wisdom & your sweet visit.

Petula (2010-07-23 15:31:16)
I actually don't think I've read that scripture before. Interesting.

cyruswoman (2010-09-16 11:16:35)
stopping by....tid bits from the word - refreshing every time.thanx

This Sings My Soul (2010-07-22 12:29)

My heart sings this song today. Wherever you are He is there. Take a moment to get in His presence. It can make all the difference in your day. May His peace and presence abide with you today.

[EMBED]

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Karen (2010-07-22 13:07:58)
Beautiful! Seeking Him and singing today....

Taking Heart (2010-07-22 16:44:26)
My absolutely positively FAVORITE Kari Jobe song... thanks for posting... just beautiful.
Thanks for visiting my blog, too!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-22 19:41:23)
Really lovely Wanda.
Yvonne.

Mike (2010-07-23 17:28:56)
This is beautiful! His Presence, being aware, taking time, even a little does make such a difference. He is gracious!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-07-23 19:36:44)
Yes, Lord...in Your presence is everything.

sarah (2010-07-24 02:04:46)
so soothing and gentle. Thanks Wanda....being in His presence is healing. have a gentle and Christ filled weekend.

Wanda (2010-07-24 21:36:18)
Thanks for stopping by and glad you all enjoyed the song. Hope you're enjoying a wonderful weekend.

Toia (2010-07-24 22:57:30)
Beautiful worship song!!!

A Lil Something Sweet (2010-07-25 03:23)



[1] Pulled this baby out of the oven a little bit ago. Nothing quite like a fresh peach cobbler. Mmm mmm can you smell it? Oh taste and see if its good. Now since you all can't pull up a chair and dig in, I'm whipping up a lil something sweet for you next week. Just six short months ago, I decided to naively jump out into the deep ocean of blog land and I never could of imagined that each of you would have joined me in this journey. This month I've reached two milestones here at the The Watered Soul: 1.) posted my 100th post and 2.) had my 100th fellow water seeker join the

site. Hooray! I'm so grateful for every line of encouragement you gave, every trip to the blog you made and even just seeing your faces among the followers. It just brightens my day and you're in my prayers. You make things around here a little bit sweeter. So be sure to stop by next week for a lil celebration. Hope you're enjoying a restful weekend.



[2]

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TEuuN2hBdRI/AAAAAAAAAKI/mLZm1LkbySo/s1600-h/fresh%20peaches%5B4%5D.jpg
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-25 06:52:30)
Congratulations on your achievements. here's to the next 100.
Yvonne.

CeCe Wilson (2010-07-25 14:12:11)
Yum! I'm relishing your sweet accomplishments ma dear! I agree with Yvonne: Here's to many more posts and followers :0) Have a beautiful week!

Well Watered Woman (2010-07-25 18:52:47)
Congratulations! May you continue to press on in the journey and may the Father continue to press His blessing over you life like sweet oil.
I can't wait to dig into what you have for us next week.
TonyR

Joanne Sher (2010-07-25 19:50:21)
Congratulations, sweetie. Celebrating with you (can you send some of that cobbler through the floppy slot??).

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-07-25 22:02:29)
Congratulations on your great accomplishments! I'm excited about your next 100! :-)

Wanda (2010-07-25 22:31:32)
Thanks Yvonne, CeCe, Tony, and Monica! Next 100? I don't know about that but whomsoever God wills let them come.
Joanne, if I could I'd zap you up some ;)

Just Be Real (2010-07-26 10:30:03)
Looks good. Congrats dear Wanda. Blessings.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-07-26 15:12:00)
Sweet, sweet essence of the presence of God. Thank you, Wanda.

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-07-26 16:00:55)
you kids are makin' me hungry today!!!
this would be a great follow-up for Ellie's
veggie-minetrone soup!!!:)

Lisa (2010-07-27 00:33:30)
Oh my word – that looks DIVINE!:)
Recipe, please???:)

Karen (2010-07-27 02:11:59)
Congrats on the 100's!
Anything with peaches is a friend of mine....

Ellie (2010-07-29 16:30:01)
Very sweet...We should get together and cook up something good! lol
Your cobbler looks delicious
Congrats!!!xXx

A Sweet Offer {CSN Store Giveaway} Closed (2010-07-26 05:35)

As promised I've cooked up a sweet opportunity for each of you in celebration of The Watered Soul reaching the big 1 0 0 –100 posts and +100 followers this month.

CSN Stores is offering one lucky winner a \$40 gift certificate.

With over 200 stores CSN Stores has something for you whether you're looking for [1]dining room furniture, area rugs, housewares, office supplies, toys or something for your fur baby.

Here's how you can win:

MANDATORY: Visit [2]CSN stores and tell me what item you would like to use your gift certificate towards.



[3] Extra entries:

1. Follow my blog. (Already a follower counts too)
2. Subscribe to my feed via email and verify it.
3. Follow the blog via Facebook Networked Blogs.
4. Blog about this giveaway with a link to diningroomsdirects.com. (+2 entries)

Giveaway ends August 7th. Each entry should have a separate comment and please leave your email address, if yours is not included on your profile. Limited to US and Canada residents only. Shipping charges or international fees may exist for Canadian residents. Disclaimer: I received no monetary compensation in exchange for this post. Thanks to Jessica and CSN stores for sponsoring the giveaway.

1. <http://www.diningroomsdirect.com/>
2. <http://www.csnstores.com/>
3. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TEz3sRiFESI/AAAAAAAAAKQ/OU5cZI4IFXA/s1600-h/CSN_Stores_Logo%5B3%5D.gif

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-26 06:47:50)
Loved the post though I live a little outside any shop area. Good luck to all who enter,
Yvonne.

Will Burke (2010-07-26 12:09:06)
Congrats on passing the 100th follower mark! Any tips on that?

Ellie (2010-07-26 13:34:05)
Congrats; I am soon going to do the same! I have been thinking about it!

Great giveaway!
very generous xXx

suburban prep (2010-07-26 14:22:51)

WOW

I would love to put it towards the Total Chef Juicin Juice.
msgb245 at gmail dot com

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-07-26 14:58:43)

Congrats on reaching 100...praying for you as you go above and beyond.

Katrina (2010-07-26 18:34:22)

I would use it to purchase my daughter a smartgear balance bike for her birthday from the csn toy site
ykatrina at hotmail dot com

Domestic Diva (2010-07-26 18:51:30)

I'd use it toward a guidecraft kitchen helper. Thanks for the chance!

Domestic Diva (2010-07-26 18:51:40)

I follow on gfc

Karen (2010-07-27 02:09:54)

Happy #100! I would definitely choose something from the housewares store...

Karen (2010-07-27 02:10:37)

I follow your blog...

VickieB (2010-07-27 14:54:58)

I'd like a meat slicer, but I haven't decided which one yet

Joanne Sher (2010-07-28 12:24:04)

OK - here I go (thanks for the reminder, sweetie!)
comment #1 - I follow your blog

Joanne Sher (2010-07-28 12:43:55)

I ALSO follow you through networked blogs.

OOOH - and I wanna get a carrom board for the family (used to LOVE playing that as a kid!)

Joanne Sher (2010-07-28 12:44:18)

aaaaannnnnd...I just subscribed through feedburner. :)

Our Little Group (2010-07-29 04:39:25)

Reston Lloyd PrepCo Bake Porter Jumbo Muffin Pan in Red (Set of 2) - BPS-RED06
couponinggirl at gmail dot com

Our Little Group (2010-07-29 04:40:26)

I subscribe to your emails
couponinggirl at gmail dot com

Our Little Group (2010-07-29 04:41:00)

I follow your blog via google
couponinggirl at gmail dot com

Ellie (2010-07-29 16:28:38)

Okay, If I won, I would like the
Air King Oscillating Space Heater...it is cold in my FROG furnished room over garage!
Thanks Wanda

Just Writing (2010-08-01 10:32:48)

It has to be this bean bag, perfect for my son's room.
<http://www.beanbagchairsonline.com/Elite-Products-30-1011-807-EL2004.html>

Carolsue (2010-08-02 08:22:17)

If I win, I'd get the KitchenAid Cookware Gourmet Essentials 2.25 Quart Soft Grip Tea Kettle in Terra Cotta
digicat {AT } sbcglobal {DOT } net

Carolsue (2010-08-02 08:22:25)

I follow you publicly on Google Friends Connect (Carolsue)
digicat {AT } sbcglobal {DOT } net

Carolsue (2010-08-02 08:24:31)

I subscribe to your newsletter updates by e-mail
digicat {AT } sbcglobal {DOT } net

Carolsue (2010-08-02 08:24:37)

I follow you thru Networked Blogs (Carol Anderson Ezovski)
digicat {AT } sbcglobal {DOT } net

Carolsue (2010-08-02 08:26:09)

I posted this giveaway on my Blog #1
<http://carolsbloggys.blogspot.com/2010/01/csn-stores-giveaways.html>
digicat {AT } sbcglobal {DOT } net

Carolsue (2010-08-02 08:26:17)

I posted this giveaway on my Blog #2
<http://carolsbloggys.blogspot.com/2010/01/csn-stores-giveaways.html>
digicat {AT } sbcglobal {DOT } net

Rebecca Graham (2010-08-03 22:41:37)

I would put it toward a Le Creuset skinny grill.
rhoneygtn at yahoo dot com

DG (2010-08-04 03:13:56)

I'd use it towards the emile henry pink pie dish :)
dreamzz12 {at } aol {dot} com

DG (2010-08-04 03:14:05)
follower - DG
dreamzz12 {at }aol {dot}com

DG (2010-08-04 03:14:15)
email subscriber
dreamzz12 {at }aol {dot}com

DG (2010-08-04 03:14:32)
I follow through networked blogs as DG
dreamzz12 {at }aol {dot}com

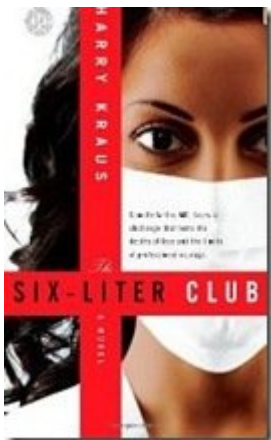
DG (2010-08-04 03:33:50)
blogged! thanks! <http://deegee13.xanga.com/731122913/the-watered-soul-giveaway/>
dreamzz12 {at }Aol {dot }com

Pixie (2010-08-07 00:14:10)
I'd get some new muffin pans!
Sweetimpishpixie(AT)gmail(DOT)com

Pixie (2010-08-07 00:14:23)
I follow on GFC
Sweetimpishpixie(AT)gmail(DOT)com

Pixie (2010-08-07 00:14:42)
I follow on networked blogs
Sweetimpishpixie(AT)gmail(DOT)com

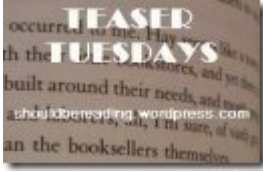
Teaser Tuesday {Six-Liter Club} (2010-07-27 08:00)



[1]

The scene was all too typical—a madhouse of activity with crying children, sleeping drunks, and a crowd of brothers standing at the foot of a stretcher holding a white-haired matriarch struggling to get her breath. The sweet-sour smell of bloody vomit and clinical antiseptic mingled as a familiar odor and prompted me to quicken my pace. pg. 55 **Six-Liter Club** by Harry Kraus

[2]



[3]

Teaser Tuesday is a book meme hosted by [4]Should Be Reading.

My Review

Harry Kraus' *Six-Liter Club* is the latest book I've read this year. I was lucky enough to win this book via Kat's blog [5]Heart to Heart. It is one of the best books I've read this year. Kraus weaves a tale of suspense, romance, self rediscovery, ambition, and faith in this medical thriller. Camille, an orphan, has worked hard to excel in academics and has become the first African American woman trauma surgeon at the Medical College of Virginia. Everything seems to be falling into place—a new position, a promising new love interest and a new member of the distinguished six-liter club. Amid the male dominated surgical culture, Camille feels the pressure to conform to the good old boys way of doing things, while being compelled to set her own mark. At the height of her success, memories from her childhood in the Conga begin to haunt her threatening to ruin everything she's worked so hard to achieve.

Anxiously anticipating what would happen next, I found myself staying up late into the night reading. As I came to the end of the book, I lingered on the pages sadder that the novel was coming to a close. This was my first time reading any of the author's work and I was well pleased. I highly recommend this book—it will not disappoint.

What's the latest page-turner you've read?

Be sure to sign up for my giveaway [6]herebefore you go.

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TE5Ie1MDyqI/AAAAAAAAAKY/9fz9UsoMVuE/s1600-h/sixliterclub7.jpg
2. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TE5Ie1MDyqI/AAAAAAAAAKg/dX1Q6rHu_c0/s1600-h/sixliterclub6.jpg
3. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TE5Ifw_B-hI/AAAAAAAAAKk/hzjbTfuEQS8/s1600-h/TuesdayTeaser3.jpg
4. <http://shouldbereading.wordpress.com/>
5. <http://godsheart-heart2heart.blogspot.com/>
6. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/07/sweet-offer-csn-store-giveaway.html>

Kylie (2010-07-27 08:47:55)

Great teaser. Very descriptive, almost feel like I'm there. My teaser is here

<http://kyliesreads.blogspot.com/2010/07/teaser-tuesday-is-hosted-by-mizb-over.html>

Just Be Real (2010-07-27 09:44:03)

Like the teaser Wanda. Blessings.

Manga Maniac (2010-07-27 11:15:57)

Great teaser - I haven't heard of the book before.

My teasers are here [1]Manga Maniac Cafe

1. <http://www.mangamaniacafe.com/?p=4184>

Karen (2010-07-27 12:00:47)

Good review...I love a great read that leaves me wanting more....

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-27 12:41:34)

An excellent review Wanda.

Yvonne.

Alayne (2010-07-27 14:11:51)

Eek! Little gross there. But good teaser. Mine is at [1]The Crowded Leaf.

1. <http://thecrowdedleaf.wordpress.com/>

pussreboots (2010-07-27 21:49:50)

Sounds interesting. Mine's from [1]Devil to Pay, a book I wrote.

1. http://www.pussreboots.pair.com/blog/2010/comments_07/teaser_tuesday_devil_to_pay.html

Ellie (2010-07-28 03:35:20)

I love your review; I'm interested

I don't have a page turner right now... I'm reading, but it isn't

keeping me up late. I do love those

kind of books, though

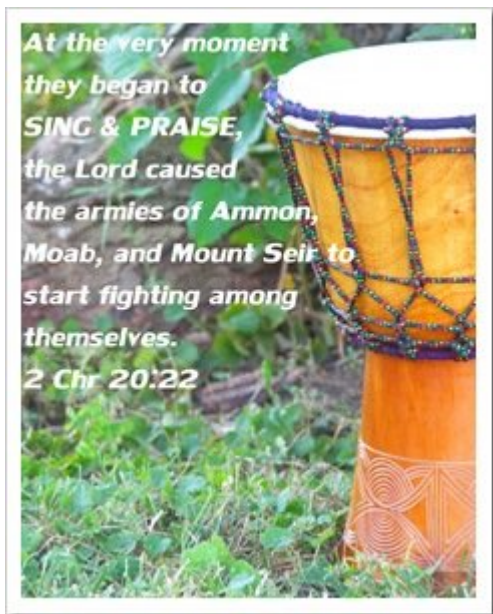
Kah Woei (2010-07-28 06:34:52)

Glad you enjoyed the book. The teaser makes me a bit uncomfortable though. Don't much like hospitals. LOL.

Mine's from [1]Devil May Cry.

1. <http://thebooksofmylife.blogspot.com/2010/07/teaser-tuesdays-devil-may-cry-by.html>

The Power of a Song & Praise (2010-07-27 23:00)



[1]

2 Chronicles 20:22 At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves.

As I read through by daily Bible reading, this particular passage of scripture stood out to me. King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah were facing war with a mighty enemy. The Word of the Lord to them was that they would not have to fight but take their positions; stand still and watch the Lord's victory. Although fighting was not required of them, they did have to show up to the battle. I was impressed by the way they went out to the battle. Not with complaining or fear but with singing and praise. At the very moment they decided to sing and praise, the Lord moved.

Reading this made me begin to ponder about my own attitude when facing battle in my life. I don't always have a prophet speaking words of victory to me like Judah did but I do have God's Word that proclaims He gives me overwhelming victory. Yet even knowing and reading His Words, there are times I cringe, hide and complain rather than taking my position courageously with a song on my lips and praise in my heart. How many times have I limited his ability to move because I was in the wrong place and posture of heart?

Find others serving up the Word this Wednesday at the [2]Internet Devotion Cafe. [3]



1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TE-rLzEDHtI/AAAAAAAAAKw/eZN0zlmHtdI/s1600-h/Sing%20%26Praise%5B24%5D.jpg
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

jo.attalife (2010-07-27 23:29:05)

Ah, Wanda, I can totally relate! Sometimes I do stuff [1]like this with a totally 'clean conscience' until God's Word comes in and reveals what's really going on inside. At other times, I obey while kicking and screaming (which really isn't obedience, is it?). But God is faithful in meeting me where I am. Sometimes He requires us to stand, to sit, or otherwise be still. May we always do so with the right posture of the heart.

1. <http://attalife.blogspot.com/2010/07/wfw-mark-639.html>

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK for the Sandwich Generation (2010-07-28 00:17:57)

Awesome and encouraging Scripture and picture. I love that story! So perfect for me today especially. Thank you for sending me off to bed with a HUGE smile on my face. Blessings to you as well :)

Amanda (2010-07-28 00:24:56)

I think we all relate to this post! If only the pressure wasn't so great sometimes! LOL no excuses though... His word is Truth and if it says to sing and praise, then that is what will give us the victory! Then we can get off that mountain, before facing the next... but at least we would be moving forward!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-28 00:53:23)

Excellent post Wanda, we here in the UK hadve a programme on TV called Songs Of Praise....been going for years. very uplifting programme on a late Sunday afternoon.
Yvonne.

Denise (2010-07-28 04:14:46)

Such a great post, well said.

One Heart (2010-07-28 06:02:37)

Awesome post. That is one of my favorite passages in Scripture. Remember that we ourselves can speak that Word and "prophesy" even unto ourselves through the Holy Spirit living in us. Prophecy to yourself woman of God!! Take your position "courageously." I'm not surprised you used that word. Come check my WFW which I posted before coming here. Is that prophetic or what? That's the Spirit of the living God living in us and His Word is alive!! Love you my sister.

Karen (2010-07-28 06:17:24)

Amen...the power of praise...just like with Paul and Silas and the chains being loosened...our God is great and mighty!

Beth in NC (2010-07-28 06:40:37)
You're not alone my friend. What a great reminder!

Missie (2010-07-28 06:42:33)
Great insight, thank you!

Susan (2010-07-28 06:54:33)
Wanda!
What an awesome word and soooooo true!
Thanks so much.
Blessings to you this WFW?

Donna (2010-07-28 07:20:27)
That was beautiful! You ask a very thought provoking question - "How many times have I limited his ability to move because I was in the wrong place and posture of heart?" Thanks for reminding us about the power of praise. As One Heart said, we can prophesy to ourselves and take our position courageously! Thanks for sharing!
Blessings to you today!

Joanne Sher (2010-07-28 07:51:25)
ooh yeah. Wonderful reminder. Happy WFW, my friend.

Peggy (2010-07-28 08:35:32)
Blessings Wanda! GREAT WORD!!! and so very true when we face the battle!
There is such power in PRAISE!!!
Glory! Hallelujah! Thank you for this great reminder and good WORD to ponder and recall!
I love the question that you ended with for us to respond:
How many times have I limited HIS ability to move because I was in the wrong place and posture of heart?
...too often, (forgive me Lord)
Thanks Wanda for this WFW and your precious visit to mine! Always a pleasure... going into my day
PRAISING the LORD & facing those battles in PRAISE!!!

ozjane (2010-07-28 08:51:13)
This links up with what has been so much on my heart and that is thanking God for the answer the moment we finish asking.
And rejoicing in His sovereignty, His good plans for us, that if we ask for things only if they are His will for us.....He will answer immediately.....and we do not need to know what the answer is to be thankful and rejoice.

godsown (2010-07-28 09:03:44)
Your post spoke to me Wanda.
Blessings
Bernice

Natalie at Mommy on Fire (2010-07-28 09:08:55)
Oh, wow. Amen. Far too many times for me, thank you very much.
What a great lesson and point to ponder. Thanks for this, Wanda.

lori (2010-07-28 09:10:45)
Wanda,
This WAS fantastic... You really drove it home with this question...

"How many times have I limited his ability to move because I was in the wrong place and posture of heart?"
Praising at all times...praising and worshiping and rejoicing regardless of the circumstances. What thoughts you shared with me today. Thank you!
blessings,
lori

cHe (2010-07-28 10:07:04)
beautiful post..thanks for this..God bless

GlowinGirl (2010-07-28 10:52:00)
You said this so well. Isn't it funny how you can read a scripture and it speak so clearly?
"At that very moment" . . . I struggle with rejoicing during the battle. It is often later that I can pause and see how God led me, and then I praise. It is the very praise itself that can turn things in our favor.
Great thought today, Wanda!

Bobbi (2010-07-28 11:05:38)
Wowsa...you sure stopped my breath in my throat! Thank you for this challenge. Smiles and Love!

HL (2010-07-28 11:31:35)
(Please forgive if you receive this more than once, as I'm having problems commenting on blogger)
Thank you so much for sharing WFW with us!! His Word is so great & touching every fiber of my being today! You make me wonder too, how many times have I limited His ability to move because I thought I had to fight... being in the wrong place & having a heart not postured within Him - within me. WHOO! He teaches so much through meme.
Hugs & Prayers, HL

Gregg (2010-07-28 17:45:47)
Great post and great advice. Thanks for the reminder!

Cathy (2010-07-28 17:49:42)
An awesome WFW, thank you Blessings

elizabeth (2010-07-28 18:34:09)
Thanks for your kind comments over at my blog. Loved your post today as I read that scripture portion today as well!
Elizabeth
www.justfollowingjesus.com

Debra Kaye (2010-07-28 18:42:16)
Wanda,
This is so true! Great post to lift my spirits today!
Blessings!

Nicole (2010-07-28 18:50:25)
Great post! Very well said!

Whidbey Woman (2010-07-28 21:36:54)
Praise God for this spirit-inspired post!

Laurencita (2010-07-29 03:00:46)
Such an encouraging words to share.. Thanks!

hip-chick (2010-07-29 03:38:37)
Wow. that was a great post. Great things for me to think about. Showing up for the battle and taking my place with song and praise for the Lord in my stance.
Thanks for posting that today.

sarah (2010-07-29 05:20:18)
this post really encourages me...Have a great day...

Mike (2010-07-29 05:24:49)
stand still and watch the Lord's victory This is what God has been saying to me in the last few days. Wonderful confirmation... Thank you!

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-07-29 05:28:22)
So easy to complain when the way is rough and rugged. Thank you for the reminder!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-07-29 07:29:32)
Oh, so timely. Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord. Thank You, Lord. By our endurance, we win.

Overwhelming Victory (2010-07-29 12:03)

Just wanted to share a scripture God brought to mind today before I head out to work.

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. Romans 8:35,37 (NLT)

I'm sure it's probably a familiar scripture but while I walked this morning and pondered on some things in my life, He reminded me that no matter where I am, He is there also. Don't let the events of our lives skew your view of Christ's love for you.



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

One Heart (2010-07-29 12:19:01)
Thank you Wanda. Romans 8 is one of my favorites. Blessings!

Christian (2010-07-29 12:22:00)
Amen!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-29 12:43:21)
Thanks Wanda for an excellent read.
Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-07-29 12:48:20)

Can anything on earth be more persuasive than the unfailing One who is God Almighty? No, nothing. Blessings, Wanda.

Ellie (2010-07-29 16:20:31)

I agree, it is good to skew your view! I am guilty at times Thanks for the reminder

Amydeanne (2010-07-29 23:28:01)

Amen Wanda! thanks for sharing this encouragment today!

LisaShaw (2010-07-30 00:24:26)

Amen and thank you for sharing one of the Scriptures that always has ministered to my heart.

What an amazing GOD we belong to and serve.

I pray blessings over you Wanda. I hope all is well.

Lisa (2010-07-30 01:47:30)

Oh yes Sister. It's a trick of the enemy, making you think lies about the One who loves us most.

Praying for you.

Karen (2010-07-30 11:58:11)

Amen! Great scripture to start the day!

Wanza Leftwich, The Gospel Writer (2010-07-30 21:16:36)

Amen! Amen!!

Lisa (2010-07-30 23:25:56)

Those are wonderful, powerful verses!

Tea with Tiffany (2010-07-31 01:17:10)

I couldn't agree more. Don't let anything...

Thank you.

Enjoy your weekend!

Just Writing (2010-08-01 10:21:18)

It's easier to be overwhelmed by life than it is to be wallow in His love. Thank you for the reminder.

Yes, You Matter to Me (2010-07-31 04:56)

My sweet blogger friend [1]One Heart, has been hosting a meme this week and I finally took the time to write up my post. She asked us to tell about how blogging has enhanced our lives in some way. Many assume that what they do here in blog-land has little significance (me included). I can't even recall what triggered my desire and facilitated my courage to actually start a blog but when I did, I only thought it would be for my own eyes. I couldn't fathom that anyone would actually be interested in reading my thoughts as I struggle along in my journey with Jesus.

Yet, in this journey, I've met so many other members of the body of Christ that have encouraged me, strengthened me, reproved me, and brought me laughter as I've read their blog posts. Their words were often confirmation to me and at other times comforting to know that I'm not alone. At other times, I found their posts answered unvoiced questions of mine. For fear of missing someone, I will not begin calling names

but every time I've visited your little corner of the blogosphere, you've enhanced my life. Having you stop by mine refreshes me as well because I realize that there's many other things you could do with your time.

So I take great delight in honoring you for all that you do. God has given each us the ability to do certain things well. And whether your blog is laced with humor, truth, daily living, encouragement, tips or a mixture of many things, do it with all He's given you.

Have a great weekend. One Heart, I squeezed this in before the clock turned midnight for me :)

1. <http://homeiswhereoneheartis.blogspot.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-07-31 06:53:09)

You too have a great week-end Wanda, another wonderful inspiring post.

Yvonne.

Ruth (2010-07-31 09:36:47)

Hi Wanda,

that's so very sweet. Your posts have encouraged me in very many ways and I love coming here!

Have a blessed weekend yourself!!

Ruth

[1]Underneath His Wrapping

1. <http://underneathhiswrapping.blogspot.com/>

One Heart (2010-07-31 13:37:37)

Wanda, you are most definitely right, the blog-hop was set up until the end of today-Sat, 7/31. For some reason, I got the numbers mixed and thought yesterday was the 31st. So guess what, you get a book too!!!! I love it-more opportunities to bless. Love you sis!!!!

Okay, now the link is officially closed. hahahahahaha =D

Will be in touch via email.

Will Burke (2010-07-31 19:17:02)

I'm sorry that I missed the meme. It's amazing that we live in an age where we can have "un-met" friends from around the globe, like pen-pals, with no delay! An age where anyone with access to a computer can influence countless people across borders and cultures!

Beth in NC (2010-07-31 23:37:48)

I have definitely been fed when I visit your place Wanda. I'm glad you're here.

Bless you!

Beth

Ellie (2010-08-01 01:42:17)

Your post have encouraged me; given me a moment to pause and rethink some issues! Reflection is good for our souls!

Thanks Wanda for your gentle reminders xXx

Just Be Real (2010-08-01 10:51:18)

Needed an encouragement today dear one. Thank you. Blessings.

Karen (2010-08-01 18:17:47)

I agree with your thoughts here totally....

Beams of Light Ministries (2010-08-05 22:49:03)

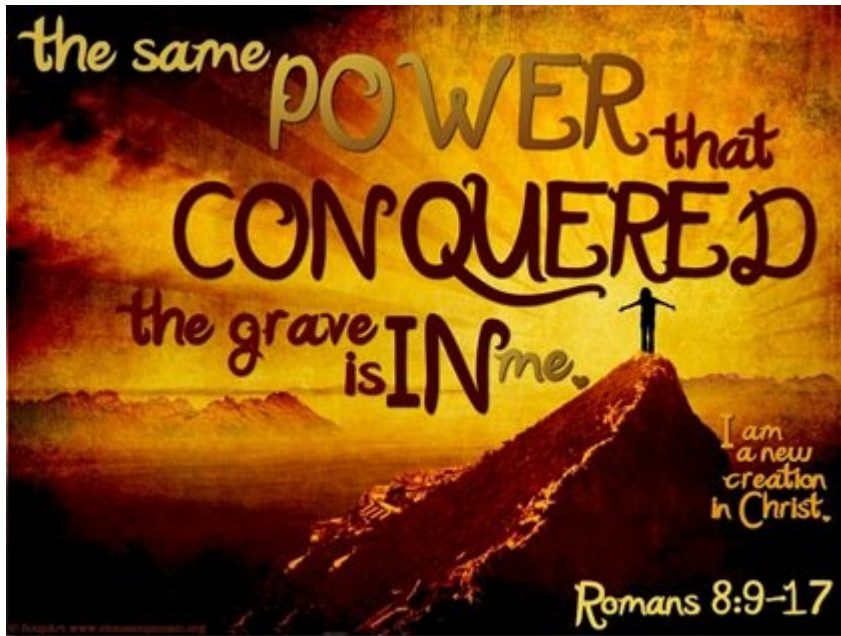
Hi Wanda,

I'm new to your blog. It's nice. Keep going!

Sanya

1.6 August

Infused with Power (2010-08-02 11:44)



[1]

Photo Credit: [2]Soupart

Wow...isn't that really awesome when you ponder on it!

9-11 But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won't know what we're talking about. But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!

12-14 So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!

15-17 This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him! (Message)

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[3]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TFcEBlC9NeI/AAAAAAAAALI/F9G4nmw6LXc/s1600-h/romans8_9_171jm3.jpg
2. <http://soupart.wordpress.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Joanne Sher (2010-08-02 12:14:17)
WOW is right. Such an amazing thought. Thank you for this.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-02 13:14:25)
Thanks for a most uplifting post,
Helps to put one's thoughts and feelings into perspective.
Yvonne.

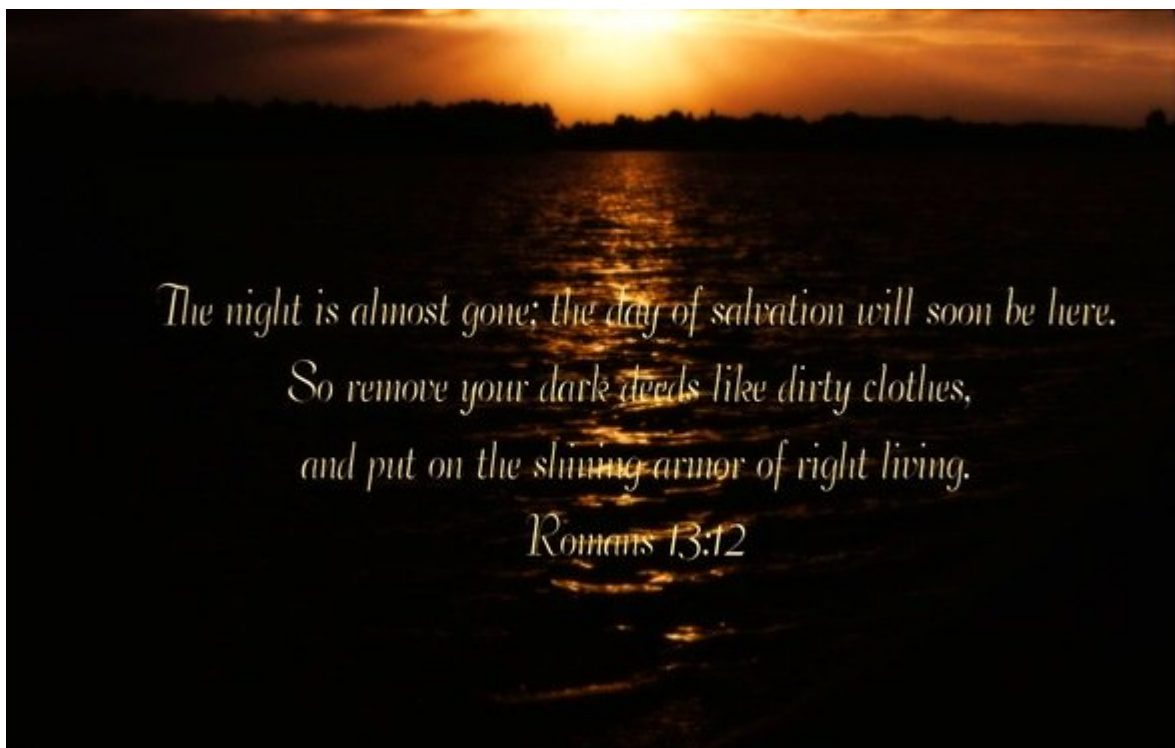
Amydeanne (2010-08-02 19:40:40)
totally wow! Thanks for the inspiration!

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-08-02 20:02:54)
thought provoking:)

Karen (2010-08-02 20:21:44)
Awesome! I would love to have that print over my desk...
The Message version of this scripture is so very good....

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-08-03 08:16:56)
Jesus, Jesus.

Tracy (2010-08-04 07:27:15)
I love this as a call to action. I don't owe this life anything. That is really powerful, in itself. I don't need to save it for anything. It is dead. What a great reminder!
Thanks for stopping by!



[1]

But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed. We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about! Romans 13:11-14 (The Message)

It's something about having another birthday roll around that makes me more cognizant of the passing of time. It seems like it was just a few days ago when I longed for the freedom of adulthood. Along with new liberties, adulthood ushered in new responsibilities. As I've gone about the business of living, it's been easy to get caught up in the have-to(s) of life and lose focus of the essential.

Lord, as I celebrate another year of life today help me to be alert and sensitive to you. Show me how to make the most of my days. Let me not spend my time in trivial pursuits. Don't let me miss what you are doing God.



Visit the cafe for more Word Filled Wednesday devotions today. [2]

Thirsty for Him, Wanda

[3]

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TFjx0gStw0I/AAAAAAAAALQ/wp4IWfjQKTY/s1600-h/Romans%2013-12%5B14%5D.jpg
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Renee (2010-08-03 23:45:40)

Well, Happy Birthday!!!!!!

What an excellent post and gorgeous picture!

I love The Message translation of this verse. I've never heard that translation, and it is awesome! Thank you so much for sharing! I'm glad I got to read this today.

cHe (2010-08-04 00:54:51)

great post u have here:)Thanks for this:)

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-04 00:56:44)

Happy Birthday ,have a wonderful day.

Enjoyed the post.

Yvonne.

Amanda (2010-08-04 00:58:35)

Happy Birthday Wanda! Yes, birthdays come around all too quickly these days... one month rolls into the other so rapidly.

I love your picture and you speak of an important message! In the busy-ness of life, He must be the centre of our attention and desires.

Beth in NC (2010-08-04 04:56:14)

Happy Birthday sweet Sister!

What wisdom in this scripture. It seems like I muddle through each day with all of the "have to's" on my list. What a great reminder to clothe ourselves in Christ and be alert to see what God is doing.

Bless you!

Beth

CeCe Wilson (2010-08-04 05:25:30)

Happy Birthday Wanda!! I hope you enjoy this wonderful day to the fullest! I really look forward to your Word-Filled Wednesdays and today is no exception. The scripture is perfect for me today as I grumbled and complained about having to get up so "early" this morning. God bless you on this day and everyday as you keep on exalting Him!

Joanne Sher (2010-08-04 06:39:05)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Wanda! (mine was yesterday - we're ALMOST birthday twins!) I love this reminder. LOVE IT! He is the only one who can help us "number our days." Thanks sweetie!

ozjane (2010-08-04 06:50:05)

Happy and blessed birthday with more to come.

I join you in praying that we might live consciously in His presence in each of our days.

A Stone Gatherer (2010-08-04 07:01:40)

I love pictures of the sky!!! Beautiful and wonderful words of truth!

godsown (2010-08-04 07:20:41)

BLESSINGS on YOUR(our) BIRTHDAY!!!

What an special day for us.....

You know that the Holy Spirit guided or thoughts in the same direction.....

To be clothed by Christ was my prayer also in my yesterday post and to hold my gaze on Him and Him alone!

Reminizing about how fast the years are going came to my mind also.....
Your post and comment blessed me Wanda!
Have an very special birthday!
Bernice

Julie Arduini.com: The Surrendered Scribe (2010-08-04 07:21:21)
Happy Birthday! Perfect verse and picture. Thank you!

Daughter of the KING (2010-08-04 07:35:38)
Happy Birthday, Wanda. Really enjoyed your post today.
blessings,
Linda J

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-08-04 08:38:50)
Blessings, Wanda. May God use you mightly in the coming year. I pray for you Psalm 138.
"The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me. Lord, Your love is eternal; do not abandon the work of Your hands." - Psalm 138:8

Peggy (2010-08-04 08:43:59)
Blessings Wanda and a special happy birthday to you! may it be as wonderful as this glorious photo & WORD! WOW!!! I love how detailed The Message gives and your own reflection. May the Lord celebrate with you in a very special and significant way! May your day be filled with His glory & love & all your dreams & hopes met in Him!!!
Happy Birthday Wanda!
Peggy

Joyfull (2010-08-04 09:03:50)
Birthday blessings to you! What a beautiful picture and reflection from the heart!

Bear (2010-08-04 09:10:31)
Awesome birthday thoughts and devotional! I can tell you invited the Holy Spirit to your Birthday Party. ;-)

lori (2010-08-04 09:20:46)
Happy Birthday girl! What wisdom you've acquired! You are so right and your verse pairs so beautifully with mine... I LOVE this translation...it hits me square between the eyes!
Loved it and have a wonderful birthday! Celebrating YOU!
peace,
lori

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-08-04 09:25:09)
Happy birthday! What wonderful words today!!
But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matt 6:33
Have a great day!
Sherry

LivingforGod (2010-08-04 10:08:02)
Happy Birthday, Wanda! Hope you have a joy-filled day and a blessed year ahead!
What a beautiful WFW this is! Time flies so fast and it is good to be reminded that we need to redeem our time.
"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:15-16

Thanks for visiting my photo blog today.

HL (2010-08-04 10:38:52)

Happy Birthday!!

Beautiful picture & reminder in Scripture!

Thanks! Hugs, HL

e-Mom (2010-08-04 12:35:02)

Happy Birthday! This verse is so encouraging and uplifting... love it! ?

Monica (2010-08-04 14:20:19)

Happy birthday, Wanda, and thank you for this beautiful reminder. I pray you have a wonderful day!

Karen (2010-08-04 14:56:57)

I love The Message version of this scripture...

Very wise advice...with age comes wisdom...and eventually...gray hairs!

Happy Birthday!

Bud Ezekiel H. (2010-08-04 15:02:08)

Happy Birthday, Wanda!:)

GlowinGirl (2010-08-04 15:03:37)

Oh, I love, love this. Thank you for bringing this to my attention in a whole new way.

And Happy Birthday, friend! I pray for a year or blessing and purpose for you.

Denise (2010-08-04 15:21:39)

Praying many birthday blessings into your life today. Enjoyed your WFW.

Faith Imagined (2010-08-04 15:44:48)

Time does fly by if we don't stop to enjoy it! Happy Birthday!!!!

Debra Kaye (2010-08-04 17:26:34)

Wanda,

This is so beautiful and so true. Really speaks to my heart, Blessings to you!

Joan (2010-08-04 18:27:46)

Happy birthday, Wanda. I love your photo and post. I like the message translation of this passage - really says it like it is.

Blessings,

Joan

Wanda (2010-08-04 18:32:07)

Thanks for all the lovely birthday greetings, scriptures and kind words. Having you drop helped to brighten my day. God bless each of you.

Cathy (2010-08-04 18:56:02)

Very pretty and a wonderful Word Happy Birthday!

Whidbey Woman (2010-08-04 19:24:46)

I hope your WFW and Birthday have been blessed! Love the scripture you shared today... very nice image,too. Summer sunsets can't be beat! Nor can spending time with the Lord as we unwind from the business of the day.

jackie (2010-08-04 22:26:57)

you are absolutely right Wanda... Such a very nice post which reminds me to focus on the main thing: to follow God

jackie (2010-08-04 22:27:23)

happy new year! ?

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-08-04 22:54:29)

Something to really ponder! I must make wise use of my time!

And Happy Birthday!

Blessings,

Janis

Tracy (2010-08-05 01:22:56)

Gorgeous shot! Love the verse. Thanks for visiting my blog!

Ellie (2010-08-06 00:17:19)

Happy Birthday Wanda; I hope it was glorious!!! Great post xXx

Missie (2010-08-06 08:24:06)

wow, this verse really hits home. thank you so much for sharing!

Happy Birthday too!

sarah (2010-08-06 13:32:36)

Happy Happy Birthday to an amazing special child of God...Hope it was the best...

Amydeanne (2010-08-06 18:08:09)

love the version you picked for the verse Wanda! it really hits home!

Amydeanne (2010-08-06 18:08:44)

oh! and

HAPPYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY

BIRTHHHHHHHHHHDDAYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY

Karen (2010-08-07 05:23:19)

Happy Birthday! I need keep my focus on what is near and dear to the heart of God! Thanks for sharing this passage.

Anonymous (2010-08-10 22:26:51)

Good post and this fill someone in on helped me alot in my college assignement. Say thank you you on your informa-tion.

Is It Time For a Makeover? (2010-08-07 09:40)

I'm not sure if it's just a girl thing or what but every now and then I get the urge for something different. A few weeks ago I had the bright idea to rearrange my living room. However, it seems that my new couch

and love seat are little heavier than my old one. So, I decided it best not to try dragging it alone. But, I was not to be deterred from getting a new look in the living room. So what's a girl to do without an extra set of hands? Well, I decided to rearrange some of my accessories like pictures, floral arrangements, small tables, etc. And, the simple rearrangement of old items made the space feel new again.

As I careen the blogosphere, I get the hankering to redo my own blog. Well, I don't always have the extra set of hands or expertise to do a full redesign on my own. Or the desire to splurge on getting my own professionally designed custom blog because I sort like tinkering with HTML code. So what's a blogger to do? Find a virtual set of extra hands. There are tons of sites that offer free tips and tutorials on enhancing your blog. Using some of these virtual hands, I've been able to display my replies to your comments in a different color, change my blog header image, change my rss feed to feedburner and add subscription by email. And, those are just a few of things I've learned since blogging.

Are you still stuck using the original blogger templates? Good news! You don't have to be. Several sites offer unique templates to give your blog a fresh new look. I decided to share of few of the sites that I've found helpful.

Blogger templates or backgrounds

- [1]All Blog Tools
- [2]Blog Skins
- [3]Adori Graphics
- [4]Theme Craft

For tips and tutorials stop by these virtual hands:

- [5]Sneaky Mama Blog Design
- [6]Beautiful Blog Designs
- [7]The Cutest Blog on the Block
- [8]Mama's Losin It

Next time you get the urge for a lil something different on your blog, these are definitely some tools you can use and they are great for newbie bloggers like me. Hope you have a fantastic weekend and don't forget today is your last day to sign up for the fabulous giveaway by CSN stores [9][here](#).



[10]

1. <http://www.allblogtools.com/>
2. <http://www.blogskins.com/info/345613/>
3. <http://www.adorigraphics.com/>
4. <http://themecraft.net/>
5. <http://sneakymommablogdesign.blogspot.com/>
6. <http://beautifulblogdesigns.blogspot.com/>
7. <http://www.thecutestblogontheblock.com/>
8. <http://www.mamakatslosinit.com/blog-tips/>

9. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/07/sweet-offer-csn-store-giveaway.html>

10. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Joanne Sher (2010-08-07 10:11:26)

Fun - I'm kinda working on a blog redesign in the background (VERY in the background cuz of the zillion things i HAVE TO do it the foreground!). Thanks for these :D

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-07 13:35:58)

I changed mine a few months ago then was told it would be deleted in July, I have since got it back but feel like doing another one during the winter.

Have fun having a makeover.

Yvonne.

Bud Ezekiel (2010-08-07 19:08:52)

hi Wanda,

i just did a total makeover in 3 blogs. it was/is fun and the blogs are still getting tweaked:) one blog is a total makeover with out visible followers(pictures) although i can read a number on my dashboard. just don't know the names....and no comments. it's just an all out writing blog. no bells and no whistles:) i love it already!!!

Ellie (2010-08-07 21:23:00)

Thanks for the links! I like to change it up, too! It looks great, by the way I hope you are happy with your living room. I find if I decorate in similar color palette, I can rotate items from room to room to give it a new look. Pillows, candles, and plants can also change it up quick!

Bud Ezekiel (2010-08-08 10:01:04)

btw sis, thank you for the links too! bookmarked one and am looking at the gadgets/gizmo's:)

Lisa (2010-08-08 11:44:25)

Thanks for the great links. Some I'm familiar with, some I'm not. I seem to have less time online these days, but it's nice to have the links for one day down the road. I hope you're doing well.

Continuing to keep you in my prayers.

((Hugs))

Wanda (2010-08-08 19:32:02)

Glad you guys found some of them useful. I know you veteran bloggers probably were already familiar with some of those. Bud, I noticed your redesign the other day. It looks nice.

@Ellie, yes I'm enjoying the subtle changes I made in the living room. I like your idea of decorating in the same color palette. Wish I had thought of that when I first moved into my place.

@Lisa, I understand dear. You've added some extra to your plate. I'm doing well and appreciate your prayers very much my friend.

@Yvonne, I have a test blog I play around on before making any changes to the site but luckily I haven't been told it was going to be deleted. Always appreciate you stopping by.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-08-09 07:54:50)

Such a good idea, Wanda.

Wanda (2010-08-09 11:59:14)

Hope you find some of the links helpful, Bluebutterfly. Glad you stop by.

We Have Winner (2010-08-08 06:06)

Congratulations to VickieB on winning the \$40 gift certificate from CSN Stores. She has 48hrs to respond, after which another winner will be selected. Thanks to everyone that participated in the giveaway and special thanks to [1]CSN Stores for being the sponsor.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[2]

1. <http://www.csnstores.com/>
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-08 06:46:59)
Congrats to the winner,
Yvonne.

sarah (2010-08-08 15:08:18)
Congrats to VickieB and you have a great Sunday

Andrea (2010-08-08 17:15:13)
Congratulations and GOD BLESS!!
Hugs and prayers,
andrea

Karen (2010-08-08 20:44:30)
Congrats to VickieB!

Wanda (2010-08-09 17:57:51)
Thanks Yvonne, Sarah, Karen, Andrea for stopping by and congratulating VickiB.

Petula (2010-08-10 02:38:14)
Congratulations. That's a good one.

It's Ok to Begin Again (2010-08-10 12:15)



[1] Are there any unfinished projects lying around your house? Or what about unachieved drea

Well you and I are not the only ones, who have ever done such. In, Ezra 4:25-6:22, we find the Temple of God in Jerusalem still incomplete an

²⁴ That put a stop to the work on The Temple of God in Jerusalem. Nothing more was done until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

¹⁻²Meanwhile the prophets Haggai and Zechariah son of Iddo were preaching to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the authority of the God of Israel who ruled them. And so Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak started again, rebuilding The Temple of God in Jerusalem. The prophets of God were right there helping them. Ezra 4:24-5:2

After hearing the prophets Haggai and Zechariah prophesy, Zerubbabel and Jeshua were moved to action and they started again to rebuild. Did they meet some opposition after deciding to begin again? YES. Will you or I meet some opposition/interference when we choose to rebuild? Whether it's been 2 days, 2 months or 2 years since you first started your quest to build your "temple" or dream, you can simply start again.



[2]

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TGE8tXVwUSI/AAAAAAAAAMU/07S_4ctvBWU/s1600-h/BRICK%20YARD_0221%5B3%5D.jpg
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Joanne Sher (2010-08-10 13:38:35)

Thanks for this. I do need to start again on something. Thanks, Wanda

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-08-10 15:20:08)

Yes. Behold, I am doing a new thing, says the Lord. He is always doing a new thing.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-10 15:42:42)

Thanks Wanda for a wonderful post, I'm a wee bit late in commenting today but I do love to read your post every day. Yvonne.

Bud Ezekiel (2010-08-10 22:08:31)

yep. started.....again, sister:)
great post!

Just Be Real (2010-08-10 23:28:26)

Amen Wanda. Something I had to read here. I am okay to start over. God gives us a new day to begin again. Blessings, JBR

Karen (2010-08-11 00:28:44)

Amen...thanks for this great reminder...new mercies...thank you, Lord!

Ellie (2010-08-11 00:54:40)

I feel sometimes like you n' I are in sync Loved this! xXx

Wanda (2010-08-11 03:51:18)

@ Joanne, I pray that you're able to complete it this time around.

@ Bluebutterfly, yes He's always up to something.

@ Bud, me too!

@ JBR, yes He's been reminding me that everyday is another opportunity for a fresh start.

@ Karen, if not for His mercies where would we be?

@ Ellie, I know I seen that today when I read your post. Love it when God confirms things for me like that though.

@ Yvonne, that's ok my friend. I was late getting my post up today. I appreciate every time you stop by.

LaughingLady (2010-08-12 16:40:47)

This is great encouragement! The hubby and I were just talking last night about now neither of us has enough ambition to finish things and achieve goals once it becomes obvious that some serious time and effort will be necessary. There are COUNTLESS things we say we'd like to do and we start some of them but so often, because we know ourselves well, we don't even bother starting because we suspect we won't finish.

This is good advice. Must revisit this discussion with the man, armed with this view from The Word!

Monica Watkins (2010-08-14 15:59:34)

I am so behind with my reading, but I've been saving the posts in my email to read later. I'm trying to play catch up, & I found that this post was indeed timely. I am in that "begin again" place. Not always the easiest thing to do, but it is truly a faith exercise. Thank you for the encouragement.

He Holds The Future {Word-Filled Wednesday} (2010-08-10 23:01)



[1]

I came across this passage of scripture during my daily reading yesterday. It along with vs.14 just seemed to jump out and grab me.

But I am trusting you, O Lord, saying, "You are my God!" My future is in your hands. Psalms 31:14-15a (NLT)

Life is fragile just like the precious flower this hand holds. Once that little bloom was attached to a stem, which had some roots supplying it's nutrients. Yet something or someone came along and snatch this precious bloom from the place it once thrived.

At times my life seems to be like that little flower, one moment I'm blossoming in my planted place of comfort. Only to be uprooted by unexpected storms or changes in life. It is at those times that I can not see or understand why God allow these things to be. The darkness of the storm seems to shroud His hand from me.

Yet even in those times, I must remain confident that He indeed is God and my future is secure in His hands.



[2]

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TGIvBDvTu8I/AAAAAAAAAAMs/Qtjv3GIwusM/s1600-h/Psalms%2031-15a%5B44%5D.jpg
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-11 01:16:45)

It's remarkable how human life parallels that to nature and wildlife, I enjoyed your write as usual, Thanks for sharing, Yvonne,

ozjane (2010-08-11 02:28:30)

Life is fragile but the hands of God are safe, stable and strong.

Denise (2010-08-11 03:15:25)

I am so grateful for those precious hands.

GlowinGirl (2010-08-11 04:27:30)

There is a theme we share today of hands. :) I love your take on it – it's such a blessing to see the variety of ways God speaks to us through His Word. We're safe in His adventurous hand, aren't we?

Joan (2010-08-11 04:48:21)

Oh, I am so grateful to be held in His hands. A wonderful reminder.

Blessings,

Joan

Daughter of the KING (2010-08-11 04:51:38)

Beautiful post - I too am grateful to be in His loving hands.

Blessings,

Linda J

Christian (2010-08-11 05:23:29)

We might not understand the present events that happens in our lives, but rest assured that A GREAT future that is waiting ahead of us!

Thanks for Sharing Wanda!

God bless you!!!

Beth in NC (2010-08-11 05:53:35)

What a wonderful picture with that scripture!

Thank you for the reminder that we are in His loving Hands.

Happy WFW!

Beth

Joanne Sher (2010-08-11 06:33:18)

Wanda - this is beautiful. And what a powerful reminder. Thank you.

Amanda (2010-08-11 06:46:02)

There is no safer place to be, than in the hands of the Living, loving God.

Amen and thank you!

Blessings...

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-08-11 07:01:35)

So true, Wanda. Knowing that we are in His hands is the only way to have true peace and comfort.

Be in perfect peace.

lori (2010-08-11 07:14:17)

You know Wanda if we made that our daily prayer what peace our hearts would find....

"My future is in your hands Lord"

I've got one to cling to today!

Love it!

Blessings Wanda for this inspiration!

lori

SnoWhite (2010-08-11 07:27:30)

oh how I needed that word today! thank you.

Susan (2010-08-11 07:51:13)

Great word Wanda! And so very true.

Thank God for those loving hands that hold us daily!

Blessings to you this WFW?

Susan (2010-08-11 07:51:19)

Great word Wanda! And so very true.

Thank God for those loving hands that hold us daily!

Blessings to you this WFW?

cHe (2010-08-11 08:40:56)

yes so true!!!

hip-chick (2010-08-11 09:38:05)

What a great picture. Such a fragile little bud in those big hands. Just as God holds us in His hands.

Tea with Tiffany (2010-08-11 09:49:15)

I love how BIG His hands are!

JENNIE (2010-08-11 11:18:07)

It's beautiful Wanda. We are safe in His hands.

Peggy (2010-08-11 11:51:45)

Blessings Wanda...Truly refreshing and inspirational! So thankful I can trust in Him and that I am in His hands! Beautiful reminder! I especially liked your own words of wisdom! Indeed we are fragile and life is fragile just like this fragrant flower we need to BE & STAY connected to our Source that feeds us and gives us His Living Water...even His own life for ours! I can so relate to your analogy to our own lives. My life certainly seems like that too! Thanks for sharing and wording this so well.

Debra Kaye (2010-08-11 13:42:26)

Thankful to be in His hands.

Blessings to you, sister.

MyJourneyBack (2010-08-11 14:33:48)

Yes what a great word and illustration. Holding onto Him.

Thanks for sharing this.

Amydeanne (2010-08-11 15:24:38)

amen to that! what a great illustration!

Toia (2010-08-11 17:52:06)

This is very inspiring and encouraging. I really love your analogy. Thanks for posting this. Happy WFW!!

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-08-11 17:52:18)

What peace it gives us, Wanda, to know He holds the future in His hands. Because there are days I need to be reminded of that!

Blessings,

Janis

Karen (2010-08-11 18:05:57)

No other place I would rather be, than in the hands of my precious Lord...beautiful WFW, Wanda....

Karen (2010-08-11 18:34:38)

Hi Wanda.. Im so glad you got to stop by and visit.. it is nice to meet you. and look forward to becoming blogging buddies..

You have a beautiful blog,, i will be back to visit again..

Have a blessed week..and I will see you again real soon...

Cathy (2010-08-11 18:54:31)

Thanks for sharing that encouraging Word.

Tracy Berta-daughter to the King, wife, mother, speaker, writer (2010-08-11 20:07:00)

Wanda, this is beautiful. Thank you so much for sharing this powerful truth! Many blessings, friend!

Suz (2010-08-11 23:08:35)

Hello Wanda, glad I found your blogpost today. I have been reflecting upon the spiritual dynamics of giving and receiving – as they are so connected.

The images of the Father giving his Son and of Christ holding on to nothing provide us with profound examples

of giving. But, you point also to entrusting all things to his hands. Letting go - opening our hands - is not just abandoning the things we've held but it is entrusting these things to His care.

Thank you!

Just Be Real (2010-08-12 02:52:46)

A wonderful inspiring post Wanda, thank you for sharing, Blessings, JBR

Marsha (2010-08-12 07:27:57)

Such a beautiful analogy, Wanda (and picture). It reminds me of a song by Kathy Tricoli (spelling?) several years ago, "My Life Is In Your Hands."

Thank you for these wise words, and for stopping by my blog the other day.

Blessings.

Monica Watkins (2010-08-12 08:19:25)

That last sentence sums it all up. Rest in that. :-)

Monica

Cherie Hill (2010-08-12 13:13:00)

LOVED this post sister!!! "Tho He slay me, yet I will trust in Him." God is with us always . . . He allows our trials in order to strengthen us and increase our faith. How we should rejoice that in times of despair, His grace is sufficient for our every need.

Love, hugs, and prayers,

Cherie

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK (2010-08-12 13:19:55)

What lovely and encouraging Bible verses and such a great illustration - both the photo and the devotional. Thank you for a sweet Word-Filled Wednesday on Thursday :)

Pet (2010-08-14 06:25:36)

Beautiful!

Mike (2010-08-17 02:15:37)

So relevant for me at the moment. Sometimes it's dryness and pain that move us on. At those times it's hard to discern Him but they are the very times that He is working. I trust Him!

Misty (2010-08-25 15:24:09)

Wanda.. First I want to thank you for stopping by my blog.. when I first started it, I thought it was a good outlet. I know see God had others plans..plans to connect me with others who seek and love Him. People like you! I am blessed to say He holds my whole world in His hands.

Thank you for you post, the messages you share. You are an inspiration! I look forward to exploring more and reading future ones.

God Bless You!

13 Well Wishes for You (2010-08-13 13:14)

Friday 13th for many is a day of foreboding doom. I've never been superstitious and can't recall any specific bad luck that occurred in my life on this day. Rather than anticipating a day of mishaps or misfortunes, I'm sending along 13 well wishes for you:



[1]

1. That you walk in good success.
2. That you may know the hope of your call
3. That you be strengthen in your inner man
4. That you may know that you are fearfully and wonderfully made.
5. That His word would be hidden in your heart
6. That you'd be able to hear the voice of the Lord clearly
7. That you would see and seize the way of escape He provides
8. That your families would be blessed
9. That your mind would be sound
10. That your heart would be sensitive to the Lord
11. That your territory would be enlarged
12. That you be fill to the full measure of Christ
13. That you would make the Lord your dwelling place

Wishing you all a blessed weekend filled with rest, revelation, and rejuvenation.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[2]

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wF2Ki6_qg/TGVFglzzVsI/AAAAAAAAAM0/R1zAMxMF5U4/s1600-h/charmaineswart_S6302474%5B17%5D.jpg
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Karen (2010-08-13 13:56:11)

Oh, amen, Wanda! These are wonderful...wishing the same for you!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-08-13 15:19:31)

Amen, Wanda. You shall bless, and not curse. Amen! Amen!

LisaShaw (2010-08-13 15:22:31)

Praise the LORD and Amen! Thanks for sharing this Wanda. I pray it all back to you too sis!

Petula (2010-08-13 17:34:33)

That's great! You know I didn't even notice that today is Friday the 13th. Whew, I must really need some rest. LOL

Connie Arnold (2010-08-13 18:18:22)

I came from Welcome to My World of Poetry. This is a wonderful post for Friday the 13th, and the wishes are terrific! Wishing you many blessings as well.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-13 20:32:13)

This is a beautiful post and thanks for the 13 wishes.

I hope your hopes and dreams come true,

Thanks for dropping by very much appreciated.

Yvonne.

Carol Fleisher (2010-08-14 01:54:59)

What a positive uplifting spin of Friday the 13. Great job! I love it! :)

Just Be Real (2010-08-14 11:12:54)

Great wishes here Wanda. Blessings to you dear one, JBR

Pet (2010-08-14 12:24:29)

Great wishes, thank you Wanda be bless today.

Well Watered Woman (2010-08-14 19:27:49)

This was beautiful, what a blessing!

TonyR

Toia (2010-08-15 01:09:23)

Love it!! I never believe in the Friday th 13th superstitious...I always embrace and believe that everyday that God has made is good that's including Friday the 13th. I love the idea of 13 wishes/blessings to get their minds off what some may believe the inevitable. Blessings to you on this weekend!!!

Somsi (2010-08-15 02:32:55)

I like 1-8 in 13 Well Wishes for You

sarah (2010-08-15 12:50:30)

love this list and back atcha

arlee bird (2010-08-15 22:55:22)

I don't really think about Friday the 13th unless I realize it's Friday the 13th and then I just note it, but don't worry about it. I keep meaning to plan ahead and do a blog post about it, but I just don't notice that it's coming. Anyway, thanks for your 13 wishes.

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

Wanda (2010-08-18 03:20:31)

I just happened to notice it was Friday the 13th when I glanced at the calendar. Never been superstitious anyway. Walking on cracks, black cats, etc...doesn't bother me a bit. Trusting that each of you had a blessed one.

Even When I Don't Do Right (2010-08-16 07:01)

Only you Lord no my innermost being. It's you that knows my uprising and my down setting. You know the true motives of my heart. Nothing I do is concealed from you. Sometimes, it's my desire to do the right thing but choose to do the wrong thing instead. And, others time I stubbornly insist on doing things my own way. Even then you don't choose to cast me away. I'm so thankful that you don't abandon me or consider me as utterly hopeless. But, you keep on showing up with your love, your compassion, your kindness your forgiveness.

Just as you did for the Israelites, you've been doing for me. Not just when you wooed me to follow you but from my mother's womb, I received your provision, your protection, your instruction. Although I didn't always recognize it was you, who was sustaining me. It was you that kept redeeming from the hands of my enemies. I say THANK YOU Lord!

May others come to know you. For you are a God of forgiveness, gracious, and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love. May we your body honestly proclaim that we don't always do it right and it's only because of your great mercy that we are not consumed. May those who have yet to accept you as Lord and Savior come to see that despite what they've done wrong, are doing wrong, or will do wrong that you've already been lavishing them with your love. And that you stand ready to forgive. In Jesus name, Amen.

¹⁷ They refused to obey and did not remember the miracles you had done for them. Instead, they became stubborn and appointed a leader to take them back to their slavery in Egypt! But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love. You did not abandon them, ¹⁸ even when they made an idol shaped like a calf and said, 'This is your god who brought you out of Egypt!' They committed terrible blasphemies.

¹⁹ "But in your great mercy you did not abandon them to die in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud still led them forward by day, and the pillar of fire showed them the way through the night. ²⁰ You sent your good Spirit to instruct them, and you did not stop giving them manna from heaven or water for their thirst. ²¹ For forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out, and their feet did not swell! Nehemiah 9:17-21 (NLT)



[1] I linking up Sweet P's hosted by [2]Tea with Tiffany.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[3]

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TGk2yku-BkI/AAAAAAAAAM8/uVLwrfHH2QA/s1600-h/SweetPs375x375%20by%20Tea%20with%20Tiffany%5B4%5D.jpg

2. <http://www.teawithtiffany.com/2010/08/sweet-ps.html>

3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-08-16 07:26:57)

Yes Lord! Yes Lord! Yes Lord!

Crystal (2010-08-16 07:27:38)

Beautiful truth in your post. Even when we don't feel worth of His love, we are. I remember believing that I must not be a "good Christian" or "really believe in God" because I was not "a good girl". There are so many who have those same thoughts out there in our world & I can only hope that somehow, some way, they are reached. =)

Faith Imagined (2010-08-16 11:36:56)

What a beautiful and encouraging post! This sentence really spoke to my heart, "I'm so thankful that you don't abandon me or consider me as utterly hopeless."

Josh Healy (2010-08-16 11:58:28)

Hi, hope it's OK to contact you here. We would love to include your blog on our giveaway search engine: Giveaway Scout (<http://www.giveawayscout.com>). Have a look and if interested, use our online form to add your blog (<http://www.giveawayscout.com/addblog/>). thanks, Josh

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-16 16:03:25)

A wonderful post which gives one encouragement. Thank you Wanda.

Yvonne.

arlee bird (2010-08-16 17:27:36)

If only every child in the world had a parent who cared as much as our Father in heaven.

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

Lisa (2010-08-16 20:13:11)

This was similar to the sermon at church yesterday. I'm so glad that NOTHING can ever separate us from His unfailing love.

Be blessed Sister!

Bud Ezekiel (2010-08-16 21:09:07)

oops! great post wanda!:)

Suz (2010-08-16 23:24:59)

Sometimes when we fail, it is hard to accept that his grace is sufficient for us. A most amazing gift of grace he offers us! Peace to you!

Just Be Real (2010-08-17 02:49:25)

Great post Wanda. I am just now learning to accept His forgiveness and believing it in my heart. Blessings to you dear one.

Mrs. Gertha (2010-08-17 10:26:39)

Wanda,

Thank you for stopping by my blog and I am glad you like the title. It's true, I do feel as if he has forgotten my name

at times:-)! I enjoy reading your blog. I'm signed up. Have a fruitful day!!!

Tea with Tiffany (2010-08-17 13:23:40)

Wanda, I love your heart. Amen. I too feel like I don't do right because of stubbornness.

I love this line "But, you keep on showing up with your love, your compassion, your kindness your forgiveness."

That's our great God. He is so much more than we can imagine. Thank you, Jesus.

And thank you, Wanda, for jumping in with a personal and powerful prayer and adding the verse that lines up with your prayers.

God bless you. I hope you will join me again this weekend, starting Friday.

I've been behind this weekend because of my daughter's 13th party and back to school shopping. Should be better this weekend. Can't believe summer is almost over.

Have a glorious week in HIM. You're covered with love and grace.

tiff

LisaShaw (2010-08-17 19:55:48)

absolutely beautiful...

thank you for sharing with us.

Karen (2010-08-17 21:05:14)

Amen! So true....

Wanda (2010-08-17 21:17:13)

To Him be the glory! We're all so unworthy of what He does for us. It's my hope that those already of the household of faith would not be a hindrance to the other sheep who are not yet part of the fold by being self-righteous.

Glad each of your stopped by and WELCOME to you Ms Gertha :0) Hope to get around to visiting your blog homes really soon.



[1]

The Lord is wonderfully good to those who wait for him and seek him. Lamentations 3:25

Now I must admit, I hate to wait. Hate waiting behind slower traffic. Hate waiting in line at Wal-mart especially when there's thousands of check-out counters but no one operating them. Hate waiting at doctor's offices and hair salons. WAIT is a 4-letter word that just tends to rub me the wrong way. For some reason, I assume my time could be better spent doing something else.

Unfortunately for me (or I should say fortunately for me, I guess) the God, who holds the universe together, expects me to do just that-WAIT. Unlike the times I have waited for someone or something that failed to arrive, He promises that my waiting will not be in vain.

Did you notice that little 3-letter word "and"? It's rather odd how something so small can have such significance. My waiting for Him is supposed to be accompanied with some action. We can't get away with just the passing of months, weeks, days, hours, or minutes but we must fill the moments with seeking.

WAITING 4 HIM + WORK 2 SEEK HIM = WONDERFUL GOODNESS

Am I just marking time as it goes by or am I actively seeking Him as I wait?

Fill up on more goodness from the Word by visiting [2]Internet Cafe Devotions. WFW is always a great treat!

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[3]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TGtbOURYNkI/AAAAAAAAANE/Np962zeUmNM/s1600-h/Gods%20sweetness2%5B18%5D.jpg
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Denise (2010-08-17 23:17:29)

I love this.

Christian (2010-08-17 23:17:39)

hahahaha...Great thing Wanda! Maybe God wanted to tell us the same thing!

Waiting for Him is really excititng. U never know what comes next. U'll just be surprised.

God bless you sister! I keep on praying for you!

Amanda (2010-08-17 23:26:17)

I dislike waiting too... immensely! One of the first lessons the Lord had to teach me was patience. He has good reasons for making us wait sometimes, for answered prayer, dreams to eventuate, a new season to tick over. Waiting stretches us to trust in Him.

Wonderful post Wanda... Bless you!

Kaye Swain for the Sandwich Generation (2010-08-17 23:33:26)

Thank you for an encouraging post with this inspirational Bible verse. I definitely need to work on my waiting - especially with chocolate! Tho right now, it's more the ice cream. :) Have a blessed week.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-18 00:01:54)

Wonderful post Wanda, waiting can be a tiresome thing at times, all depends on what we're wating for, Enjoyed the read.

Yvonne.

ozjane (2010-08-18 00:37:28)

I am sure we are meant to use these waiting times for intercession. There are people around us. I wonder if anyone has ever prayed that the Holy Spirit would convict them of sin, righteousness and judgment.....we have a wonderful opportunity to maybe be the one person who has ever prayed for some of those people around us as we wait.....for the person on the end of the phone, for those in the other cars. Traffic lights are my call to pray.....it has mad a difference.....I have a long way to go but God always and only waits to bless us.

Nicole (2010-08-18 05:44:05)

Great post!! Love it!

Shannon Jacobyansky (2010-08-18 05:44:56)

I love your post! A wonderful read! We need to seek Him in everything we do...even when we are waiting in a line at Walmart! Thanks for writing...oh...I love your picture on your header...very peaceful!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-08-18 07:26:00)

Never in vain, Wanda, and it's even better when God throws in some chocolates.

GlowinGirl (2010-08-18 07:38:50)

What a great point! Our waiting isn't passive – it's looking for Him in a seemingly stagnant situation. I'm not a good waiter either, Wanda. So, I guess God is teaching us together! :)

LisaShaw (2010-08-18 07:40:41)

Oh well said!!!

Love the WORD and photo!

Missie (2010-08-18 08:08:42)

Argh! So true, I am SO impatient with the Lord!

Peggy (2010-08-18 08:46:40)

Blessings Wanda... I'm seeking Him!

Love how you shared the WORD and the delicious photo!

I'm not too good at this WAIT either.(sigh)Thanks for tying this all together. I gotta hurry up and wait! It's double the time down here in Mexico... always a long wait and then start over and wait again. Think God is trying to tell us something!

I'm so thankful that waiting on the Lord is connected to His promises and His promises are true and ohhh so good! (kinda like the dark chocolate)! Thanks Wanda...enJOY!

Sisters Of Honor (2010-08-18 09:45:16)

Thank you for sharing this word. I look forward to reading more of your blog.

Joanne Sher (2010-08-18 10:34:08)

This is fabulous, Wanda! Waiting is NOT passive - and I needed this reminder. LOVE the pic too!

Cathy (2010-08-18 12:13:23)

A great WFW Thank God for His gift of patience.

Donna (2010-08-18 13:56:35)

A great post and a great reminder that waiting is not passive. I feel like I too have been waiting and it is not easy. Thanks for sharing!

Blessings to you today.

Beth.. One Blessed Nana (2010-08-18 14:09:35)

wanda - you stopped by my prayer blog and i thank you for that! i also have a regular blog and would love for you to visit me there

www.aninstrument4hisglory.blogspot.com

i can tell my friend that we have lots in common. we are both seekers of God and are thirsting for more of Him. looking forward to growing in Him with you!

Beth

pS - what part of Arkansas do you live in? i live in NE Louisiana about 15 miles from the border.

MPW (2010-08-18 14:20:19)

This post was for me as this week has been filled with unexpected waiting. It's a "wait" I simply don't understand, but I must trust that the Father sees what I do not. I'll continue to seek Him as I wait.

Laurie (2010-08-18 15:14:34)

Oh, this is goooood! I love the "wait + work" equation, and the verse with the photo are a perfect match! This has blessed me tofay.

From the Heart (2010-08-18 16:43:43)

Thanks for your comment on my blog. That scripture was so fitting with me right now. My cousin's son died this week and she's having a really hard time with it. Hopefully the autopsy will tell them what happened.

I like your verse and I don't like to wait either, but I'm reminded of the scripture "they that wait upon the Lord shall reunion their strength"; so there's a promise from God for waiting.

Blessings, AE

Karen (2010-08-18 18:12:45)

I totally enjoyed this, Wanda...

The graphic was awesome and your reflections on waiting blessed me....

Amydeanne (2010-08-18 18:34:15)

when you put it like that!!! lol I love the visual! happy WFW!

Lisa (2010-08-18 21:57:51)

Wonderful message. Let's wait for Him AND seek Him!

arlee bird (2010-08-19 00:02:40)

If I know I'm going to have to wait like for an appointment or something I will usually take a book to read. Sometimes I'm so engrossed in my reading I want the wait to last longer.

We don't usually just jump into a career or position in life we have to receive an education or pay our dues, which amounts to having to wait.

We must wait on God so we are ready for Him. We have so much preparation that we must do in order to be what we need to be.

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-08-19 03:52:35)

Awesome word today! :D

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not grow weary. They shall walk and not faint. Teach me, Lord, to wait!

Wanda (2010-08-19 06:01:31)

Glad to know I'm not the only impatient one among us. But, you're all right waiting is beneficial for our character and spiritual growth. @ **Christian** Yes, it looks like we needed the same message. After finishing up and scheduling my post, I received confirmation from reading your WFW post. Love it when He does that sort of thing. ;) I was @ **Ozjane** I thank you for the bit of correction. You've helped me to see the many opportunities I've missed to be a blessing to others through prayer. Just goes to show why we need the whole body of Christ to keep us well-grounded and see what we've been blinded to. @ **Beth**, I'll be sure to check out your regular blog when I get a moment. Appreciate the invitation. @ **From the Heart**, I pray that God would strengthen and comfort your family during this time and that truth will be revealed regarding the cause of death. @ **Arlee**, you bring up a good point as well. In the wait is preparation for all areas of our lives. I like to take reading material with me to appointments, too. But never so absorbed that I'm not secretly wishing they'd hurry up...lol. Especially since if I show up too late my appointment is cancelled but they don't mind me waiting. @ **Everyone** that stop by. I appreciate you visiting and pray that God would strengthen us all as we seek and wait on Him. Hope you a blessed rest of the week!

From the Heart (2010-08-19 07:41:49)

Thanks for your prayers.

Blessings, AE

Will Burke (2010-08-19 08:09:06)

I used to keep a Gideon's new testament in my pocket for just such occasions as line-ups. You raise a flag, people tend to salute.

Teresa @ ? TOO MANY HEARTBEATS ? (2010-08-19 09:45:11)

Oh, I hate to wait, too! But you have given me a whole new perspective! Bless you!

Teresa <><

Rae (2010-08-19 17:19:25)

Sometimes I get caught up in everyday life...like waiting in lines and becoming angry that I don't have time to get all my chores done.

But, then I read your blog and take a breath- and remember that God is in control. And I need to talk to him ASAP. Thanks for the reminder that life is good.

No More Cave Dwelling (2010-08-20 07:15)



[1] Where have you made your dwelling place? No, I'm not referring to your physical address. Instead I inquire about the place your mind, your soul, your will chooses to make it's abode. After reading a post my blogger friend, Mike, shared over at This I do entitled [2]What Is Your Cave?, it had me pondering over cave dwelling. Not sure if this happens to you but there are some posts that I read and then there are others that seem to read me. It's the one's that read me that I'm unable shake from the recesses of my mind. They refused to be ignored clinging and begging me to explore more.

Isolation and darkness push to the forefront of my mind when I hear the word cave. At first glance it doesn't sound like a very pleasant place to reside. However, as an introvert, it's in the aloneness of my day that I'm fully able to recharge. In the darkness of the night, my body finds the necessary rest to face the dawn of a new day. If the cave can serve as a place of peace and restoration, why would dwelling in one be a problem?

The place you draw away to gain perspective or protection can also be the place you use as a means of avoidance. Avoiding dealing with conflict, relationships, troubles, and trials. Just check out Gideon and the other Israelites in Judges 6, who had made caves for themselves in attempt to hide from their oppressors, the Midianites. These Midianites were no joke; they came in and reeked utter havoc.

Despite all the trouble they were causing, Gideon wasn't encouraged to stay tucked safely inside the cave. It



seems that[3]

while he was waiting around looking for God to do

something about the situation, God was looking to him to render aide to the people. To me, a cave dweller would be the least likely person to send out to battle. But, what do I know really?

Just as the angel commissioned Gideon to come out of hiding and go out to face the enemy, there are some battles that we can't afford to ignore. Too much is at stake. Not just us but our families. Not just our families but our communities. Not just our communities but our nation.

I've got some more chewing to do on this one. While I do, I encourage you to check out the post over at [4]Mike's blog.



[5]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TG4HVWPFiQI/AAAAAAAAANM/dYbHu5wgArQ/s1600-h/IMG_2765%5B5%5D.jpg
2. <http://thisido.blogspot.com/2010/08/what-is-your-cave.html>
3. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TG4HXS14QhI/AAAAAAAAANU/JTXcsmced4Y/s1600-h/Dscn6625%5B6%5D.jpg
4. <http://thisido.blogspot.com/2010/08/what-is-your-cave.html>
5. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Bud Ezekiel (2010-08-20 10:17:20)

OUCH!!!)

well sister....this is a timely reminder and a CONFIRMATION as to the direction i must go. i've been HIDING out in a cave. the very same day, i began my blog was also the very same day my childhood friend and brother (in arms-nam) as well as in Spirit gave a sermon about Gideon "hiding out." i've had the bunker mentality for too long and the good Lord is nudging me to get moving again. to get back into the race. although i'm physically limited there is an UNLIMITED re-Source to accomplish what needs to be done. it's a new and different trail for me. i'm going to link to this post later today sis:) thank you for the confirmation.

August 20, 2010 5:15 AM

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-20 10:31:13)

I imagine I'm sitting on a beach in Spain. Totally relaxed and at peace with the world and myself,

Have a lovely week-end.

Yvonne.

sarah (2010-08-20 13:38:13)

the words that have hit me the most from this post...come out of hiding. ?

PatriciaW (2010-08-20 14:01:04)

There are days when the cave is useful, when we need to get away and recharge, as you said. But I'm more and more mindful of the cave of my mind, where I hide away mentally even while busy with tasks and in the midst of a crowd of people. Where I go when things are just too difficult to deal with. That's the cave that I'm trying to steer clear of.

One Heart (2010-08-20 16:48:34)

"The place you draw away to gain perspective or protection can also be the place you use as a means of avoidance." Ughh...so true. Everything in seasons too because there is much gained when God hides us for seasons, but sooner or later we must come out with what we've gained there.

This strengthens me today. Much needed during a week of battles which are attempting to isolate me yet again.

My dear sister, your book is on the way. It should either have today's postmark or tomorrow's. Sorry again for the delay-I had a tougher week than the last. Enjoy it and let me know when you receive it. Blessings!

Toia (2010-08-20 17:46:24)

Awesome word!!! This will make a great bible study. Thanks for sharing!!! It's definitely an eye opener. Have a bless weekend!!! I'm on my way to Mike's blog =D

PS - Thanks for commenting on my WFW post!!! :)

arlee bird (2010-08-20 17:59:41)

I used to enjoy spelunking, which is cave exploring. I liked the cool darkness on a hot summer day and the year-round same temperature environment. The cave was a retreat where it was quiet and peaceful and nobody could see you. I stopped spelunking when I started to have an uneasy claustrophobia about being there. What if I got stuck in a small passage? What if it caved in on me? What if my light went out and I couldn't see?

I doubt whether I would ever go spelunking again, but I'd like to have a house built over the mouth of a cave that had no bats living in it.

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

Tea with Tiffany (2010-08-20 21:21:59)

Too much is at stake. I hear you. Thank you for sharing, now time to visit the caveman LOL. :)

Monica (2010-08-20 21:26:15)

"No more cave dwelling..." Good word. I think I've been pushing myself out of the cave these days, but sometimes i just want to stop. I don't want to push myself anymore. But i know i must come out. We must realize we're needed on the outside.

Just Be Real (2010-08-20 21:53:54)

I have been hearing lately the topic of hiding. Both positive and negative. Great post Wanda. Look forward to what the Lord lays on your heart to post here. Blessings.

Karen (2010-08-21 02:44:35)

Amen...awesome word...I will think on this for a while tonight, I am sure....

Wanda (2010-08-21 03:06:34)

Oh Bud, didn't mean to step on your toes, my friend. It's the message He's feeding me. The types of caves we reside in look different based upon our own life but if we stay there past the point of healing, restoration, and protection, it results in hiding.

No worries about the book, One Heart. How can a unexpected gift arrive too late. I'll let you know when I get. I love gifts and especially books ;)

Toia, wish you a blessed weekend too.

Needed on the outside...I like that Monica and you're definitely moving my friend. I'm in awe of the faith moves you've made.

JBR, hiding can be either good or bad depends on where God has designated to be.

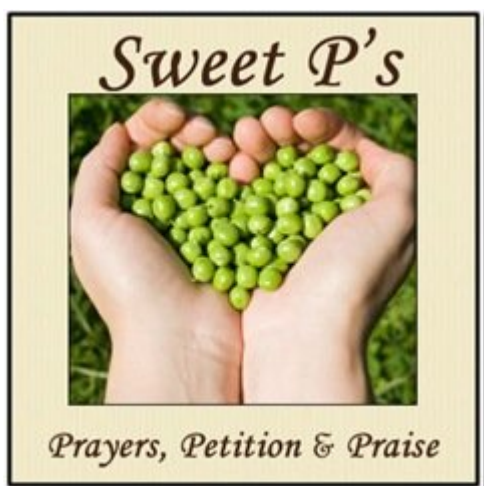
Thanks, Karen, Sarah, and Tiffany.

Yvonne, that sounds like a splendid place to rest.

Arlee, I've learned a new word tonight ;)

Patricia, you're so right we can be physical out among others but still be in hiding.

A Heart Full of Sweet P's (2010-08-21 13:30)



[1]

As I join in with [2]Tea with Tiffany for Sweet P's and the others who come to bring you our p's, I pause to say thank you Lord. Thanks not just for what you've done but for who you are. The more I come to know of you, the more I long to know. I'm not satisfied with old clichés or second-hand testimonies. I've got to know you for myself. I long to see you in fresh new ways. Break every box and shatter every illusion that limits by ability to see you. Destroy every bondage and chain that keeps me bound to old ways of thinking, believing, and being. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit in me. Don't let me walk in deception and keep me from all evil.

Father, I thank you for the unexpected P(s) you've brought into my life. I never knew that when I started jotting down my thoughts in this blog a few short months ago, that my path would cross so many people. I thank you for how you've used them to sharpen me, shape me, shake-me up, strengthen me, and enlighten me. Just as they've been like refreshing water to me, send people along their paths that will speak a word in season to them.

I don't know their struggles, trials, or concerns but you do Lord. And, I come looking to you and asking that you'd strengthen them where they're weak. That you'd be their compass, Lord as they walk along the paths of their lives. May you send abundant water to quench their thirst and moisten their parched fields. I thank you for raining on parched relationships, careers, ministries, and homes. Thank you for reviving, replenishing, and reconnecting.

Thank you for the prodigal sons and daughters that you're sending home now, God! We thank you for turning hearts. Thank you that even as they walk out their madness, Lord, you're right alongside watching and protecting them. If they make their bed in hell you're there and if they ascend to highest mountain, you're their also. Even when we can't find them physically, they are never unreachable to you. If your love and kindness drew us up and out, we know you can do the same for them. We choose to rest in the fact that you are Lord and their future is safe in your hands. I love you so much Lord and I give your name the praise. In Jesus name, Amen.

Do you have any Sweet P's {prayers, petition, or praise } to share? Feel free to leave them in the comments (you may send them to me privately by clicking on the contact me page) or write your own post and link up. Wising you a blessed weekend.

Thirsty for Him, Wanda

[3]

Sweet P's is a weekly meme hosted by Tea with Tiffany from Friday to Sunday.

1. <http://www.teawithtiffany.com/>

2. <http://www.teawithtiffany.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Karen (2010-08-21 13:54:53)

Beautiful prayer, Wanda...joining with you...

I especially liked this line...

"Even when we can't find them physically, they are never unreachable to you."...praise the Lord!

Will Burke (2010-08-21 14:18:32)

I am thankful for a mind that's too intricate to fully understand, and dexterous enough to seek understanding.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-21 14:43:01)

A wonderful prayer Wanda,

Have a good week-end.

Yvonne.

Tea with Tiffany (2010-08-21 16:00:06)

Like I told Karen, I could pray with her every day. I feel that way about you too and so many other pray-ers online. I loved your prayer and agree with you for each and every area. Powerful prayer with the word filled throughout..Loved the prodigal part because I was once one of them and praise God for his rescue.

Thank you, Wanda. I'm so glad I've found a new friend in you.

Have a great weekend.

Lily (2010-08-21 19:06:16)

joining you in prayer :)and now following your blog!

Lily

www.neverfadingwood.blogspot.com

Peggy (2010-08-21 20:06:13)

AMEN! and love your heart, Wanda.

I love your beautiful prayer and join you. I especially like this:

"I thank you for how you've used them to sharpen me, shape me, shake-me up, strengthen me, and enlighten me. Just as they've been like refreshing water to me, send people along their paths that will speak a word in season to them."

Praise God! His love is unfailing!

His ways far above ours!

His Living Water ever so refreshing

Thank you for praying for the prodigals!

God bless you mightily this weekend

and always shine on you and through you.

Wanda (2010-08-22 23:36:53)

Thanks for sending up prayers. @Will, the gift of a sound mind is truly something to be grateful.

Sharon Kirby (2010-08-23 03:45:31)

Hi Wanda,

I was just "blog-exploring" tonight, and I came upon your blog. What a blessing! Especially when I saw your face, and realized that you had left me a comment on my Granola Bar Devotional!! So...it seems our meeting was "no accident!"

I especially liked this part of your prayer - and may I join you in saying, "Lord, strengthen me where I am weak. Be

my compass, as I walk along the path of my life. Send me abundant water to quench my thirst.”
I am pleased to follow you, Wanda - and I love the way you sign out - THIRSTY FOR HIM...me, too!
BLESSINGS!

Son or Slave ? {Monday Manna} (2010-08-23 13:01)



[1]

Today, I'm linking up with Joanne at [2]An Open Book for Monday Manna, which offers fellow bloggers the opportunity to share their thoughts, insights, poems, or devotionals that relate to a specific verse posted at her blog. The verse we were asked to chew on was Galatians 4:6-7.

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Galatians 4:6-7 NKJ

As I thought on this verse a couple of things came to mind. (1) The difference in motivation of servitude between a son and a slave. A slave serves because he is obligated to do so but a son serves a Father out of love and respect. (2) The difference in benefits/wages between the two. A slave is often paid less than what he actually deserves but certainly he only earns wages for the work he has actually done. If no work, no wages. However, a son is able to reap some rewards/benefits from his father simply because of the nature of their relationship. As a child of God, I can never do enough or be good enough to earn all of the many benefits that God has made available to His children. I need not try to earn my salvation but just accept the wonderful gift.

Have you been busy serving on committees and involved in various 'religious' programs in an attempt to prove your worthiness of salvation or that you are 'good' Christian? To be actively involved in Christian service is admirable and is something I believe that we should do. But what motivates you to serve? If it's anything other than love and obedience to the Father, perhaps you're serving from a slave mentality.

What does that verse speak to you?

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Thirsty for Him Wanda". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Thirsty" and "Wanda" being larger and more prominent.

[3]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/THJxtIeix0I/AAAAAAAAANG/luM6bQHRD_A/s1600-h/mondaymanna4.jpg
2. <http://www.joannesher.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Karlene (2010-08-23 16:00:24)

Hi Wanda, It's amazing how many different perspectives come from Scripture. Each adding to the beauty of the multi-faceted grace of our Lord.

Awesome post.

Blessings, Karlene

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-08-23 18:54:26)

Thanks, Wanda. I often ask myself, when I have the opportunity to do something "good", whether I am really doing it unto God. Am I doing it in love, joy and peace, so that the name of God will be glorified. I've learned to back away from the things where I know that my zeal and my motivation for doing them really is not unto God's glory.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-23 19:25:14)

Thanks for a wonderful post Wanda. I found it most intriguing.

must have a peep at that site myself on a Monday when I'm not visiting my daughter,

Take care.

Yvonne.

Joanne Sher (2010-08-23 20:28:03)

Oh - what a GREAT reminder of the differences between slaves and sons. It's so easy to forget there is nothing to earn, and simply an amazing gift. Thanks for participating!

Lisa (2010-08-23 23:40:47)

It's truly overwhelming if we allow our minds to bask in the knowledge that we are sons and daughters of THE MOST HIGH GOD! What a privilege. I only wish more would accept this fact and come into their sonship.

Thanks for a great post to start the week Ms. Wanda. I hope the rest of your week is blessed beyond measure!

Amanda (2010-08-24 09:10:59)

What wonderful insights you have shared Wanda.

Sometimes it is incomprehensible, that what God longs to give us, bestow on us, is a FREE gift! That is the life and life more abundant of His Son Jesus. Salvation. Deliverance. Healing. And so much more... a free gift, because we are the sons (yep, us sisters are sons lol), of the eternal, living God.

I think that is why people struggle so much to *not* try to earn their salvation... because it is so hard to believe such a mind-blowing gift... yet it is A GIFT!

CeCe Wilson (2010-08-26 16:29:00)

Wow, Deep thoughts my dear! I appreciate your always having something for me to think about. I've been faced with this question before with my prayer life. I think that is why sometimes we don't always get what we want or think we need from God. Slavery may be the place of asking things from God amiss because we are coming from the wrong frame of reference. A son can ask boldly either knowing his Father won't refuse or if He does it is out of His wanting our best good and timing. Slaves don't feel they have the right to ask no matter how much they have done for the Master and the asking is done more out of brazenness than boldness. Thanks for the mind food!

MPW (2010-08-26 21:18:19)

Serving from a slave mentality....wow!

It's All in There (2010-08-24 05:14)

Before my eyes opened or my feet hit the floor this morning, a tune was playing in my head.

All that you need is in the name of Jesus

A YouTube search was unfruitful probably because I don't really know the name of the song. Not even sure of the other lines of the song but apparently those are the words I need to know this morning.

Lord God, I don't know what lies ahead of me this day but I thank you for the reminder that I already possess what is needed to meet the challenges, tasks, and demands for today. I don't rely on my own giftedness, intelligence, or fortitude but I seek your guidance and strength. Thank you for all that you've packed into that name of Jesus. When I need peace, I can find it there. When I need strength, I can find it there. When I need a way made, it's in that name, too. When I need healing, I can find it there. Protection, provision, salvation, and so much more are all found in the name. When I can't think of any lofty words to say, all I need is to call that one name....Jesus.



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Beth in NC (2010-08-24 05:38:30)

Amen Sister! Jesus, Name above all Names. Holy is the Lamb. Now you've got me worshipping! \o/ He alone is worthy.

I wish you could have found the song.

Love!

Beth

Dr. James (2010-08-24 06:12:51)

God Bless you in the name of Jesus and to The Joy of Jesus.

Dr. James A. Lee

Karen (2010-08-24 06:19:55)

Amen! The sweetest Name I know....

Andrea (2010-08-24 07:01:43)

Wanda,

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. GOD BLESS YOU, sweet friend!

andrea

Karen (2010-08-24 08:14:08)

And we wonder why the "world" tries to stop us from speaking THE NAME OF JESUS!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-24 08:18:45)

Thanks for a most inspiring post, I wonder what the tune was called

Take care and have a wonderful day.

Yvonne.

Steve Finnell (2010-08-24 10:53:55)

you are invited to follow my blog

MPW (2010-08-24 14:31:06)

Beautiful...Maybe the Spirit of the Lord was writing a new tune through you this morning. ;-)

Wanda (2010-08-24 20:42:38)

Ahh...no, I think it's an actual song. I'm just never good at remembering the names. Maybe I'll run across soon but that little verse was enough to carry me through today.

Ellie (2010-08-24 21:37:41)

What comfort to reflect on no matter what mood you are in! It is a gift to feel this much peace and care in his name! xXx

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-08-25 08:48:52)

Oh Yes, Wanda, EVERYTHING...is in Jesus. Can I compare Him to a perfect pound cake? He needs nothing added to taste good or bring satisfaction. Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name.

Amanda (2010-08-26 03:33:16)

aaahhhh the sweet, precious Name of Jesus, Yeshua, the Lamb of God. All who call on *this* Name shall be saved... blessings to you, my sweet sister!

I Can't Hear You (2010-08-24 23:01)



[1]

I included the NLT version of the scripture on the photo but I also like how the Message paraphrases it.

But I'm deaf and mute to it all,
ears shut, mouth shut.

I don't hear a word they say,
don't speak a word in response.

What I do, God, is wait for you,
wait for my Lord, my God—you will answer! Psalms 38:13-15

There are times in life when it's necessary to turn a deaf ear to enemies taunting. And, when I can't think of any scriptures to quote or lack something positive to say, it's best that I choose silence instead.

Oh and what about the times that you're praying for someone's salvation and everything you see and hear from them is contrary to your prayers. That's a good time to make a decision to not be moved by the happenings around you.



[2]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/THSCgaGPRcI/AAAAAAAAANo/ZSt50MbUPno/s1600-h/Nothing2hear%5B5%5D.jpg
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-25 00:47:56)

I enjoyed this very much Wanda,
So much truth in what you have written,
Yvonne.

Amanda (2010-08-25 01:59:52)

This is SO true Wanda! We can't control what others say to us, but we can sure work on what we respond with... even the beautiful art of saying nothing (something I find so incredibly hard lol).
Loved this... thank you!! Blessings!

Denise (2010-08-25 03:37:35)

Fantastic post.

Joan (2010-08-25 04:56:47)

So true, Wanda. Sometimes it's best to be silent.
Blessings,
Joan

lori (2010-08-25 05:11:51)

Hey Wanda...I'm actually in that place right now. Certain that it is better to remain silent and wait on the Lord than go about my own ranting...
This was PERFECT for me today! Thank you for sharing!
peace,
lori

ozjane (2010-08-25 06:34:26)

Great use of word and graphics....I love this one.....also the truth of it. Be still and Know that I am God is often much wiser than opening our mouth and putting our big feet right into it.

Amy (2010-08-25 07:09:33)

Great verse! LOVE the picture...perfect for this verse!
Happy WFW!

MyJourneyBack (2010-08-25 07:39:04)

Oh thanks for the smile. I loved this. And thanks for stopping over for my WFW. Smiling in my boots today!
Have a great day,

Sherry

Donna (2010-08-25 07:57:48)

Great Word today, both scripture and message! Love how The Message says it. It's not always easy, but sometimes the best thing to do is be silent. Thanks for sharing!
Blessings to you today!

Victoria (2010-08-25 08:25:32)

Hi Wanda! This is a mighty good Word! I'm so glad you happened by my place so that I could find yours! I can't wait to get to know you better as we get to know our Father together!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-08-25 08:27:35)

Can I just say ... Hallelujah!

Whidbey Woman (2010-08-25 09:02:05)

Thanks for sharing such a great Word with us, Wanda!

Peggy (2010-08-25 09:56:41)

Blessed morning to you Wanda...my, you were either up late or awake very early... because Of the time of your visit to me, thank you!

Each time I open to the Watered Soul; first I am blessed by your beautiful header that greets me, and the wonderful verse of Isaiah 58 then I am watered by your words and God's wisdom through you!

You are such a wellspring!

But this one made me chuckle! It is so perfect! Thank you for sharing the NLT and The Message (it was good to compare them). I needed this so often in my marriage and home life. Thank you for the understanding you shared. It's so clear what I need to do.

We all know that God gave us 2 ears & 2 eyes but only 1 mouth. Good advice you point out. It's so easy to be reminded of the 3 monkeys as "see no evil, speak no evil, hear no evil" but this is much better...

DON'T ALLOW THE EVIL IN and GIVE RESPONSE... NO LIE, NO ENEMY POWER.

Yep, defeated by the blood of Jesus! This is awesome. I need to learn to WAIT and trust that God will answer in His perfect timing & way! Thanks Wanda...

EnJOY a wonderful WFW and week!

Peggy

GlowinGirl (2010-08-25 10:22:38)

Silence truly is golden at times, isn't it? It's wise to learn when to speak and when not to – I have a tendency to overdo my words. I should practice that last monkey's pose.

Karen (2010-08-25 10:50:51)

Great truth. Thank you.

Special K (2010-08-25 11:27:37)

Very creative! LOVE it :) Thanks for sharing!

Happy WFW!

Chelle (2010-08-25 13:12:26)

I love this post! :)

e-Mom (2010-08-25 14:00:21)

This is an amazing verse! (I've never seen it before.) Thanks for sharing. Have a blessed WFW!
e-Mom @ Chrysalis

Mary (2010-08-25 14:35:16)

This is a most excellent word!! Thanks so much for sharing. Blessings on your day girl!

Susan (2010-08-25 15:37:57)

I should of took this advice earlier today, I needed it.
GREAT word Wanda?

Daughter of the KING (2010-08-25 15:45:56)

Perfect post...
blessings,
Linda J

Laurie (2010-08-25 17:50:45)

Oh, how I appreciated this passage and photo, Wanda. Amen, His word is true!

Karen (2010-08-25 18:01:19)

Amen! Great reminder...

a sojourner (2010-08-25 20:07:52)

waiting isn't easy. but i remember Doug Spurling's post when he said that just as a woman must wait to give birth, we also must wait on God. but the time can be well spent in continued prayer and supplications. thanks for the reminder, Wanda. i'm still waiting as well...

Shannon Jacobyansky (2010-08-26 07:23:36)

Wanda, very good advice indeed! I love the picture of the monkeys! Thanks for stopping by my blog!

sarah (2010-08-26 07:47:40)

great post...words to really think about.

One Heart (2010-08-26 10:25:12)

OH MY GOODNESS, Wanda, this is PERFECT. I LOVE IT!!! I am spreading this one for sure. Thank you for visiting and I will publicly embarrass myself yet again by letting you know that your book mailing has been delayed yet again. UGGHHH...it's so not like me. I tend to be a perfectionist so God is up to something here for sure, but I am a big believer of excellence so I truly apologize. Circumstances beyond my control have delayed it but God's timing is perfect. I am hoping for it to be postmarked no later than tomorrow-Friday, 8/27. Very difficult two-three last weeks but I will keep my promise. Thanks for your patience sis.

arlee bird (2010-08-26 21:41:07)

We can't always count on the Psalms for true wisdom. This post works very well for me.
Lee
[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

arlee bird (2010-08-26 21:48:29)

Wait! That should be we *CAN* count on the Psalms for true wisdom. I think I need to get some rest!

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

Just Be Real (2010-08-27 03:27:36)

Wanda truth speaks loud and clear. Great post. Blessings.

Ellie (2010-08-27 07:10:12)

This rings so true! Pearls of wisdom in Psalms; Glad you reminded us of this one! xXx

Amydeanne (2010-08-27 08:29:51)

great verse!

Connie Arnold (2010-08-29 13:25:36)

Great words, Wanda, and that's a terrific picture for your post!

Arise Oh' Lord (2010-08-27 06:59)

Oh my such a spirit of intercession just swept through me unexpectedly. But is that not how our Lord is? He'll show up in the most unexpected, mundane places. In the midst of my getting ready to tackle the work day the Savior had need of me. As Pet mentions in his post [1]Burden in our spirit, there are times when there's a burden in our spirit and we should take those before our Lord. I may not know on this side of heaven what that burden was specifically about but He does and I thank Him for trusting me with the assignment to pray.

Like Paul, there are times that I pray in the spirit and at other times with natural words. Today was a day for my spiritual language. The only natural words of prayer I have today is Arise Oh Lord! Arise Oh' Lord-might not seem like much but when the Lord, the one who rules and reigns, shows up ALL of his power, majesty, dominion, and glory arrives on the scene with Him. So may our Lord arise whenever you need Him to show up today whether that be to a wayward child, a bare bank account, a stressful job, a broken marriage, a body ridden with disease, or on the street corner of your neighborhood.

Arise Oh Lord!



[2]

As God would have it, it just happens to be Sweet P's over at [3]Tea with Tiffany so I'm linking up with her



today. [4]

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[5]

1. <http://joyformourning.blogspot.com/2010/08/burden-in-our-spirit.html>
2. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oMmtq-qSic?fs=1&hl=en_US
3. http://www.teawithtiffany.com/2010/08/sweet-ps-prayer-petition-praise_27.html
4. <http://teawithtiffany.com/>
5. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-08-27 08:34:15)
Arise, Oh Lord! Arise, Oh Lord!

a sojourner (2010-08-27 09:06:46)

...always desired that special gift of having a prayer language. don't believe it's something that can be practiced as i've heard some proclaim. tell me, did it just "fall on you"....like bang! ???

Tea with Tiffany (2010-08-27 09:55:39)

Hi Wanda,

The soul and words of this song are perfect for my morning. I feel the glory of the LORD filling my living room. PRAISE HIM.

I love how you shared the same things that MTJ's prayer referred to. The range of needs are wide, aren't they?

Thanks for your prayers.
And I often pray "Arise" too. The sleeping church must rise.
Have an amazing God-centered day.
Peace and love,
t

MTJ (2010-08-27 10:17:55)

Hi Wanda,

I just wanted to stand in agreement with you today. The needs may be many but as you say, **"I may not know on this side of heaven what that burden was specifically about but He does and I thank Him for trusting me with the assignment to pray."**

Bless you for being His obedient servant.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Peggy (2010-08-27 10:52:37)

Hallelujah...let the Lord ARISE!!!

ohhhh sweet sister Wanda... AMEN!

May He arise and may our praises arise and may our hearts rise up & break forth from His Spirit in us!!!

I hear ya'... woo!!!

Thank You Lord for showing up in all power and majesty to set the captives free, to deliver us, to speak forth Your Truth ... RISE UP!

Show us this day and every day how to come before You in this place!

Love ya'

Peggy

Peggy (2010-08-27 10:56:33)

Just had to add...I love that woman dancing before the Lord with Joshua's Troop...kinda leaves me wanting to RISE UP & DANCE!!!

WOO HOO!!!

PRAISE THE LORD... let the chains fall and let His glory rise!!!

Denise (2010-08-27 11:42:47)

Amen, arise, arise.

Karen (2010-08-27 13:38:50)

Praise the Lord, Wanda...what a blessing from the Lord and from your obedience in listening to Him...I loved your last sentence....

LisaShaw (2010-08-27 15:25:49)

Beautiful heart of worship I'm reading here Wanda. I so understand about praying in the Spirit and praying in the natural language.

That wave of intercession you spoke of rushed over me last night... leaves me singing and praying in the Spirit and being so absolutely in AWE OF OUR GOD!

Thank you for sharing and for being deeply in love with our GOD who is deeply in love with us! Aww, that abiding, unfailing LOVE!

Stuff could always be worse (2010-08-27 15:30:49)

Yes Arise Oh Lord, I agree with you

kim

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-27 15:44:03)

Hi Wanda if you go to my blog there is a little something for you.

Yvonne.

Belinda (2010-08-27 17:10:16)

Thank you for this "Now" Word, Wanda, and for stopping by to "see" me on WFW, and finally, for penning my heart these past couple of weeks. Yes, arise, O Lord, arise! Amen!

Lily (2010-08-27 17:26:51)

trying to find the joy in today, praying to find that joy.

Lily

www.neverfadingwood.blogspot.com

Karen (2010-08-27 19:04:19)

Amen! My friend was getting her daughter settled into her dorm room and the Spirit of the Lord came and they just had REVIVAL right there on the dorm hall. She had an opportunity to witness and God filled her with holy laughter and joy. Also we have seven who will be baptized this Sunday and her daughter is one of them! Arise Oh Lord, Let Your enemies be scattered!

Jan Parrish (2010-08-27 22:53:30)

Amen. Your beautiful spirit shines through this prayer. I pray blessings over your weekend.

Amanda (2010-08-28 00:30:56)

Amen Wanda! I love my prayer language and it allows for a spirit to Spirit encounter, rather than our head getting in the way.

I don't normally watch long you tube videos, but I was drawn to this one. I haven't heard of these guys before, but it really blessed me... I agree with Peggy, seeing that girl dance added a fire in my spirit. Great song and so uplifting to my spirit.

Bless you :D

Wanda (2010-08-28 13:14:03)

@**Bud (aka Sojourner)**, no it wasn't just like BANG for me. But you're already on the right road to receiving the gift my friend. The first thing is to have the desire. He doesn't intrude. The more you're opened, the more the Holy Spirit fills you until there's an overflow.

@**Tiffany** The needs are great but our God is even GREATER.

@**MTJ** So glad to have you stop by and thanks for the prayer of agreement.

@**Peggy** Love your sweet spirit, you're such a blessing. You're free to praise Him ?

@**Denise, Bluebutterfly, Kim** thanks for agreeing in prayer

@**Karen** appreciate all the support you've showed here. God bless you.

@**Lisait** seems the Lord has been summoning many of children. Who knows what's on the horizon?

@**Yvonne**, I found your surprise before I read your comment here. THANKS a bunches!

@**Belinda** the pleasure was all mine. WFW is also such a blessing to stop by and "see" other members of the body.

@**Lily** believing with you that your joy will be restored.

@**Karen**, Wow what an awesome testimony!!!! He's arising in unexpected places.

@**Jan** thank you for your prayers.

@**Amanda** my life hasn't been the same since I received it! Glad you were blessed by the video. It's longer than I usually include but the song was such a blessing to me yesterday.

Anonymous (2010-08-29 10:43:46)

<http://bloodtippedears.blogspot.com/2008/07/prayer-and-help-for-my-mom-carol.html>

He's With Me (2010-08-30 04:00)

Yea, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me Psalms 23:4(KJV)

Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure. Psalms 23:4 (The Message)

Lord, it seems like death/destruction is crouching at my family's door. Let not the secret plots of our enemies prevail. Expose every snare and every trick. Give us a spirit of discernment that we may know friend from foe. Despite the shadows we see or the whisperings we hear, we can rest securely because You are with us.



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-08-30 04:14:20)

Lovely words and comforting .

Have a good day.

Yvonne.

Wanda (2010-08-30 06:01:47)

Yvonne, thanks for your continuing support and I wish you a blessed day, too.

LisaShaw (2010-08-30 06:28:36)

Wanda, praying for/with you this day for your family, for mine and for all others.

Resting securely in GOD's love, power and faithfulness.

Blessings to you!

Joanne Sher (2010-08-30 07:13:00)

Praying, dear Wanda. God is in your midst, and is trustworthy in every way.

MTJ (2010-08-30 07:53:26)

Hi Wanda,

As I read this post, I thought back to my childhood days and my *fear of the dark*. I hated to go in the bedroom and watch as my grandmother turned off the lights. I'm not sure what I expected to see in the shadows but I was certain *it would get me*.

When I finally learned that the danger was only in my thoughts, I no longer feared the darkened bedroom.

I'm much older now and yet, there are times when I find myself fearing the imposing shadows. The Holy Spirit reminds me of the promise of Jesus to *never leave or forsake me*.

I pray with you that our Lord give your family the discernment to disclose what lurks in the shadows. No matter what lurks there, God stands ready as your shield of protection.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Lisa (2010-08-30 20:07:04)

Wanda, there is no greater peace than knowing that HE is right there and that NOTHING can get past His presence. Continuing to pray for you Sis. He's got you!!!

Belbin9 (2010-08-30 20:09:43)

I love those verses, and this past week I have felt them. God is good and he always hears our cries

Just Be Real (2010-08-31 03:27:33)

I needed to read and have those words confirmed to me today Wanda. Thank you. Blessings.

Give Me Eyes to See (2010-08-31 11:19)



[1]

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

by Michael W. Smith

[2]Source

This is my heart's cry today, Lord. I long to see the invisible and lay hold to the intangible but some times these natural eyes of mine block my view of You. So give me eyes and ears that I might hear and see you.



[3]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/THz1TKW8EZI/AAAAAAAAA0A/1wHMvcGR7os/s1600-h/eyes%5B3%5D.jpg
2. <http://www.christianlyricsonline.com/artists/michael-w-smith/open-the-eyes-of-my-heart.html>
3. <http://homeiswhereoneheartis.blogspot.com/>

Joanne Sher (2010-08-31 13:23:57)
Amen and Amen. Love this song, and it's my heart's cry as well

Amanda (2010-08-31 14:39:10)
Amen, amen! and a heart to perceive! This has always been my prayer... it is one of the most powerful prayers to pray.
God bless you Wanda! :D

MTJ (2010-08-31 17:09:42)
Hi Wanda,
Although I'm not familiar with this particular song, the lyrics definitely speak to me regarding the desire for an even closer relationship with Christ.
Blessings and peace.
[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

a sojourner (2010-09-01 00:47:00)
yes and amen with the others sis:)
thank you for your suggestion too!!! put a contact page on my blog already. rather than make you look for it....it's:
slowmutt@yahoo. com :)

Ellie (2010-09-01 01:30:23)
This was beautiful; I think we all are blind to what is important at times!
"Here is my secret. It is very simple:
"One sees clearly only with the heart. Anything essential is invisible to the eyes."
Antoine de Saint Exupéry
(author of the Little Prince)

Wanda (2010-09-01 02:57:57)
Thanks Joanne, Amanda, and MTJ for stopping by today. May the eyes of our understanding be flooded with light.
Oh great, sojourner. I've run into several people that I had no way to follow up with them, if it was something that I didn't want to post publicly to their blogs.

Ellie, I love that quote. I so writing keeping that one for my collection.

Mike (2010-09-01 09:40:25)

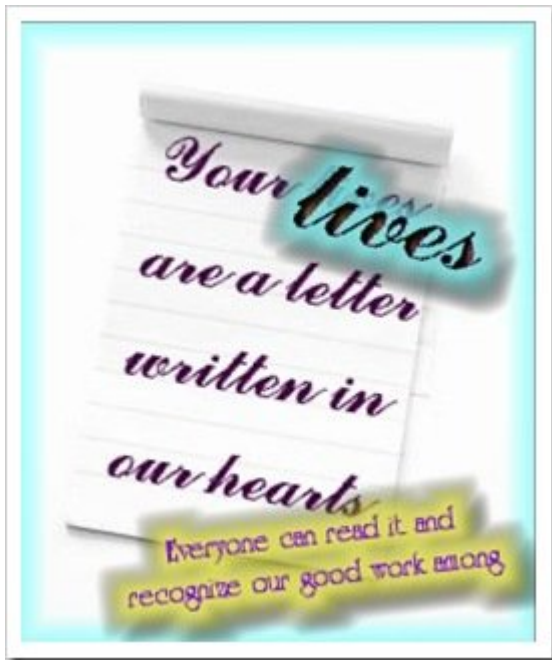
Love this song... I like the Jim Rohn quote too it's so true, but hard!

Your Recommendation Says What? (2010-08-31 23:30)

Has anyone ever asked you to write them a letter of recommendation and you felt less than enthusiastic about it? Well, I haven't been in the exact situation but I have been called for a reference. Most people wouldn't mind recommending someone you've worked along side and seen that they exhibit exemplary character.

But, how often do we consider and critically examine what recommendation we're passing onto others. In 2 Corinthians 3:2-3 Paul reminds the believers that he had no need for written letters of recommendations to prove the effectiveness of his ministry. They themselves were proof enough.

Many of the people that our paths crossed during the course of our day are not taking the time to read God's written "letters" found in His Word. However, you and I can be assured that they're reading our LIFE-our attitude, speech, and behavior. Are you giving Christ a good recommendation?



[1]

The only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves. Your lives are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This "letter" is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts. 2 Corinthians 3:2-3(NLT)

I recommend you stop by the [2]Internet Cafe to find out what other bloggers are serving up today.



[3]

[4]

Thirsty for Him Wanda

1. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/>
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>
3. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TH2-ePg1vI/AAAAAAAAAPE/sWTSd9BmJNM/s1600-h/cafefwbuttoncopy%5B4%5D.jpg
4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-01 00:34:43)

A wonderful thought provoking post Wanda, I have been asked in the past to write a letter of reccomendation but did feel awful as it was a son of a friend of mine who I knew not to be the kind hearted person his mother was, so I made some excuse explaining perhaps they wanted someone who was working.I felt awful but I knew he would let people down.

Have a good day.

Yvonne.

Denise (2010-09-01 00:39:03)

Such a good post sis.

Amanda (2010-09-01 02:34:41)

Amen Wanda! We are epistles, read of all men. I pray we (I) am portraying His book and not another...

Have a blessed WFW!

MTJ (2010-09-01 06:01:53)

Hi Wanda,

Thanks for sharing another thought that provokes *my self-examination*. It has become imperative for me to reflect the character of Christ in my thought, speech and behavior. I want to remain consciously aware that others may only get an opportunity to see Jesus through me; *I don't want to be an embarrassment to our Lord*.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Karen (2010-09-01 06:02:28)

Oooh, that was a good word this morning! I will need to spend some time thinking about this! Bless you, friend.

ozjane (2010-09-01 06:27:55)

The middle verse came to mind as I read your WFW...so found it all.

I thought it was a poem not a hymn.

Must find a tune one day.

"Christ has no hands but our hands To do His work today,
He has no feet but our feet To lead men in His way;
He has no tongue but our tongues To tell men how He died,
He has no help but our help To bring them to His side."

"We are the only Bibles The careless world will read,
We are the sinner's gospel, We are the scoffer's creed;
We are the Lord's last message Given in deed and word,
What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?"

"What if our hands are busy With other things than His?
What if our feet are walking Where sin's allurements is?
What if our tongues are speaking Of things His life would spurn,
How can we hope to help Him And welcome His return?"

Joanne Sher (2010-09-01 07:02:43)
LOVE this, Wanda. Such a great reminder.

CeCe Wilson (2010-09-01 09:22:42)
I love it Wanda! Thanks as always for sharing a good word with us. You've given me great food for thought today :0)

a sojourner (2010-09-01 09:37:07)
...i hear and understand what you're saying here. the world perceives christians(i identify myself as a believer...not a christian) because of what they do or don't do. without a doubt, people look at me and judge me as a non-christian. but that's religion. HE is the one that turns/transforms us to become...inside out:)

Peggy (2010-09-01 10:40:04)
Blessings Wanda... I like this correlation to a letter of recommendation! I love how you graphically chose to depict this!
I did this verse for WFW back before I started my personal testimony "This is My Story" and put myself as this "letter". May our lives reflect Jesus as you have written (or better Paul wrote to the Corinthians) and you illustrated so well! Thank you.
Be careful little eyes what you see and be careful little ears what you hear and my, oh, my, be careful what we DO or DON't in the Name of Jesus!Have a blessed day!EnJOY WFW!

lori (2010-09-01 11:59:14)
Oh YES Wanda...what an incredible reminder to all of us, whatever our stage of life...that our LIVES lived out are our letters!
This was fantastic! I can't wait to share this one too!
peace,
lori

Nicole (2010-09-01 17:45:40)
What a great WFW Wanda!! Just beautiful!

Amydeanne (2010-09-01 19:22:21)
wow Wanda... i never thought much on this before.. you really have me thinking about the letter! thanks!
happy WFW!

daylily777 (2010-09-01 22:07:54)
Wonderful WFW ! Yes, we should be mindful that we are the only Bible some people will ever see.
Blessings,
Myrna

Whidbey Woman (2010-09-01 22:24:21)
Wanda, This is such a great post! Love it! Happy WFW :) Enjoy the rest of your week.

cHe (2010-09-02 02:55:42)
so true sis..
beautiful post:)
Be blessed!

Beth in NC (2010-09-02 04:45:19)
I love the way you brought this point home to us. I pray I reflect Christ in my life, but I know there are times when

I don't (say something I shouldn't – give a disapproving look, etc ...).

Thank you for the reminder Wanda.

Love,

b

GlowinGirl (2010-09-02 20:18:25)

Being a girl who loves words, I've always liked this idea of being a living letter. Great word, friend! :)

Donna (2010-09-03 15:12:17)

Great word today! Thanks for sharing and for the reminder.

Blessings to you!

Karen (2010-09-03 17:08:50)

Amen...love the way you illustrated this point....

Ellie (2010-09-03 18:24:38)

So well said, A great reflection mirrors our actions...I think we all probably at times, can improve our vision and our reflection Great post!!!

Toia (2010-09-03 19:30:23)

Thanks for sharing God's Word!!! Have a bless weekend!!!

1.7 September

Sweet P's (2010-09-04 16:07)

Dear Lord,

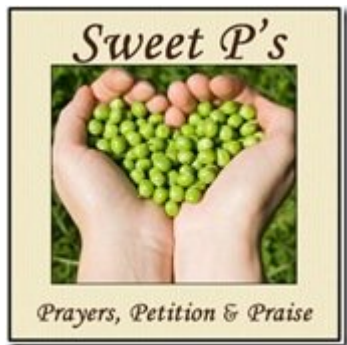
How can I ever thank you enough for all you've done for me and all that you continue to do? I woke up this morning with hands and feet that could move. Your peace surrounded me as I slept last night. Because you are Lord and you neither sleep nor slumber, I can lay down in safety and peace. I got up to a day filled with newness-new mercies and brand new grace. For that I say thank you, Lord. For your provision, your protection, your providence, your salvation, your companionship, and your counsel, I say thank you Lord! You are truly amazing! To know that the God who holds the entire universe together finds delight in me is incomprehensible.

I'm so grateful for an invitation that is always open to come unto You. If I'm weary or heavy laden, You offer me rest in exchange. You exchange my sickness for your health. I can find no greater exchange rate than you. Who else would take something of little worth in exchange for the invaluable gifts you offer? Although you're always getting the short end of the stick, you stand ready and willing for me to bring you my load. When I'm brokenhearted, you'll bind it up and make it whole again. That's just what I need Lord, take the broken places in my life and put them all back together and make whole again. I can't make sense of all the fragments but you are the Master Potter and I put them in your hands. I've grown tired, frustrated, and disappointed in my futile attempts to pull the pieces together. That was never the assignment you gave me anyway. So I cease from fruitless labor today. If there be anything that I labor to do today, it is to trust you more. I labor to know You more.

As families gather together over this Labor Day weekend, I pray that you'll watch over their coming and going and that you would protect them. We welcome your Spirit to sit down in the midst of every gathering.

Bring reconciliation and restoration to families I pray. For those who are gathering together in grief due to loss of love ones, I ask you to comfort their hearts Lord. Be strength for them in this difficult time and may those who are left behind that don't know you come to know you. For it's not your will that any should perish.

Let your will be done in the earth! Let your kingdom come! To you Lord be all the glory, dominion, and power. In Jesus name. Amen.



[1]

Have a prayer, petition or praise of your own? Join [2]Tea with Tiffany for Sweet P's.

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Thirsty for Him Wanda". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Thirsty" and "Wanda" being larger and more prominent.

[3]

1. <http://teawithtiffany.com/>
2. <http://www.teawithtiffany.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Joanne Sher (2010-09-04 17:06:31)

What a lovely, encouraging prayer, Wanda. I prayed it right along with you.

Jan Parrish (2010-09-04 17:12:08)

Yes, Lord. Thank you for Wanda's sweet sweet, encouraging spirit. I pray that you would open the doors for her to share your name this weekend. Bless her in all she endeavors. In Jesus name, Amen

MTJ (2010-09-04 18:19:15)

Hi Wanda,

Thank you for the intercessory prayer; *speaking on behalf of so many*. I'm encouraged by both your petition and praise with thanksgiving.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

a sojourner (2010-09-04 18:19:50)

with you in agreement, Jan. amen!

Lily (2010-09-04 19:27:28)

This is a beautiful prayer, praying along with you.

Lily

www.neverfadingwood.blogspot.com

Lisa (2010-09-04 19:51:44)

What a beautiful prayer Sis.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-04 20:35:07)

A wonderful prayer and post Wanda. I felt very uplifted by the time I had finished. Thanks for sharing.
Yvonne.

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-09-04 20:36:07)

A beautiful prayer that set my focus on the Lord. Thank you, Wanda.

Blessings,

Janis

Peggy (2010-09-04 21:30:05)

Glory...Amen! LORD... how beautiful You shine through my precious sister Wanda. You indeed are awesome and mighty in Spirit and in Truth! Far beyond our comprehension!

Thank You Father for that protection that Wanda prayed over the comings and goings of loved ones! Oh, yes father that You would be in their midst! Thank You for doors & hearts that will be opened and comfort for those grieving! I'm so thankful Lord, that You are our Comforter!

Bless Wanda in every favor Lord this weekend! Thank You for allowing us to listen in on her intimate prayer, thanks, praise & petitions this day! I feel like I just woke up and she has refreshed my day with an oil of gladness. Wanda is a wonderful letter of You!

Though I am not home for Labor day weekend, I do receive her prayer and stand with her for others! May neither of us labor in vain. May any labor be of You and produce good fruit in Jesus' Name...

thanks Wanda, for a precious prayer

Denise (2010-09-05 05:31:23)

Joining you in prayer.

Just Be Real (2010-09-05 10:49:53)

Wanda, thank you for the encouragement. Have a blessed day dear one.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-09-05 14:45:48)

I'm singing...Thank You, thank You, thank You, thank You...Thank You, Lord, for all You've done for me.

Hallelujah...May you be blessed abundantly, Wanda.

Faith, hope and, above all, LOVE.

Stuff could always be worse (2010-09-06 01:15:52)

What a wonderful prayer, I agree with you...

kim

Centered on Truth-{Monday Manna} (2010-09-06 14:49)

Joanne at [1]An Open Book is hosting [2]Monday Manna today. The passage of scripture to reflect upon and discuss is Ephesians 6:14-18.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints(NKJV)

These verses list parts of the armor that God has made available to every believer. Growing up in church, I had heard these scriptures quoted often but it wasn't until a few years ago that I got a clearer picture of



how one actually goes about putting on this [3] armor. In our lives, we get dressed daily and choose our clothing based upon our intended destination. At least that's what I do. There are some clothes I deem unfit to wear anywhere but around the house. Because of good old-fashioned home teaching and personal standards, you will not find me at the grocery store in my pajamas.

Unlike our natural garments, the armor of God is suitable to wear on every occasion. Not only is it suitable to wear but it's advantageous for us to apply it every day. Why? Because our daily destinations are filled with opposing powers, principalities, rulers of darkness, and spiritual hosts of wickedness.

No matter how full our closets are our clothes just don't jump on us. We have to take the time and effort to get dressed. As I was reading this passage, I noticed how each piece of the armor was preceded by a verb. Verbs denote action. The armor is provided by God but the action to put it in use is required by us. Nope, He's not coming down to dress me or you; the garments have already been issued. If a piece is missing or not in its proper place or good condition, it's because we've neglected to see and handle it as a significant piece of our lives.

Also, I took notice of the order the pieces of armor were mentioned in the passage. It starts off with the belt of truth buckled around our waist. Belts are what I consider as accessories, which are some of the last things you add to make your outfit complete. Yet here we see the waist, which is the center of our body,



being addressed first. Could it be because our lives need to be

centered on Truth? If, I don't know the Truth-God and His Word, my life is based upon lies. Lies pervert or twist the truth. So, if truth is not firmly buckled around the center of my life, I have a twisted sense of righteousness called self-righteousness. My feet, more than likely, will be quick to pursue chaos rather than spreading peace. Rather than trusting God, I'll only have faith in my ability to get things done. Because my mind would be filled with deceptive thoughts, the words wielding from my mouth would be anything but the Word of God. Although the belt of truth is only one part of the whole armor, it appears to me that it is necessary in order to properly apply the rest of the pieces.

You didn't forget to put your belt of truth on today, did you?

Share your thoughts on this scripture passage in the comments or write a post on your blog and link up with



Joanne. [5]

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[6]

1. <http://www.joanneshesher.com/>
2. <http://www.joanneshesher.com/2010/09/readiness-monday-manna.html>
3. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TIT_rsH0QsI/AAAAAAAAAPc/dDwd_EXNKNg/s1600-h/tartan%20day%20053a%5B9%5D.jpg
4. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TIT_t349jEI/AAAAAAAAAPk/QnnQEW4nqM/s1600-h/_MG_1134%5B4%5D.jpg
5. <http://www.joanneshesher.com/2008/01/welcome-to-monday-manna.html>
6. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Joanne Sher (2010-09-06 15:22:18)

LOVE your thoughts about the belt especially - we MUST keep the truth in the center of our lives. And PUTTING ON the armor - had definitely never thought of that necessity. Thanks so much for participating!

Marsha (2010-09-06 17:55:34)

Excellent post, Wanda! You are so right when you say all the other things we put on can only be probably applied when we put on the belt of truth first.

Thanks for this thought provoking post.

Blessings.

MTJ (2010-09-06 17:58:36)

Hi Wanda,

This is definitely a *Manna-filled post*.

You highlight points in this passage of scripture which illustrate a deliberate and concerted focus for every believer.

I will use this as a daily reminder for my *spiritual attire*.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

a sojourner (2010-09-06 19:20:24)

you mean you don't shop in your pajamas??? :)

there was a time in my "church life" that the gospel was perverted if you will. discerning the Truth is where it's easy to slip up sometimes. it is a Key element....

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-06 19:24:07)

A very clever thought about the belt Wanda, God can come over in the mosy unusual ways at times.

Have a good day.

Yvonne.

Karen (2010-09-07 11:04:17)

Great passage and illustration. Thanks and bless you!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-09-07 12:36:58)

Action, Action, Action...Help, Lord.

Karen (2010-09-07 13:50:04)

Amen! Very good, Wanda!

Bernadine (2010-09-09 03:37:59)

"If a piece is missing or not in its proper place or good condition, it's because we've neglected to see and handle it as significant piece of our lives"

What excellent points you made in this post, it has much food for thought.

Fasten to Truth (2010-09-08 02:52)



[1]

So then, take your stand! Fasten truth around your waist like a belt. Put on God's approval as your breastplate. Ephesians 6:14 (GW)

Even after writing on [2]Centered on Truth for Monday Manna, Ephesians 6:14-18 has still been mulling around in my head. Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines fasten in 4 ways:

1. to attach especially by pinning, tying, or nailing
2. to fix or set steadily
3. to take a firm grip
4. to attach persistently and usually objectionably

If my life as a believer is to be [3]centered on truth, what Truth is it that I should be attached persistently, fixed steadily, and grasping with a firm grip?

* the Truth of who Christ is

* the Truth of who I am in Christ

For the most part, I don't have great difficulty in believing who the Bible says Jesus is. It's the truths He says about me that gives me problems. My old ways of viewing myself consistently object to these truths. Which further points to the reason why I need to be getting dressed daily in the armor God has provided.



[4]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TId0_t43ivI/AAAAAAAAAPs/A-earEon0E20/s1600-h/BuckledNTruth8.png
2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/09/centered-on-truth-monday-manna.html>
3. <http://http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/09/centered-on-truth-monday-manna.html>
4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Amanda (2010-09-08 03:20:57)

oh wow!!! This is simply gorgeous... I love the graphics! Well done!

I am with you... it is who I am in Christ that I wrestle with. I love the dictionary definitions... something to ponder on deeply.

Thanks Wanda!

Denise (2010-09-08 03:32:49)

Awesome post.

Just Be Real (2010-09-08 03:52:26)

Amen Wanda. I want to be fasten to Christ and His word. Blessings.

GlowinGirl (2010-09-08 03:52:55)

I identify with you here! And so we need to take that firm grip on Truth and make sure our minds are fastened onto it. Great word-picture, Wanda! I love having that word defined so I can really ponder it.

Lisa (2010-09-08 04:53:38)

Ain't that the truth! As long as we're clothed in this robe of flesh we will struggle with the truth of who we are in Christ. I will put on the WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD!

Thanks Sis - have a blessed day!!

MTJ (2010-09-08 05:19:32)

Hi Wanda,

This is a good addendum to the previous post. A particular scripture is beginning to resonate in my spirit:

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."

This scripture is helping me understand and realize that my *identification* with Christ becomes tangible and effective solely to the extent that I allow the truth of Christ to operate in me.

In the past, I tried to mimic Christ or someone I perceived as *spiritual*, but eventually who I was and who I identified with came out of me. This was exhausting and contradictory to what I wanted; *but I didn't understand what I needed*. The *life of Christ* is real; *Christ wants to live in the believer*. Allowing the truth of Christ (*the Word of God*) to become meaningful in my life is the identification I so desperately sought.

Thanks for providing the additional manna sister.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-08 05:56:35)

A very clever post Wanda, I enjoyed the read infact I read it twice over,

Have a lovely day,

Yvonne.

ozjane (2010-09-08 06:21:09)

Lovely and so true..to know intellectually that He rejoices over me with singing...because that is what His word says, but in my heart I sort of feel and that is the dangerous word....feel, that it refers to other and not me.

But that is not what faith and truth says.

Carrie (2010-09-08 06:54:04)

"It's the truths He says about me that gives me problems."

Isn't that so true, Wanda?!?! ... especially for us women!! Thanks for the creative reminder - I'm a visual learner!! ;)

Have a blessed WFW!!

Nicole (2010-09-08 07:23:28)

Great post and that picture is perfect!!

I too need to be dressing the armor God provided us!

Joyfull (2010-09-08 08:18:26)

Great truth we truly need to buckle around us every day. Love the picture and the verse.

hljourney (2010-09-08 08:51:43)

Awesome - wonderful - great picture! I share with you in having a problem remembering who I am in Christ... agreeing that I know who Christ is - the Bible shares so greatly! Keeping reminders around me:

John 15:15 I am Christ's friend

Romans 5:1 I have been justified

Ephesians 1:5 I have been adopted as God's child

Colossians 2:10 I am complete in Christ

Ephesians 2:10 I am God's workmanship

!!!

Getting dressed ... with the belt of Truth wrapped tightly around my waste!

God is great in letting us know we're not alone ... thankful for WFW to share His Word & our journey's together!

Hugs & Prayers, HL

Mystiqua K (2010-09-08 09:29:23)

Amen Wanda! I have the same problem! I think I will meditate on this scripture today! Happy WFW!!!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-09-08 09:37:28)

Oh yes, Wanda. This past weekend was my time to really get fixed and steady, and boy, what a time. Hard, but necessary, work.

Joanne Sher (2010-09-08 10:02:03)

Oh, Wanda - LOVE this. Super stuff. Thanks - and happy WFW

Peggy (2010-09-08 11:21:53)

Blessings Wanda...Thanks for this excellent reminder of Ephesians! This is so well depicted and than shared!

I love this part:

"...in believing who the Bible says Jesus is. It's the truths He says about me that gives me problems."

This is why the bottom of my blog has WHO I AM in CHRIST to remind me when I think these thoughts or believe these lies! Excellent lesson & Truth! Firmly getting a grip and fixing my eyes on His Truth! Putting on the full armor, 'cuz when I miss any parts, I find

out the hard way. Love your belt graphic!!!

EnJOY WFW!

Peggy

Chelsey (2010-09-08 12:03:21)

Awesome Reminder! Never leave home without it!!!

Christian (2010-09-08 15:36:17)

It is really important for us as children of the light to live in truth... Great verse! Thanks for sharing!

You can view mine on: <http://superyan23.blogspot.com/2010/09/wfw-fear-not.html>

Joan (2010-09-08 17:38:36)

Yes, we certainly need that belt of truth. Great WFW.

Blessings,

Joan

Gregg (2010-09-08 17:52:11)

Wanda, I made two lists in my comment box for you in answering your question on what reference material I use to study. If you check back on todays post you will see the material I use, Great question, thanks for asking!

Ellie (2010-09-08 19:09:20)

I love how you took a simple object, most of use daily and made it a badge of courage! Well Done

I have something for you ;-D

Bernadine (2010-09-08 21:19:04)

Thanks for stopping by and leaving a comment on my post at Laced with Grace. Love this post, I'll be meditating on this scripture myself.

Heather (2010-09-08 21:36:42)

Awesome picture and scripture!! Thank you for sharing your thoughts!! My study today was about seeing ourselves as Christ sees us,even though it is hard.

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-09-08 22:05:26)

A good reminder on how to dress ourselves every day.

Blessings,

Janis

lori (2010-09-09 13:56:49)

Wanda...I'm a day late getting around, but I SWEAR, every week you inspire me with something else to use with my girls in Bible Study!:) AWESOMENESS!! This is GREAT! We can make belts and memorize this verse! You completely inspired another lesson! Thank you!!

LOVE it!!

peace!

lori

Karen (2010-09-09 16:34:26)

Amen...great word for today! Awesome graphic!

sarah (2010-09-09 18:52:06)

YES!!!

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-09-09 19:29:45)

Awesome post, verse and illustration of the verse! Need to make a point to put on the full armor of God everyday! :)

Have a blessed day!

Sherry

Grammy (2010-09-09 20:40:08)

Hi, Wanda,

First, I want to say thank you for your continued support over the past few months. Second, I appreciate what you had to say about Ephesians and the whole armor of God. Our pastor is preaching a series of sermons with that as his text. It is wonderful, is it not? More later. Love, Ruby

LisaShaw (2010-09-10 09:53:47)

Amen and Amen and to your last paragraph I say, Amen again!!

Powerful sharing Wanda. Thank you for always sharing your heart in the LORD. Whenever I am able to visit I come with the anticipation of seeing, hearing, feeling MORE of JESUS!

Love and hugs!

Looking Unto Him (2010-09-11 11:50)

Dear God,

You are my redeemer, my healer, my rock, my security, my exceedingly great reward, and my strength. I thank you for all the ways you continue to reveal yourself to me. For you, oh Lord, are my portion. Where would I be without you? Thank you for drawing me back to you in times that I find myself distracted. Thank you for your healing being manifested in my body now! You are faithful! You are omnipotent! Crowned in glory and majesty. My Savior, I thank you for all times that you rescue me! Work on me until I look, think, and act more like you. Help me to be a clearer reflection of you in all my ways.

Lord, I lift up those who asked for prayer this week and others who are calling on your name. There's no situation that they're up against that is too hard for you. All power belongs to you. I pray that they would

put on the whole armor that you've provided for your sons and daughters so that after they've done all the situation requires of them, they'd be able to stand. That they'd be able to stand up under pressure, sickness, or opposition. In the midst of turmoil give them inner tranquility. If there be anything else the situation requires them to do, let it be made known to them. For your Word declares that you'll lead us along the right pathways for our lives.

We acknowledge that we don't know what to do but our eyes are upon you. We call to you because we trust you will answer. Why? Because, you've answered us so many times before. You've provided for us before. You've delivered us from the hands of our enemies before! You've healed us before! You've calmed our fears before! You've raised us up from desolate places before! You have redeemed us from the brink of depression and hopelessness before! You've strengthen, revived and replenished us before! Yes, we shall think on these things as we wait for your salvation.

For I will sacrifice a voluntary offering you; I will praise your name, O Lord, for it is good. For you have rescued me from my troubles and helped me to triumph over my enemies. (Psalms 54:6-7)

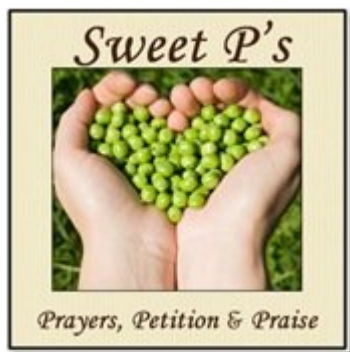
Guide us in your truth, and teach us; for you are the God that saves us, our hope is in you all day long (Psalms 25:5)

Thank you Lord that today is the day of salvation! In Jesus name, Amen.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[1]

Join Tea with Tiffany for others who are lifting up Sweet P's this weekend.



[2]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

2. <http://teawithtiffany.com/>

MTJ (2010-09-11 12:09:52)

Hi Wanda,

Thank you for the reminder of the many times *before* that the Living God has responded and answered my call. Thank you for interceding fo so many others.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-11 14:13:26)

A wonderful prayer Wanda, so beautifully written, I have my own reasons for thanking you.

Yvonne.

Karen (2010-09-11 14:48:57)

I join you in your prayer this morning. God bless and keep you!

Dena E's Blog (2010-09-11 17:55:04)

Wow,,it is an honor and a Blessing from our Sweet Jesus that He has brought me into this awesome # P's event.. I may have not done my post quite right and have asked if it was last night as I do NOT want to do this wrong for my very first 3 P's weekend.. I am soooo truly thankful that i have conme upon your blog and LOVE how you and the others share so Beautifully about our Savior...AWESOME Is HE !!!

His Spirit has does soooo fill my heart and soul greatly as I read these Blessed prayers..

Praise Him Jesus Christ for all He was is and is to come!!!

Hugs Dena

Hope to get to know you all better..

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-09-11 20:12:07)

Yes, Lord, we lift our eyes to You, send our praise to You, give our thanks to You and we hope and wait expentantly for the manifestation of all that You are doing in response to our prayers and according to Your perfect will.

One Heart (2010-09-12 16:08:55)

Great prayer my friend. I am so drained. It really blesses my heart today.

I wish you a lovely Sunday. Much love!

Toia (2010-09-12 18:03:10)

Beautiful prayer and I come in agreement with it!! Blessings to you!!!

Lily (2010-09-12 22:39:38)

This prayer really touched my heart, the armour image is reaching out to me this week, I think I need to pay attention to what everyone is saying. Thank you.

Lily

www.neverfadingwood.blogspot.com

Lisa (2010-09-12 23:46:08)

A true and honest prayer. Great way to enter into His gates with thanksgiving! He is worthy!!!

Karen (2010-09-13 03:12:56)

Amen! Powerful prayer, Wanda, that I join you in praying....

sarah (2010-09-13 12:37:26)

great prayer...

Darkness Doesn't Last (2010-09-13 12:40)

As I walked amidst the darkness this morning, I was reminded of something the Father whispered to me a



few weeks ago. Darkness loomed that [1] morning, much like it did today when Bella and I headed out for our walk. What He whispered was something so simple but gave me so much comfort. Three simple words-morning always comes.

Told you it was simple. Morning always comes. I know that life is full of cycles and morning naturally comes after the night. Yet, when going through the night seasons of my personal life, I often forget that it's only temporary. So He used the sun breaking through the darkness of the night to remind me that change does come.

I'm opening up the pages of my journal to share what I wrote down that day. Hope that someone finds encouragement in it as I did when I wrote that day. Even now I find strength to continue walking through the shadow of death.

Morning always comes. Hold on through the night. Don't faint through the night season because morning always comes. Just as when the season changes there are times when the day is filled with more darkness than light, so are our lives. But, morning always comes. You have to see me through the eyes of the spirit at those times. I'm always shining but darkness (which I allow) covers my presence but I'm always with you. That's why you have to build up your spirit man so that during those seasons you've stored up a supply of my light (His Word) so that it can illuminate from down on the inside of you.

Illumination from your core-your God self. My people are looking for too much external light. You have to learn how to walk in and through the night. When I send the darkness, I'm giving you an [2]opportunity to [3]grow. The allowance of the darkness is proof of my trust in what I placed in you. But know that morning always comes, my love. I will reveal myself. I will show up. I will fulfill my promises. I've already sealed them with a yes.

Yes to what you long for. Yes to power. Yes to signs, miracles and wonders. Yes to no more [4]barrenness. Yes to deliverance. Yes to wholeness. Yes to household salvation. Yes to peace. Yes to fruitful relationships. Yes to love. Yes to strength. Yes to more of my presence. My answer is yes; I will do it. You need only ask and trust me.

Praying that He'll strengthen you as you walk through the darkness.

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[5]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TI5QQNHedBI/AAAAAAAAAP4/kiGe268SHRg/s1600-h/thunderclouds%5B10%5D.jpg

2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/04/open-to-opportunity.html>

3. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/04/are-you-growing.html>
4. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/04/open-to-opportunity.html>
5. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

One Heart (2010-09-13 16:42:52)

An opportunity to grow is exactly what I'm hearing. Here we grow again. ;) These words are perfect for today. "Yes to what you long for. Yes to power. Yes to signs, miracles and wonders. Yes to no more barrenness. Yes to deliverance. Yes to wholeness. Yes to household salvation. Yes to peace. Yes to fruitful relationships. Yes to love. Yes to strength. Yes to more of my presence. My answer is yes;..." AMEN!!!

Joanne Sher (2010-09-13 17:11:21)

Such an incredible reminder. Thank you. I needed this.

MTJ (2010-09-13 17:29:00)

Hi Wanda,

This is a thoughtful reminder that although the sun may be hidden by a dark cloud, it still shines brightly. God's Son, Jesus also shines brightly illuminating our life with grace and peace.

Your affirmations of **Yes** resonate in my spirit. I also say, "**Yes!**"

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-13 20:35:06)

That's so true about the darkness not lasting. Somewhere there is light at the end of the tunnel however long it may take it's there.

Yvonne.

Sharon Kirby (2010-09-13 20:54:06)

OH Wanda!

I LOVED this post!

How I needed to hear this TODAY!

Could I have your permission to copy your prayer - just for my private use? I have a notebook of inspiring thoughts - and this prayer really touched me - I would love to be able to refer to it often.

Thank you for being faithful, and speaking the words that God wanted me to hear today.

BLESSINGS TO YOU!

Wanda (2010-09-14 01:42:44)

Happy to hear that you all found some encouragement from it. Sharon, feel free to use it. Blessings to each of you.

Amanda (2010-09-14 01:51:07)

oh my Wanda... this is powerful. And the picture of the clouds and the sunrays, is glorious. You would probably know by now, how much I adore sky photos. It is one beautiful way He speaks to me too.

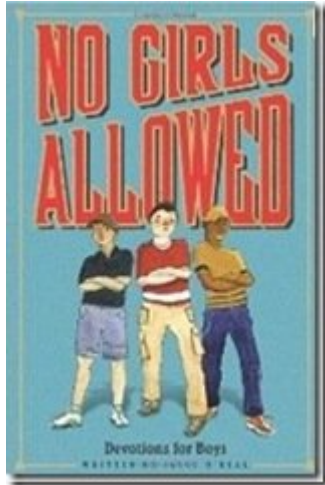
As I was reading this post, I was reminded of something. When we first walk into a dark room, without light, or even outside at night, we can't see much at all, only blackness... then little by little, as we push on by faith and tenacity, our eyes adjust, and we can begin to see more clearly. I believe this is the same in the spiritual. It is faith and trust in Him, that helps us adjust our spiritual eyes, to seeing in the dark times more clearly.

Loved this, thank you for posting from your precious journey.

Jessica (2010-09-15 21:44:39)

Phenomenal Wanda. Thank you so much for this reminder. It was very much so needed. Blessings to you <3
JB

No Girls Allowed: Devotions for Boys (2010-09-14 08:00)



[1][2] [3]I know I broke the cardinal rule of this book by daring to peek inside the pages of this devotional designed for elementary aged boys. But, as a Sunday school teacher (not to mention an aunt, too), I'm always on the lookout for creative ways to share the gospel with my students and captivate their attention. So I jumped at the chance to review No Girls Allowed: Devotions for Boys by Jayce O'Neal.

O'Neal does a good job at incorporating familiar topics, characters or shows like Batman, basketball, Scrooge, video games and Nickelodeon into the devotions. Using a 2-page spread, every devotion contains a short story, scripture point, prayer, puzzle, things to do, list of additional scriptures that tie into the lesson's main theme, and quotes from contemporary leaders.

I really like that the author shows boys how to apply the truths, found in each lesson, into their daily life through the things to do section. Although I appreciated the idea of including puzzles, I felt that more variety was needed rather than just secret codes, word search and crossword.

As someone wanting to use this to supplement Sunday school activities, I wished the book included an index showing the theme and/or scripture emphasis for each lesson. Just listing the name of the story in the table of contents provides little information about the aim of the devotion. More visually stimulating illustrations would also enhance the book. Overall, I think the book provides solid Biblical teaching and would be a good addition to preteen boys' library.

For a preview of the book, click [4]here.

Thanks to Tyndale House for providing a complimentary copy of this book for review purposes. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16CFR, Part 255 "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements in Advertising".

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[5]

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TI7SRVKfXSI/AAAAAAAAQA/RwzNK58ykvo/s1600-h/NoGirlsAllowed3.jpg
2. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TI7SRVKfXSI/AAAAAAAAQA/RwzNK58ykvo/s1600-h/NoGirlsAllowed3.jpg
3. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TI7SRVKfXSI/AAAAAAAAQA/RwzNK58ykvo/s1600-h/NoGirlsAllowed3.jpg
4. <http://books.google.com/books?id=0916Sb5SFGEC&lpg=PP1&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q&f=false>
5. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-14 10:38:01)

I enjoyed reading this, I suppose peeping into the book will give you a birds eye view on how to teach the boys as well as girls.

Take care.

Yvonne.

MTJ (2010-09-14 12:00:13)

Hi Wanda,

Thanks for sharing a review of this book. I'm not involved in biblical teaching but I recognize that providing meaningful teaching resources is important in reaching out to youth.

I'm glad to know that you are among the many who help shape the minds and hearts of the young.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Faith Imagined (2010-09-14 17:49:10)

This book sounds something I would love my boys to read. I am definitely going to check it out. Thanks for the review!

Petula (2010-09-17 01:32:29)

Sounds like a great read.

Web-Free Building (2010-09-15 00:00)

The wicked build houses as fragile as a spider's web, as flimsy as a shelter made of branches. Job 27:18 (NLT)



[1]

Now who would ever think of building a house with something as flimsy as a spider's web? I dare to say that no one would, if they were able to see that the material was just a web. But Satan is so crafty in leading us to believe that seeking fame and fortune is the way to build our lives. He spins the web of lies that say if we just had more, more, more everything would be just right.

Can what you've chosen to build your life upon weather the storms life brings? Anything built without a proper foundation will eventually fall.

Fill your cup with more of the Word this Wednesday at [2]Internet Cafe Devotions.



[3]

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[4]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJA_RkvmCwI/AAAAAAAAAQI/3nZmjeG8VEQ/s1600-h/wicked1%5B3%5D.png
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>
3. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>
4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Sharon Kirby (2010-09-15 01:25:33)

Profound, Wanda.

Only ONE foundation will weather the storms of life. ONLY the Rock of our salvation - our Almighty God!

Great verse from Job, too - perfect!

GOD BLESS!

Amanda (2010-09-15 01:37:06)

Excellent WFW Wanda! I love it! So, so true... anything other than the foundation of Jesus Christ, is sheer vanity, no matter how opulent it looks.

Funny, I was considering using a spiders web for todays WFW, but didn't quite know what to say about it lol! But you certainly nailed it... well done!

Joanne Sher (2010-09-15 03:31:46)

WOW, Wanda. Never noticed that verse before - and SUCH a great reminder to all of us! Thanks sweetie, and Happy WFW!

Deb (2010-09-15 04:29:39)

What a great analogy!! I'm your newest follower from WFW!!!

ozjane (2010-09-15 06:14:53)

Great photo and thoughts shared.

such beauty in that web.....but it is so easily shattered.

MTJ (2010-09-15 06:57:34)

Hi Wanda,

When I saw the title of your post, my thoughts immediately focused on Internet web design; *probably because I was researching web design software products this morning.*

When I came to your blog and saw the picture, I smiled and thought, *Oh, the other web.*

This scripture in Job is a vivid reminder of the need to trust in God and not in things. I recall that Jesus shared a warning about the kind of foundation one builds a house upon (*Matthew 7:24-27*).

The lesson I gather from your post is that while Satan spin lies, we must be wise and discerning that the pursuit of *material fame and fortune* will not provide the security my life so desperately seeks.

This is a good devotional thought for the day.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-09-15 07:00:45)

Oh, Wanda...such truth. Even in the natural, getting caught in a Spider's web is not a pleasant experience. I think we often forget why satan is in business.

lori (2010-09-15 07:29:18)

Wanda,

You've done it again! I'm going to be taking this and incorporating it into a "fall" devo for my girls...you know it's so true that the webs entangle us if we aren't continually aware of them. They are so fragile, we can destroy them easily but they lurk in corners....

So much to think and pray on here!

love it!! Thank you for the blessing!

lori

Jenifer (2010-09-15 08:11:16)

He is the ONLY sure foundation!!! Love this!!!

Blessings,

Jenifer

Joyfull (2010-09-15 08:46:03)

Amen! Powerful post, vivid picture and encouraging words. Thanks for sharing and being a blessing!

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK (2010-09-15 09:33:10)

Very true - terrific food for thought. And praise God for the sure foundation - Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord! :)

Peggy (2010-09-15 10:59:25)

Blessings Wanda... I guess only a spider and the victims that crawl into the web would build a house this flimsy. But look at the intricacies of the work in the plan to capture, to draw us in... just like the lies of the world. Very powerful and vivid! How true the value of a proper foundation before we try to build. The pieces or places that fall around us are evident that we were not building with Him at the center and base; He is our Rock, our sure foundation!

I'm so thankful and give Jesus praise as my Rock, and the proper foundation I need to make it through life and my walk. Thanks!

EnJOY WFW! Steer clear of the webs!

Peace,

Peggy

Nicole (2010-09-15 10:59:57)

Great WFW Wanda! Love the picture and the verse goes so well with it!! Great analogy!

Amy (2010-09-15 12:05:23)

Very good! & so true!

Thank you for stopping by, & thank you also for the compliment on my header! My husband made it! :)

Alicia, The Snowflake (2010-09-15 12:37:46)

Oh how true! I was just discussing this yesterday in my class yesterday with the teens I teach on Tuesdays. I realized it was a reminder I needed as well. Thanks for stepping on my toes! Happy WFW!

GlowinGirl (2010-09-15 14:05:22)

Isn't that the truth. Satan is crafty, and he's so good at making us believe his way is what we want. Spider webs are all he's spinning.

One Heart (2010-09-15 14:39:18)

Great words...but anything built upon the right foundation is icing on the cake. What comes to mind is Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

If the heart has the order right, placing the intangible and eternal above the tangible and temporary, there is nothing wrong with enjoying the temporary, as long as it doesn't become first in our heart. We must seek Him continuously for our hearts are deceptive. My cue is the fruit of the Spirit—do I have peace and love and joy in my midst.

Have a lovely Wednesday sis.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-15 15:17:06)

A wonderful read Wanda, a bit later than usual but better late than never,

Thanks for the visit I do appreciate it,

Yvonne.

Joan (2010-09-15 16:13:15)

Great WFW, Wanda. I'm reminded of Psalm 127:1 - unless the Lord builds the house those who build it labor in vain. Building any other way is indeed foolish.

Blessings,

Joan

Nemo @ Daily-dabble.com (2010-09-15 18:00:47)

Hi Wanda! Thanks for stopping by my blog today :)

That's a great verse, and a very good reminder to keep our priorities straight. Satan is very crafty indeed and we often get trapped in his web of lies. Thanks for sharing!

Toia (2010-09-15 18:35:57)

Jesus is a firm foundation, guarantee to have no cracks!! Happy WFW!!!

Karen (2010-09-15 18:39:28)

Amen! Great lesson!

Denise (2010-09-15 23:06:46)

So very true.

Anna Katherine (2010-09-16 05:54:08)

Wanda, I just made you a signature, go to my blog to see it!

Ellie (2010-09-16 07:10:15)

so true, amazing how our roots, foundation still affect so many decisions today and shaped who we are. The blueprints of our souls are constantly being shaped!

Karen (2010-09-16 07:37:52)

Great lesson, Wanda. I love it when God gives me a "picture" of His truth, so it will stick with me!

sarah (2010-09-16 13:27:56)

a web of lies....this is so true what you said..and that web of lies can grow so huge without a person even knowing it's lies.Good lesson

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-09-16 21:47:20)

Great pic and verse! How wonderful to have a foundation on the Rock! :)

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-09-16 21:47:26)

Great pic and verse! How wonderful to have a foundation on the Rock! :)

You Know How to Brighten the Day (2010-09-17 07:00)

Don't you just love when unexpected blessings come your way? I've been feeling like a kid at Christmas. Lately, my mailbox has been full of sweet surprises (not just those never ending bills) and they seem to show up on the very day I could use a little cheering up the most. Not long ago, I was blessed to win two beautiful photos from Valerie of [1]Intelligent Expression and I couldn't wait to hang them. If you haven't see her work, you should stop by for a visit. She combines photos with a quote and scripture. Oh, and I've got this brand new devotional,sent to me by a special blogger friend, that I look forward to reading in my quiet time.

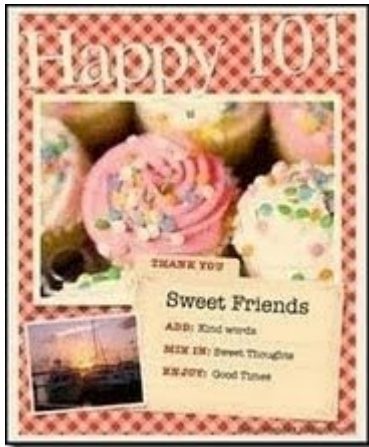
A little bit ago my sweet blogger friend, [2]Yvonne of Welcome to My World of Poetry passed this award on to me. Sorry for the delay in acknowledging it and passing it on. Although she already has it, I'd definitely

like to pass it back to her. She's been a wonderful support to me. I'd also like to pass it on to: [3]Ellie, Bluebutterfly, Bud, [4]Karen, [5]MTJ, Monica, [6]JBR, [7]Peggy, and [8]One Heart.



[9]

And my crafty blogger friend, Ellie at [10]Ella's Edge passed on the Happy 101 award to me recently. I'm supposed to dazzle you with 10 things I like and pass the award forward. Ha...I know that's just the top secret information, you were waiting to hear today.



[11]

Ok, drum roll. Here's my top 10 (well maybe not the top but definitely some things I like (:

1. There's just something I tend to like more about Fridays than Mondays.
2. I like browsing the blogosphere to see what's going on in your neck of the woods, although I've had less time to do that lately.
3. On a hot summer's day, I like the way a ice cold coke hits the right spot. (there's nothing like the real thang baby)
4. A long drive on a beautiful day but it's even better when I'm being driven ;)
5. I really like the smell of Pandamonium oil in my effusion lamp. (Made several trips to Ellis pottery for that special fragrance)
6. Hearing the birds chirp in the morning and gazing at the sky
7. Leafing through the pages of my latest bookstore find
8. Speaking of books, I really like [12]PaperBackSwap.com (Join the Club and Swap Books for Free!).
9. I'm in strong like with windows live writer (upcoming post about this soon)

10. And I like to know, why does Bella (my doggy) like chewing on paper and everything but the toys I've bought her.

Now let's hear from: [13]Amanda, [14]Sarah, [15]CeCe, [16]Missie, [17]Kim, [18]Anne Katherine, [19]Joanne, [20]Sharon

Now you're free to post the award & pass it on to others, if you choose and even if you don't, just know you're thought of today.

A picture, a book, a card, an email, a comment or even a blog award may not take much to pass along but one never knows how that simple gesture may really water the ground it's sowed into. Thanks to each of you, who've taken a moment to dash a little water here through your visits. May it be multiplied unto you many times over.



[21]

1. <http://www.intelligentexpressions.blogspot.com/>
2. <http://welcometomyworldofpoetry.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://ellasedge.blogspot.com/>
4. <http://hallelujahanyhow.blogspot.com/>
5. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>
6. <http://justbereal77.blogspot.com/>
7. <http://mazmagi.blogspot.com/>
8. <http://homeiswhereoneheartis.blogspot.com/>
9. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJL0IUa3uFI/AAAAAAAAQU/dw-ZQxvWEAo/s1600-h/Awardcircle_friendsYvonne82710%5B1%5D.jpg
10. <http://ellasedge.blogspot.com/>
11. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJL0JjfcI2I/AAAAAAAAQc/gJKtgC5Bz4o/s1600-h/happy101awardEllie99102.jpg
12. <file://localhost/mnt/ext/blogbooker/tmp/4c1nyqhk/ahref=>
13. <http://amandassecretgarden.blogspot.com/>
14. <http://gentlerecovery.blogspot.com/>
15. <http://www.momwearsthehats.com/>
16. <http://fillmythirst.blogspot.com/>
17. <http://stuffcouldalwaysbeworse.blogspot.com/>
18. <http://akskorner.blogspot.com/>
19. <http://www.joanneshesher.com/>
20. <http://sharonsharinggod.blogspot.com/>
21. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-17 08:18:36)

Thank you Wanda for brightening up my day. I shall show the award with pride,
Yvonne.

MTJ (2010-09-17 09:17:42)

Hi Wanda,

I only recently began reading your blog but I've discovered it to be an oasis that refreshes my thoughts. You write with an insight that inspires and encourages; *I appreciate that.*

Many thanks for including me in the list of your *Circle of Friends* award.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Just Be Real (2010-09-17 10:44:12)

Congrats on your award Wanda, and thank you for sharing it with me. Blessings to you dear one.

Wanda (2010-09-17 11:22:46)

@ **Yvonne** you're welcome. Arlee's A-Z Challenge led us to discover one another and you've been a blessing since.

@**MTJ**, hadn't known you very long but you always leave such encouraging or insightful comments to my posts. It's appreciated very much.

@**JBR** you're welcome. Reading your blog just encourages me so much.

Beth.. One Blessed Nana (2010-09-17 14:48:08)

very deserved award. you are a blessing Wanda!

Ellie (2010-09-17 15:23:21)

You do deserve your awards, you inspire so many! I love this one, I am thinking I need to do a listing this weekend...(I'm behind again).

I love your list and I'm so there with the cold coke, make mine cherry!

You are a wonderful friend xXx

Thank you

Joanne Sher (2010-09-17 15:50:59)

Oh, THANK YOU so much, Wanda. You're so sweet :)

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-09-17 22:06:34)

Thank you, Wanda! It's always nice to be thought of, and I certainly can use the sweet sentiments this week! Right on time, my friend! Many blessings to you!

Monica

D.J. Hughes (2010-09-17 23:25:22)

I love it when unexpected blessings brighten our day!

I don't know what Pandamonium oil is, or an effusion lamp. I'll have to look that up! :)

This is my first time here. It's nice to "meet" you.

One Heart (2010-09-17 23:30:28)

Wanda, you are simply one very blessed lady. I'm so happy God has sent those gifts your way. They do brighten our day. He uses so many different ways to bless us. A heartfelt gift from a friend is always a good one.

Thank you for stopping by. Always love to visit.

One Heart (2010-09-17 23:43:15)

By the way, thank you so much for the award. I will display it proudly under my "Housewarming Gifts" box on my sidebar. Sorry I had to step away from my last message before and did not complete it to thank you. Love you sis.

LisaShaw (2010-09-18 15:30:08)

Hi Wanda,

Your post made me smile. Congratulations on the awards/goodies you've been receiving. Loved learning more about you. I'm all for the birds chirping and gazing at the sky too.

Blessings and love to you!

Amanda (2010-09-22 08:41:57)

Congratulations Wanda! You deserve every award... I love coming by your blog and reading your thoughts and heart here on your blog.

Am I the Amanda you mentioned?? If I am, thank you so much... I feel special that you would mention me (if it is me!) LOL

Victory Through Him (2010-09-18 19:30)

Psalm 62

For Jeduthun, the choir director: A psalm of David.

¹ I wait quietly before God,
for my victory comes from him.

² He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress where I will never be shaken.

³ So many enemies against one man—
all of them trying to kill me.
To them I'm just a broken-down wall
or a tottering fence.

⁴ They plan to topple me from my high position.
They delight in telling lies about me.
They praise me to my face
but curse me in their hearts.

Interlude

⁵ Let all that I am wait quietly before God,
for my hope is in him.

⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress where I will not be shaken.

⁷ My victory and honor come from God alone.
He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me.

⁸ O my people, trust in him at all times.
Pour out your heart to him,
for God is our refuge.

Interlude

⁹ Common people are as worthless as a puff of wind,
and the powerful are not what they appear to be.
If you weigh them on the scales,
together they are lighter than a breath of air.

¹⁰ Don't make your living by extortion or put your hope in stealing.
And if your wealth increases,
don't make it the center of your life.

¹¹ God has spoken plainly,
and I have heard it many times:
Power, O God, belongs to you;

¹² unfailing love, O Lord, is yours.

Surely you repay all people
according to what they have done.

source: [1]Bible Gateway

This psalm was a part of my Bible reading this morning. As I read it, I was reminded of the beautiful, praise-stirring prayer of [2]VICTORY by MJT I read on yesterday. Like David, I have those times when it seems there is so much against me. It looks to others and sometimes EVEN to me that this time I'm not going to make it out. But this psalm and his prayer reminds me that victory IS my predetermined end. Not because there's anything so great or good about me or what I can do but because who God is and what He already established for my life. I'm so grateful that God was so wise and mindful to leave written records such as this psalm that I can read and reflect upon in times of adversity. Or He causes my path to cross with another one of His children that speaks or writes a word that refuels my hope and confidence in God.



[3]

1. <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2062&version=NLT>
2. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/2010/09/sweet-ps-praise-god-for-victory.html>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Mike (2010-09-18 19:57:17)
Wonderful. He always comes through.... always, always!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-18 20:39:19)
This was wonderful Wanda, a privilege to read. Thank you.
Yvonne.

MTJ (2010-09-18 20:51:24)
Hi Wanda,
I am grateful to have found the words of encouragement on the pages of this blog. The title *The Watered Soul* is so appropriate.
Recently, you wrote about the passage of scripture in Ephesians (6) and as I meditated on the scripture I began to see something which for me, was what I need to do; *stand, walk and live in the faith and victory I have in Christ*. The life I live, though it may be temporal, though it may experience pain, sorrow and grief, will not deter me from my faith in the risen Savior and Lord.
I appreciate you as a fellow Christian.
Blessings and peace.
[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Joanne Sher (2010-09-18 20:59:28)
The psalms are so full of things like this - love them - and this post. Blessings.

Amanda (2010-09-19 04:08:32)
Amen Wanda... I love the Psalms because in it, we hear the heart of David (most of them were written by him). Many of them were borne out of his struggles and over-whelming trials. We can all relate to him on so many levels even though not many of our trials were as severe as his.
I always find encouragement and inspiration through the posts you write... I am very grateful for your blog!

Dena E's Blog (2010-09-19 22:26:12)

Yes Sweet Wanda,,Always Always Wait on God,,He is our 1 and only TRUE Hope,, ,never give up on Him..
Don't listen to the enemy Sweetie,,its hard sometimes but you know you're in His word and that is everything!!!
You will be added to my prayers tonight too..
He is our,,Heart Toucher,, Hand Holder,, Fear Taker and Peace Maker,,to just name a few :0)
May all good things of God happen for you in your new week!!!
Hugs &Love Dena

Karen (2010-09-20 00:04:12)

Amen...the Living Word...always has the answer...because He IS the answer.....

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-09-20 12:54:33)

He is unfailing love, unfailing power and unfailing victory....we always can be certain of the outcome when we place our trust in Him.

But, I want to go this way {Monday Manna} (2010-09-20 23:23)



[1]

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the LORD.

”As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9

When I saw that Isaiah 55:8-9 was the passage for Joanne's [2]Monday Manna, one of the first things to come to my mind was His thoughts and ways are definitely NOT like mine. Which of course is a good thing but that doesn't mean I always see it that way. That probably doesn't sound very nice for a self-professed Christ follower, but, nevertheless it's true anyway.

As I thought on this scripture, my mind went back to all the “thoughts” and “plans” I had for my life over a decade ago. I can look on those thoughts and plans of mine with both gladness and sadness. Some things I thought for sure were what I wanted only to get them and find that it wasn't all I'd chalked it up to be in my own mind. Others meant so little to me then but now as the days, months, and years fly by without any sign of them on the horizon, I find myself questioning Lord how long.

Just like He guided the Israelites along the long way to Canaan for a reason, I have to trust that the steps I'm taking along my life journey are preparing me for the promised place. Even when I can't perceive the good in it, I must trust that He indeed has a plan and it's good and not evil.



[3]

Thirsty for Him Wanda

[4]

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJfsZDTDchI/AAAAAAAAARI/qLHlCegzY1c/s1600-h/Not%20an%20option%5B12%5D.jpg
2. <http://www.joannesh.com/>
3. <http://www.joannesh.com/>
4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Joanne Sher (2010-09-20 23:51:47)

YES! We think we know what we want - but so often we are wrong. SO glad there is Someone who really knows what is best! Thanks for participating, Wanda!

MTJ (2010-09-21 00:28:29)

Hi Wanda,

What a wonderful scripture to share for anyone seeking to experience success in life. I realize that success is not determined by what one gains or the recognition for achieving a set goal, true success is measured by my willingness to obey God.

While acquiring wealth, status, position, fulfilling the achievement of a goal or being recognized for an accomplishment is worthy and admirable, hearing the words, "**Well done!**" from the Creator of all life should be my number one priority.

Like you, I have often found how *my* thinking differs from the Lord. This discrepancy has always been to my regret. I believe all things happen for a specific reason and therefore there is a purpose to all things that occur. I'm not talking about *cause and effect*, I'm speaking to the plans and purposes of God.

Though I may not understand them as they unfold, I am assured that He is working all things together for my good (*benefit*). I can depend on Him.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

LisaShaw (2010-09-21 00:46:36)

Amen sis! Trusting His path and plan for my life which is a far cry BETTER than any plan I had.

I remember in high school I was going to go into the Marines. Shortly after HS I had long term plans for becoming a prosecuting attorney.

Hence GOD's plan was for me to be a mommy/grandma, wife and minister with my husband. HIS PLANS ARE BETTER!!! Hallelujah!

Thanks for sharing dear one!

His plans are better!

Wanda (2010-09-21 02:17:10)

Joanne, I was happy to do so. It's interesting to see what others glean from the same passage of scripture. MTJ, hearing Well done is by far better than anything we can achieve or possess down here. Lisa, they definitely are. I just wish he'd give me more details...lol

Bernadine (2010-09-21 02:28:08)

I find myself nodding in agreement as I read this because this is so where I'm at lately. I find myself constantly asking Him for details but He wants my walk to be a walk of faith. So as you said, "Even when I can't perceive the good in it, I must trust that He indeed has a plan and it's good and not evil." Thanks for sharing.

Wanda (2010-09-21 11:41:51)

Bernadine, the road in between what used to be and the promised place can be quite uncomfortable. But He didn't call us to comfort but FAITH.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-21 16:27:41)

This was wonderful to read so inspirational, thanks for sharing. Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-09-21 17:39:40)

One of the toughest battles of the Christian walk is not that of surrendering our thoughts and plans to God, it is in knowing that our thoughts and plans are not like His. Most of us would happily accept the will of God if we were certain it would just be a rubber stamp on our own desires. All I can say is, "Lord, I want to be more like You."

Mike (2010-09-21 20:21:57)

An apt word for me today!! Blessings :)

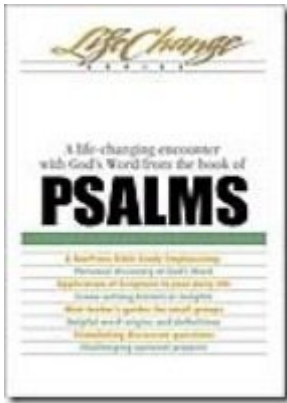
Psalms {Life Change Series} (2010-09-21 06:00)

Could David have been the first blogger?

It's GREAT that we have David's words to read... he experienced and wrote about so many different feelings that we experience. Hey, now that I think about it, David was like the first blogger, wasn't he?!

[1]Michelle made this comment to a post I wrote on [2]Psalms 142:4-5.

I never had thought about him in that way. He might not have been a blogger in today's sense of the word but He certainly had a good rapport with God. A myriad of emotions are freely expressed throughout the book of Psalms.



[3] In the latest edition of the LifeChange series Bible studies, the Navigators takes readers on a journey of prayer through the book of Psalms. Not just prayers of praise and worship but it also includes prayers of intercession and supplication, renewal and restoration, vindication and forgiveness among several others. The study contains 10 lessons that are designed to be used as a group study but can be done individually as well.

Each lesson contains a lesson objective, desired action, Psalms for the lesson, and study questions. Participants are encouraged to delve deeper into the lesson's theme through the use of additional application activities and further study assignments.

What I like about the study:

- It's not just a read the scripture and fill in the blank study. Questions are designed for you to study the scripture and discover for oneself how it applies to their lives.
- Perfect size to carry along with you.
- Provides a listing of additional study aides
- Includes a basic group leader's guide for each lesson

One thing to note is that the study does not proceed through the book of Psalms by chapters but based upon themes. Each lesson discusses several Psalms passages. It's simple design and layout provides little visual appeal but offers a good starter map for anyone wanting a fresh view of Psalms.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from NavPress Publishers as part of their Blogger Review Program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

[4]

1. <http://somegirlswebsite.com/about-some-girl/>
2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/07/nobody-likes-me.html>
3. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJgUavBsqiI/AAAAAAAAARU/uwo4c65_jYs/s1600-h/Lifechange%20Psalms%5B3%5D.jpg
4. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Karen (2010-09-21 09:51:41)

I like to think of David as a fellow blogger! Through his praise, he built a "tabernacle of praise" that has endured!

MTJ (2010-09-21 12:49:09)

Hi Wanda,

Thanks for sharing this review by Navigators. I hope there is a Kindle version available.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-21 16:19:31)

Thanks Wanda for this interesting post, Indeed David could have been the first blogger.

Yvonne.

Amanda (2010-09-22 08:38:43)

This study looks interesting... I always love the Psalms (who doesn't??) lol.

I am sure David would have been an awesome blogger!! :D

SomeGirl (2010-09-27 05:37:35)

How fun to see my comment in your post! :) Looks like a great study, btw. Thanks for sharing it! ?

Jenny (2010-09-29 16:57:21)

I sort of imagine David having an account on YouTube, actually.

Heard the News (2010-09-22 02:25)



[1]

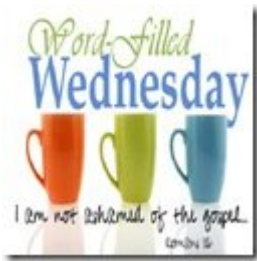
With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees. Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you." Isaiah 35:3-4

When is the last time you heard something positive on your local news channel? I really make it a point not to watch much of the news. It seems there are so many reports of stealing and killing and I can do without the visuals haunting me in my sleep.

As I read through my daily reading the other day, Isaiah 35:3-4 stood out to me. Here the people were instructed to take the news they had heard and use it to strengthen and encourage others. He identifies three types of individuals who needed the news:

- Had tired hands – are there some assignments that you’ve gotten weary carrying out?
- Had weak knees – are there some prayer requests that you’re not sure you have the strength to bring before the Father again? Or perhaps you been in a “holding” position and it feels as if you can’t stand too much longer.
- Had fearful hearts – has the length of time between what you thought you heard and the manifestation caused you to begin to fear or doubt?

I’m raising my hand and saying Yes, YEs, YES! But I read the NEWS and it gives a report of CHANGE, HOPE, and SALVATION. Today, I take comfort and strength in this good news and I pray that you will too.



[2]

[3]

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJm9eYV5IMI/AAAAAAAAARg/pLncS_1iMD8/s1600-h/goodnews%5B16%5D.jpg

2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>

3. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJm9g_C04DI/AAAAAAAAARs/an81qE-DUxw/s1600-h/isaiah%2035-3%5B7%5D.jpg

Amanda (2010-09-22 02:36:47)

This is such an encouraging WFW, Wanda. I like how you expanded on those scriptures...

I am like you, I don't watch much news at all. Actually, none. I look at news headlines on the computer and that I can select what I am comfortable hearing about.

Happy WFW lovely sis...

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-22 04:54:25)

I make a point in watching our regional news then followed by the national and international news once a day, I don't buy many newspapers.

I enjoyed your post as usual, you write a lot of sense,

Yvonne.

MTJ (2010-09-22 05:53:18)

Hi Wanda,

This is news we all need to hear.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Joan (2010-09-22 05:56:30)

Wanda - this is such an encouraging post. I also raise my hand to all three questions, but praise God for His salvation, grace, and mercy. In Christ alone is where we find hope.

Blessings,

Joan

Cherie Hill (2010-09-22 06:13:43)

What a great post Wanda! The Lord lead me to the book of Isaiah over the past week and has been speaking volumes to me! I think the whole book could be summed up in two words:

Justice and Deliverance!

Love,hugs,and prayers,

Cherie

lori (2010-09-22 06:30:58)

Wanda....

Hand raised here as well! What an awesome post this morning...what an encouraging post! I will be passing this on to some friends who are in need of this reminder!

Wanda, thank you for always encouraging and edifying each week! You're amazing!

peace,

lori

ozjane (2010-09-22 07:28:27)

That verse has been on my heart today after I got out the wrong side of the bed.....Madam Moggie was occupying the right side at my feet, so it usually easier to roll out the other side, but I tripped on a small cushion and crashed down on my two replaced knees. Being on them is a bit like being on a bed of nails and I had to walk on them a little to get to the bed and pull myself up. But I did not hit either of two sets of drawers ...nor did I hit my head on a doorway or anything...sore elbow and a shaken up body...but yet an awareness that even in the fall I was kept in His power and love.

Julie Arduini (2010-09-22 07:31:52)

So much wisdom here, thank you!

Joanne Sher (2010-09-22 09:44:26)

Beautiful, and SO encouraging, Wanda. Thanks. hon.

Michele Williams (2010-09-22 10:17:46)

My hand is raised as well. Thank you for this encouragement. Blessings

Peggy (2010-09-22 11:15:08)

WOW Wanda...now that's GOOD NEWS!

I need His strength & encouragement

though my hands are not tired right now nor are my knees weak! My heart is not fearful... now on to finish what you shared about these verses from the great prophet Isaiah!

I need any good report and this changes it, now that I have your perspective of tired hands, weak knees, and fearful hearts! I kinda thought that maybe I had weak knees... I will take comfort today

in a good report from GOD for CHANGE, HOPE and SALVATION - the best news we have to share with a world that is hurting and breaking!

So many that don't even realize that they NEED HIM!

Peace & thanks for your encouragement,
Peggy

Nicole (2010-09-22 11:58:32)

Beautiful WFW Wanda!

Very encouraging post today. Thanks for sharing it.

Mike (2010-09-22 12:17:00)

Praise Him that He is always on the case of good news!!

Faith Imagined (2010-09-22 12:46:16)

I can't even begin to explain how much I relate to this post! I feel change is coming soon and I can't wait! Thank you so much for this encouragement to press on!!!

GlowinGirl (2010-09-22 13:41:09)

Girl, this is GOOD NEWS, indeed! I, too, am a news-avoider simply because I believe the media tends to prey on our fears and sensationalize things until I'd be too scared to leave my house. God is good, strong and mighty, and I need not fear because His news is the best of all!

LOVE this WFW!

Mary (2010-09-22 16:07:11)

I love that verse!! We are to strengthen one another, because EVERYONE needs encouragement! Thanks so much for sharing. Blessings on your day.

Lisa (2010-09-22 16:23:21)

What good news in those verses! Thanks for sharing.

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK for the Sandwich Generation (2010-09-22 17:30:30)

Hi Wanda, Those encouraging Bible verses are definitely good news for all of us, including The Sandwich Generation boomers helping the beloved seniors in their family! Thank you for such perfect timing for them! :)

Amydeanne (2010-09-22 20:47:52)

very encouraging Wanda!

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-09-22 23:16:39)

Great teaching on bringing the good news to our Christian family to strengthen them. Yes, it is much better than television news (except for the weather).

Blessings,

Janis

Denise (2010-09-23 04:06:51)

Bless you for the encouragement.

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-09-23 06:31:34)

So true! Wanda, you have been such an encouragement today to me. Thank you!

Sherry

Ellie (2010-09-24 20:39:33)

Thanks Wanda,

It is nice to see you give us a fresh view! I,too, sometimes don't watch the news, it is depressing and upsetting! You did give us a Word full, a nice way to view the NEWS xXx

Toia (2010-09-25 10:27:41)

This what I needed to read. This is what I call good news. Thanks for sharing!!

Petula (2010-09-25 12:42:39)

Great post! Yes, watching and reading the regular news is not usually good. But the news you shared from his word is good.

sarah (2010-09-25 14:22:15)

this is a great encouraging post. thank you for it.

elaine @ peace for the journey (2010-09-25 19:49:39)

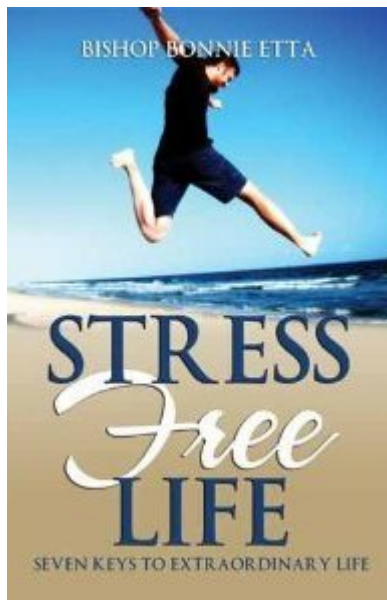
So glad that God's news & truth doesn't read like the world's does. Yes, let us strengthen one another with truth and keep to it all the more as we see the day approaching!

Thanks for your prayers and encouragement.

blessed Sabbath rest to you.

peace elaine

Stress Free Life :Seven Keys to Extraordinary Life (2010-09-26 23:19)



[1] What comes to mind when you hear the word stress? Is it juggling family and career? Or perhaps the demands of ministry endeavors are weighing you down. Whatever your personal situation, stress is something we all can personally identify with. At the time the opportunity to review *Stress Free Life: Seven Keys to Extraordinary Life* by Bishop Bonnie Etta presented itself, I wasn't feeling much stress but who couldn't use some extra tools for handling stress effectively.

Bishop Etta divides the book into two sections. Section one outlines the seven keys to living extraordinarily and section two focuses on ways to reign in life. He identifies the seven keys as:

- **Healed Through Love** -discusses how our life flows from our love of God and some of the hindrances to walking in love like mistrust, human failings, rejection and abuse

- **The Beauty of Forgiveness** – looks at how choosing to release hurts and offences brings liberation from stress
- **The Power of Truth** – points out the importance of being willing to face the truth and living authentically
- **The Peace of Unity**- calls readers to unity not just with others but within themselves
- **The Grace of Appreciation**-reminds us of the value of gratitude
- **Intimacy Through Communication**-communicates the value of relationships with others
- **The Creative Force of Faith**–illustrates how faith is the necessary building block for our lives.

It was an interesting read and there were several statements that stood out enough for me to write them down. Here are few:

Cowards die in silence; they are influenced by people's opinions, people's appearances and even by the environment in which they find themselves. Cowards die with truths they never experimented; they die with life-giving keys they never used. They die with words they never released because of fear.

Needless to say I re-discovered that I'm a coward.

Stress is based upon false pictures and based upon false ideas regarding yourself and the situation you may find yourself in. Stress hates to face the truth, stress hates truth.

Many times I have been worried about something but when I actually faced the situation, it wasn't near as bad as I had conjured up in my mind.

The author not only addresses individuals but the church as well.

The body of Christ is sick today in many countries because the various Christian bodies or denominations have lost their focus. Therefore their followers have no purpose and have nothing to do after being saved except to pay tithes and offerings.

Some of the author's theories, I did not agree with like his conclusions on the cause of poverty. On page 67 he writes,

Poverty is born out of unbiblical way of life practices. Poverty is not a blessing from God; it does not have the nature and image of God. It is caused by foolishness, ungodliness, wicked political systems and caused by the enemy of human life; the devil.

About the Author:

Bishop Bonnie Etta is the senior pastor and founder of the World Vision International Worship Center in Beltsville MD, one of the fastest growing multinational nondenominational church. He is an international conference speaker, author, counselor, and singer and oversees the World Vision Outreach ministries.

He holds a Masters in Ministry and he is the author of another book entitled *Becoming Your Dream*, which has given hope and courage to millions around the world.

Disclosure: I was provided a complimentary copy of this by Bostick Communications as a part of their blogger review program. The opinions expresses are my own.



1. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJ6rTLF7H8I/AAAAAAAAAS8/fvpeDsiwgWQ/s1600/stressfreelife.jpg
2. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

MTJ (2010-09-26 23:30:31)

Hi Wanda,

Though I'm unfamiliar with the author, I do enjoy reading the book reviews you share with this community. Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Lisa (2010-09-27 00:23:09)

How interesting and I must say, I 'm a coward right there with you. That is something I struggle with, but that I know I am overcoming by God's grace. I will pray that you do as well. Thanks for the review. I see posts like these as God's little reminders that we may be stuck in a certain place, but we don't have to stay there.

Have a blessed and wonderful week Sis.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-27 07:29:39)

A most interesting review of the author about stress, it has the opposite views I have read about stress over the years, aliet very good I'm sure both ways of dealing with stress has the same outcome, as I believe you have to BELIVE what you're reading.

Have a good day.

Yvonne.

Wanda (2010-09-27 12:31:03)

It was my first time reading any work from this author, MTJ.

Lisa, I'm glad to know that I'm not that only one that tends to be a coward at times but you're right we don't have to stay that way. Hope you have a great week too!

Yvonne, it was definitely a different take on handling stress. I don't know if we'll ever be totally stress free in this life. Besides stress can be both good and bad.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-09-27 14:55:05)

Thanks Wanda. That word "fear" and stress are so tied together. It will spin you in circles until you fall in complete exhaustion. My motto is always to fight fear using God's word....daily.

Wanda (2010-09-28 11:31:43)

Now that's a wise motto, Blue! We have to use the weapons God has provided us.

Just a Few Steps From Home (2010-09-27 17:34)



[1]

It's something about those last few steps from the house that seem the most arduous when finishing up my walk. Just when I can finally see my house in sight, my strength wanes. As I rounded the corner Saturday, with my home in full view, God interrupted my walk to illustrate to me the position that I believe many find themselves in at this very moment.

Why would coming home be hard? For me, my home is a place of comfort. My little place of tranquility from the noisiness of the outside world. It contains so many of things I love. So, it seems I'd be sprinting home.

Spiritually speaking home represents our connectedness with the Father. He showed me that many people we've been praying for are just a few steps from home. But these last few steps before turning their lives over to God are often the most difficult. Sure they're tired from the toiling of their current lives but they wonder can they really make it to God. The bondages of sin confines their movement and thoughts in their minds try to convince them that they'll never make it. It's too late. They've already missed their chance. Or they've done too much.

Home is not just a place of comfort but it's also a place of responsibility. Owning a home requires that I pay some bills and provide maintenance to the house. In the same way, giving our lives to God positions us for responsibility. I'm not talking in the sense that we have to earn our salvation. Salvation is an unmerited gift made available to all of us because of the finished work of the cross. But many wonder when I make it to God can I really do all that He requires. Can I live up to His name? Can I be a proper reflection of Him? As we pray for others, we are not always able to see outwards signs of their moving closer to Him. Yet I'm encouraged to continue pressing and praying. For who knows, today just may be the day they return home.



[2]

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TKCHE64rb_I/AAAAAAAAATA/m97A3ZtzWKY/s1600/829965_a_tale_of_orange_shoes_3.jpg

2. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

MTJ (2010-09-27 18:29:19)

Hi Wanda,

You've written such a sensitive and thoughtful post. You're right in saying that, "**we are not always able to see outwards signs**", that those we pray for are moving closer to God; *but we can trust the Lord with their life just as we trust Him with our own.*

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Beth in NC (2010-09-27 19:02:31)

Great reminder to press through Wanda. You're right, often times it is harder when we are about to birth something ... push, push, push!

Bless you!

Beth

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-09-27 19:14:20)

Reading this, I felt as if you were in my morning meditations. Press on! Pray on! Endure!!!! Hallelujah!!!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-27 20:15:39)

A great post Wanda, something for me to mull over later on. Most thought provoking.

Yvonne.

Wanda (2010-09-28 11:30:15)

Pushing and praying indeed. Well God knows just when we need to hear thing Blue b/c I've had the draft of this post written for over a week but finally felt it was time to post it. Appreciate all of you stopping by.

Amanda (2010-09-28 11:31:13)

oh wow!!! I LOVE what He showed you! So true!

When I walk our newest dog of an afternoon, she picks up the scent of home half a block away. And she runs. And, I have to try to keep up to her lol. She is on a lead so I have little choice. But she is so skitterish away from home, and can't wait to get back there for all it's familiarity and security.

We can learn from this dog I think. That's for the Christians. The ones about to 'come home to Him', do often struggle to make the final half block because of the what-ifs and spiritual battles.

Excellent post my sister!

Rae (2010-09-28 13:42:20)

You never fail to provoke thankfulness and humbleness in my heart. Your posts always start my day with a positive eye on God and His generous mercy.

Ellie (2010-09-29 02:25:33)

I am so glad you posted this! YOU waited til it felt right! I found it unique, we both posted about HOME!

Our soul's are our homes, when our hearts rest with ease. xXx

LisaShaw (2010-09-29 12:42:57)

Wanda,

This is rich! I press and pray and do it all in Jesus Name! Powerful reminder...thanks friend!

Blessings,

Lisa

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-10-23 20:41:36)

As I read this I thought about one particular person very dear to me who I believe fits what you've described in this post. I will continue to pray that he gets his second wind and is able to make that last push toward "home", an all-in loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Thank you for this post. It was a very encouraging reminder.

Monica

Spreading the Sweet Stuff (2010-09-29 00:00)



[1]

But thanks be to God, who made us his captives and leads us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now wherever we go he uses us to tell others about the Lord and to spread the Good News like a sweet perfume.

2 Corinthians 2: 14 (NLT)

I love the way The Message paraphrases this passage, too.

In the Messiah, in Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade. Through us, he brings knowledge of Christ. Everywhere we go, people breathe in the exquisite fragrance. Because of Christ, we give off a sweet scent rising to God, which is recognized by those on the way of salvation—an aroma redolent with life. But those on the way to destruction treat us more like the stench from a rotting corpse.

2 Corinthians 2:15-16

For some reason this passage of scripture took me back to my elementary school cafeteria, where the scent of barbecue wieners (and know, I don't mean grilled ones either but ones covered in some kind of weird barbecue sauce) would set off a gag reflex in me. Now for those who enjoyed that little delicacy, it was no doubt a pleasing aroma. Each of us was served the same meal but smelled something very different. Likewise with the message of Christ—to one it smells sweet yet to another it stinks.

Visit [2]Internet Cafe Devotions for more Word-Filled Wednesday.



[3]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TKLAZWX10fI/AAAAAAAAATE/ZluTWxx04IY/s1600-h/fancybottle%5B12%5D.jpg
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>
3. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-09-29 05:09:12)

You do write some very inspirational posts Wanda and this one is no exception. A pleasure to read.
Yvonne.

Dorie (2010-09-29 05:13:39)

Cafeteria lunch room aroma - you made me laugh! Seriously, it was a great analogy. Thanks for sharing it.

Amanda (2010-09-29 05:52:02)

It is so true!! You wrote a great analogy to drive the message home lol! Weiners!! haha!

I love the whole imagery provoked by 'aroma, fragrance' scriptures and I LOVED how the Message worded this. Straight to the point.

Well done and have a great WFW Wanda!

Joan (2010-09-29 05:54:51)

Wanda - I had to smile at the cafeteria smell. I think we had those same barbequed weiners in our cafeteria. (And I agree about the smell.)

Your post is so full of truth. Often people reject the message of Christ - it isn't pleasant and sweet to them. Oh, that they would know the glorious riches of knowing Him.

Blessings,

Joan

MTJ (2010-09-29 06:04:36)

Hi Wanda,

I find it interesting that God uses our sense of smell to distinguish those *attracted to Him* against those opposed to Him. Often, my sense of smell made the decision for me without really knowing whether a certain type of food tasted good. As a child, I hated the smell of Black-eyed Peas but years later, after tasting them, I grew to love Black-eyed Peas. Too often, people reject God without ever having a genuine relationship with Him.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

GlowinGirl (2010-09-29 06:18:52)

BBQ wieners! Hilarious! But so true, because I love those little things. :) What a unique way to put a great truth. Love it!

lifeasacrazyquilt (2010-09-29 08:37:47)

I love the message and I love the imagery you've shared. Thanks so much!

Blessings,

penny

Joanne Sher (2010-09-29 09:58:21)

Love the message AND the imagery! Gonna remember this one!

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-09-29 10:34:36)

Awesome Word and picture to go with! LOL about cafeteria food. :)

Have a blessed day!

Sherry

lori (2010-09-29 10:47:31)

Ahhhh yes, the fragrance that follows us...This is great Wanda, as usual!!

Forget the cafeteria...for me it was coming home to smell mom making liver and onions for dinner...may I NEVER smell like that...;)

peace,

lori

Peggy (2010-09-29 11:07:51)

Blessings Wanda... Beautifully done!

Love the way you wrapped the graphics around the "fragrance".

I, too, agree that it's really helpful to have this vivid imagery,

(I'm like that about some foods and smells also, like my neighbor's strong burnt coffee smell) and the comparison of the versions!

This verse was one that became very REAL to me, and was the first verse I chose to memorize in

[1]2009

after reading a wonderful book. And I could not find its title but I'll let you know when I do.

EnJOY WFW!

Peggy

1. <http://mazmagi.blogspot.com/2009/01/we-are-aroma-of-christ-to-nations.html>

Susan (2010-09-29 13:01:03)

Great word! Something we need to be reminded of often!!

Nicole (2010-09-29 13:21:52)

Beautiful picture and verse Wanda!!

I love how you describe it too.

Like others said it is great how some of us are just attracted to Him!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-09-29 13:36:59)

I love this. As someone with allergies, even a "sweet" smell can trigger something ugly. It's not the aroma so much as my ability to receive. When I prepare though, I can handle the smell. As I was reading this post, I thought back to John The Baptist, and how even Christ had a way prepared for Him, so His presence would be received. I really thank God that He makes it so that a way is prepared so those who desire the aroma of His presence can be prepared to receive.

Denise (2010-09-29 13:50:58)

Such a good message.

Ginger (2010-09-29 14:55:50)

That's a shouting verse! I love that.

Nice to see you again as I have posted little lately.

Ginger

Amydeanne (2010-09-29 17:06:30)

ooo I did one like this a few years back! I just love the verse and what it resembles!

Katie (2010-09-29 17:10:30)

It IS a sweet perfume! I'm hoping a few people will be 'spritzed' through the challenge. Thanks for linking up with Scripture & A Snapshot this week!!

Debra Kaye (2010-09-29 17:18:26)

Great message Wanda! Happy WFW!

Whidbey Woman (2010-09-29 19:33:19)

You know, the more I read The Message the more I like it!

Thanks for visiting my blogs each week like you do. Really appreciate your kind comments and encouraging words! Have a happy WFW and rest of the week.

cHe (2010-09-29 20:02:11)

Great image and powerful message:)

Thanks for this!

Pia (2010-09-29 21:03:48)

reading blogs since last night gave me the impression that God's telling me to share Him to others. and your blog post for WFW confirmed just that. yes, in my own little way, i will share Jesus to people.

Cathy (2010-09-29 21:28:38)

A beautiful WFW, thank you Blessings

Sharon Kirby (2010-09-30 02:05:15)

But to those who know the Lord, oh how sweet His fragrance!!

BLESSINGS, Wanda!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-09-30 18:38:21)

I "ditto" the sentiments of Ms. Sharon Kirby. I certainly pray that I emit a sweet fragrance of Christ and that it is received that way to believers and unbelievers alike. The unbeliever may not recognize the scent, but my prayer it will be attractive enough for him/her to follow his nose. :-)

Blessings to you, dear Wanda!

Ellie (2010-09-30 19:02:23)

I love how you did this, how our senses can take us so many places and how what is good for one, isn't for another at that moment. Perhaps we are just on a different page at that second in time

Petula (2010-10-01 06:54:33)

That is a fabulous analogy to solidify your point. I never thought of it like that. Excellent.

Melissa in Mel's World (2010-10-01 08:54:28)

Love this verse and graphic!!! Great job, thanks so much for sharing for WFW! :)

1.8 October

He's Still Working Miracles (2010-10-01 17:13)



[1] Earlier today I read a post by Beth over at [2]I'm Headed Towards My Destiny and she certainly gave the post a fitting title-[3]You Must Read This. She shares how during a recent casual visit with one of her cousins the Miracle Worker showed up! Reading it stirred my faith this morning. I have read about such miracles in days of old but haven't laid my natural eyes on one of that type, yet. But I [4]heard the news that He's moving over in NC. Could Arkansas be next? Or maybe He's already show up at your residence. If He hasn't, keep looking! He promised in His Word He would show up when we call Him.

If you're like me, you have called Him about some things but He's yet to appear in that particular area. I know some times my courage and my faith wanes so much so that I don't feel like praying about that again. But, like my pastor said during Sunday's message, do IT again. PRAY again. BELIEVE again. HOPE again. TRUST again. DECLARE His Word again.

Again, I ask could Arkansas be next? Well I already know He's moving here, too. Just last Saturday, my sister interrupted our phone conversation to answer a call from our cousin. After not hearing back from her for a while, I assumed she had gotten busy but eventually she did call back with wonderful news. She described how this male cousin of ours was expressing his experience with the spirit of the Lord and how much he hungered for more of God. During the course of their conversation, she said he just wept and shared how he longed for other members of our family to have this same experience.

While she shared this with me, I was in sheer amazement . Why? I mean I am a believer in Jesus Christ. But I still listened in shocked wonderment because I was hearing with my own ears the report of the miracle worker showing up on a side of my family that I least expected. The two sides of my family are like vanilla and chocolate or oil and water. One has a long history of walking with God and the other an even longer history of walking in the ways of the world. Don't misunderstand me; both sides of the family have its share of rebels and redeemed ones but the concentration mix is different between the two.

After reading Beth's post and reflecting on the conversation with my sister, I can't help but give Him praise. [5]Who else but God can bring healing? Who else but the Sovereign One can make Himself known to those we often consider as hard cases? Is there anything too hard for Him?

Don't you know anything? Haven't you been listening? God doesn't come and go. God lasts. He's Creator of all you can see or imagine. He doesn't get tired out, doesn't pause to catch his breath. And he knows everything, inside and out. Isaiah 40:28 (The Message)



[6]

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TKYKv8kUfzI/AAAAAAAAATM/1-VzYfrDwzY/s1600-h/980736_miracle%5B5%5D.jpg
2. <http://bethinncc.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://bethinncc.blogspot.com/2010/09/you-must-read-this.html>
4. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/09/heard-news.html>
5. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/03/if-not-him-then-who.html>
6. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

Grammy (2010-10-01 19:27:29)

Amen! is about all I can say. Thank you so very much for this word of testimony about how Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ still moves among us and becomes real to those that seek Him.

Love,
Ruby

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-10-01 21:26:57)

I applaud your write Wanda, you certainly get the message across.
Wonderful to read.
Enjoy your week-end.
Yvonne.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-10-01 21:27:06)

I applaud your write Wanda, you certainly get the message across.
Wonderful to read.
Enjoy your week-end.
Yvonne.

Lisa (2010-10-01 23:51:57)

Wanda, God is showing me constantly lately (!) that HE is moving on my behalf. I may not see the answer or the way, but He knows.

I'm so glad to hear that God is moving in the life of your family. He can be depended on – He can be trusted!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MTJ (2010-10-02 05:16:11)

Hi Wanda,

No matter what our eyes try to convince us of, we must trust the Lord to do above and beyond what we cannot see. What you share is worthy of praise to our Lord.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Amanda (2010-10-02 06:32:12)

Well this certainly fired me up! How infectious is His Spirit, that fans the flame in our hearts!!

Loved hearing about your cousin. You know Wanda, one thing I have noticed in God, is that it is those you least expect, who bow their knees to Him. Every time I think it will be 'this' one, it turns out to be 'that' one. Amazing...
Love and hugs sister...

Bernadine (2010-10-03 20:45:29)

I enjoy reading about how God is moving in the lives of others. I can so identify when you wrote about praying about "that" again but like you I'm encouraged to do it again.

Thanks for sharing.

Pat (2010-10-04 17:20:23)

Hello Wanda my first visit here and I did enjoy your post very much!!! Yes I'm also expecting a visit soon from my Saviour and it's going to be great because truly nothing is too hard for God, and all of his promises are true "Hallelujah"!!! Have a fantastic day Wanda I'll be back soon.

Love ya

Cherie Hill (2010-10-05 12:29:12)

I love how God "surprisingly" shows up. I love how He "suddenly" moves powerfully! But, it's all no surprise to Him . . . it's happened just as He planned all along. AND we should have been "expecting" Him. I pray, everyday, that when He looks at me, "I will be found in Him" . . . full of faith . . . consumed with hope . . . with my eyes fixed upon Him.

Blessings sister,

Cherie

lioneagle (2010-10-14 21:51:44)

Greetings -

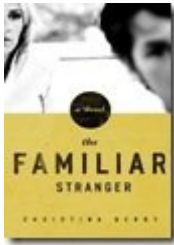
Wanda, this is a blessing to hear about your cousin. It reminds that GOD's thoughts are not our thoughts nor are His ways our ways.

He is so beyond our abilities to comprehend.

I loved what Amanda wrote too, she said, "Well this certainly fired me up! How infectious is His Spirit, that fans the flame in our hearts!!" Amen!

The Familiar Stranger {Teaser Tuesday} (2010-10-05 05:00)

Since I've been catching up on a book I've longed to read for some time now, I decided to link up with Miz B at [1]Should Be Reading for Teaser Tuesday.



My Teaser: [2]

"What?" she whispered, leaning toward me. "That you feel more loved by a man who's just getting to know you than by the man who lived with you for years."

The Familiar Stranger by Christina Berry

You can join the fun by picking up your latest read and turning to a random page. Share two sentences from that page. Make sure not to share any spoilers.



[3]

1. <http://shouldbereading.wordpress.com/2010/10/05/teaser-tuesdays-oct-5/#comments>
2. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TKqQWthQD4I/AAAAAAAAATs/j-6VV0VoqQo/s1600-h/stranger%5B20%5D.jpg
3. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-10-05 06:48:45)
Hope your link up will be a success
Yvonne,

Tasha (2010-10-05 12:59:44)
Wow, interesting teaser! Makes me wonder what comes next. Here is a look at my [1]teaser... Happy reading!

1. <http://book-obsessed.blogspot.com/2010/10/teaser-tuesday-one-wicked-sin-by-nicola.html>

Joanne Sher (2010-10-05 13:10:54)
LOVED that book, Wanda! And a fabulous teaser for it :)

TheBookishSnob (2010-10-05 13:37:16)
So what's her reply? Thanks for the teaser :)
[1]Here's my TEASER for this week

1. <http://thebookishsnob.blogspot.com/2010/10/teaser-tuesday-7.html>

Monica (2010-10-05 21:16:14)
Wow...pretty good teaser. I might have to link up one day.

Book Sake (2010-10-06 00:12:17)
New love can feel that way!

PatriciaW (2010-10-06 18:14:02)
I haven't read this one, but it's on my TBR list.

As Weeks Go By (2010-10-05 23:30)

All humanity will come to worship me from week to week and from month to month. Isaiah 66:23 (NLT)



[1]

”For just as the new heavens and new earth
that I am making will stand firm before me”
—God’s Decree—

”So will your children
and your reputation stand firm.

Month after month and week by week,

everyone will come to worship me,” God says. Isaiah 66:22-23 (The Message) [2]



1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TKvmxaqU6SI/AAAAAAAAAT0/X_jz4QndLMg/s1600/month+2+month.jpg
2. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjdjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-10-06 05:44:14)

Wonderful, I can always count on you Wanda for inspiration.

Yvonne.

Amanda (2010-10-06 06:04:21)

Yes, amen and amen! Very clever graphics to go with this scripture and message Wanda... I always look forward to seeing your entry each week ;-)

God bless ya and happy WFW!

ozjane (2010-10-06 06:58:32)

I like it.... I was stumbling around in a tired brain for inspiration today but sometimes it is in the simple things...well done.

MTJ (2010-10-06 07:50:34)

Hi Wanda,

Thank you for sharing these words of inspiration and encouragement from the Lord our God.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Faith Imagined (2010-10-06 08:01:20)

I just love this graphic and the scripture it illustrates! Perfect!!!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-10-06 08:26:50)

We serve an amazing God. He will search heaven and earth for one, yet He is for all. No human flesh can say or do that. Oh, how I love Jesus.

Joanne Sher (2010-10-06 09:36:11)

You are SO creative, Wanda. LOVE this.

lori (2010-10-06 12:24:41)

Wanda! This is great as usual...and again you've inspired me! You are one creative gal and we're blessed every week by your talents!

peace,

lori

Karen (2010-10-06 13:50:48)

Wow, That is a verse I need to memorize!!

Peggy (2010-10-06 15:07:43)

Blessings Wanda...and Amen. Let us continue to WORSHIP HIM in Spirit and Truth day by day... which becomes weeks to months to years and pray that every generation follows Him, standing firm as His decree does, His Word stands forever. Thank you for once more choosing a verse to inspire us and so creatively depicted! Bless you for your visit and words.

Peace in Christ, Peggy

Lisa (2010-10-06 15:24:18)

What neat verses from Isaiah!

Grammy (2010-10-06 16:16:48)

Hi, Wanda,

Words from the Book always refresh us don't they? I appreciate you!

Love, Ruby

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK for grandparents and caregivers (2010-10-06 16:25:13)

Oh Wanda, What a lovely Word-Filled reminder from the awesome Word of God. Thank you for such encouragement. :)

Stuff could always be worse (2010-10-06 17:24:23)

Yes I love the scripture and the graphic also!

Denise (2010-10-06 18:18:14)

Nice post.

Denise (2010-10-06 18:18:28)

Nice post.

Amydeanne (2010-10-06 18:22:39)
ooo I love it Wanda! how powerful!

Joan (2010-10-06 18:31:30)
Very inspiring verse, Wanda.
Blessings,
Joan

Alicia, The Snowflake (2010-10-06 18:56:08)
What a great WFW! I love the scripture. I am going to have to look it up and write it down. I want to remember it!
Thanks for sharing!

Sharon Kirby (2010-10-06 20:50:36)
Thank you, Wanda - I was particularly encouraged by these words: "So will your children and your reputation stand firm."
In a season when things feel a little shaky, I really appreciated hearing this promise. God has His hands on my sons
- He has a hand on me.
Thank you - GOD BLESS!

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-10-06 21:39:54)
Hi Wanda,
You have a new look! I like it! I also like your creative graphic that brings the Scripture to life.
Thank you for all the inspiration you bring to the readers of your blog.
Blessings,
Janis

jhunnelle (2010-10-06 22:11:25)
whoaah, it's my first time to read this verse in a different version, i've never tried to read the bible in the "The Message" version, it's beautiful, God's word is always powerful and inspiring.
Blessings!

Wanda (2010-10-07 05:31:08)
Thanks to each of you that stopped by and shared your thoughts. Your visits are always appreciated. This verse was one I recently discovered during my one-year Bible reading. There's no better way to spend our weeks and months than in worship to Him. May all that you do and say be an offering to Him. Jhunnelle, I like to compare verses in different versions of the Bible. It has way helping me see it through fresh eyes.

Pebble or Rock (2010-10-07 10:46)

As I drove home yesterday evening, I found myself singing, when my heart is overwhelmed lead me to the rock. The rock that's higher than I. Those two lines of the song had me reflecting on God as my rock. I just love the imagery that is found in the Bible.
Tiny Pebbles



[1]

Plenty of rocks can be found in my drive way and I don't give those little small stones much thought on a daily basis. The car is driven over them day after day. Bella and I walk on them. Sometimes they're picked up and tossed about by little hands that come to visit. Heavy rains push them out of their position. Those rocks are easily moved and manipulated. They offer little or no resistance to the forces that come up against it. Is that the rock I see when reading scriptures that calls God my rock and my fortress? Is that your view of the rock? Of course, we'd be inclined to give a quick "no" in response to such question. But, the more I ponder it in my mind, I have this caution urging me not rush past but dwell here at this point for a while. Could it be that the rock I'm seeing is too small? When faced with the everyday challenges life bring, my initial reaction is one that sees the problem so large that I can't even get a glimpse of the rock upon which I'm suppose to stand.

Does my response, my prayer, my thoughts, my attitude or my demeanor show that I see Him as one who offers little resistance to forces that oppose me-His child? He is not just concern with my words but what is my behavior speaking? Does it say I think trouble can drive Him away? Does my whining and fretting reveal that deep down I believe that the thing I'm up against is large enough to move, push or manipulate Him?



[2]

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TK1CHEIQ2II/AAAAAAAAAT8/Dk0Z8BJHkQo/s1600/P9211805.JPG

2. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-10-07 11:23:18)

A wonderful post to read Wanda, Although I visit the beach daily I have never thought of pebbles and rocks in the way you do.

Yvonne.

MTJ (2010-10-07 12:08:05)

Hi Wanda,

A compelling and thought-provoking post. I think there are times when my words and behavior have not been aligned. This I believe is the result of a kind of *wishful thinking; hoping that God will respond in spite of my doubts and fears.* But I now see that God's desire for me is to experience a mature relationship with Him that's based on genuine biblical faith.

You raise valid questions regarding faith and trust in God:

1. **Is that the rock I see when reading scriptures that calls God my rock and my fortress?**
2. **Is that your view of the rock?**
3. **Does my response, my prayer, my thoughts, my attitude or my demeanor show that I see Him as one who offers little resistance to forces that oppose me-His child?**
4. **He is not just concern with my words but what is my behavior speaking?**
5. **Does it say I think trouble can drive Him away?**
6. **Does my whining and fretting reveal that deep down I believe that the thing I'm up against is large enough to move, push or manipulate Him?**

I believe these questions help bring into focus both *How I see God* and *Who I see God is*. In answering these two questions, I realize I must also answer the question:

What does it mean to be God?

You've given me much to consider, meditate and I believe a topic to write my personal thoughts about. *With your permission, I'd like to use this post as a framework to address my answers.*

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

lioneagle (2010-10-07 13:03:56)

Hi Wanda -

Thank you for these wise words...

I agree with MTJ...so much to ponder...

The rock photo speaks - love it!

PatriciaW (2010-10-07 13:49:50)

Ooh, Wanda, you're saying something here.

Some many rocks. Some big, some small. Yes, He is the rock. My rock. But what kind of rock – more porous or more solid? How big a rock – a pebble or a mountain?

Never considered this, but you've got me thinking. Good stuff.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-10-07 16:54:12)

He is our Rock. As I read this I remember being at my grandfather's house in the mountains. In that high up place, I always felt that nothing could touch me. Jesus, that Rock, who is higher...is where I want to be.

sarah (2010-10-07 22:18:48)

nice post to read and think of the pebbles and stones in this way.

Just Be Real (2010-10-07 23:26:08)

Thank you Wanda for sharing this powerful truth. Needed to read.

Carrie of Farming On Faith (2010-10-07 23:48:42)

Hello

I am so glad to meet you. Your blog is lovely. I am so glad you stopped by today.

I am going to peek around a bit.

Have a lovely evening !

Pat (2010-10-08 03:32:48)

Wanda this is a very powerful post!!! I am guilty of looking at my problems a lot of the time instead of looking to my Rock that cannot be moved.

Sharon Kirby (2010-10-08 03:50:47)

Wanda - So very thought-provoking. I know that all too often, the rock I'm seeing IS too small. The problem seems bigger. In fact, it seems so big that I neglect to see that the SHADOW of my Rock, my Lord, is covering it.

"Does my whining and fretting reveal that deep down I believe that the thing I'm up against is large enough to move, push, or manipulate Him?"

This convicted me deeply. Yes, Lord, I need to see you bigger. Not a pebble, but a Mt. Everest...

Thanks, Wanda - GOD BLESS!

Ellie (2010-10-08 11:37:05)

Interesting view; I agree sometimes we do think our problems are huge like large rocks and sometimes not.

It is an interesting way to look at how we can interpret things in our life and the scope, dimension and size. How our will, soul is affected Great post!

Wanda (2010-10-08 12:53:21)

When I sat down to write the post, I had something else in mind but God took me along another path. I hope to do a second part to this post, when the time allows. MTJ, I look forward to gleaning from your thoughts as you reflect upon this topic.

LisaShaw (2010-10-11 19:18:24)

Wanda,

This is powerful! Your questions in the last paragraph are so on point!

Thank you for being REAL!

Hugs and love!

Faith Imagined (2010-10-12 13:42:56)

This is some wonderful self-reflection. Every time I worry I remind myself that I am thinking less of God than I should be. I don't need to worry. I have to continually remind myself that he is BIG ENOUGH!

Peggy (2010-10-12 19:10:13)

Blessings Wanda, Came here from MTJ's post! and as always love the power in which you write & share from a heart that's REAL and seeking Him!

I too often sing this song when my heart is overwhelmed! Beautiful reflections throughout this since I hardly ever pause and think on how profound it is to call Him Our Rock!

Definitely not a pebble to me! He is a Mountain mover!!! When I lean on Him, I quickly realize that He is the immovable, impenetrable, strong, foundation that holds me when all else may be crumbling around me!

I knew I would love this... and I do! The questions stir me to put this belief into action in words & thoughts and all I do! Standing on the Rock! Holding on to our Rock!

Responding in His Strength! our Strong Tower! our Fortress! I often see Him surrounding me this way like the Alhambra in Spain, a castled walled city... He is our Defender! our Protector! no other force can compare or oppose Him, how often we cower when we should stand on all we believe He is and not allow anything to deter us or come against us! We are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus! Thanks!

In Christ's peace & love,

Peggy

Nicole (2010-10-14 17:31:29)

What a great post Wanda! Thank you so much for sharing it.

I think I need to fix how I see things too and make sure that the Rock I am seeing is my fortress!

I love the last paragraph! So very true.

I have got to get back to seeing how big our Lord is and knowing He is in control and handles everything!

Wanda (2010-10-15 03:04:56)

Thanks for adding your thoughts, Lisa, Alisa, Peggy, and Nicole. I think we all can use an adjustment to our perspective on the greatness of God. May each you continue to stand upon the Rock.

Dean Spencer (2010-10-17 04:46:46)

Wanda -

I arrived at your post via MTJ at My Thought-filled Journey. I like what you're saying here. It's true that we can have a very limited view of who our God is...as you say, *Could it be that the rock I'm seeing is too small?*"

I'm now a follower of yours. Looking forward to reading more. God bless!

Dean

A Prayer (2010-10-08 11:44)



[1] Oh Lord, there is none like you! For you are great, and your name is full of power. You reign supreme over all creation. The heavens and the earth declare your glory. From generation to generation, you prove your faithfulness. You are adorned in righteousness and majesty. Since the time of my birth, I've heard your name declared. You have been the keeper of my soul. It is you who holds me together in the midst of chaos. You've kept my mind. You've kept me alive, when I thought I would surely die. You've been peace for me. You have been my way when there seemed to be no way. You have been my counselor, my physician, my guide, my compass, my comforter, my protector, my provider. There's so just so much you've done I can't even recall it all. You have been everything I need and all that I never deserved. Thank you for lavishing your love on me. Thank you for not casting me away from your presence. Thank you for being longsuffering with me. Forgive me, Lord, for distrusting you and neglecting the things you've assigned my hands to do. Strengthen me again and stir my passion once more Lord. Father, I pray for those who are downcast, despondent, and in despair. Renew their faith and give them fresh hope today. Set people free from the bondages of addictions and sin. Restore families and communities. Restore love, hope, passion, peace, and joy throughout the land. Let your truth ring out from every sanctuary, every home, every school, and every neighborhood. Save our children from going down crooked paths. Protect them from those who come to prey on them and pervert them. Let the light of your presence permeate every dark place. In Jesus name, Amen.



[2]

1. <http://www.teawithtiffany.com/>

2. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-10-08 13:08:42)

Thank you again Wanda for a most wonderful prayer,

Have a good week-end.

Yvonne.

MTJ (2010-10-08 13:45:18)

Hi Wanda,

Thank you for sharing this prayer with me and others. So often words elude me but you have captured my thoughts and expressed them in a manner which honors our Lord. May His name be continually blessed by our life, our thoughts and in the words we speak.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Tea with Tiffany (2010-10-08 19:43:43)

Amen..

I so love praying your prayer. It's so my heart too. God is worthy of our prayers and I'm excited to see what He is up to and you commit your hands to whatever He is leading you to.

Be blessed and thank You for joining me and sharing your sweet P's.

God loves you! You are His beloved.

Peace,

tiffany

Denise (2010-10-09 03:11:36)

Bless you for such a lovely prayer sweetie.

Pet (2010-10-09 13:59:52)

Thank you, blessing!

Just Be Real (2010-10-10 08:49:22)

A wonderful prayer Wanda. Blessings.

Ellie (2010-10-10 10:54:54)

What a lovely prayer, so thought provoking and such a great reminder of your faith ! xXx

Sydney (2010-10-11 02:52:50)

What a lovely prayer. We can be at peace knowing that our steps are ordered by HIM who created it ALL.

Thank you so much for stopping by my blog. May the Lord bless you with the petitions of your heart according to His perfect will.

Amanda (2010-10-11 13:38:40)

Amen and amen Wanda... I love this beautiful prayer, thank you :D

LisaShaw (2010-10-11 19:17:19)

Amen and Amen! Beautiful and heart-warming. Thank you for sharing and for PRAYING!

Much love!

Mike (2010-10-12 11:59:14)
Thank you for your prayer!

lioneagle (2010-10-12 13:34:22)

Hi Wanda -

Thank you!

The anointing indeed witnessed that your prayer words came from GOD!

Isaiah 10:27 (KJV)

...and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

James 5:16 (KJV)

...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Peggy (2010-10-13 02:47:41)

AMEN! amen! amen!

Beautiful PRAISE to Him!

I'm so thankful that you uplifted the 3 D's, our families and communities!

Very encompassing & embracing heart of prayer! Thank you for praying!

Sorry I was not around sooner but that's the good thing about blogs, they are here forever... and these prayers will be here to bless & minister! Praise God for this wonderful warm heart in prayer!

Can you give it all away? (2010-10-12 23:30)

I tend to be one that likes to hold onto things for far longer than necessary. You just never know when you might need something. Yet, it's rather easy to discard those things I count as trivial. But what about those things in which we hold dear?



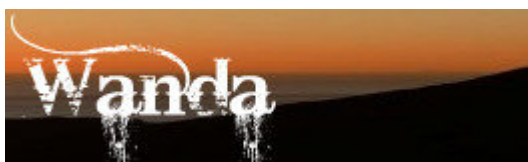
[1]

As I reflected upon Philippians 3:8, I noticed that Paul didn't mention not one tangible possession in the preceding verses. Instead he spoke about pedigree, position, and passionate religious pursuits. All of which could have easily lead to pride; however, he willing tossed it all aside. Trashing personal trinkets is often far easier than doing away with the accolades of others, personal achievements, and positions of prestige.

Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant - dog dung. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ. Philippians 3:8 (The Message)



Fill your cup with more of the Word this Wednesday at [2]Internet Cafe Devotions. [3]



[4]

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TLU4HZ7vm5I/AAAAAAAAAUM/Oj_1HtN1U8k/s1600-h/phil-3and8%5B4%5D.png
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>

3. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TLU4MTqmAKI/AAAAAAAAAUU/HUb5H1RqPns/s1600-h/cafewfbuttoncopy%5B7%5D.jpg
4. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJdJyNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

Sharon Kirby (2010-10-13 00:16:21)

Wanda - LOVED this! Sometimes it is SO hard to throw away the things you mentioned. However, lately, that's one thing I've been saying to the Lord - I just want to KNOW You. What a privilege to embrace Christ!!

Thanks for this reminder.

GOD BLESS!

(P.S. I have a hard time throwing personal trinkets away, too!!)

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-10-13 01:48:30)

Thought this was excellent Wanda, good way of getting the message across,
Yvonne.

Amanda (2010-10-13 03:01:18)

Wanda, this is so true... some people may not be owned by material possessions, but they are owned by their ego and the adulation of others.

Powerful reminder, thank you. It seems He is speaking this type of message a few places I have visited lately in blogland. He must want our attention on it.

God bless and thank you...

GlowinGirl (2010-10-13 04:12:17)

Great word, my friend! Isn't it true that we hang on to things that we shouldn't? Things that only tie us to this world or to significance that isn't true. May I be willing to cast it all aside just for Him . . . as He did for us.

ozjane (2010-10-13 05:59:49)

Very relevant in a week where I had to do a bio for a 50 yr teacher's college reunion.

It was interesting to have someone comment on the parallel between my teaching life and life in the church.

Quite strange to see how others see you and the value they place on those silly status things...Nice but not to lean on.

Julie Arduini (2010-10-13 07:29:10)

That picture is just perfect! It hits home to see His truth in the visual context you have here. Thank you!

MCH Boys Ranch, Inc. (2010-10-13 08:44:22)

Awesome post.....so true. Thanks for sharing!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-10-13 08:50:25)

A deep word, Wanda. I am often asked why I don't have any awards, degrees, etc. on my office wall, and I tell people the truth: I don't want to get attached in the wrong way to the wrong things. One of my favorite movies, "The House of Sand and Fog", is a blunt and brutal telling of detrimental attachments. It is a place that I never want to be.

Ginger (2010-10-13 09:59:20)

Wanda, this one ROCKS!

Denise (2010-10-13 10:02:07)

Wow, I love this.

MTJ (2010-10-13 11:27:32)

Hi Wanda,

Like you say, **"it's rather easy to discard those things I count as trivial."** – *Those things I treasure are far more difficult to toss out.* It's those things I treasure that hinder my access to God.

God wants me to have access to Him; *a connected relationship that is always on.* This is a valuable lesson I'm learning, surrendering my life, totally and completely to God. In doing so, I'm discovering that many of those things I once treasured are nothing more than *dung*.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Peggy (2010-10-13 11:40:58)

Blessings Wanda... Powerful image & verse! I love your reflection on this and thoughts you shared! How specific you addressed that Paul did not mention our possessions here in this verse of Philippians! Yet you hit this right where it counts so wonderfully written:

"...about pedigree, position, and passionate religious pursuits"... which could easily lead to PRIDE

(written with tongue in cheek because I'm sure that is where it leads when we focus on material things):0(sorry, I had to say it!

Excellent message and observation.

(I'm kinda a pack rat but moving here to Mexico forces me to at least leave my stuff behind and focus not on the possessions any longer). The Message once again speaks this so well. Thank you!

I think all the recent natural disasters show us that we must let go of things and grab on to Jesus, as Our Rock! How hard this is to say because many did not have much.

May God have mercy and hold back further destruction on us. May we wake up now... and take out our "trash" and let go of all that entwines us.

My soul is always well watered here. Thank you for stirring up what matters.

lori (2010-10-13 11:42:06)

Wanda, Wanda, Wanda...I don't think it's coincidence that I'm in the "pride" chapter of "Breaking Free!" This is a fantastic visual for me!

wow...

Letting go of the things that I "think" I need to treasure...yes indeed...that's the mission!

Awesome reflection today girl! You always inspire!

peace,

lori

Joyfull (2010-10-13 11:56:33)

What a powerful reminder! Love the picture and the verse! Thanks for sharing and being a blessing.

Dorie (2010-10-13 14:43:18)

Wanda,

Lovely way with words, and so true! Thanks for sharing your thoughts and reflections. A blessing to read and ponder these words in my heart.

One Heart (2010-10-13 15:52:03)

Beautiful sis. Passionate religious pursuits—some of the most difficult pride to get rid of and sometimes WE often think the tangible and material possessions are the worst culprit. Yeah. I think I had mentioned something in line with this a few days ago—about us having to lay down even the most spiritual and worthy causes if our Father saw any tendency for pride in them. That is where trust comes in. Notice how Paul's tendency to puff up came from spiritual

revelation. Now, we'd think anything coming from God would be an automatic green light to go but Paul points out that he rather speak of his weaknesses.

This is great, and the best part is you present it with no condemnation lurking in the background. We can all fall so easily. I am nothing apart from Christ.

Oh, and I saved you a cupcake. =D

Guiding Light (2010-10-13 16:29:16)

Awesome! Love it! Picture and verse...very well put together. Praise the Lord. Have a wonderfully blessed WFW!

Amy (2010-10-13 16:34:31)

ooh...powerful! Loved it! {and definately needed to hear it! }

Thanks for stopping by my blog...Happy WFW!

Amy (2010-10-13 16:34:38)

ooh...powerful! Loved it! {and definately needed to hear it! }

Thanks for stopping by my blog...Happy WFW!

sarah (2010-10-13 17:17:44)

recently we've been getting rid of alot of things we just don't need but hanging onto. I often think to myself...if I lost everything it wouldn't even matter but if I lost Him.....I couldn't live.

Joan (2010-10-13 18:07:30)

Love this post, Wanda. So true, it is often hard to let go of pride, accomplishments, etc. As MTJ said, some things I once counted as treasure are nothing more than waste. There is nothing in this world than can compe with knowing Christ.

Blessings,

Joan

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-10-13 18:22:10)

Hi Wanda,

Throwing away personal trinkets is definitely easier than some of the prideful trinkets we carry around.

I like the way you paired up the earth pulling me to itself (in my fall) to how our sins pull us to themselves. Thank you for the encouragement to know they will lose their magnetic pull on us as we abide in Him.

Blessings,

Janis

lioneagle (2010-10-13 18:35:08)

Hi Wanda -

Thank you for this reality check.

I appreciate being reminded about perspective.

Thank you

Mylene (2010-10-13 19:47:44)

Loved your reflection, thank for sharing it ;)

Faith Imagined (2010-10-13 21:23:01)

Oh Wanda you wrote a good word today! Giving up costly trinkets is so much easier than giving up accolades and achievements. God is so good and He knows best!

cHe (2010-10-13 23:16:18)

Wonderful sharing sis wanda..Thank for sharing it. I am so blessed with it. God bless u

LisaShaw (2010-10-14 09:12:59)

Oh this is rich! Thank you for sharing! May we all remember...it's ALL ABOUT JESUS!

Blessings and peace!

Amydeanne (2010-10-14 20:46:40)

great visual!

daylily777 (2010-10-14 22:54:33)

I have trouble holding on to things, too. Wonderful verse , wonderful WFW!

Blessings,

Myrna

Just a Matter of Moments (2010-10-15 01:45)

[1] [moments.jpg]

Photo via Flickr by [2]ktylerconk

It's the moments that matter most. Our lives are full of moments. Sometimes I think I lose focus that it's really all about the moment I'm in at this time. Often, I'm not feeling present but my mind is wandering to next thing on my to-do list. Many moments have passed and the next moments aren't promised to any of us. Therefore, all I have is this present moment and how will I choose to spend it? If I squander all the moments I'm given, at the end of life, I will realize that it was not just moments I lost but my life wasted. If the moments are really what matter, how do I make the present one count?

The time of pressure reveals what I given in exchange for the bulk of the moments of my life. Did I exchange the moment for money? Or did I exchange it for folly? Was it trivial pursuits that consumed the most of my moments? Or perhaps it was negative thoughts that I spent so many moments dwelling. Was idle words and no activity that sucked away the moments of my life?

Forgive me Lord for failing to see the value in just this moment of my life. Show me how to take one moment at a time and build a life that is pleasing to you-one that is according to your plan. I allowed the frustrations, distractions, obligations, and pressures in life to lull me into sleep-filled activities without really choosing to make the moment count.

I leave you with a few quotes:

“You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments when you have really lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love.” - Henry Drummond

“The truth is that our finest moments are most likely to occur when we are feeling deeply uncomfortable, unhappy, or unfulfilled. For it is only in such moments, propelled by our discomfort, that we are likely to step out of our ruts and start searching for different ways or truer answers.” - M. Scott Peck

“Guard well your spare moments. They are like uncut diamonds. Discard them and their value will never be known. Improve them and they will become the brightest gems in a useful life.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson



[3]

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TLeyrs-C0xI/AAAAAAAAAUk/QS3hJuqIewo/s1600/moments.jpg
2. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ktylerconk/2218866819>
3. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-10-15 01:55:52)

Really wonderful Wanda,

Yvonne.

MTJ (2010-10-15 04:20:29)

Hi Wanda,

I love how you ask questions that require answers. Too often, the questions one hears go ignored.

"If the moments are really what matter, how do I make the present one count?"

As I considered this one question (*which spawned so many in my mind*), here are my thoughts:

Moments are like the still images of a camera; *slices of time*. When moments are paired with a life, it takes on something a camera cannot capture. There is a vibrance of life and color the lens cannot see, a smile, a gesture, a conversation, a meeting of eyes; *it is then that moments become a true part of one's life*.

Although I can't reclaim any moment of my life, I can cherish those moments which I gave of myself to someone. I can invest this moment I have in giving myself.

What I see is that my moments are never lost, they are *invested*. Some of my investments never produce a return and they become forgettable and at times, regrettable. But those moments which bring me dividends are the moments which are memorable.

I believe God blesses me with opportunities for *memorable moments* and I'm most grateful to Him for them; *I quietly praise Him in this my moment*.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Karen (2010-10-15 04:55:57)

This is a wonderful truth. I especially like the Henry Drummond quote. Bless you!

Rae (2010-10-15 06:01:12)

Love the quotes and all the questions. It seems I've given a lot of thought lately to how I spend my time and how fast it slips away.

Have a great weekend, Wanda!

Karen (2010-10-15 07:39:46)

Beautifully worded reminder...very timely for me...

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-10-15 08:33:37)

Yes, Lord...Yes, Lord.

Bernadine (2010-10-15 22:50:02)

Love this post Wanda. I needed this reminder because it's so easy to be in one moment and thinking about another which means we don't get the full benefit of the moment we're in.

Sharon Kirby (2010-10-15 23:05:25)

Wanda - This was great. I have spent so much time (TOO much time) either regretting the past or worrying about the future. God doesn't call me to that! He gives me His daily bread - that's what I think about when I think about moments. God gives me THIS day, with its moments - it's up to me to make them count.

I really liked the quote by Peck -

Lord, help me to "step out of my rut" - help me to concentrate on making finer moments...

GOD BLESS!

Just Be Real (2010-10-16 05:55:23)

Wonderful and thought provoking post Wanda. The quote from Emerson and Peck, for that matter Drummond are inspirational. Thank you for sharing. Blessings.

Merana Leigh (2010-10-16 07:08:16)

Wanda - I found you thru MTJ above. What wonderful post! You bring to it, such a great openness & vulnerability to explore. I also love what MTJ said, "moments are never lost, they are invested". I look forward to following you & invite you to do the same. I will welcome your insightful comments. Blessings to you Merana

Wanda (2010-10-16 15:42:48)

thanks **Yvonne!**

MTJ, I love what you have shared but especially this one...moments are never lost, they are invested. Very profound way to look at it. Just like making investment with our money, there are times the investment of our time is wise and other times they are not. **Rae** oh me too. I don't if it's because I'm getting older or what but it seems that days go by so fast and what my time here to matter.

Karen, Bluebutterfly, & Karen pleasure to have you ladies stop by.

Bernadine Absolutely and i find myself doing that too much lately.

Sharon I can say ditto for me. May He teach us how to make the most of our time.

JBR your welcome. I collect quotes...sometimes just a fine lines for someone can be the spark one needs.

Merana Nice to meet you and happy to have you drop by for a visit. MTJ has been such a blessing since our paths crossed. He always offers such wonderful words of wisdom and I was drawn to that exact same statement from his comment. It's one I'll be chewing on for a while. I look forward to getting to know you.

Monica Watkins (2010-10-18 04:20:22)

Great post, Wanda. I really enjoyed the last quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson. Reading this in the morning will really help me to guide my day, being more thoughtful of the moments it contains and What I do with them.

Monica

Not Without a Fight! (2010-10-18 11:29)

F I G H T....that's not a word I like very much. I tend to avoid conflict like the plague. There are lots of words one could use to describe me but fighter is not one likely to be included in the mix. But beneath the quiet voice and laid-back persona lies another often unseen force. I myself got a small glimpse of it Sunday morning when I found myself in a precarious position.



The day began like many others except that I stayed in bed later. As I was outside taking Bella for a potty break, I looked up to discover an intruder was in our yard. And, we were on the wrong side of the fence. A bulldog was in our yard growling and kicking up dirt at us. How were we to get back to the safety of the house, if the dog was inside of our fence and the two entry ways were accessible to him? For what seemed like an eternity but was actually just a few moments, I stood frozen in fear. How do I escape? How can I get help without getting bitten? No neighbors in sight and no cell phone handy. No way I can out run the dog. Do I leave my precious Bella as prey and try to escape myself?

A quick scan of my surroundings revealed only one dried up old stick. Armed with a stick and a prayer, I made my move to cross the ditch in an effort to reach the closest entrance way. When I moved, the dog moved too and charged out of the gate towards us. Needless to say that halted my movement but I raised my voice saying NO and GET BACK and that's just what he did. I sounded like a crazy woman. Momentarily, he was distracted by our nearby neighbor's dog, which allowed us to make it to the safety of our steps. Only to have him remember us and come charging back towards us full force. Luckily we did make it inside without being hurt but that dog had the audacity to not just come in my yard but upon my porch. Now I've had similar incidents with dogs like the one I shared in [1]Shammah but the demeanor of this dog was more vicious. And, this time around the dog invaded more of my personal territory.

Now you know after my heart stop racing and I had time to reflect upon the incident, I gleaned some lessons from it.

- the enemy shows up when you're not alert and least expect it
- there are times when there is NO human assistance available
- when God is ALL you've got, that's enough to get the victory
- there is something down on the inside of me that's willing to fight to protect what belongs to me

- if God could protect me from a natural attack of a dog, there has to be many other things I haven't seen that He's been keeping me shielded from
- some enemies, trouble, and circumstances you will have to face

Has the continual presence of a particular situation in your life threatened to take the fight out of you? Failure to confront the enemy will only lead to a loss of more territory.



[2]

1. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/06/shammah.html>
2. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

Mike (2010-10-18 11:57:00)

This is a great reminder... I need to be more aware. Thank you :)

Amanda (2010-10-18 13:17:47)

oh wow Wanda!! How scary! I could feel my heart racing as I read your post! I loved dogs dearly, but am afraid of such dogs as this one you encountered.

Is that him in the photo? What happened in the end? Did he just leave, or someone come to get him? Don't leave us hanging like this! LOL! You had me on the edge of my seat, girl!

I love the message you got out of this terrifying situation. When there is no where else to turn or no one to help us, we are positioned for His divine love and protection, Praise God.

Loved this post, or rather, the suspense, and the message.

Glad you and Bella are safe. And no, I doubt you would be the type to offer her up as the sacrifice to save yourself (even if the thought did cross your mind, as it would mine). ;-)

MTJ (2010-10-18 14:36:22)

Hi Wanda,

First, I thank God that both you and Bella were unharmed, safely escaping the attack of this dog.

As a child I was taught that dogs are 1) territorial, and 2) pack-oriented.

Territorial animals always look to establish a boundary perimeter belonging to them.

Pack-oriented animals will always seek to establish dominance over others in a group.

There are three ways to respond animals who display these actions, 1) You can be frozen by fear, this will usually initiate an attack action.

2) You can take a submissive posture, yeilding to the dominance of the aggressive animal.

3) You can take an aggressive posture, indicating your willingness to fight and establish dominance over the animal.

This knowledge has always served me when I've be cornered by strange dogs. In some instances I've have to fight, because dogs have a keen sense of smell and fear gives off a certain scent they detect; in those instances, I've had to speak to that dog in a firm voice not to come forward as I took an aggressive posture.

I've said all that to say that in the spiritual realm, I've been defeated and I've coverd from enemy attacks because I didn't understand the nature of that spiritual enemy.

I'm learning these tendencies now. I no longer fear when I hear what sounds like a lion's roar. It's a red flag for me to take a stand and be prepared for spiritual battle.

Spiritual enemies are like dogs, they are territorial and they seek dominance. As a believer, Jesus has given me authority stand and resist demonic powers and spirits. Armed with spiritual knowledge, the power and authority of Jesus Christ, I will remain vigilant. There may be times when I'm not alert or unaware, but even in those instances, I'm equipped for battle, I can call on the name of the Lord.

For some time now, I've been encouraged and inspired by your words, I thank God for you my sister.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Beth.. One Blessed Nana (2010-10-18 14:57:38)

Dogs scare me!

I love this post my friend. It is fitting right now as the enemy is rearing his ugly head!

Thanks for the word!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-10-18 15:18:34)

Wanda, my soul is so touched. I spent some time in Judges meditating on Gideon this morning. There is no feeling like when you have to face something and it just seems like there is no effective help. I thank God that He is never useless and I thank Him even more for giving me the opportunity to put my trust in Him.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-10-18 16:10:02)

Just thankful all is well after an awful ordeal.

Yvonne.

Pat (2010-10-18 16:59:13)

Hi Wanda

I could only imagine the look on your face as the dog started to charge I had to smile, but I do thank God for protecting you and Bella, beautiful dog too. It's such a blessing to have God on our side at all times and to know that he is always watching over us. Have a lovely day Wanda.

Love ya :)

Wanda (2010-10-18 17:54:57)

Mike, I have to be more alert too. Naturally I'm not very observant.

Amanda, I didn't mean to leave you hanging...lol. Nope that's not a photo of the actual dog but he looked very similar to that one. Trust me I know time or interest in taking a photo of that enemy...haha. It's kind of funny who the dog ended up belong to.

MTJ, I certainly hope I don't encounter any more dogs but I'll definitely be armed with this new knowledge you've given me about 3 ways to react to them. Spiritually speaking I've lost many battles b/c of lack of knowledge and failure to properly dress for the battle. But thanks be unto God who gives us the victory.

Beth, victory already belongs to you my sister. No retreat, no defeat...was something God dropped in my spirit several months ago.

Bluebutterfly having human support tends to make us feel better but having come out on the outside of a battle with you & God surely increases one's trust level.

Yvonne me too, my friend.

Pat, I can laugh it about now but I was terrified initially but acting like a wild woman in the end. Afterwards I thought if the neighbors seen me they'd think i was crazy.

Arlee Bird (2010-10-18 18:21:40)

Despite our fear it's best to keep a clear head and let God guide us. I try to face my fears with logic, trust in God, and the knowledge that God has always provided me a way out in the past although I have to take action and do what need to do.

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

Faith Imagined (2010-10-18 19:39:24)

I got goosebumps reading this! How scary. I love the insights you learned from an experience. God is protecting us more than we can possibly fathom!

Bernadine (2010-10-18 20:49:44)

I'm so happy that you and Bella are alright. It's so awesome that out of this terrifying situation God had a word for you to encourage us with today.

Dena E's Blog (2010-10-19 03:20:44)

Wanda this is so well written Sweet Sis,, WOW..

And soooo TRUE your words about the enemy.. We must have our armor on at ALLLL times!!!

And do our best to pray without ceasing...

SS is my most favorite.

I sooo love sharing God with so many awesome women of His word!!!

May you know God's Love and His blessings from above Hugs across the miles and web Dena

Thanks for my note today!!!

B. Niles (2010-10-19 05:19:55)

Hi Wanda, what a beautiful blog. I love posts that come from every day experiences. They remind me of Jesus and the parables. It's life. There are lessons to learn from everything we go through on a daily basis. It makes me smile at God. What a Daddy we serve!

It also reminds me of one of my favorite books that's so simple. It's called, A Turtle on a Fencepost, (Sub-titled, Little Lessons of Big Importance) by Allan C. Emery.

Not without a fight! Though we don't want to fight, it's what strengthens us. Thank God we know 1) We do not fight alone, 2) We have the power to overcome each battle, and 3) Ultimately, we win the war. Hallelujah!

God Bless.

Beverly

lioneagle (2010-10-19 23:15:17)

Hi Wanda -

...loved this piece and how you told the story. And my heart leaped at how you responded. Hallelujah!

I had a similar experience with a dog. Here is an excerpt from my blog comment about it (The blog topic dtd October 14, 2010 was "SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTERS WITH ANIMALS."):

Excerpt:

One day I was alone in the kitchen with the two boxers and one of them just, "out of the blue," started barking and would not stop. This was an "unusual" barking episode. Usually, I could quiet him but this particular day, he was not having it. Clearly, I heard the Lord speak in my spirit and tell me to take authority over the barking. He told me to, with authority in my voice, tell the dog to "shut up." I said it with Holy Ghost fueled authority. I shouted, "shut up" and said the dog's name. Immediately, I do mean immediately, the dog shut up.

BARBIE (2010-10-20 00:16:49)

I would have been terrified. So thankful you made it back to the house okay.

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-10-23 20:34:30)

Oh, I know I'm so late, but I'm so happy I got a chance to read this post. The lessons you gleaned from your encounter with an "enemy" were phenomenal and quite timely for myself. I just whispered, "wow...", as I read. Good word.

Monica

A Never Ending Hope (2010-10-19 20:00)

I am as likely to reject my people Israel as I am to abolish the laws of nature! This is what the Lord says; “Just as the heavens cannot be measured and the foundations of the earth cannot be explored, so I will not consider casting them away for the evil they have done. I, the Lord have spoken! Jeremiah 31:36-37 (NLT)



[1]

My One Year Bible has me reading through the book of Jeremiah currently. I am amazed that even though God's chosen people had forsaken Him and He was declaring judgment and punishment upon the people, the book is still filled with hope. They would have to endure the season of bondage but change would eventually come. Having been sentenced to 70 years of Babylonian captivity most would have counted these people out and cast away any hope of brighter days for them. However, all was not lost for them and neither is it for you and me. The same God, who was issuing the conviction sentence, proclaimed a future day of liberation.

Cast not away your hope for those you see still in bondage. Neither be dismayed about the areas of bondage in your own lives. Our sovereign Lord is still turning hearts, destroying yokes, and saving souls. He continues to accept the world's rejects and castaways.



[2]

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TL436P4RXnI/AAAAAAAAAUo/RX2PYE89rBk/s1600-h/Jer%2031-36%2C37%5B12%5D.png
2. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

Ellie (2010-10-19 20:29:46)
Gives one hope, all is not lost
We still can find our ways! xXx

Peggy (2010-10-19 23:52:11)

Blessings Wanda... BEAUTIFUL graphic, the photo, the reflection, the verse! WOW! The Message was just as powerful. Fills one with HOPE! and except that's it's late at night...I heard a shout over here...WOO HOO! HAL-LELUJAH!!! PRAISE THE LORD!!!

"Our sovereign Lord is still turning hearts, destroying yokes, and saving souls!!! "

"He continues to accept the world's rejects and castaways."

Thank You LORD!!!

Thanks Wanda... good WORD to fill my night with and my life!

Peace,

Peggy

Cathy (2010-10-20 00:10:38)

That is beautiful, Dear, thank you

ozjane (2010-10-20 00:28:07)

And the Jews are still His people and we are still commanded to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Oh for the day when they will return to their God.

Denise (2010-10-20 00:29:47)

May you be blessed.

Amanda (2010-10-20 01:08:01)

I'm with Peggy! This is powerful!! It ministered to me, inspired me and gave me fresh hope for the things I still feel in bondage with.

Thank You Lord, for Your word in season.

Great graphics Wanda. Great word.

MTJ (2010-10-20 02:17:00)

Hi Wanda,

I too am amazed by the grace of God poured lavishly upon us. I'm reminded of 1 Samuel 16:13, "**Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward.**" Later, David would write, "**You have anointed my head with oil;**" (*Psalms 23:5*).

The oil is symbolic of God's grace, which He lavishly pours in, upon and throughout our lives.

So much can be said from this post you've written; *I'll conclude with a hearty Amen!*

I lift you up before the Lord my sister, thanking Him for using you to touch hearts and illuminate the eyes; *you are a blessing.*

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Mary (2010-10-20 06:32:31)

Thanks Wanda. God fills us with Hope for the lost to return. Keep on praying and believing. There are so many that desperately need new life in Jesus. Thanks for sharing. Blessings on your day!

Guiding Light (2010-10-20 07:13:41)

Beautiful! Thank you for sharing! Have a marvelous WFW!

Nicole (2010-10-20 07:29:56)

Beautiful Wanda!

I am SO thankful that He still accepts the world's rejects and castaways!! So thankful He was there to help me and comfort me after so many years of ignoring Him and just pushing Him away!

GlowinGirl (2010-10-20 08:05:29)

I find this extremely encouraging. It seems to me that it is against God's very nature to give up on us. Praising Him for Who He IS!!

Angel @ Finding The Inspiring (2010-10-20 09:13:59)

I love the promises of God. His mercy is amazing! Thank you for this reminder. Joining you from a WFW. God bless you!

Nic (2010-10-20 10:51:42)

It is so great to read other Christians who believe the same that God has not forsaken His chosen people! It seems so many these day who claim the name "Christian", sadly, believe otherwise.
Great WFW!

Karen (2010-10-20 11:48:49)

Turning hearts and giving hope. :-)
That gives excitement!
Joining you at WFW.

Bobbi (2010-10-20 11:59:51)

I'm in Jeremiah with my year bible too...although it's a different one. Honestly, I was sort of feeling bogged down in it today...thanks for reminding me...SUCH encouragement! Smiles!!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-10-20 13:36:30)

Just reading this post brought joy to my heart. I loooooovvveeee Jeremiah. There is HOPE in our future, says the Lord! Hallelujah!

Missie (2010-10-20 13:53:24)

Beautiful WFW!

One Heart (2010-10-20 15:06:05)

I absolutely love it, Wanda. Such a great promise of hope. Sorry I had not been able to stop by earlier for WFW. I just saw your comment. You are awesome sis. Love you!

lori (2010-10-20 16:58:49)

Wanda...I have to tell you...THIS is crazy! I have had a slam packed day and this is the first chance I've had to visit some of my faves...I'm heading out to Bible Study and thought I need to sloooooow down and prepare my heart...the study is Breaking Free...Your post today just speaks volumes...no more bondage from whatever it is! Amen!
Awesome and sooo incredibly timely!!
peace!
lori

Natalie at Mommy on Fire (2010-10-20 18:34:43)

Yes, don't you love that it's never too late? Beautiful words today and a great reminder, Wanda. Thank you.

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-10-20 19:20:02)

Wanda, thank you for these powerful and hopeful words. Praise God that He is still saving rejects and castaways. That He will save those in bondage. That gives me hope for my loved ones!

Loved your photo/graphic. I have to learn how to do these things.

Blessings,

Janis

Wanda (2010-10-20 20:25:06)

Thanks ladies and gent for all the lovely thoughts you shared. Glad each of you found encouragement in these passages as I did. As long as God is on the throne and people are among the living there's always hope of change and freedom in our lives. **Peggy** I can visualize your exuberant praise. It is indeed good news, my sister. **MTJ** thanks for your prayers they're much appreciated. **Nicole** thank goodness for God's long suffering. Otherwise there be no hope for a castaway like myself. **Angel, Nic, Karen** great to have you ladies stop over today. WFW is such a blessed way to fill our cups with his Word as we visit & sip on His Words with others. **Bobbi** there's a lot of proclaimed doom and gloom in the book and at times I feel sorry for Jeremiah. He had assignment to fulfill that others didn't welcome. But even amongst the doom and gloom, I can see God's patience and faithfulness with His people. **One Heart** no worries my sister. **Lori**, you're just a bucket of encouragement girl. Praise be unto Him for given you a dose of what you needed. **Natalie** yes never to late. I think we need to do a better job of spreading that message of hope to the lost. **Janis** I've just been playing around with some free photo editing software.

Amydeanne (2010-10-20 21:58:14)

what a powerful verse today Wanda!

jhunnelle (2010-10-20 23:37:56)

I just finished reading the book of Jeremiah, such a wonderful book it may be filled with distress, anger and punishment but you can see the grace of God moving here.

Thank you for sharing this wonderful and powerful reflection.

Blessings!

lioneagle (2010-10-21 07:20:57)

Hi Wanda -

Great encouragement...and so true...

The photo is stunning!

Thank you

Pat (2010-10-21 11:37:35)

Wonderful post Wanda and I'm also very grateful that God will "never" give up on us, what great love he has for us. Amen

Lisa (2010-10-23 20:18:46)

What amazing verses are found in Jeremiah! Thank you for sharing.

Wanda (2010-10-23 21:29:33)

Blessings to each of you ladies. Yes there's much encouragement in the book Jeremiah.

Dean Spencer (2010-10-25 21:46:15)

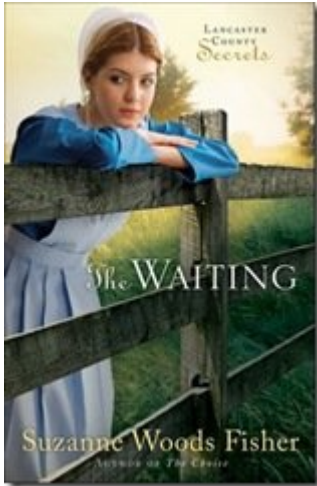
Wanda -

Very well said. God has not forsaken us. It may seem like the world is taking over and evil is running rampant. But that kind of thinking forgets that God is still in control. Like you said, *"Our sovereign Lord is still turning hearts,*

destroying yokes, and saving souls.

Amen and amen! God bless!

The Waiting ~ Blog Tour (2010-10-20 08:00)



[1] It's my pleasure to take part in the blog tour for Suzanne Woods Fisher's latest release, *The Waiting*. Not only was this my first acquaintance with Ms Fisher's writing but also my first time reading Amish fiction. But after reading this book, it's unlikely to be my last.

Although the main storyline revolves around Jorie King, a young Amish maiden, waiting for her beloved Benjamin Zook to return home from the Vietnam War, the book is filled with characters that are in a wait of their own. Waiting to be free. Waiting to die. Waiting to love again. Waiting to be understood. Waiting to be accepted despite one's skin color. As anyone who has experienced the wait between one's dream and its manifestation knows things don't always go as planned. And, the Amish are no exception. Readers are taken along alongside Jorie, Caleb, Ben, Matthew, Ephraim, and Maggie as they try to make sense of their changing world through the eyes of their faith. *The Waiting* drew me in from the very first page and as I turned the last page, I long to stay a little longer at Beacon Hollow.

The Waiting include scenarios most individuals could easily relate to like:

- A single father struggling to make a living and raise two children on his own, while battling grief.
- An African American veterinarian facing prejudice and opposition in the 1960's.
- People of faith attempting to balance being in the world but not becoming a part of the world.
- A young man seeking to find his own identify and place in the world outside of the confines of the expectations of others.
- A family facing the reality of Alzheimer's disease

From the back cover: Jorie King's life is on hold. She has been waiting for Ben Zook to return to Lancaster County. Waiting for him to settle down and join the church. Waiting to marry him.

But when news arrives that Ben have been killed, Jorie is devastated. She finds unlikely comfort in the friendship of his brother Caleb. Friendship ripens into love, and two broken hearts plan for a life filled with the promise of a fresh beginning – until their worlds are turned upside down.

About the author:

Suzanne Woods Fisher is the CBA bestselling author of *The Choice*,^[2]



The Waiting, *Amish Peace*, and *Amish Proverbs*. Her interest in the Anabaptist cultures can be directly traced to her grandfather, WE. D. Benedict, who was raised in the Old Order German Baptist Brethren Church in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Benedict eventually became publisher of *Christianity Today* magazine. Suzanne is the host of a radio show called *Amish Wisdom* and her work has appeared in many magazines. She lives in California. Find out more about Suzanne at ^[3]www.suzannewoodsfisher.com

Join the FUN

As a part of the blog tour Suzanne is hosting a KINDLE giveaway and a Lancaster Secrets book club party.

The contest and blog tour run October 8-October 27.

What are you waiting for?

Go ahead and enter the contest and pick up your copy of *The Waiting* at ^[4][Amazon](#).

To enter, simply click on the icons below to fill out the entry form, then tell 5 or more friends about the contest. Oh, and enter soon! Winner will be announced on October 28th at ^[5][Suzanne's Lancaster Secrets Book Club Party](#).

^[6]  ^[7]  ^[8] 

DISCLOSURE: Thanks to Amy Lathrop with LitFUSE for providing a complimentary copy of the book for review purposes. The views and opinions expressed are my own.



^[9]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TL5BC92v0zI/AAAAAAAAUw/ai8wtzcGW6U/s1600-h/TheWaiting1.jpg
2. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TL5BFYnrD8I/AAAAAAAAU4/PGDVgdnNAec/s1600-h/SWF_headshot33.jpg
3. <http://www.suzannewoodsfisher.com/>
4. <http://www.amazon.com/Waiting-Novel-Lancaster-County-Secrets/dp/080073386X?ie=UTF8&tag=sprightly-20>
5. <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=165460740136351>
6. <http://wildfireapp.com/website/6/contests/64950>
7. <http://apps.facebook.com/sweepstakeshq/contests/64950>
8. <http://wildfireapp.com/twitter/233/contests/64950>
9. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

Amanda (2010-10-20 08:44:45)

Looks like a good read Wanda! Will keep my eye out for it..
Bless you!

Amanda (2010-10-20 08:51:25)

ps. I entered to win a kindle with all her books on it! I would love to win something for a change haha! I don't have a kindle so that would be cool!

Wanda (2010-10-20 11:28:21)

I don't have one either, Amanda. Although I love the digital age, I still rather partial to turning the pages of a real book. Best wishes to you.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-10-20 19:34:33)

Thanks Wanda. This post is my reminder that I need to download a few books to read. I also heard very positive reviews on Amish fiction on NPR recently.

hip-chick (2010-10-20 19:51:09)

I have read a few Amish fiction books and enjoyed them.

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-10-21 01:22:59)

Sounds like a good book to enjoy on a cozy, rainy day. Hope one is coming here, soon!
I think I'll enter the contest.

Blessings,

Janis

Wanda (2010-10-21 02:01:41)

Happy reading Blue and Hip-chick.
Janis, it definitely is a good one one. Best wishes on the contest.

Bernadine (2010-10-21 04:30:55)

Thanks for the review Wanda. I've never actually read any Amish fiction but the book sounds like something I'd enjoy reading.

Just Be Real (2010-10-21 23:41:43)

Wanda thank you for the review and the link. Blessings to you dear one.

Wanda (2010-10-24 03:04:40)

Bernadine, yes I think you will enjoy it.
JBR, you're welcome glad you stop over.

Ellen aka Ella (2010-10-24 12:58:59)

Wanda,

This sounds great; There is a rhythm and a peaceful feeling, sometimes when we enter another lifestyle. Sometimes...
I do think we often feel the grass is greener elsewhere.
Thanks for sharing; Sounds like a great read!

Suzanne (2010-10-25 20:02:24)

Hi Wanda!

I hope you're thinking of writing a book! You've got a beautiful way with words...I really mean that! Loved your

description of the "waiting" of the characters in this story. Really lovely eye-for-detail!
I'm a little late on popping by...I was out of town helping my daughter last week with her new baby, and am at my publisher's right now. But I had a few minutes to spare and wanted to thank you for your review of "The Waiting."
Thrilled you want to read more! "The Search" is coming in about 6-7 weeks!
Thanks, Wanda, for being a part of the tour, too.
Warmly, Suzanne Woods Fisher

Children Learn What They Live (2010-10-23 22:55)

In a time when children can sing the latest pop songs, it was a blessing to see this little prayer warrior calling upon the name of the Lord.
Hope you're enjoying a wonderful weekend!



[1]

1. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNUwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

Ruth (2010-10-23 23:51:56)

Hi Wanda... truly precious!! Hope you enjoy your weekend too. Thank you for posting this.

Joanne Sher (2010-10-24 05:00:39)

LOVE this! Sooooo much

a sojourner (2010-10-24 05:31:19)

Wanda, i thought this was great as well!

she certainly knows a lot!

but.....i think she'd drive me right around the bend:)

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-10-24 06:50:19)

This was grand Wanda.

you too have a good week.

Yvonne.

Wanda (2010-10-24 20:15:02)

Had a busy weekend and I'm sad to see to it ending so soon.

lol...sojourner ;)

Dena E's Blog (2010-10-24 21:07:54)

Wow,, , this is Awesome Sis!!!

What a perfect find...Hugs Dena

The Artist (2010-10-24 13:47)

As I walk this morning and look up at the sky, I can't help but be awestruck by the wonder of your handiwork. There are many talented artist but you far exceed them all. Never have I seen such colors like the ones in which you paint across the sky.



[1]

Each morning that I awake, there is a fresh new tapestry of color weaved into the beauty of a brand new day. Even as the night consumes the light of day, I see the evidence of your fingerprint there. I may never be able to see Michelangelo's paintings but may a never become so busy that I fail to appreciate the masterpieces I'm able to behold with my eyes every day.



[2]



[3]

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TMQv41QRwkI/AAAAAAAAAVA/ke9bQ6j7ujw/s1600/redskies1.jpg
2. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TMQwigFIVdI/AAAAAAAAAVE/b20k8SHawso/s1600/PICT2980.JPG
3. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

Amanda (2010-10-24 14:38:13)

Beautifully written Wanda! Oh my, that is a gorgeous display from our Father! You know how I am with sky pictures, I love them!!

Toia (2010-10-24 14:47:48)

Beautiful and Majestic!!! I always try to take time to stop and look up at the sky to see what beautiful masterpiece has painted for me. Thanks for sharing!!!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-10-24 15:27:55)

As always a beautiful write, it's so relaxing visiting you as I know here I can find peace and calm. Thank you Wanda. Yvonne.

Wanda (2010-10-25 02:13:00)

Yes, Amanda, we're alike in that way.

Toia, that's a great practice to have.

Yvonne, glad to know you find peace here.

Blessings to each of you.

Dena E's Blog (2010-10-25 03:03:49)

You are such a blessing from Our LORD Himself Sis...His decorating is beyond words and just think Heaven is even better !!!

And in beginning your new week,,

A prayer for you

As you seek God first,, May the light of Jesus Christ continue to shine through you, blessing you in all that you do!!!

Hugs Dena

Rae (2010-10-25 11:19:50)

What a beautiful way to start the day! Hope yours is spirit-filled and awesome!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-10-25 15:26:13)

Thank you, Wanda. Whenever counsel kids I always remind them that they were created a masterpiece and all they need to do is build up from there. I guess we adults need to keep that in mind also.

Wanda (2010-10-25 22:38:56)

Thank you Dena for the lovely prayer my sister!

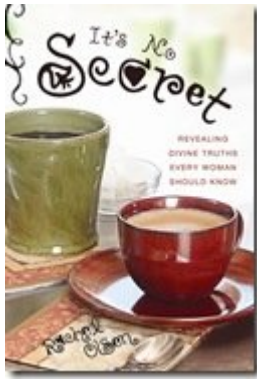
Rae, thanks and same to you.

Bluebutterfly, I'm sure the youth are blessed by your counsel. You always have such wise words to share over at your bloggy home.

Mailbox Monday (2010-10-25 13:16)

After visiting [1]I am a Reader, Not a Writer and being in complete awe of the stash of books that have piled into home, I decided to play along in [2]Mailbox Monday. It's a weekly book meme hosted by [3]She Reads and Reads design for readers to share about books that entered their home recently. Books I received during the past week include:

It's No Secret by Rachel Olsen



[4]

(from B & B Media Group for review)

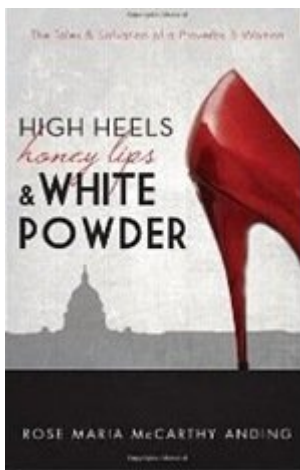
A Million Ways to Die, The Only Way to Live by Rick James



[5]

(from B &B Media Group for review)

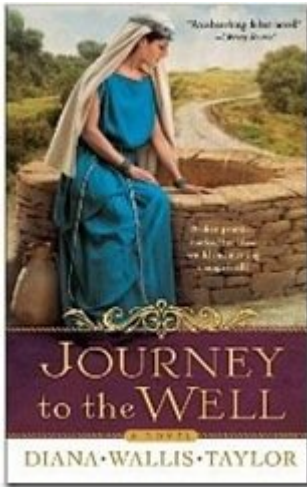
High Heels, Honey Lips & White Powder by Rose Maria McCarthy Anding



[6]

(from the author)

Journey to the Well by Diana Wallis Taylor



[7]

(from [8]Paperback Swap)

Any interesting books come into your home the past week?



[9]

1. http://iamareadernotawriter.blogspot.com/2010/10/in-my-mailbox-mailbox-monday_24.html
2. <http://printedpage.us/mailbox-monday-blog-tour/>
3. <http://shereadsandreads.blogspot.com/>
4. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TMWDICVktGI/AAAAAAAAAVw/S8uzq0IwRl4/s1600-h/image001%5B3%5D.jpg
5. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TMWDJSBp1aI/AAAAAAAAAV4/2QkfV03_22M/s1600-h/545%20James%20bk%20cover%5B5%5D.jpg
6. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TMWDKPhuAI/AAAAAAAAAWA/WnCX-AmgSXI/s1600-h/highheels%5B3%5D.jpg
7. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TMWDLdhHBCI/AAAAAAAAAWI/tqXLgYxzbfM/s1600-h/journe2dwell%5B2%5D.jpg
8. http://www.paperbackswap.com/index.php?n=1&r_by=bnredeemed
9. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

Mary (2010-10-25 13:33:42)
Good mix of books! Enjoy!

Inspired Kathy (2010-10-25 13:43:38)
Great variety. Love the Cover of Journey to the Well. Thanks for mentioning my blog.

Beth(bookaholicmom) (2010-10-25 15:45:07)
I love the cover on It's No Secret. These titles are all new to me. Enjoy them all!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-10-25 16:02:28)
Quite a varied collection.I'm awaiting one from Amazon .
Yvonne.

Wanda (2010-10-25 22:36:01)
Nothing quite like a good book and a cozy couch. Happy reading to each of you.

Mystica (2010-10-25 23:42:53)

I like to see what you make of Its no Secret!

Laura @ I'm Booking It (2010-10-25 23:47:13)

You've got some great looking books there- I love the cover on the first one in particular!

LisaShaw (2010-10-25 23:52:24)

Hey Wanda, how are you sis?

Looks like you have a bit of reading on your hands (smile). I so want to get Rachel's book.

I have quite a few at my bed posts I'm in the middle of or have not begun reading. Too many to list but the one I'm most enjoying right now is PRAYER by Philip Yancey.

Hugs and blessings as you enjoy your reading! Love this time of year for reading especially. Curl up with hot coffee or hot cider, a blanket and a good book oh and something snack like (smile).

Dena E's Blog (2010-10-26 02:58:06)

Hey Sis,,

thinking of you

As you trust in Him

May the light of our Savior Jesus Christ continue to shine through you Sweetie!!!

Hugs Dena

Amused (2010-10-26 02:59:26)

What a fun group of books! I really like the look of the first one. Enjoy all of your new reads.

jewelknits (2010-10-26 04:19:00)

It's No Secret looks fantastic judging by the cover alone, and I was very surprised to read a review of A Million Ways to Die, The Only Way to Live as it did NOT seem to fit the picture on the cover! Enjoy your reads!

Julie @ Knitting and Sundries

Wanda (2010-10-26 11:04:07)

Mystica, I'm enjoying it thus and far and will be writing a review of it soon.

Laura and Amused, that cover does look so inviting doesn't?

Lisa, you mean I'm not the only one attempts to read several books at a time?

Dena, I so appreciate your nice sentiments. Last night was a bit of downer for me but to wake and see such nice thoughts has brighten my morning. Blessings to you.

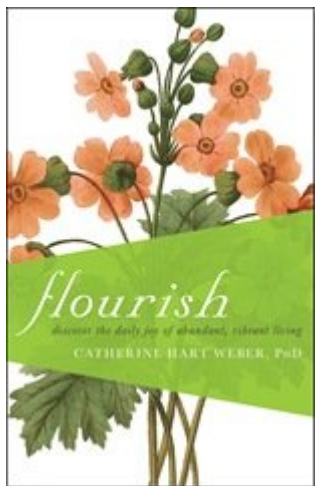
Jewelknits, the cover of books are the first thing that grabs my attention. Sounds like I might be in for a bit of surprise with A Million Ways to Die.

Holly (2 Kids and Tired) (2010-10-26 18:47:46)

I've got It's No Secret too. I can't wait to get to it. Enjoy your books!

avisannschild (2010-10-28 01:08:04)

The cover for *A Million Ways to Die* is very similar to the one for *Stiff* by Mary Roach! Welcome to Mailbox Monday and enjoy all your books!



Dr. Catherine Hart Weber's latest release, [1] Flourish: Discover the Daily Joy of Abundant, Vibrant Living offers women the tools necessary to move from a life of mere existence. She ushers us away from the fast-paced, no-time-for-me kind of life and implores us to take time to really examine our livelihood. Does it reflect the abundant life Christ came to give us as believers? In Flourish, Dr. Weber uses a Biblical centered psychological approach in teaching readers how to lay hold of more joy, peace, hope and fruitful relationships.

I found that the book was a slow read for me. Not because it was uninformative or disinteresting but rather the questions for reflection and other practical advice contained in the book made me want to take my time in digesting the material. Although the book is specifically stated to be for women, I think anyone could benefit from not just reading the book but applying it.

What I like about the book:

- provides practical exercises to apply the truths discussed
- combines Biblical truth with medical research without being overly technical

Quotes I liked:

Did you know that you can actually spread and catch the emotions of the people around you, like you can catch a cold?

Couldn't we all think of someone, who has a way of letting the air out of our good day, when they come around coughing out complaints and criticisms?

Overindulging yourself in what may seem temporarily pleasurable can lead to unhappiness.

In current evangelical Christian life, often the opportunity to go deeper with God in the dark moments of our life is missed, mainly because people too quickly run away from dark times and try to grab hold of surface joys and comforts.

DISCLOSURE: I was provided an advance reading copy for review purposes by Bethany House Publishers. The views and opinions expressed are my own.

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TManN2XcxOI/AAAAAAAAAWQ/3Qjn4X2ZxXA/s1600-h/flourish3.jpg

Will Burke (2010-10-26 04:38:05)

I'm getting a rare indulgence right now: Up early, so I'm reading Blogs with a coffee while the baby sleeps, and having a delightful time!

Wanda (2010-10-26 06:10:10)

Will, I can imagine with a little one it's not one that you have much opportunity to overindulge in so enjoy :)

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-10-26 07:07:55)

Complaints and criticism...like having a doctor repeatedly tell you what is wrong without ever offering a solution. Will make any day or diagnosis worse.

One Heart (2010-10-26 07:50:28)

Sounds like a good one, Wanda. I like what Bluebutterfly wrote...so very true. I can so see how sometimes we are tempted to grab on to surface joys while experiencing dark times of trials. It's the "get me outta here" syndrome of human nature. But true joy runs way deeper. Thanks for sharing and for stopping by too.

Joanne Sher (2010-10-26 08:26:33)

Sounds lovely and encouraging, Wanda. Thanks!

Sharon Kirby (2010-10-26 19:12:10)

Wanda,

This sounds like a really good book. Have to go check it out. I really liked the final quote - how true. I often find myself trying to AVOID difficult times. I want God to FIX the circumstances, instead of TRANSFORMING me. I want my version of peace (freedom from anxiety) instead of His (total trust and rest in His wisdom and His ways...) Thanks for sharing - GOD BLESS!

Ellen aka Ella (2010-10-26 20:54:02)

Thanks for sharing; Yes, over indulgences in chocolate results in not being happy with my hips! lol
Sounds like a great soul searching read xXx

Slipping Away (2010-10-26 23:00)



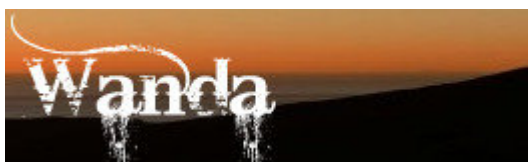
[1]

Headed out the door and down the steps, I found myself drifting downward towards an unexpected and unwanted dirt kiss, if I wasn't able to do something fast. Too late to completely stop the nose dive, I reached for the car in an effort to brace myself for the fall. Luckily my whole body didn't hit the concrete only one knee was scratched. Having gone down those steps many times, how did I manage to slip that day? In my

haste, I missed the bottom step. The step hadn't changed locations, it was I who failed to properly maneuver it.

Is that not how life can be at times? We're residing in the same location yet something seems to have changed or slipped away. At least that is how I find my life at times. Living in the same house, working the same job, attending the same church, a member of the same family and participating in the same activities but things that I maneuvered so well in the past now feel as if I've misstep. Have you ever felt yourself slipping away? There are days that my passion ebbs away. Other times I notice I've slipped into complacency, complaining, discontentment, or depression. But, why? In most case it's because I have allowed my focus to slide away from the one who is my ultimate support. He has not moved and it's comforting to know that all I have to do is call out to Him. I can share my true feelings with Him; there's no need to conceal my inner most thoughts.

Psalms 94:18-19 (NLT) I cried out, "I am slipping!" but your unfailing love, O Lord, supported me. When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer.



[2]

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TMea9II67KI/AAAAAAAAAWY/6a_X0bf4xV8/s1600-h/wfw%2010-27-10%5B5%5D.jpg
2. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

Amanda (2010-10-26 23:46:50)

Wonderful perspective with that scripture Wanda! It is so true... nothing has to change in our lives, but our hearts shift a gear and we can lose ground and slip. Scraped knees are never very nice! Quite painful in fact!

I do hope yours isn't too painful... but what a beautiful lesson to learn from it all.

GlowinGirl (2010-10-27 03:59:41)

Have I ever felt myself slipping away? Yes, unfortunately. And just as you said, nothing else significant had changed in my life . . . but me and my position. He is faithful, though, just as you pointed out, and I'm so thankful for His steady, loving support!

Michele Williams (2010-10-27 04:44:01)

Yes, I have felt that way at times... I am so glad the Lord is always there to catch me... Blessings..

Joan (2010-10-27 05:05:09)

Wanda, this post really spoke to me. It is so easy to become complacent and discontent. I am so thankful that we can share our inner most thoughts with God and He truly understands - not condemning, but loving us (in spite of ourselves).

Blessings,

Joan

Joanne Sher (2010-10-27 07:31:11)

Soooo been there, Wanda. LOVIN this reminder.

Brian the old man (2010-10-27 07:42:59)

I have been through so much in my life and knowing He is there to pick me up and carry me through all of the slips and falls has truly made me blessed.

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK (2010-10-27 07:48:07)

What wonderfully encouraging Bible verses! I'm extra tired today AND praying lots for a couple of beloveds who are struggling so I will be Scripture praying these for all of us. Thank you! :)

Carole in the UK (2010-10-27 07:51:37)

Wanda, I most certainly have been at the place you describe so beautifully. I now sense when I am slowly sliding back to that place.

It is when I hear myself complaining and being critical of those things which I was quite happy about previously, but now hear a critical inward voice.

I am so glad that I serve a God who understands when we share our innermost thoughts with Him.

God Bless You More.

lori (2010-10-27 07:52:08)

GIRL this was SOOO good! It's the reason we recently left the church we were at...slipping...slipping into complacency is what happens. We get a little too comfortable in where we are and sometimes the "face plant" is exactly what we need! :) This was SOOOO good!

peace Wanda!

you rock!

lori

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-10-27 08:40:56)

Yes, Lord...Yes, Lord. So many times I found myself in that place and had to get myself a "Word" check.

Angel @ Finding The Inspiring (2010-10-27 11:02:54)

I love this! So good to know we can call on Him when we feel ourselves slipping. He is faithful! Blessings to you.

Sandy (2010-10-27 12:14:24)

Hi Wanda,

First time here. Love your good words of encouragement.

Joining you as we follow

Him.

God bless,

Sandy

Peggy (2010-10-27 13:54:01)

Blessings Wanda... WOW! WOW! WOW!

Great message and Word!!! Sorry about your slip...hope it was not recent but if so that you are on the mend.

Healing from His hands and strength to Support you always! The truth in your analogy was so powerful and very convicting in a good way. I was ministered to as you shared.

As I cry out, when I feel that I may be slipping, I'm so thankful for His unfailing love, for His comfort, for my hope renewed, for the "Hip, hip, hooray" cheer, I hear from His sweet whisper as we press on and keep our feet on solid ground. When you keep it REAL like this, I am humbled and know that He is our FOCUS and our PEACE, our ultimate support! He does not move!

Thank you Wanda!!!

Peace,

Peggy

Karen (2010-10-27 14:06:10)
Great verse. Bless you, Wanda.

Sharon Kirby (2010-10-27 17:35:46)
Wanda - What a great word. Thank you. Yes, I have had times of BIG slipping -wandering away from God's pathways. And times of "little" slipping (is there really any such thing??) - times when I just lost sight and got discouraged. However, PRAISE THE LORD! Slipping doesn't always mean falling, and even when it does, HE helps us get back up, dusts us off, and says, "Take heart...I have overcome..."
GOD BLESS!

Karen (2010-10-27 18:44:17)
Wow...I got dizzy just looking at that picture...glad your "slip" didn't do much damage...
My spiritual slips have done damage...but praise the Lord...His hand is always near and His mercies are always new....

Faith Imagined (2010-10-27 20:12:01)
I can relate to every single one of your posts! Satan sure knows how to use our complacency to his advantage.

Lorena G. Sims (2010-10-28 01:35:18)
Yes! I have found myself slipping away many times. But it is comforting to know that we have God who we can lean on to.

Ozjane (2010-10-28 04:01:45)
Ouch.....I can identify with that one whilst appreciating the graphic and verse.
I managed to fall onto my knees in the bedroom.....so thankful for carpet but being on my replaced knees is a little like being on a bed of nails. Had some great bruises....
But He kept me from hitting cabinets and so I am most grateful.

Guiding Light (2010-10-28 07:48:09)
Great post - and a great reminder! Have a wonderfully blessed day!

PatriciaW (2010-10-28 10:30:16)
Whenever I feel as though something's a little off, maybe I've slipped, I'm reminded that God is constant. He hasn't moved and He doesn't slip. So it must be me, and I'm inspired to find my way back to gripping His hand more tightly.

Pat (2010-10-28 12:13:54)
Hi Wanda
Those days do make you feel horrible, but as you said it's so important to stay focused. Today is one of those days for me "yuck" just feeling blah, blah, blah!!! I thank God it won't last. Wonderful post Wanda.

Saija (2010-10-28 13:30:02)
good posting ... and i love the psalms you used - one of my favourite reminders that God is always there to hear my cry and lift me up!
blessings on you!

Beth E. (2010-10-28 20:11:01)
A wonderful post, Wanda! It felt as if you were speaking directly to me...have you been looking over my shoulder? ;-)
Just wanted to stop by and visit your blog...I'm so glad I did! Thank you, again, for visiting mine.

Cathy (2010-10-28 20:38:10)

Thank God for His everlasting love and that He upholds us. Blessings

Elizabeth West (2010-10-29 09:28:31)

Great post, Wanda. Maybe I need to try using that phrase. I seem to feel lately that my communications are not being heard.

Anyway it made me feel a bit better. Thanks. :)

Chelle (2010-10-30 14:33:35)

Beautiful..

You've been tagged..head over to my blog

Stuff could always be worse (2010-10-30 18:33:32)

Wow, this post touches me, I agree with it. I do not want to slip away either.

kim

Just Be Real (2010-10-31 05:58:15)

Oh yes I can certainly relate. Thank you Wanda for such a thought provoking post. Blessings.

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-10-31 16:18:45)

Isn't it amazing that three of us have fallen (you, Sharon, and myself), and that the Lord has taught each of us a different lesson from the fall.

I love your post on slipping into complacency with our walk with the Lord. It happens too easily. Just as slipping into complacency with our loved ones. It's too easy to take people for granted the Lord's love included.

Blessings,

Janis

Mike (2010-11-01 06:28:37)

Encouraging :) Being intentional about turning to Him is a habit that I need to cultivate! Thank you.

Got Questions for You (2010-10-30 20:14)

Well I finally made it back to my blogging home. I've been out of town for the past few days. As I was pondering what to write next here, I discovered I was tagged by Chelle at [1]Chasing the Divine. No need to rack my wandering brain any longer when I'd been provided an easy prompt to get the juices flowing again. So here's something light for Saturday. Rules are to answer 8 questions and then make up 8 questions of my own and tag 8 of you lucky readers.

And now, for my Q & A from Chelle.

1. What will you be dressing up as for Halloween?

Hmmm....I guess you can say a Sunday School teacher since tomorrow is Sunday and that's about the only dressing up I'll be doing.

2. What would the title of your autobiography be?

Oh my, now I thought this was going to be easy. First thing that comes to mind is Between Sisters since I spent years being the middle girl or In Pursuit of Self.

3. If you could acquire any one skill, what would it be?

I wish I had the gift of gab. I tell my mom I don't know how she ended up with a child like me seeing as she never meets a stranger.

4. You have your choice of living anywhere in the ~~country~~ world, where would it be?
Maybe some where on a tropical island.

5. You have 1 million dollars you must donate to charity, which charity do you choose?
Just one? One who's mission was serving rural underprivileged children.

6. What achievement are you most proud of?

Oh golly am I suppose to toot my own horn? I'd say being brave enough to leave a career I wasn't happy with and go back to school despite hearing all the "I can't believe you don't like" from others.

7. What makes you laugh the hardest?

The things Madea has the audacity to say on Tyler Perry movies.

8. What is your favorite snack food?

Chocolate chip cookies

And here's where the fun begins for you, if you choose to participate. Here are my eight questions?

1. What is your favorite season?
2. What phrase do you find yourself saying like your parents, although you thought you'd never be caught repeating such words?
3. What was your first or favorite Christmas gift that you received?
4. Which are you more likely to do: sing karaoke, bungee jump, or speak to a large crowd?
5. When driving do you go the speed limit, just a wee bit over the limit, or make sure you just a little bit under the speed limit?
6. Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give to your younger self?
7. Besides the Bible, what book has had a great impact on your life?
8. What's something you would include on your bucket list?

Ok, I'm asking the following people to join me in a game of tag by answering my eight questions. Hope you can come out to play but don't worry we will still be bloggy buddies even if you're not up to playing.

Eeny, meeny, miny, moe.....

Nicole at [2]Coming Alive in Christ

Monica at [3]Wisdom, Virtue and Rubies

Kim at [4]Stuff Could Always Be Worst

Ellie at [5]Ella's Edge

Sharon at [6]Sharon Sharing God

MTJ at [7]My Thought-filled Journey

Dawn at [8]Guiding Light Homeschool

Pat at [9]My Journey Home

You're all IT! If I missed you and you want to be it, consider yourself tagged my friend. Hope each of you have good night and a refreshing Sunday.



[10]

1. <http://chelled.blogspot.com/>
2. <http://comingaliveinchrist.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://wisdomvirtueandrubies.wordpress.com/>
4. <http://stuffcouldalwaysbeworse.blogspot.com/>
5. <http://ellasedge.blogspot.com/>
6. <http://sharonsharinggod.blogspot.com/>
7. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>
8. <http://homeschoolblogger.com/guidinglight/>
9. <http://pttyann-pttyann.blogspot.com/>
10. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNewsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

Chelle (2010-10-30 20:23:14)

WELL done! I am so with you on Madea, I completely agree!!
Thanks for playing along :)

Sharon Kirby (2010-10-30 21:19:50)

Thanks for the tag, Wanda.

Here's my answers:

1. My favorite season? Summer, for sure. Love the sun!
2. Phrase from my parents? My dad always used to say, "Can I make a suggestion?" and then proceeded to tell me (nag me) to do something. My 20-something sons are overjoyed that this now comes out of MY mouth. (It used to be "Because I told you so.")
3. Favorite Christmas gift? Probably a miniature, Barbie-sized kitchen. The stove actually turned a miniature "turkey" - the sink had a hose that made actual water come out of the faucet - and the refrigerator had all this miniature food. Loved it - because I wanted it so bad, and I got it - even though my mom had "said" it was too expensive!
4. More likely to do? Speak to a large crowd. For some odd reason, I would actually LOVE to do this.
5. Speed limit? Truth??? I have a bit of a "lead foot" - I drive OVER the speed limit.
6. Advice to younger self? Run away from that one relationship that caused so much grief.
7. Which book had the greatest impact? Actually, it was "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis. Why? Because it made me FEEL the crucifixion for the first time in my young life. And it introduced me to my favorite writer of all time.
8. Bucket list? Go to Scotland. Both of my grandmothers were born there. Would love to visit the country of my kilted kinsmen!

Thanks, Wanda - this was fun.

Have a refreshing Sunday...and GOD BLESS!

Nicole (2010-10-30 21:32:01)

Thanks for tagging me Wanda! I will def answer your questions but not sure who to tag! I've been tagged 3 times now and running out of people to tag! lol

I will post it on Monday! (plus that gives me some time to think up some answers! lol)

Joanne Sher (2010-10-31 11:57:31)

What fun! Enjoyed reading your answers. Thanks for not tagging me - enough posts in the next day or two as it is!
:D

Analisa (2010-10-31 12:03:07)

What is your favorite season?

My fave is Spring. The colors and the first warm day after hibernating. Love it.

What phrase do you find yourself saying like your parents, although you thought you'd never be caught repeating such words?

In my house _ _ _ _ _ . Put any thing in the blank but is is usually about what needs to be done or shouldn't be done.

What was your first or favorite Christmas gift that you received?

An answer to prayer. Last year I didn't have dime to get my son anything. Since is is just the two of us I told him write down what you would like and I will pray and God will answer. Soon after that a friend and her husband without a request from me sent me 300 dollars. I was able to get him what he wanted.

Which are you more likely to do: sing karaoke, bungee jump, or speak to a large crowd?

Karoke hands down.

When driving do you go the speed limit, just a wee bit over the limit, or make sure you just a little bit under the speed limit?

Don't drive but the short time I did, I had a lead foot.

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give to your younger self?

Don't have sex until your married you will regret it. Oh and go to college.

Besides the Bible, what book has had a great impact on your life?

Crazy Love by Frances Chan and God is Awesome by Tony Evans. Each one lifted me to a new level in God. I am now reading the shake and I feel a change in my heart.

What's something you would include on your bucket list?

Disney World I have never been and always wanted to go.

Analisa (2010-10-31 12:05:00)

Oh I said I was now reading the Shake I meant the Shack by Paul Young. Awesome book. LOL the shake thats funny.

Stuff could always be worse (2010-10-31 17:35:43)

Thanks again, for the design...and the tag! I will play the game?? Hope I can make sense...

kim

Wanda (2010-10-31 19:16:16)

Oh, my pleasure Chelle.

Sharon, thanks for joining the fun. I have a bit of a lead foot too. One of my favorite gift was a rose petal doll house I got. My mom looked every where to ensure I that request was granted.

Oh sorry Nicole. I didn't realize you'd been it before. No worries if you don't decide to tag anyone else. It'll be our secret.

Joanne, lol...I understand. Hmmm...maybe next time, though.

Analisa, what a powerful testimony of how God answered your prayer. He's concerned about every detail of our lives. I haven't read either one of those books but I did really enjoy Kingdom Agenda by Tony Evans, which I read several years ago.

Kim, you're very welcome. Glad you liked it and I look forward to reading your answers.

Dena E's Blog (2010-10-31 19:36:21)

What a fun read Wanda....Just wanted to stop by and say HEY atcha,, "Hey" Sis,, thinking of you...

A little prayer for you As you trust in our Sweet Lord,, may He continue to shine through you covering you with His blessings too...

Hugs Dena

Ellen aka Ella (2010-10-31 20:48:34)

Wanda,

I loved your answers! Great insight,
fun to read

I will play, probably end of week...

Project Genesis Nov 1st then I have a behind award post and yours would be fun to do after! I like your questions
Congrats on your award; Thank you for thinking of me! xXx

Petula (2010-10-31 22:23:24)

I love your answer to the first question. :-) Cool.

Amanda (2010-11-01 02:32:37)

Wanda, I loved reading your answers and learning a little more about you!

I had never heard of those Madea movies, until I went to the States last year. Our lovely host hired out a few of them
and we really enjoyed them!

Bless ya sister!

Amanda (2010-11-01 02:33:09)

oh!! ps!!

I know of the perfect tropical island haha! Right near me ;)

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-11-01 11:00:22)

Great answers and questions. My favorite book besides the Bible that changed my life was...I can't choose between
Far From The Madding Crowd and Jane Eyre. I started reading at a very young age and read both these books in
one Summer. I think I learned that there was more to people than what was on the surface and that I should look
beyond the surface always.

Wanda (2010-11-01 15:57:44)

Dena, thank you!!

Ok Ellie, I look forward to reading your answers. Take Care.

Petula, thanks.

Amanda, Madea is quite a character. Oh I like the sound of that island. I've seen all the beautiful pictures you've
shared.

Bluebutterfly, sounds like very wise lesson you learned. Kind of like you can't judge a book by it's cover.

Thanks to all of you for stopping by and sharing your thoughts.

LisaShaw (2010-11-01 16:07:24)

Wanda, I'm with you on Madea!

I didn't know you were a Sunday School Teacher. That's awesome!

I learned a little bit more about you in this sharing. I like that!

Hugs!

Sharda (2012-01-01 20:39:10)

"Let me tell you about my modesty." - Jason's adaptation of a line from 'Fiddler on the Roof'

1.9 November

Despite What's Seen (2010-11-01 21:40)



[1] Joanne at An Open Book has selected an obscure verse in one of the less popular books of the Bible for today's Monday Manna discussion. But even in the most unlikely places one can find treasure. Besides, how many really valuable things have you discovered just lying around in plain view? I digress sorry. Today's scripture is from Habakkuk 3:17-18 and honestly I can't recall ever reading this particular passage.

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

Less Than Ideal Circumstances



[2] As I read this verse it immediately reminded me of another passage of scripture I had read recently in chapter 3 of Lamentations, which reads, "The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease". Just as when I read that passage during my daily reading, I was drawn to the stark contrast of the writer's environmental condition to his internal condition. Neither writer was suffering from denial or delusion. Each presented a clear description of just how dismal their current situation was in fact. A situation that was:

- without growth
- void of productivity

- vastly different from times past
- appeared to have no end in sight

An Atypical Response

Yet, their response in the situation was not the most logical one from a natural perspective. Amidst death, barrenness, destruction, lack and great loss, Jeremiah stated he still had hope and Habakkuk said he was still choosing to have joy. Hope and joy are not the by-products of loss are they? Having lost a few things in my life, I certainly don't think so. Although, I've never suffered loss to the magnitude as these two but loss is loss. And, I certainly know what it feels like to be in a place of no outward sign of growth or productivity without the benefit of knowing when the situation would change.

Did these two possess some special ability beyond the reach of us "average" Christians? I think not but rather they chose to use what many of us (or I'll just say what I) often neglect when facing dire circumstances. It all boiled down to the power of one choice-the choice of where to apply their focus. Though acknowledging the reality of their situation, they chose instead to focus on God – his character and their past experience Him.

Are you looking at some spots of death, lack, or non-productivity in your life? If so, I offer you the same challenge I'm giving myself. Dare to change your focus. Even though facing situations beyond our control, there still remains one controllable choice.

What does Habakkuk 3:17-18 speak to you?



[3]

1. <http://www.joanneshesher.com/>
2. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TM8z3Cs0ziI/AAAAAAAAAwk/1MPjW8mtv3s/s1600-h/bare%20trees%5B12%5D.jpg
3. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNUwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

LisaShaw (2010-11-01 22:05:01)

Wanda,

You said it well! We have a choice. A choice to focus on the problem(s), the loss, the trial, the betrayal, the hurt, the situation, the illness, etc. OR we can choose to put our focus on the LORD and when we do there is a peace that surpasses all understand...a joy that is unspeakable and full of glory, a strength that arises within us for it is not by might nor by power but strictly by His Spirit that we are able to keep our eyes on HIM.

For me Wanda it's reminding myself of what I already know...I am persuaded that HE is and that He's able to keep me fully and completely and so I am determined to keep my eyes fixed on HIM, my feet firmly rooted in His Word and my heart completely washed in His love and though I FAIL often I'm glad the Holy Spirit gets me back on track quickly!

Love you friend!

Stuff could always be worse (2010-11-01 22:19:54)

This spoke to me, even during stress or troubles, I will keep His Joy! These two in the Bible did have it worse but kept the Joy.

kim

Joanne Sher (2010-11-01 23:35:11)

Wonderful insights, Wanda. I hadn't thought about the parallel to Jeremiah, but it is SO clearly there! That's why I love reading other people's perspectives. Thanks for participating!

lioneagle (2010-11-01 23:39:02)

Hi Wanda -

This is excellent.

That Habakkuk verse has long been one of my favorites though I use the KJV.

You so well expressed those truthful sentiments.

Thank you, Wanda!

Pat (2010-11-01 23:45:05)

Hi Wanda you used my favorite scripture here Habakkuk 3:17 18 I truly love that scripture and it gives me such hope when going through tough times,so many Christians have been taught suffering is not a part of God's will,but when you look closer you'll see that it is,God does more through out trials than any other way.God has it all planned out all we have to do is trust him and wait.Really good I enjoyed the read.

Just Be Real (2010-11-02 08:17:25)

This post spoke volumes to me Wanda. Could not be such a perfect timing as this. Thank you. Blessings.

Amanda (2010-11-02 08:29:40)

Wanda, timely for me also... thank you ago for the 'realness' in your writing which comes from your heart.

TonyR (2010-11-02 13:20:04)

Wanda,

Very well written. Habakkuk 3:17-18 is one of my favorite passages of hope in the Bible.

WOW I LOVE the wording of this version of Lamentations 3, it was a fresh word for my soul. Lamentations 3: 21-26 is also a favorite passage but I have never read this version before. What version is this from?

Thank you

Suely Rezende - HD (2010-11-02 13:40:42)

Hi Wanda,

Grace and peace!!!

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. "ICor.2:9

God Bless,

Suely

Maringá/Brasil

<http://herdeirosdedeushd.blogspot.com/>

Our blog:

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-11-02 16:04:25)

Habakkuk is one of my favorite books in the Bible. Our response is what matters most, and how we respond should reflect what what is on the inside. On the inside should be the Joy of the Lord, which is our strength. On the inside should be the Hope in the Lord, which is our confidence.

Yet, I will rejoice...yet, I will hope...yes, I will believe in the God of my salvation. Thanks, Wanda.

Guiding Light (2010-11-02 16:07:35)

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord - AMEN! Have a wonderfully blessed day!

B. Niles (2010-11-02 16:23:43)

The Word of God is so poetic, beautiful and powerful. I can't recall ever reading that verse in Habakkuk either, Wanda. But I love it's rendering.

It takes me back to Hebrews 11:1. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. No matter what things look like in our circumstances, can we still see God at work. The external vs. the internal.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-02 22:31:44)

A wonderful post to read Wanda.

I would like to thank you for all the support you have shown me.

I really do appreciate it.

Yvonne.

Nicole (2010-11-02 22:52:47)

Beautiful Wanda!! Thanks for posting about these 2 wonderful verses! It is so hard sometimes to remember in our hard times, time of loss or other hard times that God will never leave us and He will always supply our needs, though they may not be what we are thinking or hoping for at the time He will leave us! and what He has in store for us is always what's best!

Sharon Kirby (2010-11-03 02:44:30)

Wanda,

God does indeed work in mysterious ways. My post on Sunday (www.biblepickems.blogspot.com) was about these very same verses!! It's interesting to me, because I "randomly" pick verses to write about on Sundays. Makes me think God has something to say He wants us to hear!

I used the NLT for the verses. Habakkuk uses the phrase, "even though" - and then he finishes with "yet I will."

I found that this was a new insight to me - a change of focus as you have said. God can change any "even though" circumstance - even though the worst is happening - into a choice to turn to Him in trust and peace - "yet I will" CHOOSE to rejoice.

Thanks for your input on these very special verses.

GOD BLESS!

Julie (2010-11-03 04:15:44)

Wanda,

Sometimes life is just plain hard... the thorns and thistles of this broken world come after you... and it still comes back to one thing. "Is God really good?" At least that's what it is for me. I cannot trust in what I see God doing or not doing. I can only trust in who He is.

I know you've seen where I've been. These verses really spoke to me tonight. Thank you for sharing them and thank you for your beautiful words left at my blog.

Bless you,

Julie

Carole in the Uk (2010-11-03 04:23:53)

Yeah, Wanda, one of my very favourite verses - it is so powerful!

I love to meditate on this verse, as it gives me so much strength, when I am struggling in any area of my walk with the Lord.

It immediately reminds me of the Psalms of David. As I study them, I notice that his Psalms were like a spiritual diary. That because of his personal relationship with God, he was able to pour out his raw emotions, warts and all.

Holding nothing back. He had the ability to question God about his circumstances, asking the why question, repenting of the wrong he had done, and knowing fully well, that God was in control of his life.

As I read the Psalms he wrote, I also notice that however dire the situation, David always finished his Psalms by rejoicing in the Lord.

Thank you for your article,

God bless, Carole

Wanda (2010-11-03 21:18:06)

Wow, I'm amazed that so many of you had this passage of scripture as a favorite. It's a book I've read before but the verse about writing the vision and making it plain is the one that stands out the most to me from this book. As you can see I'm no Bible scholar...lol. It's certainly an encouraging passage of scripture because we all face tough times at some point in our lives. Yet God remains good. Tony, Lamentations is quoted from the NLT version. Sharon, I'll have to check that out. I've found we I see a recurring theme, it's definitely something I need to pay closer attention too. Thanks ladies for sharing your thoughts and may God continue to bless and keep you.

Suely Rezende - HD (2010-11-07 00:34:09)

Hi Wanda,

Shalom Adonai,

Thank you for sending a message (email).

I await your visit on our blog.

Come be our follower.

God Bless,

Suely

Suely Rezende - HD (2010-11-07 00:34:13)

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Sleep But No Rest (2010-11-02 23:00)

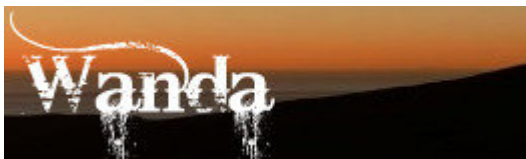


[1]

So we see that because of their unbelief they were not able to enter his rest. Hebrews 3:19 (NLT)

Perhaps it was the night of interrupted sleep due to the neighbor's barking dog during the wee hours of the night that caused this passage of scripture to stand out as I read it this morning. But last night is not the only night that rest has eluded me. Sleep and rest are not necessarily synonymous. Despite the sheet thread count, type of bed, or even the room the bed is located, true rest can only be found in one place.

As I meditated upon the scripture, I was reminded or better yet warned about all the times I find myself anxious and fretting over various things in my life. The true cause of this state of unease is unbelief. No matter what clever sounding statements I tried to cloak it in, the reason came back to unbelief that God would handle this area. I mean I know that He can but can I trust Him to fix it in a way that's good and pleasing to me. Sounds rather shallow, huh, but it is true anyway. And, only in acknowledging it could I receive the help that I really need. I don't want to be self-deceived and I want to truly trust Him so that I might receive not just sleep but true rest.



[2]

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TNDJf4tYNmI/AAAAAAAAAwS/G1KhfsB7JQ8/s1600-h/rest%5B8%5D.jpg
2. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjdjYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

MCH Boys Ranch, Inc. (2010-11-03 00:55:42)

Wow...I think we have all been there, done that. Wanted it fixed in a way that's good and pleasing to ME. Thanks for sharing!

Prayer Partners Around the World (PPATW) (2010-11-03 02:10:57)
What a great verse to share. Thank and be blessed!

hip-chick (2010-11-03 03:03:28)

When I am worried about something and I can't sleep I find that turning my heart towards God, praying and giving my worries to God comforts me.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-03 03:04:35)

I agree a wonderful verse,
Have a wonderful day,
Yvonne.

ozjane (2010-11-03 04:48:12)

I agree there is only one who gives ultimate rest.

However can I suggest a couple of practical things that God has shown me and has helped my insomnia.

One if a diary in which I briefly put down the events of the day and unload my mind. I normally follow this with my prayer book/list...so that my mind is focused on His word and on those He has laid on my heart to bring to the throne of Grace.

The other thing I do is take quite a lot of magnesium and calcium at night. I very much notice it when I do not take it.

I would never want these comments to take away from His rest...but He does promise to give His beloved sleep, so I feel at peace to pass on some of what I have learned (in my old age...LOL)

Brian the old man (2010-11-03 05:02:34)

I have had many a sleepless night and am now blessed that He gives me rest in His love and comfort.

Amanda (2010-11-03 05:02:52)

Wanda, unbelief is a topic we have been discussing at our Church. It really is the root of a lot of issues.

Praying that we would all truly trust Him and rest in full assurance of His Word.

God bless you and happy WFW sis!

GlowinGirl (2010-11-03 05:23:21)

I didn't get much rest last night as I slept in Baby Girl's room for awhile, so I feel this! :)

I truly agree though, and I've been struggling a bit with anxiety lately. Isn't it odd, then, that as I do a Bible study with my son on the day I'm really struggling we discuss one of God's Names: Jehovah-Shalom? The LORD is Peace. He gives rest to our rushing minds and racing hearts.

Nicole (2010-11-03 07:04:16)

Love this verse! Thanks so much for sharing it with us. Happy WFW to you!

He is the only way to find that peace, that rest that we so much need!

Joanne Sher (2010-11-03 07:26:56)

Sooooo true. Wonderful stuff, Wanda.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-11-03 08:35:20)

There's nothing like the truth but the truth. At all the times when I have failed to rest, it has always been because I've had "something on my mind" a/k/a worry, anxiety, fears....UNBELIEF. Help, Lord.

cHe (2010-11-03 08:42:39)

love this verse. Great sharing as well, God bless and happy WFW!

Joyfull (2010-11-03 08:46:18)

Beautiful verse and post. What a great encouragement that the Lord is our true rest.

Prayer Partners Around the World (PPATW) (2010-11-03 08:58:45)

Great sharing and incredible verse:) Happy WFW!Godbless

Prayer Partners Around the World (PPATW) (2010-11-03 08:59:17)

Thanks for dropping back on my blog...:)

Stuff could always be worse (2010-11-03 09:09:34)

I love this post, I get sleep but not true rest, many nights! Love the way you related it to scripture!

Pia (2010-11-03 09:12:00)

wow, this is so true. we are not able to enter God's rest because of unbelief.

Katie (2010-11-03 10:34:31)

You put this in such honest and true words!!! This gives me something to think about!

lori (2010-11-03 10:34:32)

sleep and rest...indeed not always the same! I have to LAUGH...I have my girls decorate pillowcases as an activity in Bible Study revolving around the theme of "Rest." This is PERFECT for this study! I swear! Your words here are so perfectly timed!

Be blessed Wanda!

peace,

lori

Denise (2010-11-03 10:49:42)

Amen, so true.

dunlizzie (2010-11-03 11:04:15)

This is spot on. Thanks for sharing. I think I'm going to go crawl in my bed now ;) Thanks also for stopping by my page. God bless.

Faith Imagined (2010-11-03 11:12:29)

Very good point! When we fret we are not believing that God has complete control over the situation. This is something I have to remind myself of daily.

Peggy (2010-11-03 13:48:02)

Blessings Wanda... Wonderful WORD! May you find true rest and deep sleep

as you truly trust Him and all anxious and fretting cease! Good follow up to my fret busters last week! Rest in His beloved arms, Wanda! (I had to laugh at the "despite sheet thread count, bed type, etc. ...") Let God handle all situations, You know He will and tells us to cast it all on Him! But I'm glad you acknowledged this... good lesson for us all!

Peace and rest in Christ,

Peggy

Toia (2010-11-03 14:17:59)

Amen!! True rest comes from God. We have to be willing and able to give all our cares/burdens to Him. And trust Him to fix because His ways and thoughts are not like ours. They are better!!! Blessings to you!!! Happy WFW!!!

Wanda (2010-11-03 14:36:41)

MCH I guess we all at some point think we know what's best.

PPTAW Thanks for stopping by today.

Hip-chick That's the perfect place to turn.

Yvonne, hope you enjoy a lovely day too!

Ozjane thanks for sharing those tips. I'm definitely a proponent of journaling, although though I don't do every night. Any remedies for a barking dog ;)

Amanda I agree that it's at the root of a lot of issue and unless it's undressed and revealed for what it really is we only address the symptoms. Never getting the real help needed.

Glowingirl Oh He knows how to get our attention and give us just what we need. I experienced a time in my life where I would have night terrors and I constantly had to declare that the Lord was Peace! Hadn't thought about that in some time now but your statement brought it to my remembrance.

Amen, **Nicole**

Thanks for stopping by **Joanne**

Che Happy WFW to you. Glad to have you stop in.

Thank you, **Joyful**

No better one to call on for help **Bluebutterfly**

Kim thanks. Resting in Him takes place when we're wide awake too.

Pia, as believers in Christ we often over look the subtle way that unbelief can creep in.

Kathie I pray that if unbelief has crept into your life that the Holy Spirit would reveal it to you. Thanks for stopping by.

Lori lol...that is so ironic isn't it. I love the idea of decorate pillowcases. You always give me some ideas.

Denise blessings to you.

Dunlizzie enjoyed visiting you and hope you experience His rest.

Alisa so true!

Peggy thanks and I truly slept much better last night. Yeah, even the finest linen at the most exotic resort can't purchase us His rest and peace.

Toia you summed it up perfectly.

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-11-03 16:28:12)

With all of my transition in recent months, I found myself having many restless nights. I would sleep but not actually sleep. I recall telling a friend that I felt like my mind was constantly going, processing throughout the night. You're right. I was trying to deal with things and figure things out that I should have placed on the altar each day. Lately, I've been making a sincere effort to let the word of the Lord be the last thing I take in at night. His word truly gives me peace, and He blesses me with true rest each night. I pray the same for you, my friend. :-)

Mary (2010-11-03 19:31:16)

Amen! Thanks so much for sharing. Blessings on your day.

Ellen aka Ella (2010-11-03 22:30:26)

Wow Wanda, you always make me pause and reflect I do think our timeline doesn't always match up!

xXx

lioneagle (2010-11-04 06:00:47)

Hi Wanda -

We all have our moments when we engage in unbelief but thanks be unto GOD who is able to keep us from falling! Praise His holy name.

Marsha (2010-11-04 09:10:25)

Wanda, what a wise word here. I really hadn't thought about that. Thanks so much for sharing this.

Lorena G. Sims (2010-11-04 12:16:55)

Amen! That was a wonderful verse. I have been sleeping but not resting lately. There are so much things I want to do but couldn't do or don't know how to do it. I just can't help myself to not think about or worried about it. I guess I need to learn to let go and give it all to God and believe that he will take care of me. Thank you Wanda, for letting God use you to get to me today and to others. God Bless

LisaShaw (2010-11-04 12:59:35)

Wanda, this is powerful and on point!

I'm thankful that when we are made aware of ourselves through His Word then we can be changed in His Word. I often have to remind myself through the Word of GOD that it is in Him I live and move and have my being and as such, why do I need to worry about anything?! He not only can handle it, HE will. He's GOD and He's my (our) GOD and He loves His children.

Bless you for sharing a powerful WORD!

Lisa (2010-11-04 18:18:07)

Wonderful thoughts shared! We've been studying this in our ladies Bible study too.

Debra Kaye (2010-11-04 22:29:10)

Wanda,

Loving this verse and this beautiful truth!

God bless you!

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-11-05 00:45:03)

True rest can elude us until we enter His rest. Your graphic was quite appropriate. The beautiful room still can't give us the peace we seek.

Thank you for the reminder.

Blessings,

Janis

Just Be Real (2010-11-05 18:49:40)

Hey Wanda, the Scripture and the message of your post is so timely. Thank you for being open to the leading of the Spirit. Blessings.

MTJ (2010-11-05 19:24:02)

Hi Wanda,

This topic has been in my thoughts lately. Learning not to be focused on the outcome, or when will it be over, but just trusting the Lord as I go through this. This is not easy for me. I'm not a patient man, but I'm learning patience is needed.

You are in my prayers my sister. May the Lord give you grace and peace in abundance that you may experience rest during your sleep.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Maribel (2010-11-06 10:21:34)

thank you for sharing this..my boys were sick the other night and that along with the roller coaster of emotions of a hubs who's been unemployed for nearly a year adds up to many sleepless nights. I do often find myself being reminded of TRUE REST and my need to soak in it. Just this morning I read Ps46:10...Be still and know who God really is! There is rest there!!

Thank you for sharing this! It blessed me!! :)

Sharon Kirby (2010-11-07 22:22:40)

True rest -

I'm not sure that there are too many other words that resonate more with me. I tend to be an anxious person, the family "worrywart" - and the idea of peaceful rest is just plain...restful, calming, wonderful! A balm to my soul!

Thanks for this good word.

Lord, I believe - help my unbelief.

GOD BLESS!

Just Be Real (2010-11-08 17:05:50)

Hey Wanda came back for some more refilling of my Spirit. Blessings.

Wanda (2010-11-08 19:12:07)

JBR, I'm honored that you'd come back for a second helping. Praying that you'll find true rest in Him.

Sharon, I find myself praying same thing...Lord I believe but help my unbelief. Sounds a bit contradictory but it's so true. Some areas I find so easy to believe Him and others are much more difficult.

Maribel, be still and resting in Him during the hard times of our lives can be difficult but it's certainly possible because His word tells us to do so.

MTJ, thanks so much for your prayers. There needed and much appreciated.

Janis, our physical environment has little impact on true rest.

Debra Kaye and Lisa, thanks!

Lisa Shaw-amen!

Lorena, I certainly understand about being in a place of not quite sure but I pray that as you rest in Him you'll be able to hear and heed His voice.

Marsha, thanks to you for stopping by.

Sandra, you're right. He's able to hold us up.

Ellie, true. Sometimes He moves much slower than I would like ;)

Mary, blessings to you too.

Monica, having the word as your last thing at night sounds like a great practice.

Thanks to all of you for taking a moment to share your thoughts. Hoping you'll abide in His sweet rest.

Patrina's Pencil (2010-11-08 21:55:22)

Loved your comment at One Heart's Place - came to say Hi. This is a good honest post, Wanda. You got it - Scripture doesn't lie. It is unbelief, and I struggle with this. I trust Him - I think I really really do -but then I get fearful about these unknowns in my life, ya know? Maybe I just don't trust me with knowing His perfect will... it becomes a circle in my head sometimes.

blessings for a great week

patrina <"■<

warrior bride in boots

Wanda (2010-11-09 06:01:21)

Hi Patrina, happy to have you stop over for a visit from my bloggy sister's place. I believe we all struggle with unbelief at some point in our lives. But He is our helper.

Bernadine (2010-11-09 14:37:46)

So true Wanda. I find that when there is tormoil of any kind in my life the first thing to disappear is my sleep. I've also found though that when I turn it over to Him I'm able to rest knowing that He has it all in control. Thanks for sharing.

Amydeanne (2010-11-09 15:18:31)

oh i wish i could jump into that bed and have some sweet rest right now! lol

daylily777 (2010-11-11 09:45:23)

To enter His rest is glorious !

Blessings,

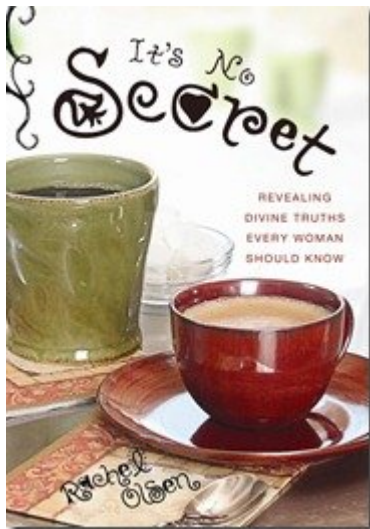
Myrna

Prayer Notes by Cynthia (2011-07-31 13:51:05)

So true! We need to wait and have more faith. This must be a constant mantra and prayer for ourselves. We must keep the faith and stop fretting. He will take care of everything! Thank you, for this post.

P.S. In an earlier post, you shared a tattered door and a Scripture. I am creating a few new bookmarks and would like to send you a copy using the photo and Scripture. Could you send the link to my business: prayernotesbycynthia@gmail.com? Blessings!

It's No Secret by Rachel Olsen (2010-11-09 06:01)



[1] Right from the cover, *It's No Secret: Revealing Divine Truths Every Woman Should Know* by Rachel Olsen gives you a warm and inviting feel. The perfect atmosphere for our Yahweh sister, Rachel, to share 12 truths she has learned along her journey with the Lord.

In true Titus 2 like form brimming with Southern hospitality, she invites us in to see not just her triumphs but struggles as well. Using her life stories along with Bible scriptures she tackles issues like: competitiveness, conflict resolution, perfectionism, confession, receptiveness to help from others, humility, and busyness. Each chapter closes with study questions, which would be great to use as part of a group study or individually.

Being what I call a "recovering" perfectionist Chapter 7 Adjust Your Scale: Revealing the Secret to Per-

fection in God’s Eyes really resonated with me. Her statement on page 136 points out how, for the most part, we perfection-seeking types have been trying to measure up based upon performance rather than grace alone.

We’ve been conditioned to earn our way, to perform correctly, to not make mistakes. We seek love and respect from God and others through what we do and how well we do it. In turn, we expect others to earn our love and respect. To a degree, we even expect God to earn it by blessing us with “the good life” so long as we behave well.

For those of us who have a hard time asking others for help, Rachel reminds us in the secret of interdependence that we are not just weighing ourselves down needlessly but also robbing our fellow sisters and brothers.

Refusing to ask them deprives them of their opportunity to serve, of their opportunity to fulfill their purpose.

While the book is light-hearted, it is confrontational as well. Cutting away the excuses we often use for having a deeper and more intimate walk with the Lord.

Thanks to Karen Davis at [2]The B &B Media Group for providing a complimentary copy of the book for review purposes. Views and opinions expressed are my own.



[3]

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TNidcrGoVvI/AAAAAAAAAW0/mSWqXaudT5s/s1600-h/image001%5B4%5D.jpg
2. <http://draft.blogspot.com/www.tbbmedia.com>
3. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDjYNUwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-09 13:25:24)
Excellent post Wanda, very interesting to read.
Yvonne.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-09 13:25:34)
Excellent post Wanda, very interesting to read.
Yvonne.

lioneagle (2010-11-09 13:26:28)
Hi Wanda -
Thank you for this piece. Indeed it is encouraging and a reminder that we certainly need. In particular the part about us needing one another. How true!
Our Lord is truly about relationships....

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-11-09 14:08:18)
A "recovering" perfectionist? That made me laugh, Wanda. Recovering is not easy. Sigh....

Andrea (2010-11-09 14:50:05)

Blessings,
andrea

Joanne Sher (2010-11-09 15:31:43)

It is SO true that being self sufficient makes others miss the blessing of giving. It is amazing to watch the joy in people's eyes when they are GIVING. Been there - on both sides. Thanks for this, Wanda.

Tea with Tiffany (2010-11-09 18:07:00)

thanks for sharing a new book. :) I love to read! Esp. good non-fiction where Christ is center.
Peace and love,
tiff

Bernadine (2010-11-09 20:33:11)

Wanda, thanks for this review. This book sounds like an interesting read. I smiled as I read some of the points you listed because I saw myself in them.

Stuff could always be worse (2010-11-09 20:36:42)

Yes trying to be a perfectionist! We all need to listen to this.
kim

Alene (2010-11-09 22:23:07)

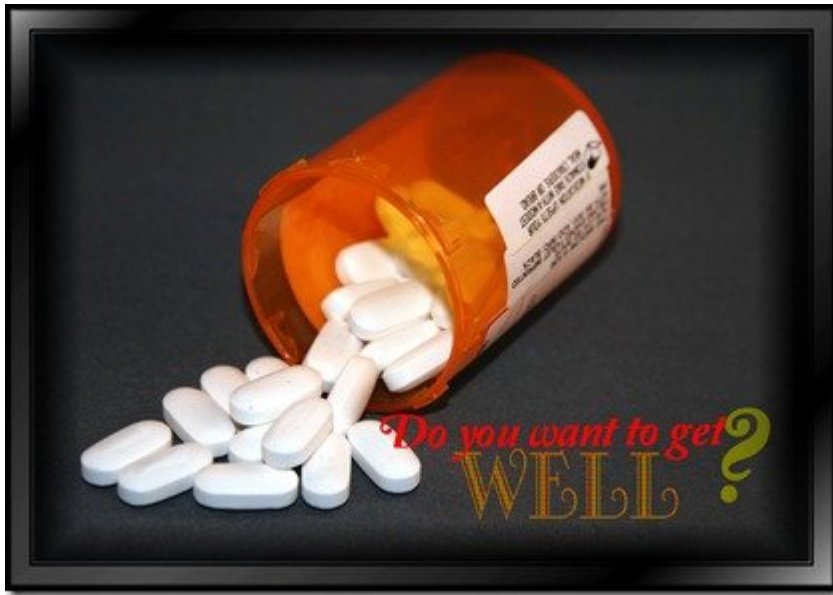
This book by Rachel sounds awesome. Thank you for highlighting some of it. Chapter 7 sounds like something I need. Blessings girl.

Wanda (2010-11-10 01:02:17)

Thanks ladies for sharing your thoughts. I really enjoyed the book and she feeds you lots of truth while giving you laughs. You almost don't realize she's given you a punch in the guts..lol.

Do You Want It or Not? (2010-11-10 00:00)

Do you want to get well? John 5:6b (NIV)



[1]

Seems like a rather strange question to ask a sick person. Does it not? But it's easy to find comfort even in a place of sickness and be satisfied to just complain. While most people would readily seek physical wellness, one can easily overlook the "sick" ideologies, attitudes, and heart conditions that govern our lives. For we all can think of some good reason why we have the right to be in that condition. Just as He did for the lame man at the pool, Jesus offers us the opportunity to lay aside all the reasons why. And He asks do you want to get well?



[2]

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TNokqwYFiaI/AAAAAAAAAW8/_xBYW9-dALE/s1600-h/John%20%5B3%5D.jpg
2. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TJjDJYNuwsI/AAAAAAAAARc/y92G6H2bz_c/s1600/watered+soul+2.jpg

Anonymous (2010-11-10 01:25:28)

Blessings Wanda... I'm so thankful for the HEALER making me completely well inside and out and that I am more than willing to ask Him to help me into the "pool of healing waters". I just read this in my Daily Reading plan and I thought, who would say that they did not want to get well? Yet, you're right, good point you made! But I also think some of us, are ignorant or unaware of what needs healing in us.

Praising Jesus that He's still healing and He's the GREATEST PHYSICIAN for all we need! That He searches and knows our hearts and if we desire for all to be well in our souls... not to wallow and complain or use it as a "crutch". Peace in Christ and wellness,

Peggy

amazing Grace... (I'm signed out sorry)

jhunnelle (2010-11-10 01:41:38)

Sad to say, sometimes instead of running to Jesus when we're sick we run to the hospital. Praise Him for He is our great healer not only physically and emotionally but most of all spiritually.

Blessings!

ozjane (2010-11-10 02:07:53)

Such a good question as so often we sabotage our own good health.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-10 03:15:49)

A good question, and a good post to read.

Have a nice day.

Yvonne.

gemini (2010-11-10 04:51:26)

Yes...the truth about this world is really hurting but God heals our sick souls.

GlowinGirl (2010-11-10 04:58:18)

I love that Jesus asked that question – that He put that thought out there for all of us. Do we truly want it? Do we want to let go of those things that make us sick?

Something good to ponder, Wanda. Thanks!!

a sojourner (2010-11-10 05:15:49)

Shalom friend:)

Wanda, right up until recently i desired physical healing. living with this disease is very painful and one finds that as the weeks/months pass by, your personal activities become very limited. it makes living very uncomfortable for you. but having said that, i realize that being spiritually healed and having a FULL relationship with our heavenly Father is first and foremost the important thing that matters. as my physical limitations dwindle, my relationship with Him improves because i spend more time with Him. what's wrong with that. sure, i have days that i don't always feel this way. i gotta be real here. will tell you another reason as well. since i'm a sheep thats prone to wander....i worry that if God did heal me, i might wander off back to the world and forget about Him and what He has/had done. that could easily happen for me sis. i NEVER want to forget or toss what He has given me already aside....and walk away from Him.

Amy (2010-11-10 05:45:37)

YES! I want to be well in Him! Cured of my unfaithfulness and doubt! Thank you for this reminder!

Happy WFW!

Brian the old man (2010-11-10 05:50:21)

This verse has special meaning to me. Thanks for sharing. Happy WFW!

lori (2010-11-10 06:26:54)

Good morning Wanda!!!

What a powerful image...we tend to want the "quick fix" don't we? Sometimes the Lord's approach is a little longer process...soooo good!!! This weekend we heard a message on healing and deliverance...it's a process of trust...this was awesome!!

Peace,

Lori

Susan (2010-11-10 08:47:05)

I don't think there is any more POWERFUL truth then in that question Jesus asked the man.

All of seem to make excuses for our failings and weaknesses in our lives, while Jesus is there WAITING for to make us WHOLE.

GREAT word.

Pia (2010-11-10 10:24:31)

a specific question that's waiting for a specific answer.

YES Lord!

how awesome our God is.

Joanne Sher (2010-11-10 11:24:04)

Soooo true, Wanda. It's easy to "rest" in our illness - but God wants SO much more for us, if only we ask.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-11-10 11:39:45)

Jesus asked some pointed questions in the Bible, and this is definitely one of the. We have to have the will to accept the way to be well. Jesus is certainly willing to make us well. Lord, help us accept your offer of wholeness.

Cathy (2010-11-10 12:20:30)

Isa 53:5 -

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Thanks the Lord!

e-Mom (2010-11-10 13:20:18)

A timely challenge! Happy WFW, Wanda.

Lorena G. Sims (2010-11-10 14:00:21)

We all need healing both physically and spiritually. All we need is to ask, trust, and have faith in him. What a wonderful post.

LauraLee Shaw (2010-11-10 14:07:18)

Ohhhhh, that gave me chill bumps! Powerful!

Beth.. One Blessed Nana (2010-11-10 14:13:51)

i love this post wanda - sadly, there are those who DON'T want to get well. But praise God we know the ultimate Healer!

Amanda (2010-11-10 16:21:56)

Short, sweet and to the point... love this WFW!

Maxine (2010-11-10 18:07:55)

Wow. That is a powerful question and we need to definitely seek an answer. We need to be honest with ourselves and God and seek His healing. Bless you, Wanda. Nice hearing from you today.

Karen (2010-11-10 18:36:49)

Awesome devotion, Wanda!

Alicia, The Snowflake (2010-11-10 19:37:08)

Great post! It is definitely a choice. We have to want to be healed. Thanks for that great reminder today. Happy WFW!

Arlee Bird (2010-11-10 20:49:54)

You are so right about this. I think there are some people who wouldn't know what to do without their ailments. They like the attention and it gives them something to talk about.

Such a sad way to live ones life.

Lee
[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

Stuff could always be worse (2010-11-10 21:12:19)

I agree with this post. Healing of the attitude, etc. is very important. Love this post.

kim

Connie Arnold (2010-11-10 21:15:53)

Your post sure makes me stop and think. I pray for other people's healing, but don't really ask for my own usually. Praise God for the healing power available to us!

Wanda (2010-11-10 22:33:34)

I've been blessed by each of your comments and if you have email expect personal replies. Bud (sorry haven't gotten used to calling you sojourner ;) you make an interesting point. Reminds of the 10 lepers when only one remember to come back and say thanks.

Arlee, I so agree. It seems like some people try to out do others with complaining.

Connie, sometimes it's easier to believe for someone else healing rather than our own.

Lon (2010-11-11 09:26:31)

Thank you for sharing this nice post! I became a follower to your blog, and your welcome to follow mine if you want. God bless you!!!

postzoom (2010-11-11 15:53:26)

We are looking for great blogs and we would love it if you registered yours with us.

PostZoom is a directory of the best blog posts which helps readers find great blog posts and our goal is to help blog owners drive more traffic to their blog.

If you are interested in joining, please check us out!

Thanks,

Eric Castelli

PostZoom

Ellen aka Ella (2010-11-11 18:39:36)

Wow Wanda, it makes you reflect, I do think it can be a burden and sometimes over lap into a pamper fest. I do want to get well, but it won't happen in my lifetime. My disease generates to much \$ and jobs.

I hope n' pray, some diseases will

be cured! xXx

Andrea (2010-11-12 08:03:25)

Sometimes the condition last so long that we forget that nothing is impossible for God. He is able to heal us inside and out; physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Amydeanne (2010-11-12 20:06:57)

ain't that the question of all time? LOL. I love it!

MTJ (2010-11-12 22:09:58)

Hi Wanda,

As I read this post, I found myself going back to the scriptures and reading more about the encounter between Jesus and this man.

I asked myself what does this say to me personally? I reflected on your something you said, "...Jesus offers us the opportunity to lay aside all the reasons why."

How often do I offer plausible reasons why?

Is this encounter a metaphor for a spiritual condition?

The man wanted to be healed because he kept returning to the pool and yet He also believed someone would always be preferred over him. *Did he think he was unworthy of healing?*

How does my view of myself affect my concept of God?

You've (*once again*) stimulated some questions which I will seek to answer. I've begun writing a book and I no longer have time to read many of the blogs that bless, inspire and encourage me.

I didn't want to allow the week to escape me without visiting *The Watered Soul*.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Sharon Kirby (2010-11-12 22:14:04)

Wanda,

I was reminded of this Scripture:

Matthew 9:12-13: "When Jesus heard this, he said, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor - sick people do...For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.'"

AMEN?

I'm so glad that He has healed the diseased, sinful spirit within me, and made me whole. I pray for those who still need to know they're sick...

GOD BLESS!

LisaShaw (2010-11-14 09:42:12)

Oh this is RICH and PRICELESS!! A powerful question not only did the LORD ask of that man but of us, "Will thou be made whole?"

Amen and Amen Wanda on this message!

Wanda (2010-11-14 21:42:07)

Hi Lon, happy to have you stop by for a visit and as I have time, I'll be sure to visit your blog.

Ellie, interesting point my friend. I do believe there are some conditions that generate big bucks for those who manufacture products to treat the disease but God remains able to heal.

Andrea, so true. It's in the extended waiting period that our faith is under extreme pressure.

Thanks Amydeanne!

MTJ, now you make want to do another review of the passage. Those question you posed are some I need to meditate upon myself. Let me know when you finish the book. I'm sure many will be blessed by it.

Sharon, hadn't thought about that passage but it goes along so well. Even natural doctors require that the patient recognizes some type of "sickness" otherwise they don't offer any treatment. Love it.

LisaShaw, yes He's asking each of us.

The Need (2010-11-13 06:13)

Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. Hebrews 10:36-37 (NLT)

For a couple of days now I've been meditating on this scripture. Just taking time to chew on it. It has actually come up a few times this week in other places like the pastor's sermon and even a book I'm reading. Thus I think it's something I need to take note. As I've mentioned in previous post here, patience is not

always a word I'm eager to embrace. Then it has the audacity to sit right next door to another one of those often unwelcome words for me – endurance.

Oh how easy it is to start a new thing but to continue in spite of adversity can be the most challenging part. When the results do not turn out the way I expected, it does not take a whole lot of words from the naysayers or even my negative self-talk to convince me to throw in the towel. To simply chalk it up as I misheard God. But, like a dog hanging onto a bone, this scripture refuses to loose it's grip on my mind.

The writer points out that patient endurance is a need now. Not a want. The very situation I long to run away from and he speaks that I need to endure it but not just any old way. But to endure in patience. Why? So that I can continue to do God's will. Only in continuing do I position myself to receive the promise. He says in just a while expect to see manifestation.

Leaving prematurely doesn't stop the manifestation of the coming one. Only my ability to see it when it does show up. It's like waiting for a bus and it seems to be late. After waiting for a few moments, I leave and catch a ride with someone else. Those who had the patience to wait were able to ride. But because I lack the ability to endure the wait, I missed the bus but it didn't impact the bus arrival.

Dear Lord, I hear you speaking and I pray that you strengthen me as I wait upon you Lord. I don't want to forfeit your promises that you have for me. I pray for every sister and brother that are torn between waiting longer or turning away. Father give them clarity on what your will is regarding the matter. If you're calling them to stand, I pray that you will help them to endure filled with patience as only you can provide. We choose to take your word as final authority in our lives. In Jesus name, Amen.

[1] [signature.png]

Visible links 1. http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/photo/c6uft0FsTp_dIeQMMeDVPJkz9F-zliyrE6j0RsMY2aQ?feat=embedwebsite

Mike (2010-11-13 08:55:08)

This verse has been SO relevant to a situation in my life this year. God has much to teach me in 'sticking with it' and trusting Him to act. [1]My post on endurance

1. <http://thisido.blogspot.com/2010/04/persevere.html>

Cherie Hill (2010-11-13 13:36:41)

What an INCREDIBLE post sister! OH that I might be found IN HIM! I will keep my eyes on Him!

Blessings,

Cherie

Joanne Sher (2010-11-13 14:03:51)

Boy, did I EVER need this reminder! Not a want - a NEED! And did you change your header? BEEAAUUUUtiful!

Stuff could always be worse (2010-11-13 14:13:00)

Like your new header....Yes patience and enduring is so tough! We need to learn this..

kim

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-13 15:00:35)

Another good post to brighten up this dull wet, and windy day. Thank you Wanda.

Yvonne.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-13 16:20:47)

Hi Wanda for all the inspiration and support you give, there is an award on my Christmas Shopping blog.
Yvonne.

MTJ (2010-11-14 01:32:03)

Hi Wanda,

I read this post and my first thought is *Wow!* Thank you so much my sister.

When you say, "**...how easy it is to start a new thing but to continue in spite of adversity can be the most challenging part.**" – *I can relate to that.*

I believe that God understands my capacity in a way that I never will. More than anything, I believe He desires me to trust Him, to stay connected with Him; *even when I'm faced with the most challenging adversity in my life.* I'm learning to see these are opportunities to grow in patience and endurance.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

LisaShaw (2010-11-14 15:40:04)

Oh friend, I think we're twins! I knew I saw a resemblance (smile) for I thought the first paragraph was written by me (smile).

Oh boy – patience and patient endurance!

Powerful message Wanda and as I pray for you I'm praying for myself as well.

I've been chewing on Hebrews 10 lately myself. I bet we could sit down over coffee, tea or water and share a few thoughts!!

Love and blessings!!

Trudy (2010-11-14 20:30:08)

Oh, dear Wanda...thank you for this post! God led me here to you today and I know why. He is calling me to patient endurance also, just as my flesh is wanting to 'catch the next bus'. This Scripture will stay with me also.

God's blessings to you!

Trudy

Sharon Kirby (2010-11-15 02:07:48)

I prayed the prayer you wrote. It's just what I needed to say to the Lord today. There are many distressing circumstances in my life, and the life of my family right now. It's difficult to know which way to turn. I hear the Lord, I need His strength, I must learn to endure with patience.

And give me peace...

GOD BLESS!

Wanda (2010-11-15 03:31:23)

Mike that sticking with it can be the hard part for me.

Thanks, Cherie.

Joanne, "need" stood out to me in this passage of scripture as well. There are many things I want right now but here I was reminded of what I actually need.

Yvonne, thanks Yvonne ;)

MTJ, you're learning a very valuable lesson my friend.

Lol...Lisa, great minds think alike ;) I'm sure I'd glean a lot from you.

Trudy, your little one looks so handsome on your profile. While each of us might be walking through different circumstances in our lives, I believe God is trying to develop patient endurance in many of us. As you wait on Him, there is reward. And your final destination is VICTORY.

Sharon, I'm honored that you found that prayer useful my sister. He gives both the will and the ability to wait on

Him.

Thanks to each of you for sharing your thoughts. Wishing a blessed week ahead.

Lon (2010-11-15 04:23:56)

Thank you for sharing this well written post and your beautiful prayer!!!

God Bless you!!!

Lon

One Heart (2010-11-15 13:51:59)

Love it...not the patience part but the analogy of the bus. No, but seriously, I love the truth shared about patience too. It is evidence of the Holy Spirit living in us—His fruit, mature fruit.

Love your header. Thanks for stopping by and thanks for sharing. Have a gorgeous Monday.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-11-15 15:45:11)

"endurance NOW". Many don't realize that as long as they don't learn to wait, they will miss the blessing that happens along the way. It is those blessings that prepare us for all that God has in store for us.

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-11-16 00:10:56)

I am just having an opportunity to read this post. I'm glad I took the time to do so. You couldn't know that I am contemplating "giving up" on some things, but the Father knows. He always provides encouragement for us at the time we need it. Thank you for being a willing vessel.

Wanda (2010-11-16 04:38:06)

Thanks, Lon.

Lol...**One Heart**, oh, who loves the waiting part any way.

Monica you're right God knows how to serve up just what we need when it's needed. Hang in there girl!

Bluebutterfly yes failing to endure is forfeiting some blessings. Help me Lord!

Bernadine (2010-11-17 01:20:17)

Aww Wanda, patience and endurance... this post spoke to my heart especially your prayer at the end. Thanks for sharing.

lioneagle (2010-11-17 01:39:21)

Hi Wanda -

How true your words are!

I like your use of "stand" and "We choose to take your word as final authority in our lives." Yes, Amen!

Dean Spencer (2010-11-17 04:14:39)

Wanda -

I certainly can relate to some of the same challenges you mention. It is way too easy to be impatient and move on. I think sometimes I do it out of selfishness.

This is a good reminder of the patience and endurance I desperately need from the Lord. Great post! God bless!

Tuesday's T(s): Teaser & Thanks (2010-11-16 09:00)

THE TEASER

Rather than give you a quote from the latest book I'm reading, I wanted to whet your appetite with one from Yvonne at Spiritual Seed Food for the Soul's post entitled, [1]There is a Prepared Place for You.

“If we are working on jobs or in careers that were not “prepared” for us (by God), then the ones to whom it was prepared for are displaced, because we are occupying territory that does not belong to us! Not only are we out of the will of God, we are forfeiting our prophetic destinies and purposes. Again, if we are occupying territory that God designed for someone else, and we are in their “spots,” we are also keeping those people out of their destinies and purposes as well.”

Using Mark 10:40 as a reference she shares some insights she received regarding operating in one's prepared place. I encourage you to pop over and read the entire post. As someone still trying to “discover” her prepared place I was chasten but encouraged to continue seeking the place.

THE THANKS

On another note I would like to recognize another Yvonne. (I really hadn't plan it that way.) A great big (((hug))) and thanks to Yvonne at [2>Welcome to My World of Poetry, where she dishes up poems covering a full range of subjects. She recently pass the wholesome blogger award to me.



[3]

It is rather ironic that “wholesome” is in the name of the award. I'm always talking about watching “whole-some” shows. These eyes try to avoid things that would interrupt the sleep. Hope you each have a terrific Tuesday.

1. <http://spiritualseedfoodforthesoul.blogspot.com/2010/11/there-is-prepared-place-for-you.html>
2. <file://localhost/mnt/ext/blogbooker/tmp/4c1nyqhk/welcometomyworldofpoetry.blogspot.com>
3. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/T0INxzznjpI/AAAAAAAAAXg/uRrGVV8URcI/s1600-h/Wholesome_Blogger_Award%20from%20Yvonne%2011-13-10%5B3%5D.jpg

Just Be Real (2010-11-16 10:32:16)

Thank you Wanda for your post here and the link to Yvonne. Blessings to you dear one.

Beth in NC (2010-11-16 11:55:40)

Congratulations on your award!

Wow, what an awesome quote. I will definitely jump over to visit!

Love in Him,

Beth

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-11-16 13:25:21)

Congrats!

ML (2010-11-16 13:47:50)

Wanda!

Thank you for stopping by my site.

I really enjoyed your post today. I too have been chastened and had to just sit still and allow the Lord to work on my behalf.

You are such a blessing. Thank you for your post today!

ML Michaels

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-16 14:06:40)

A wonderful post Wanda also thanks for the kind words.

Yvonne.

Stuff could always be worse (2010-11-16 17:17:40)

Love this devotional post! Thanks for sharing

kim

Joanne Sher (2010-11-16 17:35:39)

That quote is DEFINITELY thought-provoking and awesome. Thanks - and congrats on your award, dear Wanda!

Karen (2010-11-17 03:04:56)

Thanks for these recommendations. I will check them out. I have enjoyed reading back through your recent posts also. Bless you!

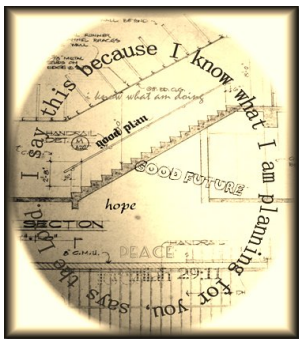
Wanda (2010-11-17 03:06:29)

Thanks ladies for stopping in and hope you have time to visit Yvonne's place.

gemini (2010-11-17 05:31:30)

Your post brightened my dull day. Thanks for sharing!

Ever Asked Why? (2010-11-17 06:03)



[1]

I say this because I know what I am planning for you, says the Lord. I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future. Jeremiah 29:11 (NCV)

Why does He say hold on, when you feel like quitting?

Why does He say let that go?

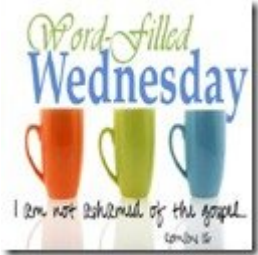
Why does He say forgive them?

Why does He speak life when all you can see around you is death?

Why does He say have faith in spite of what you see?

Because He knows the complete plan He has for our lives. The Message version says, I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out - plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. Can not tell you how many times I started out thinking I knew exactly what to do or what I wanted. Only to end up so far away from "my" plan but I find comfort in knowing that even when I'm lost, God is fully aware of both my current location and my final end.

Stop by the Internet Cafe for others serving up fresh doses of the Word in graphics today. [2]



[3]

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TONGNc1vKRI/AAAAAAAAAXo/sdrhEh8AQRY/s1600-h/Jer%2029-11%5B12%5D.png
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>
3. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TONGQhJG1TI/AAAAAAAAAX0/z607_gCUhBQ/s1600-h/cafefwbuttoncopy%5B3%5D.jpg

ozjane (2010-11-17 10:47:45)

Praise God He truly knows what He is doing and that just slays our frett and stress.

GlowinGirl (2010-11-17 11:20:36)

Girl, I love the new look of your blog! Beautiful!

Now . . . on to the post. I love this too. What an important truth to remember. We don't always understand why He wants us to do certain things, but HE DOES!! Trust, trust, trust in His plan is what we have to do . . . Someday it will all make sense.

jhunnelle (2010-11-17 11:26:01)

beautiful message to ponder, the verse is one of my favorites, praise the Lord for no matter what circumstances we are into, His plan for us remains wonderful and great.

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-11-17 11:48:19)

I'm so glad that His plan is so much better than mine. I just need to surrender to His. :) Great Word and pic today!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-17 11:51:59)

A wonderful post, Wanda.

I know every thing happens for a reason though at the time I do wonder why,
Have a good day.

Yvonne.

Ellen aka Ella (2010-11-17 12:19:24)

I love the new look,too

It is comforting to know, we are not lost xXx

Joan (2010-11-17 12:24:48)

"The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps." (Proverbs 16:9)

I'm so thankful that the Lord is directing my steps and guiding my plans. I give thanks to Him for being a part of His plans for this generation.

Blessings,

Joan

Rae (2010-11-17 12:50:01)

I'm trying to stay away from the computer, but I'm checking in once in awhile. Your post really spoke to me today. I'm reading a wonderful, spirit-filled, book called Crazy Love. You should take a look at it. It has me thinking about God so much more throughout the day.

Have a great Thanksgiving, Wanda!

Chelle (2010-11-17 13:43:13)

I love how you did this post! WOW WOW WOW! So good, thank you for sharing.

Wanda (2010-11-17 14:14:46)

Yes, it does, **Ozjane**, when we keep that truth in the forefront our minds.

Thanks**GlowinGirl!** Yes much of it will never make sense on this side of Heaven but we must keep in mind that He's using it all as a part of His plan.

Jhunnelle>It's one of my favorites too.

Sherry, His super exceeds our own. It's just hard at times to get that wrapped around our mortal minds.

Yvonne, i think we all do wonder why.

Elliethanks. Not lost to Him anyway.

Joan thanks for the scripture reference you added. We're taking steps along His predestined plan.

Rae honored you'd take time to peep in today. I'm a book lover and I've heard a lot of good things about the book. I'll have to add it to my TBR list. Thanks for the recommendation. Continue to soak up His presence.

ChelleThanks! blessings to you.

Missie (2010-11-17 16:42:47)

I have been praying hard to hear His plan...thanks for the reminder that He has one! I just have to be patient

lori (2010-11-17 16:48:54)

Being married to a "builder" these look awful familiar to me! What a great VISUAL! I can't wait to share them with him! He'll get a kick out of this! Wanda, it's true...LOVE me that Message translation!!

Oh and your new header is beaUtiful too!!

peace!

lori

Peggy (mazmagi) (2010-11-17 16:51:28)

AMEN and many blessings FALL on you Wanda... cuz I love your new fall look...simple beautiful!

And as per the "plan" He has for us;

I love your message, The Message and that He holds the plan - completely in His hands.

Trust that when I can't see the final draft, or can't quite wrap my head around the "whys" that Our Lord God Almighty knows what He's doing and wants the BEST for me, will keep me from harm (is what I recall from the version I know of this verse)

yet there have been days I too have wondered about this and "started out thinking I knew..." like you,

God had a different plan for my future, so YES, I will TRUST the Plan Maker... the Divine Master Planner, who holds it all in detail. So thankful we can rest in that trust and HOPE for our future.

Peace in His plan,
Peggy

Joanne Sher (2010-11-17 18:11:15)
Loving this encouragement, Wanda. And the picture is wonderful

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-11-17 18:59:47)
There is so much peace when we don't trouble ourselves with they "why?". Help us, Lord.

Karen (2010-11-17 23:49:55)
Wonderful reminder of His promise!

Lisa (2010-11-18 00:13:32)
I know He knows what He is doing. And I will give Him thanks even when I don't feel like it, because it's what I'm commanded to do. And I will begin to truly feel thankful. He knows what He is doing.
Hope you're doing well Sis.
(((Hugs)))
Lisa

Cherie (2010-11-18 01:00:03)
I absolutely love the hope and the promise found in Jeremiah 29:11. Thanks for the great thoughts. Your header is beautiful!

Suely Rezende - HD (2010-11-18 01:56:43)
Hello Wanda,
Peace!!!
How are you?
A wonderful post.
I love this biblical word of Jeremiah.
We can not give up!
We must trust in God.
Thanks for visiting my blog and leave your comment blessed.
God Bless,
Suely

God Brought Me Here (2010-11-18 02:20:09)
This is the verse that I've been always claiming to God... I am very positive indeed that God has a better plan for me.. I may lost hope sometimes but I will never ever QUIT!
Thank you so much Wanda...
Keep posting such a great reminder!

Pat (2010-11-18 02:49:46)
Hi Wanda
I love the new look,and your post is wonderful.Even through all of our why's God has wonderful plans in store for us,Amen.
Love ya

Alicia, The Snowflake (2010-11-18 04:16:05)
I'm so glad He has it all figured out! I have no idea. But I'm glad I can trust Him to know. Great WFW!

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-11-18 06:02:25)

So reassuring that He has a plan and purpose for our lives. And it's a plan to give us hope and future! He loves us so much!

Thank you for your awesome graphic—I don't know how you ladies do these graphics—they awe me. And your post.

Blessings,

Janis

Mike (2010-11-18 13:21:00)

Wonderful words. Thank you.

Amydeanne (2010-11-18 15:16:49)

how cool! I love this!

LisaShaw (2010-11-18 15:32:16)

Amen Wanda! GOD knows the plans for us indeed. I often say God has the master plans and He is the Master of those plans. Trusting Him...

Love and blessings and thank you for sharing!

One Heart (2010-11-18 15:47:35)

Beautiful reminder as usual. Just yesterday while driving down the highway in prayer, I said to the Lord that I would not ask why but simply ask for a glimpse of one of His particular promises in the natural. No, that's not always guaranteed, but His promises are most definitely assured. It's enough to know that in Him alone all of our why's are put to rest. Not always easy because these limited minds get in the way, but His grace is more than sufficient. Thanks for sharing, Wanda.

Faith Imagined (2010-11-18 19:02:05)

Very comforting to know that He has our best interest at heart! Another great word!

Andrea (2010-11-18 19:36:20)

Amen! Thank you! I needed to hear this!

Andrea

Andrea (2010-11-18 19:36:31)

Amen! Thank you! I needed to hear this!

Andrea

Sharon Kirby (2010-11-19 03:45:16)

So, so true, Wanda!

He makes me move when I want to stay. He makes me wait when I want to go.

Why, Lord - the question I've asked since I was young. "Because I KNOW..." He says.

Weave my tapestry, Lord - use the threads that you desire. Complete the picture of my faith...lead me.

Thanks for this inspiring and encouraging word.

GOD BLESS!

Just Be Real (2010-11-19 11:14:50)

I believe "why" is a popular word in the Christian vocabulary. Great post Wanda. Blessings. He is in control indeed.

Any time is a good time (2010-11-19 12:33)

In my distress, I prayed to the Lord,
and the Lord answered me and
set me free. Psalms 118:5

Thank you Lord that I don't have to wait till I'm in the perfect frame of mind. But you're available to commune with at any time despite my condition.

In frustration I can come.

In joy I can come.

In despair I can come.

In pain I can come.

In sickness I can come.

In love I can come.

In hopelessness I can come.

In sorrow I can come.

You don't ignore me. You are not too busy. Even with all the others calling upon your name, you have time to hear my cry. You don't leave me like I came but you set my mind free. You make an exchange with me so that I come out better, lighter, freer. Who but you Oh Lord, can set my soul free? Who can break the chains of oppression? There is none but you Lord!



[1]

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-11-19 14:20:13)

There is none like You, no one else can touch my heart like You do...Amen! Amen!

Stuff could always be worse (2010-11-19 16:07:55)

Love this verse, and your post!

kim

also like your new header!

Joanne Sher (2010-11-19 16:23:43)

YES - need this reminder more than I'd like to admit. Thanks, Wanda!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-19 17:09:49)

Excellent words, thanks for sharing.

Yvonne.

a sojourner (2010-11-20 02:59:28)

:)...how true sis!!!

Sharon Kirby (2010-11-20 03:13:27)

Wonderful reminder, Wanda.

The wonder of our relationship with the Lord - that we can COME to Him, no matter what, no matter when, no matter where. He listens, He hears - He cares...

AWESOME!

GOD BLESS!

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-11-20 15:14:35)

Needed this today. Thank you for sharing!! SO glad to know that He is always there no matter what!

MTJ (2010-11-20 21:36:32)

Hi Wanda,

What a marvelous expression from the heart to God!

May God's grace continue to shower in your life.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Wanda (2010-11-22 14:16:25)

Thanks guys for stopping and sharing your thoughts. Blessings to you.

In Need of a Boost (2010-11-22 14:26)

There are those days when you just feel a bit down or grieved but there's a pick-me-up available for us. Psalms 119: 25,28 reminds me of this truth.

I lie in the dust;

revive me by your word.

I weep with sorrow;

encourage me by your word.

It's at those times that I need to feed upon His Word. May the Lord open our eyes to see the wonderful truths in His Word. As we turn to Him and consume His Word may we be revived and encouraged to continue on the journey.

[1] 

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Joanne Sher (2010-11-22 14:32:25)

I LOVE Psalm 119 - so many gems in there. His Word is the key to EVERYTHING. Thanks, Wanda

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-11-22 16:16:54)

Amen! Amen! Amen! Psalm 119 is one of my favorite passages. I know it is long, but I never get tired of studying it.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-22 16:58:47)

Inspiring as always.

Yvonne.

a sojourner (2010-11-22 23:42:50)

well, i hope and pray that our Father gives you a double portion of whatever you need right now, sis. you might want to consider avoiding depressing blogs such as mine...

the enemy is a liar and he is always with my mind/thoughts. don't let him mess with yours sis:)

MTJ (2010-11-22 23:50:29)

Hi Wanda,

This weekend I read several blogs which referenced 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "**give thanks in all circumstances**".

Yesterday during worship service, I began confessing my thanks to God. I realized that **in my current circumstance**, I could thank the Sovereign Lord for His grace that enables me to endure my circumstance.

This passage in Psalm 119, also speaks to me of God's unchanging love and grace given to those who call on Him.

Hebrews 12:28-29 says, "**Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire.'**"

May we seek to be consumed by The Eternal God.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Sharon Kirby (2010-11-23 01:59:22)

Wings like eagles - God makes me able to soar!

The Word of God is the ONLY nourishment that truly satisfies, the only sustenance that revives!

Thanks for this simple, yet encouraging message!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

GOD BLESS!

Pat (2010-11-23 09:31:27)

Hi Wanda

How very true this is and thank God for his word and his willingness to revive us "Happy Thanksgiving"!!!

Love ya

Stuff could always be worse (2010-11-24 02:41:21)

Thanks for the encouragement to me! I needed this. Thanks.

kim

ps. Hope you are doing good

Faith Imagined (2010-11-24 21:47:22)

I love this Psalm. Thank you for bringing it to my mind and heart!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Wanda!

Bernadine (2010-11-24 23:19:51)

Love this Psalm Wanda. Thanks for sharing.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

The Real ID (2010-11-24 05:02)



[1]

1 Peter 2:10 Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy. (NLT)

Ask the question, who are you, and you are likely to hear a myriad of responses ranging from a person's family role to their job title. Yet those pale in comparison to being identified as one of God's people. I like The Message version of that verse which says, from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

Drop by [2]Internet Café Devotions for more Word-Filled Wednesday.

Wishing you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving

[3] *Wanda*

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/T0zw2RUyX9I/AAAAAAAAAX4/u5eLD5kVmhw/s1600-h/badge-1%20Peter%202-10%5B4%5D.png
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

ozjane (2010-11-24 05:10:32)

There is no better answer than I am a child of God and His work in progress. It is not all about me. Praise God.

Pia (2010-11-24 05:12:56)

i am so grateful that i belong to Him, that my identity is of God's.
praising God along with you.

Dorie (2010-11-24 05:13:48)

Beautiful verse! I am so thankful to be called a child of God!

jhunnelle (2010-11-24 06:27:12)

What a beautiful verse, my identity comes not from the degree i finished nor the place i stay nor the things i own, my identity is in Jesus alone. Thank you for sharing this.
Blessings!

gengen (2010-11-24 07:08:14)

Thanks for sharing this verse...happy WFW!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-24 07:20:10)

Wonderful verse Wanda, thanks for sharing.

Yvonne

Joanne Sher (2010-11-24 07:30:50)
LOVE the verse, Wanda - and your always-creative presentation. :)

Nicole (2010-11-24 07:46:30)
Very nice!! Love it and I agree I love the Message version too!!
I really do love this one, thank you so much for sharing!!
Hope you and your family have a very blessed Thanksgiving!

Chelle (2010-11-24 07:48:23)
Amen! Such a beautiful word!!!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-11-24 08:08:23)
This is a very timely word. Too many leave the families and friends after Thanksgiving celebrations feeling "less than" instead of more than conquerors in Christ Jesus. It is important to know our real identity.

Guiding Light (2010-11-24 08:18:18)
AMEN! Happy Thanksgiving to you as well! Have a wonderfully blessed WFW!

Ginger (2010-11-24 08:37:46)
Whoo Hoo! That is awesome! Happy WFW and Thanksgiving!

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK for the Sandwich Generation (2010-11-24 08:47:56)
Hi Wanda, What a great way to remind us of our true identity in Christ Jesus - something I am truly grateful for during this week of Thanksgiving and all through the year! Have a blessed and joy-filled holiday :)

Stuff could always be worse (2010-11-24 09:45:28)
Love this WFW, verse too. Happy Thanksgiving!

holycamp09 (2010-11-24 14:26:50)
I love the way you did the picture. To a person that has to wear a name tag this is really neat. Think I'll print it out and wear it on the back side of my tag.

Amydeanne (2010-11-24 16:52:09)
Amen! How true!

Bernadine (2010-11-24 17:21:33)
So thankful that I am His!

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2010-11-24 17:28:55)
Giving thanks that the Lord has accepted me and blessed me. I like "from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted." How often do we feel rejected in this world. So wonderful to know that there's acceptance in the Lord through Christ's sacrifice for us.
Have a Blessed Thanksgiving,
Janis

the all-around mom (2010-11-24 17:43:10)
Very thankful to be accepted in God's family! :)
Followed your inspiring blog. Hope you can follow back, too. Have a great day!

Living Water (2010-11-24 21:57:52)
Meaningful and absolutely right!
Have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!

Ellen aka Ella (2010-11-24 22:29:17)
Love the rejected to accepted
Thinking of you; Happy Thanksgiving, to you and yours xXx

MCH Boys Ranch, Inc. (2010-11-24 23:16:29)
I too love the rejected to accepted! I really like comparing the different versions!
Happy Thanksgiving!

Judy (2010-11-25 08:08:11)
Hi Wanda,
Yes it's very important to know who we are in Christ. Our identity in Him takes precedence over anything and everything else. I invite you to stop by my devotional writing blog and my photography blog when you have a moment. URLs are <http://www.virtuouswomanministry.blogspot.com> and <http://www.judysphotogallery.blogspot.com>
Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!
Blessings,
Judy

wisdomvirtueandrudies (2010-11-25 09:57:42)
Happy Thanksgiving, Wanda!

Suely Rezende - HD (2010-11-26 18:51:07)
Hi Vanda,
Shalom!
I really appreciate your blog.
Love the verse!
Happy Thanksgiving!
god bless
Suely
BRASIL

Wanda (2010-11-27 15:25:17)
Thanks, hope you enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving.

A Million Ways to Die: The Only Way to Live (2010-11-27 21:23)



[1]

Rick James' latest book *A Million Ways to Die: The Only Way to Live* is one those books that grabbed my attention with its striking cover image. While the cover may be intriguing, the subject of death is often one we would rather avoid. Throughout this book James encourages the believer to look beyond the final death and resurrection and to embrace the daily opportunities to die. Each of us faces opportunities to die to selfish ambition, ego, pride, fear, reputation, and self-sufficiency.

By examining scripture, historical events, and personal life stories, he points out practical ways in which we can fulfill Jesus' command to take up our cross. He points out that only through embracing these little deaths can the believer move from a mere mediocre existence to the vibrant, victorious life Christ came to give us.

The book contains 335 pages that are filled with statements that will cause one to pause and think. Here are a few of those that made me go hmmm.

It's reflexive for us to declare our belief that God can, but such affirmations can blind us to the ways that we don't believe. "I believe that God can" is sometimes just a contraction for "I believe that He can, but I doubt that He will."

We mistake divine ordained hardships for bad luck, bad friends, a bad year, bad breaks, bad government, a bad choice, bad advice, bad genes, bad hair day, and quite naturally we run. A scalpel is just a knife with a medical motive, and if you hold it to my throat in any scenario other than during an operation, I'd be insane not to run.

People don't fall out of love; they fail to persevere in loving. They choose to stop loving their spouse, or they choose to start loving something else.

According to the author the goal of the book is to "encourage us to pick up our cross and embrace the death implicit in following Jesus Christ". After reading the book, I had a clearer understanding of the ways life is produced through dying to myself.

From the back cover

Death is the new life. As Christians we talk often about resurrection, but what about our death and the many daily "deaths" that must come first? Through stories and biblical insights, Rick James reminds us that when Jesus tells us to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him, He is describing a path of death, not a path to death.

As we learn to embrace the little deaths of everyday existence, we lose our taste for lifeless religiosity. Our appetite for a thriving, vibrant life in Christ grows-and our own experience motivates others to live out their extraordinary missions on earth. As James so vividly illustrates, death is not an ending-invitation to more abundant life.

DISCLOSURE: I was provided a complimentary copy of the book by B & B Media Group for review purposes. The views and opinions expressed are my own.

[2] *Wanda*

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TPF2s-rroJI/AAAAAAAAAYA/x7UAjRv_dYs/s1600-h/545%20James%20bk%20cover%5B3%5D.jpg
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

MTJ (2010-11-27 22:33:20)

Hi Wanda,

When I saw the name, *Rick James*, my thoughts ran to the singer and song writer with racy lyrics. I then thought, *perhaps there is another Rick James who has no affiliation to racy lyrics.*

Having exposed myself as one familiar with the *other Rick James*, I see that the author of **A Million Ways to Die** discusses the practical need for the Christian to **"...embrace the daily opportunities to die."**

Living for Christ by *dying to self* ought to be the goal of any who trust in the salvation of Jesus Christ.

Thanks for sharing this book review and for waking me up from my momentary lapse into the past.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Karen (2010-11-27 23:04:57)

You did a great job reviewing this. Sounds like food for thought and prayer!

Toia (2010-11-28 00:43:13)

Great review!! Love your header graphic. Hope you had a bless and wonderful Thanksgiving!!!

Stuff could always be worse (2010-11-28 03:44:05)

I said hmmm also, you did a great review!

kim

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-28 11:55:10)

A wonderful post, enjoyable to read Wanda.

Yvonne.

Ruth (2010-11-28 17:01:10)

Hi Wanda, thanks for the review... sounds like one that i'd love to read myself.

Hope you had a beautiful thanksgiving. Have a lovely week ahead!!

Blessings,

Ruth

Joanne Sher (2010-11-28 20:43:43)

This does sound good (and I had the same thought about Rick James - but I let it pass LOL). Hope your Thanksgiving was full of blessings, Wanda!

Just Be Real (2010-11-28 21:45:44)
Amen Wanda. Great review. Blessings to you and yours.

Wanda (2010-11-28 23:19:53)

MTJ, I thought the name Rick James sounded familiar for some reason. But I'm never any good at remember the name of singers or songs.

Thanks **Karen!** Yeah it provides great food for thought. Just today the book came to mind when I fail to use an opportunity to die.

Toia, thank you! I did have an blessed thanksgiving.

Kim I had plenty hmmm(s) while reading the book.

Yvonne Thanks!

Ruth I'd definitely recommend the book. I got a little muddled down in parts of the book. Hope you have a good week too.

Joanne lol...I did have a great one.

JBR thank you sis & blessings to you as well.

Analisa (2010-11-28 23:27:39)

Sounds awesome. I remember a Pastor one day coming up to the pulpit and simplying saying.

"Did you know God wants to kill you"?

He then went on to explain this profound biblical concept backed by the word. Decades later I still recall that intro. This sounds like a good book to build up any of those details I may have forgotten. Thanks for the review.

Wanda (2010-11-29 04:54:50)

Hi **Analisa** I'd definitely recommend the book for anyone looking for ways to enhance their spiritual life. Your pastor had a great opener to his message and I'm sure that questioned would have lingered with me as well.

Ellen aka Ella (2010-11-29 05:16:06)

Wow, sounds like an amazing book, to pick up where we have let off or lack hope and re invent or change our view!

Sounds like a great way to recommit to those people, projects, things we have let slide

Hope you had a Wonderful Thanksgiving

xXx

Goodbye White Pages (2010-11-29 09:00)



[1] According to a newspaper article I read recently, phone books are becoming a thing of the past. With more people embracing technology and many doing away with landline phones, telephone service providers see a decline in the need for a printed book. Not to mention it helps cut their costs and helps saves the trees. Reportedly three states-New York, Florida, and Pennsylvania- have adopted regulations allowing providers to cease printing. Photo credit: [2]19melissa68 via Flickr

Depending upon the area you live those phone books can be massive. Living in rural area, I do not have that problem. But, I do have several phone directories in my house and from time to time I do use them but I'm more likely to look a number up online at whitepages.com. But does the use of technology make the old standby obsolete?

Reading the article caused me to think about another book that many people have at least one copy in their home – the Bible. Do we consider the words crafted along its white pages as being something that has very little value in our fast-paced, technology driven lives? Has it become antiquated? I'm all for technology but has it helped us to become more aloof to His Word? Or, has it deepen our longing for His truths? More sermons, articles, and devotionals are available now more than ever before through podcasts, webcasts, blogs, and websites. But on a personal level has it lead to you only consuming regurgitated messages from someone else? Or, has it invoked within you an insatiable appetite for more of Him?

[3] *Wanda*

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/19melissa68/2839159031/sizes/s/>
2. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/19melissa68/>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-29 12:27:54)

A most interesting post to read Wanda, you made some very good points.

Have a lovely day.

Yvonne.

Karen (2010-11-29 13:14:36)

When I asked my younger co-workers for a phone book, they stared at me like I had asked for a horse and buggy. "Google it!" they said. I pray that the internet will be a valuable tool for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Joanne Sher (2010-11-29 15:07:23)

We WERE on the same wavelength! So I guess my post could be a comment to yours (hehe).

And maybe I'm old-fashioned, but I can't imagine not having a paper phone book. Hope Michigan doesn't go the way of the other states!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-11-29 17:42:07)

I can't live without my Bible. The more I read it, the more I want to read it. It has never failed to be real and relevant to my life.

Ginger (2010-11-29 19:24:42)

Oh my goodness. I hate the thought of that with the Bible . . . the phone book, not so much.

Petula (2010-11-29 21:10:43)

What a fabulous post. I was already to leave a comment about phone books when I read the end of your post. What you've pointed out is very interesting. I wonder if technology has replaced individuals picking up the Bible and reading it instead of getting it off of blogs and whatnot. I, for other "reasons," have not opened my Bible for quite a long time. Great, thought-provoking post. Thanks.

Peggy (mazmagi) (2010-11-29 21:17:16)

Blessings Wanda,

I'm all for saving a tree but I pray that we do not replace the Tree of Calvary with all this technology, nor the Word

He came to BE!

I happen to love the internet but truly do not want to give up having "books" available whether it's a phone book or the GOOD BOOK of GOD!

I have Kindle for PC out of necessity to be able to read some books that are current but there's nothing like holding a book in your hands rather than staring at a screen, getting a headache or eye strain. Talking to a person is better than typing to one. So there's goods and bads but I could not live without ALL GOOD that comes from having God's Word in my hands and in my home.

Great topic and also I enjoyed your other posts but finding it's time for me to rest my eyes! Thanks for your visit to Beth Moore's Mondays.

Peace,

Peggy

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-11-29 22:39:57)

Excellent post, Wanda! I do think with all of our technological advancements, we sometimes treat God's word as just another app for our phone or ipad. You know me. I love God's word, and flipping the white pages of the bible will never become obsolete.

Sharon Kirby (2010-11-30 02:31:02)

Such a very thought-provoking post, Wanda. I can honestly say that I have never loved my Bible more. Blogging, devotionals, etc. only increase my desire for God's Word - the Word that should inspire all thoughts, all sermons, all messages that come out of a person's mouth. The Word of God is ALIVE, relevant, penetrating, convicting, encouraging, inspiring, comforting - the list could go on and on.

I am HUNGRY, Lord - feed me...

GOD BLESS!

Stuff could always be worse (2010-11-30 03:25:08)

Yes I heard that, white pages are gone! Thankful for the best white pages of the Bible

kim

Wanda (2010-11-30 04:13:18)

Thanks Yvonne, I'm always glad to have you stop in.

Karen, that's too funny. I believe the Internet is a great tool for spreading the good news.

Joanne, we definitely on the same page today ;)

Bluebutterfly & Kim, I'm find myself clinging onto the white pages of the Bible more and more these days.

Ginger, I probably could make it without the phone book, too but they Word I'm hanging onto.

Peggy, as much as I love technology, I still prefer holding a book in my hand too.

Monica, I think we have to be careful so that it doesn't become just another app for us.

Thanks Petula and I pray that whatever your "other" reasons are for not picking up the Bible that you'll be drawn to the One the Bible speaks of.

Sharon, I definitely finding myself to be more in love with His Word than I've ever been. And I get lots of food for thought when I visit others.

Thanks ladies for chiming in. Hope you each of a blessed week.

lioneagle (2010-12-02 16:37:50)

Hi Wanda -

NOTHING replaces turning the pages of GOD's Holy Bible.

We have more but many do less than those that did NOT have nearly as much as we do in way of gadgets, technology, etc. In the Bible, Enoch had none of that but it says that he walked with GOD and was translated.

There are people who have the latest technology but limited relationships with GOD. May He help us all.

Dinner for One (2010-11-30 08:00)

Today's post picks up from the previous post entitled, [1]Goodbye White Pages.



I love reading inspirational posts, books, and devotionals but I cannot allow that to be my main source of nourishment. God is baking a fresh supply of His Word for us daily but we have to decide to take a seat at the table and when seated, eat. Jeremiah states he ate God's word and it was sweet like honey. By all means, I have had periods of eating His Word and finding it bland. I could not make any sense of it and was unable to see how it applied to my life. If you're in one of those periods, it's important to not get up from the table. Even in those moments you are receiving vital nutrients.

In order to know God for myself, I have to step away from the leftovers others are serving and get alone and read His Word myself. Allowing the Holy Spirit to season my spirit man so that the Word becomes palatable to my daily life. Nothing wrong with leftovers but when we are getting second hand inspiration or revelation from others you only get the portion they are willing to share. It's impossible to get all they receive. I know that I have a hard time remembering exactly how the Spirit uncovered a thing to me. So when I'm absent from this place and hadn't stop in at yours, it's not because I didn't like what you were serving but I needed extra time with the master chef Himself.

Have you been taking the time to receive nourishment from the Master Chef or have you been eating the crumbs from His servants?

[2] *Wanda*

1. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/11/goodbye-white-pages.html>
2. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-11-30 12:52:39)

I always look forward to your post and today is no exception. Thanks for a most interesting read.
Yvonne.

Joanne Sher (2010-11-30 15:28:31)

What a powerful reminder. I love the idea of everything else being "crumbs." So thought-provoking.

Stuff could always be worse (2010-11-30 16:21:13)

Yes we do need His Word! always a great post
kim

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-11-30 19:20:35)

Wanda, there is so much truth here. There is nothing like one-on-one. I talked to a friend I had not seen in ages last night and at the end of the conversation we planned to meet in person. We realized that though we had kept up with each other through other friends, it was not the same as being in each other's presence. I believe it is the same with God. To be in His presence and to be touched and fed by Him...there is just no other substitute.

MTJ (2010-12-01 02:37:13)

Hi Wanda,

I like the analogy of God's word as a meal. David proclaims, "**O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water.**" (*Psalm 63:1, NIV*)

We followers of Christ are on a pilgrimage in which direction, instruction and nourishment are essential; *God's word supplies us with these provisions.*

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Lisa (2010-12-01 03:25:37)

His Word has been a great source of strength for me this year. I love it like never before. And I can honestly say it hasn't always been something I've enjoyed; but it can be if you want it to be, for sure. What a beautiful post Sis. I really enjoyed it. :)

Sharon Kirby (2010-12-01 04:37:26)

Loved this word picture, Wanda.

We NEED the nourishment of the Word. Sometimes it fulfills our need for a snack, or dessert - but we really must take the time to feast on its banquet - relishing and enjoying every course!

I'm receiving nourishment directly from the Master Chef - but I'm also sitting at the table with some of the servants, too -

Thanks for your good word - as always, "FOOD FOR THOUGHT!"

(I just couldn't resist :)

GOD BLESS!

Marta Belas Artes (2010-12-01 11:54:23)

Olá adorei seu blog, está muito bem organizado e interessante. Já sou sua seguidora, se desejar me conhecer também será muito bem vinda. Abraços.

a sojourner (2010-12-01 12:19:01)

QUOTE:If you're in one of those periods, it's important to not get up from the table. Even in those moments you are receiving vital nutrients.

well said, sis:)

B. Niles (2010-12-01 20:21:03)

There seems to be a common thread that I've gotten from a couple posts including mine lately where bloggers are seeing the need to take some time to get back to main course. Very interesting and I totally understand.

In order for us to be effective channels or palors of God's cuisine, we have to consult with him daily about the menu.

Love you.

Beverly

Karen (2010-12-02 04:20:59)

Convicted! Yup, I haven't been taking time with the Lover of my soul alone lately. I do desire to be like the spring in the verse from Isaiah. Thank you for reminding me. Love the word picture of God as the Master Chef-meal planning has been a big occupation of mine since I began Weight Watchers last month. Need to receive some meat from His Word, prepared just for me. Thanks for stopping by my blog. blessings, k

lioneagle (2010-12-02 16:33:18)

Hi Wanda -

I returned to blogging Sunday November 28, 2010 after about a three day absence. My first post after my return was, "I REPENT" dated November 28, 2010. That post expressed on the same wavelength as you have expressed here. I had allowed myself to depend on other than GOD...the Lord rebuked me and in His mercy and forgiveness, led me back on course.

I love how you illustrated here those very important points. Yes, there is no substitute for the daily diet of nutrition straight from GOD, our SOURCE. All else is a resource.

Thank you, Wanda, for the meal!

Carole in the UK (2010-12-05 05:45:44)

Wanda, Amen, what a simply divine way of reminding us that God should be our main source of nourishment. I am going to link back to this post, I absolutely love it.

As an avid reader of Inspirational Books and devotions, I had a perfect excuse of carrying out research and reviews for the Christian Bookshop, I own. However, earlier this year I realised that I was spending more time in my books and devotionals and watching TV ministries, than I was actually spending time reading God's Word and getting it first hand.

As my home library is crammed full of many books on every aspect of the Christian journey, sometimes when needing a solution to a problem, I always knew which author and which book; I could turn to for suggestions and answers.

I am sorry to admit, that I did not always turn to the author of the Bible first!

Praise God, with the help of the Holy Spirit, God's Word is now first and final authority in my life and I am continually feasting on the Bread of Life! The leftovers that you mention in your post, I know see as 'side salads'.

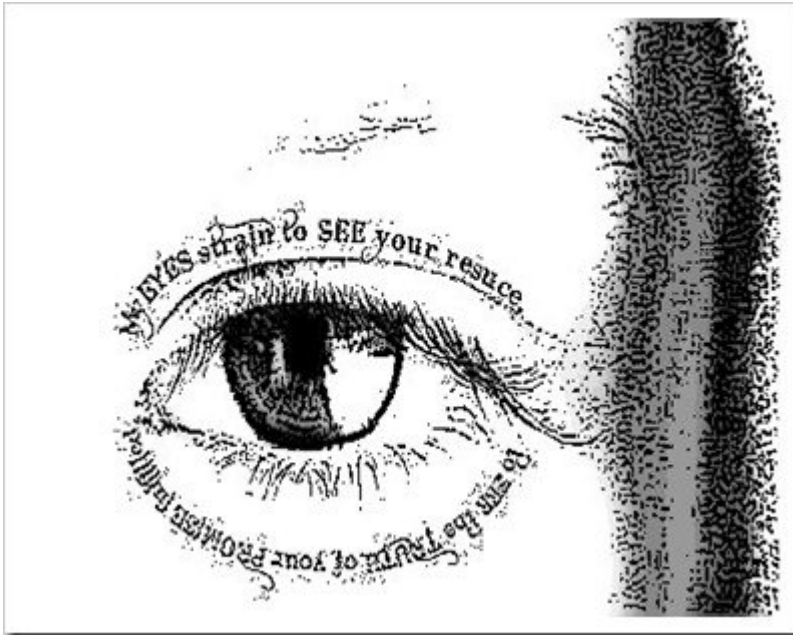
God Bless you Wanda, you have made my day, it's wonderful to know that as children of God, we are looking out for each other.

Anonymous (2011-01-31 15:36:21)

Thanks for this wonderful post. Admiring the time and effort you put into your blog and detailed information you offer..

1.10 December

Eyes on Him (2010-12-01 03:09)



[1]

My eyes strain to see your rescue,
to see the truth of your promise fulfilled.

Psalms 119:123 (NLT)

Despite what things may look like all around you, be determined to keep your eyes upon the Savior. Let looking unto Him be your aim. For those that hope in Him will not be disappointed.



[2]

[3] *Wanda*

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TPYQrmMeSYI/AAAAAAAAAYQ/YwgzeH0os8Q/s1600-h/WFW%2012-1-10%20v2%5B16%5D.jpg

2. <http://internetcafedeotions.com/>

3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

theemissarysfeet (2010-12-01 03:32:40)

Wanda, what a beautiful verse, this has been what I'm doing lately ,resting in His promise and waiting for Him to fulfill it.

Blessings!

jhunnelle

gemini (2010-12-01 04:01:03)

It's warming my heart to read inspiration from the words of the Almighty...thanks for sharing and more of it!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-12-01 05:20:22)

A wonderful verse Wanda, Thanks for sharing.

Yvonne.

Dorie (2010-12-01 05:30:44)

Wanda,

Beautifully said and pictured!

the all-around mom (2010-12-01 06:39:47)

Amen! Our eyes should only be fixed on Jesus.

Thanks for dropping by! Happy Wednesday :)

ozjane (2010-12-01 06:41:11)

Well done Wanda....I love it when the word fits the graphic so skillfully.

We have been having Daniel at church also. The Sunday we started I had been away since May on Doc's orders...stay home and inside..and the Minister said, there are a lot of people here today who have not been for ages...I wonder what Daniel is going to say to them. I had just finished reading it myself. he assured me I was one of many or he would not have picked on me....LOL.

I think I have got back once since and with God's enormous help I am on the worship team singing this week. 7 am wake up 8 am rehearsal 9 am service 10.45 service..you are wrecked even when well. But it is try or pull out altogether and I do not really want to do that.

lori (2010-12-01 07:09:19)

Wanda,

This is WONDERFUL...what a powerful verse and what an awesome graphic...if our eyes are fixed on Jesus and we Believe...we've got all we need!!

peace,

lori

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-12-01 09:45:34)

Yes!!! Focus! Focus! Focus!

Carrie (2010-12-01 10:15:41)

Wonderful, Wanda! Such a timely commentary as well! Have a blessed day!!

Joanne Sher (2010-12-01 13:01:23)

This is great. LOVE it!

e-Mom (2010-12-01 14:03:51)

Thanks for brightening my day with His Word. ?

B. Niles (2010-12-01 14:13:24)

Amen Wanda! Forgive me, I'm a little slow. I just got the correlation between the title of my post on Monday and the Title of your blog. :-) I see why it caught it your eye.

God Bless you. It's always good to hear from you.

GlowinGirl (2010-12-01 14:30:41)

Wanda, I love this!! I love the image you've paired with the verse, and I love this translation. Sometimes it takes a conscious effort to see what God is doing . . . our eyes must be open and really looking. But He is working!

Pat (2010-12-01 15:08:40)

Hi Wanda

How very true and As I kept my eyes on him while in Charleston for my test of course he showed out!!! "Hallelujah"!!! All of the paper work was ready,they double checked everything and the doctor that spoke with me before my test said can I pray for you,whoa!!! that blew me away again.All of the results were good "No Cancer" none Praise God,just scar tissue and acid reflux,plus I got my new medicine it was \$349.15 and I only payed \$1.10!! God is taking very good care of me and I am so grateful,plus Hebrews 12:2 my favorite scripture speaks of us keeping our eyes on Jesus. O yea wonderful post Wanda.

Love ya

Peggy (mazmagi) (2010-12-01 15:31:35)

Blessings Wanda...

I focused and focused, straining to...

figure out the words backwards below until I just finally had to read the NLT verse you shared completely. There was something about that eye that drew me to the challenge.

My HOPE is to look to Him, and try to keep my focus always on Him... despite what my life looks like around me... despite the circumstances... despite the distractions... despite the weight... I will choose to keep my eyes seeking His rescue, which is all my HOPE and I cling to His promises!

What a great Psalm and depiction for me to focus on...even when or as my eyes are straining, even when I close my eyes... He is My Rescue, My Deliverer, My Savior, My Hope and Truth! Thank you Wanda for giving me a better focus!

God's peace and aMazing grace,

Peggy

Amydeanne (2010-12-01 16:36:37)

I love this too! Well done Wanda, what a wonderful and encouraging reminder!

Just Be Real (2010-12-01 17:33:55)

OH!!!

An awesome and timely word for me dear Wanda, thank you. Blessings.

Karen (2010-12-01 18:30:58)

Amen! This was wonderful, Wanda!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-12-01 19:20:39)

Amen!

Ellen aka Ella (2010-12-01 20:38:21)

Beautiful! Thinking of you today; Hope life is good for you! xXx

Cathy (2010-12-01 22:38:04)

Beautiful, Dear, thank you

Wanda (2010-12-02 04:52:57)

Thanks for each of you stopping by and sharing your thoughts. Yesterday I was bogged down with work and didn't have the opportunity to visit many of the fellow WFW posters. **Ms Pat** I'm praising God with you. What a wonderful

testimony! **Peggy** sorry to have you strained in viewing the picture. But that's the way we have to be intent on seeing God through our daily lives. **B. Niles** yeah I should have explained it better than that. May He continue to water our souls.

Love you guys and thanks for stopping in.

lioneagle (2010-12-02 10:23:58)

Hi Wanda -

Thank you for this reminder. Truly when we keep our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds stayed on GOD, we receive His perfect peace.

Sherry @ Lamp Unto My Feet (2010-12-02 16:08:13)

<3 it! Keeping my eyes on Him the author and finisher of my faith! :)

Karen (2010-12-03 15:58:18)

Yes, this is a great picture of keeping my eyes on the PRIZE!

Toia (2010-12-04 13:41:26)

Love this!!!

Because of Who You Are (2010-12-03 14:06)

Oh precious Father, how I love so. Thank you Lord that you don't deal with me as my sins deserve. Forgive me for all the times I have failed you, doubted you, or grumbled against the course of my life. For you have been far better to me than I ever could deserve. For you are mighty and sit upon the throne of glory forever. Who am I that you are mindful of me?

So many things to be thankful for but today I pause to say thank you for sending your son-Jesus-my risen Savior. And because the Savior rose,

- I and any other, who trust in his name can rise above those things that attempts to hold us captive.
- Because He got up we can rise up from the need to please self and others.
- We can rise above our desires and instead seek your perfect will for our lives. Because He rose, we can rise past old hurts and troubled past. We can walk in the wholeness He provided for us when He received those 39 strikes and the blood came running down.

Because His blood came down, we can walk freely. Thank you for the blood that covers minds today. Lord, silence every voice that speaks contrary to your word. Give us ears to hear you Father and may we not follow after strange shepherds. Give us the discerning mind you promised us in your word. Illuminate our paths today precious Father. For we do not know the right path or the correct course of action but you Lord, the creator of the heavens and earth, knows all things so we turn to you and are attentive to your word.

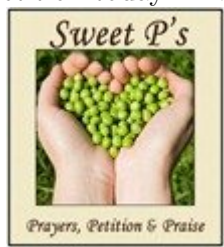
I pray for the body of Christ all over the world. Strengthen those who are suffering persecution for your name sake. May the good news of the gospel be boldly proclaimed across every nation and continent. May the kingdoms of this earth become the kingdom of our great Jehovah God. Let hope spring forth now. Let joy bubble up within us now as we reflect upon your great name-Jesus.

I thank you for those you are drawing by your Spirit. Thank you for breaking them free. Free from sin, free from addictions, free from shame, free from bondages. Thank you that it is for freedom that you have set them free. Free to walk according to your call. Free to be who you destined them to be before the earth was

formed. Thank you for purpose and choosing me to be one of your dearly loved children. You are everything I need Lord. Love you. In Jesus name, Amen.

Wanda

Have a sweet offering of prayer, praise, or petition today? If so share in the comments or join me in linking



up with Tea with Tiffany for Sweet Ps. [1]

1. <http://www.teawithtiffany.com/>

Audrey (2010-12-03 19:33:42)

I came across your blog while visiting someone else's and I'm so glad that I did. All I can say is "Amen! Amen! And Amen!"

Karen (2010-12-03 21:57:09)

I am in agreement, Wanda. So thankful for the privilege of knowing our Savior!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-12-03 23:25:52)

You have the wonderful gift of writing such inspirational post.

This one was no exception.

Yvonne.

Faith Imagined (2010-12-04 01:08:14)

What a beautiful prayer and amazing perspective. If Jesus can rise from the dead then we can certainly rise from the struggles and temptations we face!

Connie Arnold (2010-12-04 20:24:52)

Amen! Very inspiring and positive prayer, Wanda!

lioneagle (2010-12-05 20:34:28)

Hi Wanda -

Thank you for this strong potent call out to our Father GOD.

This is a heart stirring piece. I love your statement, "...may we not follow after strange shepherds." Amen, my sister - Amen!

Just Be Real (2010-12-05 23:11:18)

Because of Him! My heart cries out to know Him so personally these days. Thank you Wanda for sharing. Blessings to you dear one.

MTJ (2010-12-06 03:02:53)

Hi Wanda,

Thank you for interceding on behalf of so many. Proclaiming the word of truth *that we've been set free*. I stand with you in prayer, touching and agreeing with your petition. Praise God! **"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."**

To be free from fear, sorrow, worry, and the cares of this life. Free to love God with my whole heart, soul, mind and

spirit. Free to love my neighbor as myself.

Thank You Lord, for the freedom You established through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Ellen aka Ella (2010-12-06 05:17:18)

So thoughtful and powerful is this post! You provided the reminder of how grateful we should be

Wanda (2010-12-06 10:56:09)

Hi Audrey, glad to have you stop in today. Always a pleasure to met new bloggers.

A wonderful privilege it is **Karen**

Thank you for the lovely **complement Yvonne**

Alisa, yes we can get up because the same resurrection power resides down on the inside of us. The first things is to know that it's possible through Him.

Hi **Connie** thanks for agreeing in prayer. Blessings to you.

Sandra I believe deception is on the rise but I want to follow the one true shepherd.

JBR has Sunday's message stated the Lord has heard your cry and answered you dear.

MTJ yes it is freedom that He has set us free!

Ellie we have so much to be grateful for. Life can change so suddenly.

Hope you each have a blessed week ahead.

Sarah (2010-12-06 14:59:05)

Walking in His freedom, paid for already, simply takes my step of walking into it to have it.

Thank you friend for this beautiful reminder this morning of all Jesus has done for me.

Be blessed bunches,

Sarah

Ellen aka Ella (2010-12-06 21:31:40)

Wanda you won my challenge! I head to run out the door and go to VA this morning, to the dentist, then Christmas shopping! Sorry I didn't get a chance to tell you sooner!

Email me I want to discuss somethings with you! I will go email you, just in case you miss this!xXx

Sharon Kirby (2010-12-06 23:19:11)

Wanda - Today I have heard of some circumstances that are troubling me. What an encouragement to read your very timely words. With the Lord's Help and Presence and Power, I can RISE ABOVE. He alone helps me stand.

Thank you - GOD BLESS!

Weight Loss 4 idiots (2010-12-07 03:31:31)

Hi wanda,

You have written a very inspirational and thoughtful article. I enjoyed reading it.Thanks For Sharing

Just Be Real (2010-12-07 10:31:01)

Amen Wanda. Came back by. Extending more hugs to you..... (((((Wanda))))))

Wanda (2010-12-07 12:04:13)

Thanks for the virtual hugs JBR and right back to you. Just want I needed to start the day off.

Weight Loss 4 Idiots thanks for stopping in!

Sharon God is with you dear and whatever the situation is He is above it.

Ellie woohoo! I can't believe just how blessed I am girl.
Blessings to you **Sara**

Lorena G. Sims (2010-12-13 03:16:26)

Wanda, thank you for using your gift to inspire us and to share the love of Christ. God bless you!

Do It Again (2010-12-07 12:00)

1 It seemed like a dream, too good to be true, when God returned Zion's exiles. 2 We laughed, we sang, we couldn't believe our good fortune. We were the talk of the nations - "God was wonderful to them!" 3 God was wonderful to us; we are one happy people. 4 And now, God, do it again - bring rains to our drought-stricken lives 5 So those who planted their crops in despair will shout hurrahs at the harvest, 6 So those who went off with heavy hearts will come home laughing, with armloads of blessing. Psalms 126: 1-6 (The Message)

Have you ever had God do something so beyond your natural logic that it seemed like a dream? He moved you from a place of confinement or captivity into a place of a laughter, singing, and celebration.

But what do you do when you find yourself in another dry, forlorn place? Do you settle in at that place believing all hope has been lost? In those drought stricken, see nothing of God days, there has been times that I walked around in the normal day to day activities of life in despair. I went about the business of living with a heavy heart beneath the shrouds of consistency. Yep I showed up for work, attended church services, and maintained family responsibilities. Everything the same on the outside but inside bearing weighted sorrow.

What is it that brings one out of the dark abyss of hopelessness? Could it be the act of remembering? As I reflect on this scripture this morning, the value in remembering stands out to me. The psalmist takes a moment to reflect back on a former time when God had shown up and turned their situation around. Now having a fresh mental image of God's goodness and faithfulness in times past, he has the courage to believe and ask God to do a repeat performance. In essence he requests an encore from God.

Are you prepared for encore performance? Do you believe He is able to do it again? No, the situation you are faced with now does not have to look the same as the previous one. The fact remains that He did show up and bring an end to some things. He brought changes and even when the situation didn't change, He changed you.

Wanda

Andrea (2010-12-07 13:12:18)

I believe HE is able...and I claim HIS promises!
Blessings, andrea

Mike (2010-12-07 13:20:11)

Encore please!

Joanne Sher (2010-12-07 14:14:58)

I have NO reason to doubt He can do it - yet I do!! Amazing to me that I can't get it through my thick skull. Great post.

LisaShaw (2010-12-07 14:23:37)

Hey dear sister,

I have missed visiting with you over the two weeks I was off line. I prayed for you!!

I am blessed in this message today. You asked: Are you prepared for encore performance? Do you believe He is able to do it again?

I answer: YES, yes, yes, Do it again LORD!!!

Do you know Pastor Shirley Ceaser? She sang a song He'll Do it Again. I have it on my blog. I love that song because it encourages you to focus on the LORD and the fact that what HE's done before HE'll do it again. He'll never fail us.

I am praying for you friend. Love you.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-12-07 16:33:28)

This resonates so much. God has a way of working we can't imagine big enough...dream big enough...or think majestic enough for what He has prepared for us.

lioneagle (2010-12-07 19:26:03)

Hi Wanda -

Ok, who told you that I "go there" sometimes? (smiles)

This peace indeed ministered. Thank you. This is encouraging.

I love your last sentence, "...He changed you."

Amen sister!

Pat (2010-12-07 19:54:48)

Yes Amen!!! I'm ready for an encore!!! Because of the things God has already brought me through I know he is able to do above and beyond what I think or ask. Yes Wanda I'm ready for an "Encore" now, praise God and it's coming God has reminded me over & over all that I've promised you I'm going to do "Hallelujah" God is Great and Good!!! Wonderful post Wanda and have a fantastiv evening.

Love ya

Kim (2010-12-07 20:54:25)

Yes such a touching post! I have been thinking this way recently. He can do it again.

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-12-07 22:25:15)

A wonderful post Wanda,

Yvonne.

Monica (2010-12-07 23:26:48)

Changing us is, without a doubt, the best change He could make. Lord knows I am SO GLAD He changed me!

Monica (2010-12-07 23:26:50)

Changing us is, without a doubt, the best change He could make. Lord knows I am SO GLAD He changed me!

Sharon Kirby (2010-12-08 01:04:25)

So, so good.

I am convinced that looking back and remembering is CRUCIAL in our walk of faith. As we approach the end of another year, I cannot believe the many things that God has done for me and my family. He is a God of amazing wonders.

He has brought me this far - He will lead me home.

Encore - yes, indeed!!

In the middle of waiting, He is changing me.

GOD BLESS!

Just Be Real (2010-12-08 13:07:56)

Once again, an encouraging post from you Wanda. I certainly needed to read this. It seems every time your posts really minister to me. Thank you. Blessings.

Karen (2010-12-08 14:12:20)

Remembrances of God's faithfulness deserve our standing ovation....and more! Great post, Wanda!

lori (2010-12-08 18:02:39)

GIRL...this just spoke volumes to me as I'm finishing up Breaking Free (The new edition) Wow....He is faithful and He stands ready to break down whatever strongholds exist in our lives...

awesome post!

Missing you today on this WFW! :)

hugs,

lori

Arlee Bird (2010-12-09 00:07:14)

This describes a wonderful circumstance. I can't remember anything quite so dramatic in my life, rather my blessings have just been consistent in coming to me. And my life has indeed been blessed. God is great!

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

Ellen aka Ella (2010-12-09 02:40:13)

He changed You; Wow, I love how you turn it around and give us a fresh view xXx

Dorie (2010-12-09 13:12:46)

Amen, He is able and trustworthy!

Great verse and thoughts to share, thank you.

Charlotte (2010-12-14 04:02:22)

He has solved seemingly impossible situations for me. He has done it before. I know he can do it again. Thank you for this encouraging post.

Blessings,

Charlotte

A Distorted View (2010-12-12 18:54)

Today's message dealt with a passage from Mark 22-25 about a blind man who was taken to Jesus to be healed. The speaker pointed out that the first thing Jesus choose to do was to take the blind man out of the town. No doubt the town was a place of familiarity to him. In their own environment, most blind people can successfully maneuver around because they've learned where everything is located. Next Jesus does another rather strange thing, He spits on the man's eye and lays His hand on him and asks a questions. Can you see anything? What the man reported he seen was not accurate so Jesus touched his eyes again. With the second touch came clear vision.

As I reflect back on today's lesson, I can't help but ponder and look through the file cabinet of mind and ask God what areas in my life have I been seeing men as trees. Men aren't trees and trees don't walk. So if

what I see is distorted, my reactions to the situation, person, event will be inaccurate and inappropriate. Father take me beyond the place of familiarity and comfort. Touch my eyes again that I may see things clearly. I don't want to operate from a false view of myself or others. Help me to see things as they really are and not through tinted glasses stained by old hurts, wounds, and bad experiences. Yes, Lord I do see something but what I see doesn't line up with your Words says so touch my eyes again. Only you can restore sight.

[1] *Wanda*

1. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Joanne Sher (2010-12-12 19:01:48)
Much to ponder here. I really like this. Thanks!

Lorena G. Sims (2010-12-12 21:07:48)
I love this post especially the prayer.

MTJ (2010-12-12 22:03:07)
Hi Wanda,
Thanks for sharing these insightful words. I have been asking myself questions as I confess my desire to approach and worship our Lord.
I believe that as I seek spiritual intimacy, I examine myself more closely. I say, "**I examine myself...**", but the truth is that God reveals to me, my true thoughts and motives. *Having eyes, yet lacking the ability to see with clarity.* How often those words have described my attitudes, and behavior. There is a thirst within me now to *walk by faith*. It is for me now a struggle within myself; *putting to death the life I once lived for myself, taking up my cross and following Christ.*
Lord God, give us the clarity of sight and purpose that we may walk in faith and obedience, pouring out our lives as an offering of thanks.
Blessings and peace.
[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>
welcome to my world of poetry (2010-12-13 03:05:03)
Much to think about, loved the read.
Have a lovely day.
Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-12-13 07:15:48)
Amen! In so many instances, the circumstances or people around us don't "need" to change, we simply need to see differently. Help us, Lord.

Ellen aka Ella (2010-12-13 10:37:22)
Wonderful post! We have to alter our vision and give ourselves a way to adjust our view. Time helps, so does constantly remaining social, no matter where you are. I can't imagine you not being, but sometimes we have to push our boundaries, to see new maps, I mean men. It is a journey. You might have had a few detours, but your path will continue
xXx

Angel @ Finding The Inspiring (2010-12-13 16:55:10)
Great post! "To see things as they really are" is my prayer as well. Thanks for helping me give more thought to this

passage and the fact that the Lord can heal my vision. And thanks for stopping by my place today. I appreciated your kind comment. God bless you!

Just Be Real (2010-12-13 17:52:00)

Thank you Wanda. Blessings.

LisaShaw (2010-12-13 20:06:39)

I'm with you in your prayer dear sister...

Sharon Kirby (2010-12-13 20:52:12)

So very true, Wanda. The Lord does want us to have clear vision - and sadly, there are SO many things that can cloud our spiritual eyesight. God alone can examine our hearts, and He alone can reveal the areas where we are blind or short-sighted.

May He help ALL of us see ourselves, our world, and other people more clearly - may He help us see these things as HE does.

GOD BLESS!

Wanda (2010-12-13 21:07:51)

Thanks to each of you for sharing your thoughts. Hearing from you always blesses me.

Sarah (2010-12-13 23:31:29)

I always get drenched when I stop by!

Wanna make a big splash for Christmas? Then you're invited to a water buffalo party for India. No formal wear required, just stop by and visit

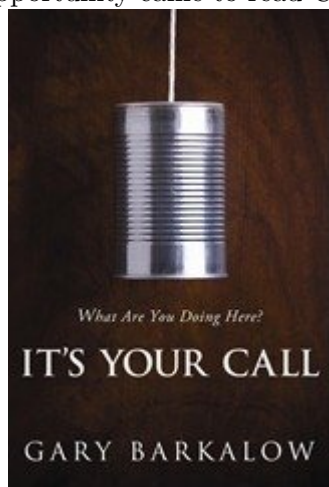
<http://justsarahdawn.blogspot.com/2010/12/all-i-want-for.html>

Be blessed bunches,

Sarah

It's Your Call (2010-12-14 09:30)

Ever wondered why you are here? What exactly is your purpose in the grand scheme of life? Those are questions I have pondered more than once or twice during the years. In fact, there was a period in my 20's that I was on an all out quest to discover my God given purpose. The issue of purpose and calling has been of great interest to me so when the opportunity came to read Gary Barkalow's latest book entitled It's Your



Call, I quickly seized the chance. [1]

And, I was not disappointed. By far It's Your Call is one of the best books I have read regarding calling. It is not your typical how to manual filled with questionnaires and gift analysis tests. Through personal reflections of his life and scripture application, he encourages the reader to move past the confines of tests, job titles, and positions to discover and develop their weightiness. This discovery and development can only take place through paying attention to our lives and intimacy with the Father. He points out that each individual has a glory, splendor, beauty, abundance, brilliance, or weightiness that the world is waiting to experience.

One of the highlights of the book for me was how Gary explained there are four primary ways that the enemy prevents us from operating in our glory. The 4-d strategies include:

- Distance-uses old wounds to push us away from the desires written upon our heart.
- Diminish-causes one to underestimate the value of their weightiness often through comparisons.
- Disdain-leads one to hate the way they use their gifting
- Disqualification-makes one feel unworthy of walking in their calling because of sin or shortcomings.

The book provides a fresh perspective on an age old topic. I would recommend this book to anyone who has taken all the assessment tests but are still searching for purpose.

Disclosure: I was provided a complimentary copy of the book by [2]The B &B Media Group for review purposes. Views and opinions expressed are my own.

[3] 

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TQb1fW4p2oI/AAAAAAAAAYg/iHcrUcjtEGY/s1600-h/image001%20%281%29%5B3%5D.jpg
2. <file://localhost/mnt/ext/blogbooker/tmp/4c1nyqhk/www.tbbmedia.com>
3. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

Joanne Sher (2010-12-14 13:53:14)

This sounds like a fascinating book. Thanks for the review, Wanda!

Stuff could always be worse (2010-12-14 15:45:02)

Yes, I guess we all wonder what is our purpose in the scheme of life. Sounds like a wonderful book
kim

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-12-14 17:45:22)

I may have to give this book a read. I have seen those "gifts analysis" scenarios go very wrong and have unfortunate outcomes on some young lives in ministry.

Mike (2010-12-14 21:07:58)

Looks interesting. Thanks!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-12-14 21:43:12)

A wonderful review, sounds like an excellent book.

Yvonne.

Andrea (2010-12-14 23:42:12)

Thank you for your heartfelt honesty at arise 2 write, today. I am blessed you stopped by.
Hugs,
andrea

Wanda (2010-12-15 01:13:24)

you're welcome Andrea.

Thanks Joanne, Mike, Yvonne, Kim, and Bluebutterfly. I really enjoyed the book and would definitely recommend it. I already have my sister lined up to read it next ;)

Bernadine (2010-12-16 02:22:49)

Wanda you pick very interesting books to review. I think I'll add this one to my wish list.

Naughty or Nice {Giveaway}-CLOSED (2010-12-14 19:10)

I've checked my list once and now twice.

And it seems you've all be so very nice during my short blogging life.

So much so that I wanted to pass along something to stuff your stocking



[1]

but instead I'm offering two lovely readers

the opportunity to trim their blog.



[2]

Gift package #1 is a Mix It Up package blog design from Robins Blog

which includes: (2 or 3 column)

- 1 removable background
- 1 removable header
- 1 blog button
- 1 post divider (includes signature)
- 1 sidebar divider
- (winner's choice)

Gift package # 2 contains one Surprise Package blog design from Robins Blog

which includes: (2 or 3 column)

1 background paper (scrolling or stable)

1 header

Up to 7 Extras (perhaps Santa will give you more!)

(Robin picks the design)

Note: Packages do not include the price of scrapbook kits or specialty fonts. Therefore winner will be responsible for cost should they choose to include these in their design.

How to enter:

1. Leave a comment on this post stating one thing you would like to change on your blog or listing one of the items on your Christmas wish list this year.

Extra Entry:

2. Visit [3]Robins blog portfolio and tell me which one is your favorite and leave a separate comment.

****You MUST be a FOLLOWER to enter ****

Deadline to enter is 12 midnight Sunday, December 19.



Winner announced Monday [4]

[5] *Wanda*

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TQgVh9yeNCI/AAAAAAAAAZQ/szA4ZPWNUMI/s1600-h/xmasstockin%5B2%5D.jpg
2. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TQgVjQgP8YI/AAAAAAAAAZY/dM-Ru5wKp_U/s1600-h/divider-xmas%5B5%5D.jpg
3. <http://robinblogdesigns.blogspot.com/search/label/portfolio>
4. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TQgVk5Yt4aI/AAAAAAAAAZg/o812Vjkrq0c/s1600-h/xmasdivider%5B10%5D.jpg
5. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-12-15 18:31:30)

Wow! I don't know if I can come up with only ONE thing I'd like to change on my blog, because I'd like to have the whole darn thing re-designed. Maybe Santa will count me as "nice" this year and I'll win a fresh look for 2011!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-12-15 18:52:42)

Just took a look at Robin's blog portfolio, and selecting a favorite is much easier said than done. I love the 1st Horsefeathers design (in pink), the Anecdote design and both the Sydney B designs.

Bernadine (2010-12-15 20:32:35)

What would I like to change on my blog... probably my signature. Great giveaway.

Ellen (2010-12-16 18:32:30)

A loaded question! Blog Buttons!!! A personalized header (that's the banner at the top, right?). Can't wait to see who wins! Thanks for visiting and following me at www.aseasonforallthings.blogspot.com. Ellen (ellen-cook at comcast dot net)

Jackie (2010-12-17 09:22:57)

Hey Wanda! I'm following your blog now!!

I would love a new blog button or one of those "Share the Love" gadgets!

Great giveaway and Merry Christmas!

Jackie

Stuff could always be worse (2010-12-17 15:22:14)

Wanda, you so generous! I need a lot of help, and you have given me a big help already. Happy to be Me- design jumped out to me? I loved them all. Signatures, buttons, all the rest, I love.

kim

ps Hope this makes sense! lol

B. Niles (2010-12-17 23:43:45)

Hi Wanda, thanks for your recent thoughtful comments on my blog. In reference to the blog revamp offers. Certainly there is always room for improvement I haven't a clue on how to add buttons and such, so I'm open to suggestions.

There's Room Here (2010-12-15 01:30)



[1]

The Christmas season is a time filled with many things.

Tables spread with decadent treats.

Christmas trees brimming with presents.

Calendars full of activities.

Homes filled with family and friends.

Radio stations filled with Christmas tunes.

Stores full of shoppers looking for the perfect item.

Lists full of things to do.

With so much activity it can be easy to allow our lives to become so full that we squeeze out the very reason for the season.

12 Make sure that when you eat and are satisfied, build pleasant houses and settle in, 13 see your herds and flocks flourish and more and more money come in, watch your standard of living going up and up - 14make sure you don't become so full of yourself and your things that you forget God, your God, the God who delivered you from Egyptian slavery; Deuteronomy 8:12-14 (The Message)

May We Never Forget Him!

Wanda



[2]

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TQhNseKxLaI/AAAAAAAAAZo/peqBD_f3GOM/s1600-h/nativity%5B6%5D.jpg
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>

GlowinGirl (2010-12-15 05:21:25)

Wanda, what a perfect verse for this moment. I just hosted a huge party at my house last night and had a great time. But in all the preparations, it is easy to allow ourselves to lose focus. I don't want to forget the WHO of Christmas!

Deb (2010-12-15 05:34:58)

What a sweet reminder of why we're celebrating CHRIST-mas!!!

Bobbi (2010-12-15 05:43:13)

Indeed...Amen...may we NEVER forget!! God bless you this week!

Guiding Light (2010-12-15 06:45:30)

A.M.E.N.! Thanks for sharing! Have a wonderfully blessed WFW!

Jenifer (2010-12-15 07:53:06)

I so do not want to forget!!! May I be ever mindful of Christ, His love and His sacrifice.
Merry Christmas!!

Joanne Sher (2010-12-15 07:58:53)

Simple, wonderful reminder, Wanda. Thank you.

Stuff could always be worse (2010-12-15 08:45:55)

Perfect thought, verse for this season!

kim

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-12-15 09:01:07)

Timely word...yes...Amen!

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-12-15 09:03:35)

Such beautiful words Wanda, thanks for sharing.

Yvonne.

Michele Williams (2010-12-15 09:57:33)

Amen! May we never forget the reason for the season. Blessings...

Pia (2010-12-15 10:37:34)

amen! what a great reminder for all of us.

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-12-15 18:55:38)

It's so easy to lose sight of the true meaning for our celebration at this time of the year. I spent Sunday morning listening to a room full of 6th grade girls talk about the real meaning of Christmas. It was amazing how those "babies" were able to put everything in right perspective. May we truly never forget Him. Thank you for the reminder, Wanda!

Bernadine (2010-12-15 20:16:21)

Great reminder Wanda. Thanks for sharing.

Pat (2010-12-15 20:36:52)

"Amen,amen"!! Wonderfully done Wanda.

Sharon Kirby (2010-12-15 21:00:45)

Wanda - A wonderful, timely reminder. I posted a poem today on my blog - along the same lines! (God speaks to so many of us at the same time, doesn't

He?!)

We must never forget God - never, ever - because He never forgets us - never, ever!

GOD BLESS

jhunnelle (2010-12-16 06:12:24)

Thank you for this reminder Wanda, we tend to forget the reason for this season and that's Christ

daylily777 (2010-12-16 07:44:36)

He is the reason for the Celebration!

Great WFW!

Merry Christmas !

Myrna

Ellen (2010-12-16 10:07:09)

Thanks _____ for _____ the
reminder. Stopping by Wordless Wednesday. I'm now following you from www.aseasonforallthings.blogspot.com.

Ellen

Ellen aka Ella (2010-12-16 10:22:03)

Lovely reminder of the true message of the season! Someday, when kids are older, I want to give more to my community and truly feel and be part of the true essence of the holiday

xXx

lioneagle (2010-12-18 06:16:23)

Hi Wanda -

Thank you for this precious reminder of the truth that our Lord is above all.

When we draw nigh to GOD, He draws nigh to us. And He promises to never fail us or forsake us. Indeed, He keeps His promises.

Praise His holy awesome name.

LisaShaw (2010-12-18 09:03:13)

Amen Wanda! May we never forget HIM!

Love your heart for JESUS!

Christmas Giveaway-**{CLOSED}** (2010-12-17 07:00)



[1]

Could your blog use a new look for the new year? If so be sure to sign up for my Christmas giveaway. Two lovely readers will get the opportunity to give their blogs a new look. For a chance to win simply leave a comment on this post or the original [2]giveaway announcement post. I really appreciate each of you who have stopped in at the Watered Soul throughout the year. Your presence has truly blessed me.

Giveaway ends December 19th.

Visible links 1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TQreZMpjKoI/AAAAAAAAAZ8/GLbZRmLPH4Y/s1600/Giveaway+button.jpg

2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/12/naughty-or-nice-giveaway.html>

BARBIE (2010-12-17 08:01:49)

I would love to win the makeover for a friend of mine!

Ellen aka Ella (2010-12-18 05:37:43)

What a lovely gift; I will have to think about what I like! Very generous and fun to redecorate one's blog

LisaShaw (2010-12-18 14:57:28)

I don't need a blog makeover but wanted to say you are sweet to offer this generous giveaway! Hugs!

Mrs_Thielke (2010-12-18 15:26:43)

I could use a makeover! How cool!

Karen (2010-12-18 20:29:56)

I'd love a blog makeover. Thanks for the opportunity.

My Goodie Box (2010-12-18 18:18)

Recently, I won a giveaway from one my blogger friends Ella of [1]Ella's Edge. Today I received the package and I was delightfully surprised. Ella had all sorts of goodies tucked away in the box and the absolute cherry on top was the sweet note she included in the package. I was blessed enough to meet her virtually through Arlee's A-Z challenge in April. Every since she's been just a sweet dose of encouragement to me.

She's a very crafty and talented lady, who has her own etsy shop. Ella made the two pouches shown. And here is a peek of the goodies I received.



[2]

Thanks so much Ella; wish you could have seen the smile on my face as I discovered each gift. I'm looking forward to seeing the bulbs bloom.



[3]

Don't forget to sign up for my [4]Christmas giveaway. Deadline Sunday, Dec 19th.

[5] *Wanda*

1. <http://ellasedge.blogspot.com/>

2. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TQz7A9vY2NI/AAAAAAAAaE/Usz9w15GV8g/s1600-h/Ella%27s%20Edge%20Creations%5B5%5D.jpg

3. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TQz7C4PSZFI/AAAAAAAAaM/btoF8JckDPs/s1600-h/divider-xmas%5B6%5D.jpg

4. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/12/naughty-or-nice-giveaway.html>

5. <http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

LisaShaw (2010-12-18 18:27:47)

Oh how beautiful and generous of your friend. I'll have to visit her Etsy shop!
Enjoy and Christmas blessings to you Wanda!

MTJ (2010-12-18 18:33:38)

Hi Wanda,
Congratulations for your gift from Ella. What she sent with hope was opened with joy.
Blessings and peace to you both.
[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Wanda (2010-12-18 18:45:48)

Thanks, Lisa and MTJ. I think Ella has her Etsy shop on vacation right now but she has all kind of treasures there.

Joanne Sher (2010-12-18 19:15:15)

Lovely stuff, Wanda. What a wonderful collection of fun goodies :)

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-12-18 20:21:11)

A wonderful gift got you Wanda,
Yvonne.

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-12-18 21:48:40)

Looks like you received some neat goodies! Hope you enjoy them all!

Lorena G. Sims (2010-12-19 00:26:34)

That is wonderful Wanda!

Bernadine (2010-12-19 03:19:37)

Congratulations Wanda. The gifts are beautiful indeed.

Ellen aka Ella (2010-12-19 05:16:24)

I was so surprised to see your post!
Thank you, but the joy was gathering these goodies for you! I so enJOYed
the process, thinking of you and what you may like! YOU are a wonderful friend and I feel blessed to have found you!
xXx

Cathy (2010-12-19 06:57:38)

What a lovely gift. Congratulations. Merry Christmas!

Stuff could always be worse (2010-12-19 13:16:12)

Yes a lovely gift! Congrats!
kim

Reggie (2010-12-19 21:27:54)

That was rather nice.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-12-20 14:57:56)

I love this! God is so good to us, and is so pleased when His saints are kind and giving to each other.

Wanda (2010-12-20 22:45:55)

God is good indeed. And Ellie really surprised me with her thoughtfulness. She definitely brighten my day.

Faith Imagined (2010-12-21 00:37:16)

How beautiful! I'll have to check out her other items.

Kristen (2010-12-21 05:12:28)

What a lovely box of goodies. It would put a smile on anyone's face to receive such a package. Merry Christmas!!

And the Winner is... (2010-12-20 16:28)

Drum roll....

The winner of the Mix It Up blog design package is Monica of [1]Wisdom Virtue & Rubies

and

Ellen of [2]A Season for All Things is the winner of the Surprise blog design package.

Congratulations ladies and hope you two enjoy your redesign. Thanks to everyone who signed up. Wish I could put a little something in each of your stockings but do know your visits throughout the year have been much appreciated.

My apologies for getting the announcement of the giveaway winners up so late today. Winners have 24hrs to respond or another winner will be selected.

1. <http://wisdomvirtueandrubies.wordpress.com/>
2. <http://www.aseasonforallthings.blogspot.com/>

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-12-20 20:36:07)

Thanks, Wanda! I'm excited!!

Ellen aka Ella (2010-12-20 20:59:16)

Congrats Monica and Ellen!

Lisa (2010-12-20 21:26:15)

Congrats to the winners – what a nice gift! :)

I hope you're doing well my friend – sounds like you are!

Dena E's Blog (2010-12-20 21:45:51)

Cover me Lord, what beautiful words to whisper to Him...You are an Awesome woman of God and His ways...

Merry Christmas May our Sweet LORD cover You with blessings while you seek Him in this, His beautiful season.

Isn't it magnificent knowing He is the Reason for every Season...I'm sooooo very blessed that He directed me to such Beautiful Blogging Sister's ..Truly, it sooooo warms my heart.....Hugs Dena

Favor Has Its Own Cost (2010-12-21 13:25)

Like many this time of year, I have been reflecting upon the story of Jesus' birth. On Mary in particular. From Biblical accounts there was nothing special about this young girl in particular. Yet God singled her out for the greatest assignment—to birth the Savior of the world. On an ordinary day to an ordinary virgin girl, an extraordinary visitor arrived and interrupted the ordinariness of her life. Luke 1: 28 states the angel had the following greeting for Mary,

“Hail thou art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.”

Baker's Evangelical Dictionary defines favor as gaining approval, acceptance, or special benefits or blessings. I like Merriam-Webster's definition as well, defines favor as friendly regard shown toward another especially by a superior. Some how this ordinary virgin girl had gained approval, acceptance or friendly regard by her ultimate superior, God. I am amazed at her response to such favor. With only one spoken question, she faithfully accepts the will of God.

To be favored for such an assignment sounds fascinating but I wonder did Mary fully understand the magnitude of her yes to favor. The favor that she didn't even ask for positioned her for threats. The favor of God threatened her:

- Relationships: Because of what she was carrying, Joseph was preparing to walk away from their engagement.
- Reputation: The Bible does not go into detail but I can just imagine that the towns people had plenty to say about this young unmarried girl becoming pregnant. Can't you just hear their whispers and see those funny glances? If Joseph doubted Mary's purity how much more would the neighbors.
- Plans: Before the favor showed up, she and Joseph already had things set in motion for their future marriage. But the impending birth threaten to bring her planned future to a halt.

As I meditate upon these three areas, I am reminded that Mary was not the only to face such assaults. Joseph had the favor of God but it lead to strained relationship with his own family members. So much so that they sold him into slavery. Of course, the favor followed him there as well. His run-in with Potiphar's wife threatened his reputation. And I can just imagine that as he sat in the pit and the prison that his vision of his life looked as if it would never come into fruition.

To be favored is a blessing but it is not void of cost.

Joanne Sher (2010-12-21 15:06:08)

What a great reminder - and I LOVE your new header! SUPER last line.

Sarah (2010-12-21 16:11:08)

We watched "The Nativity" last night and the same message ran across my heart. What a joy to be favored. What a privilege and a walk that must be rooted in faith.

Have a joy filled, love overflow Christmas,

Sarah

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-12-21 19:55:10)

Some interesting issues raised here. Good to read.

Love the new header.

Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-12-21 20:36:10)

Ah, yes, so many times we forget about the cost in our zeal for the glory and honor of being favored. One does not come without the other.

Jessica (2010-12-21 20:42:12)

Wanda,

BEAUTIFUL post (as well as a beautiful new layout for your blog). I love pondering the story of Mary and all that she did as well as Joseph and everyone involved in the birth of Jesus. SO much goes on, and sometimes I know I miss even the smallest of things. It's wonderful, as this season is, because of what it did to our lives for eternity.

Many blessings Sister in Christ.

JB

Sharon Kirby (2010-12-21 20:53:38)

Such true words, Wanda.

I really liked how you talked about the three areas where our obedience to God can really affect us - relationships, reputation, plans. One of my favorite poems is "Journey of the Magi" by T.S. Eliot. It speaks of the magi finding Jesus - and then they return to their own lands. It speaks how this "birth" caused "death" in their lives - because nothing could ever be the same again. It's a thrilling prospect to be changed by the King, and a little unsettling, too. The cost of discipleship is heavy - it requires death to self - but oh! The rewards of following...

I am reminded of Joseph's final evaluation of how his life had turned out:

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..."

Hope you have a wonder-FULL Christmas.

GOD BLESS!

Patrina's Pencil (2010-12-22 01:42:41)

Interesting that about favor and not being void of "cost"

Thanks for sharing this.

Christmas Blessings, Wanda. thanks for being a good neighbor in 2010 :)

Patrina <">■<

lioneagle (2010-12-22 02:48:10)

Hi Wanda -

This is such truth! Thank you

Our Lord tells us that in order to reign with Him, we must suffer with Him. He further informs that in the world, we will have tribulation, but be of GOOD CHEER.

Your piece here puts things in perspective. Amen to truth.

Bernadine (2010-12-22 04:45:44)

Great post Wanda. I agree with Joanne I love that last line.

To be favored is a blessing but it is not void of cost.

I've always found it interesting that those who were favored by God never had an easy life. However God always orchestrated everything to work out in the end.

Thanks for sharing.

LisaShaw (2010-12-22 13:11:50)

Amen and Amen Wanda! Powerful message!

My friend, I pray a beautiful Christmas for you and your family! See you on the other side of Christmas!

Love and blessings!

Andrea (2010-12-22 16:46:41)

Wow Wanda, this really does put a different spin on favor. We all want God's favor in our lives but could we handle it? I like how you show that Mary & Joseph got favor but endured hardship. I also like your reminder about Joseph who was favored by both his earthly and heavenly fathers. He was destined to rule over his brothers but his rise to prominence didn't come immediately. He went through many hardships. Now when I think about God's favor, I'm reminded that favor doesn't always show on the outside but it does ultimately prevail.

Warren Baldwin (2010-12-22 17:39:05)

Linked from Lisa's. Good post. Hadn't thought about the significance of these changes for Mary.
Merry Christmas. wb

MTJ (2010-12-22 19:10:34)

Hi Wanda,

The last few days I have been meditating on Mary, Joseph and Jesus; *but particularly Mary.*

How difficult it must have been for her to be ostracised from her family. To not see her mother at a time when (*even as an adult*) Mary would seemingly most need her support. I think back to my mother-in-law standing there with my wife and I as she was about to deliver our firstborn. I had no idea what to say to my wife, but her mother knew exactly what to share, and moments later we had a son.

Mary on the other hand was relegated to a manger with no one but her husband and stock animals.

I agree that, **"To be favored is a blessings but it is not void of cost."**

I also want to take a moment to thank you for extending fellowship and friendship to me over these months. Your words have often asked me to answer questions which demand honesty. You write with a genuine sincerity and passion for Christ that serves as an example for me.

Sending you joy and blessing as you celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Wanda (2010-12-22 21:20:29)

MTJ, as often happens when you leave a comment, you've given me more to think about with Mary. Hadn't considered the impact of being away from her mother and other family members as she brought her son into the world. I've been strengthened, stretched, and encouraged by our fellowship and I look forward to more in the future. God bless.

Hi Warren, glad to have you stop over from Lisa's place. The great thing about the Christmas story or any part of the Bible is that it is constantly unfolding to us. I've read the story many times but only this time did the impact of Mary's yes really stand out to me. Hope you & yours enjoy a very Merry Christmas.

Andrea, yes can we stand to be favored by God. Much of our life is spent preparing us that we might walk into our favored/destined place, I believe.

Thank you Lisa, Wishing you & yours a wonderful Christmas season as well.

Thank you Bernadine. To the natural self it seems favor would mean you slide by in life but that's totally not the case as you've pointed out.

Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts Sandra. I'm always blessed when you stop by. Hope you & your family enjoy a Merry Christmas.

Christmas blessings to you & yours Patrina.

Sharon, I'll have to look that poem up.

Thanks Jessica, there's always something new to discover in the Word.

One does not come without the other...oh so true Bluebutterfly.

Thanks Joanne and Yvonne. I'm so pleased with Robin's redesign.

"rooted in faith" ...AMEN Sarah

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2010-12-23 01:37:25)

Wanda this is a very insightful post. I really appreciate the revelation the Spirit of the Lord gave you regarding

favor. You highlighted an aspect of Mary's assignment that I had not given much thought. We often think only of the positive aspects of God's favor, but it greatly benefits us to be reminded that His assignments, His favor come with great responsibility, great weight, and sometimes a side of discomfort. Thank you for sharing with us what the Lord shared with you.

Faith Imagined (2010-12-24 04:58:03)

I think none of us know the cost of favor. That's why I believe God only shows us a small portion of His plan for our lives in the beginning. If we knew all the costs, we might not even begin the journey with Him! I know I wouldn't! With increased territory comes increased responsibility. So many of us want to have great influence, but we are not willing to pay the price.

Thanks for this post! I'm glad I came back to your blog to take a look-see. Merry Christmas!

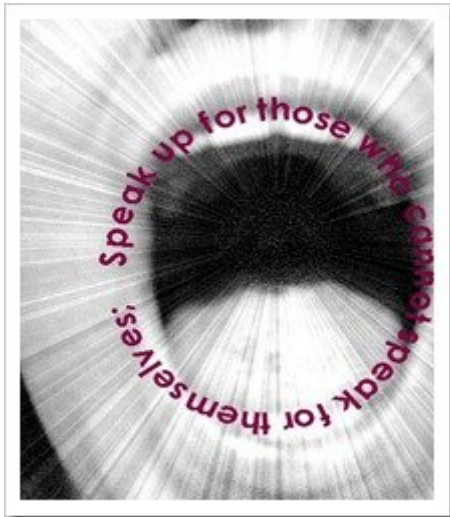
Karen (2010-12-28 21:30:32)

Wonderful insight, Wanda. Have a very blessed 2011

Speak Up (2010-12-29 13:46)

As I read my daily scriptures a piece of a passage of scripture from Proverbs 31:8a resonated with me.

Speak up for those who can not speak for themselves; (NLT)



[1] Immediately my mind goes to the helplessness of children. But there are many who are without a voice. Cut on the TV, listen to radio, or sit among people and no doubt you will hear a lot of talk. But how much of it is being used to speak for the nameless millions who are unable to speak for themselves?

On a personal level it has me contemplating this question: Am I using my voice as an instrument for others? I think back to all the times I was unable (and still am at times) to speak for myself due to fear. Fear has a way of slamming a person mouth shut tight.

Lord help us to see past the smiles and hear beyond the nice platitudes of those we encounter. May we discern the hurt, pain, or hopelessness

Linking up with [2]Internet Café Devotions for Word-Filled Wednesday.

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TRs7yxALJmI/AAAAAAAAAo/J8EhWhVrJNY/s1600-h/speak%20up%5B19%5D.jpg

2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>

Joanne Sher (2010-12-29 13:57:17)

What a powerful and important message. Great WFW - have a fabulous day, Wanda!

Andrea (2010-12-29 14:04:45)

Awesome Message! Praying we will be able to step past the fear and speak out....

Blessings,

andrea

hip-chick (2010-12-29 14:05:19)

A very important verse. It is up to us to take care of each other.

Susan (2010-12-29 14:13:09)

What a powerful verse, and COMMAND!!

Great word...

Happy New Year?

Andrea (2010-12-29 14:31:19)

Thank you that's powerful!

Stuff could always be worse (2010-12-29 15:20:19)

Powerful is a good word, for this word!!!

kim

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK for Grandparents and Caregivers (2010-12-29 16:08:20)

Excellent points for this Word-Filled Wednesday. I've noticed a lot of news articles this past month that abuse of seniors is rising - in homes and in facilities. Another important area to monitor closely, supervise well, and listen carefully with spiritual ears, then speak up as necessary. Thanks for this timely reminder!

Andrea (2010-12-29 16:47:13)

This is so powerful. There are so many people who don't have a voice of their own. Happy WFW!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2010-12-29 17:02:30)

I've seen so many in my community (homeless shelters, etc.) where the only thing hindering them from getting to the next place in their journey was a voice. As a caregiver myself for someone who is very ill, I know that one of the best things we can do is be a voice.

Blessings to you, Wanda.

Angel @ Finding The Inspiring (2010-12-29 18:02:12)

Thank you for this powerful message - something God has been impressing on me recently as well. God bless you and thank you so much for commenting on my recent article on marriage. I appreciate the encouragement. Happy new year to you!

daylily777 (2010-12-29 21:54:02)

Amen! I agree ,many need our help & prayers . Very thought provoking WFW.

Blessings,

Myrna

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-12-30 00:19:22)

Very powerful and thought provoking.
Happy New Year Wanda.
Yvonne.

Suely - HD (2010-12-30 01:25:46)

Wanda!!!
Happy New Year,
God Bless,
Suely

ozjane (2010-12-30 03:55:41)

That is a super challenging verse especially in regard to prayer for organization like Christian Mission for the Blind or CMB that work all over the world in all areas of handicaps. We need to speak up to God for them in support of their work.

I think it is also very relevant to our neighbours and workmates.....who else pleads with God for them....who speaks up for them at the throne of grace?

Sharon Kirby (2010-12-30 04:57:27)

I just read this verse today. I was touched by its simplicity. I agree with you - we must champion the marginalized, comfort the brokenhearted, reach out to the lost, and always speak on God's behalf. Even in our prayers - intercession is SO important.

Thanks for this good word, Wanda.
GOD BLESS!

Lorna (2010-12-30 23:01:41)

Interesting thought . . . great message.
Praying you have Great New Year! May God's blessings be with you and yours.
Lorna

Ellen aka Ella (2010-12-31 04:39:15)

So many times I feel like we are thinking similar thoughts. I typed about fear, on my recent post and I come here and see what you said.

Amazing! You are so right, to think of the bigger picture I use to be shy, not many believe that, but I was!

MTJ (2010-12-31 04:50:43)

Hi Wanda,
There are so many silent voices that are muffled by those only want more for themselves. I am grieved to think that I live in a world where greed and selfishness continue to dominate the collective consciousness of mankind. I am however, encouraged that God extends grace, speaking through you and other believers in Christ.

May the coming year provide you with opportunity to continue sharing God's grace and love.

Thank you for your friendship and fellowship.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Dean Spencer (2010-12-31 05:39:48)

Wanda -

I sincerely believe that by being the voice for those that cannot speak for themselves that we are ministering to them.

Christians are called to help the less fortunate, the weak, the feeble, and the broken-hearted.
God will honor those efforts and blessings will come because of their faithfulness.
Excellent post. Have a Happy New Year! God bless!
Dean

Traveling Shoes (2010-12-31 09:00)



[1] Ever since I read Ellie's post on a reverb prompt regarding [2]travel, I have found myself pondering about the places I have travelled during the course of 2010. Not so much the physical places, although I did do a bit of that too. Thefreedictionary.com defines travel as to go from one place to another, as on a trip; journey or to advance or proceed.

As I reflect back over the year, I can see where I stopped along so many places. I spent some time wondering through desert lands, where I seen no evidence of God's presence or picture of His plan unfolding. I crotched along the sea of complaints and sometimes I settled amidst places of comfort rather than forging ahead courageously. There were times that tears seem to be my drink of choice.

I walked through dark days but I learned how to allow the light within to lead the way. The bands of fear that kept me immobile were loosen. Along this year's journey I've battled the blahs, insecurity, doubt, and weariness. With shaking knees and trembling voice, I confronted fear and completed the assignment God gave me for the year.

I still live in the same city and in the same house. Work at the same job and attend the same church. A part of the same family. But I'm not in the same place I was at the beginning of the year. For all of the hills and valleys I traveled thorough were needful for me.

Lord as I stand on the brink of the close of 2010, I say thank you. The journey has not always been fun or easy but you have remained at my side. I don't know what 2011 will bring but I place my hand in yours trusting that you'll lead and guide me through.

Wishing you safe travels & Happy New Year!

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TR1n0hJ8_1I/AAAAAAAAAw/6S1uBHKRhgg/s1600-h/On_the_sand_EF_3723%5B5%5D.jpg
2. <http://ellasedge.blogspot.com/2010/12/reverb-travel.html>

welcome to my world of poetry (2010-12-31 13:12:49)

Happy New Year Wanda I have enjoyed your post this past year and look forward to what you have to write next year.

Yvonne.

Wanda (2010-12-31 14:07:33)

Same to you Yvonne, can't imagine what you'll pull of your poetry bag in 2011.

Chelle (2010-12-31 14:35:52)

Amen, beautifully said. Be blessed, and may your traveling shoes be well worn and filled with blessings as you journey into 2011!

Joanne Sher (2010-12-31 14:57:49)

Just lovely, Wanda. Happy New Year, my friend.

a sojourner (2010-12-31 16:50:05)

your last paragraph said could easily echo my own sentiments. i count you and others that i met during the A to Z challenge as blessings from our Father. i hope/pray that He blesses you beyond expectations in o-11. happy new year, Wanda!!!

bud

Alida (2010-12-31 17:35:09)

May you be blessed with Joy in the coming year no matter where the 'travels' of life take you!

Alida

Audrey (2010-12-31 17:54:50)

May God continue to lead you on this adventurous journey we call life, and may His joy always be your strength!

Stuff could always be worse (2010-12-31 19:21:32)

Amen! I do look forward to seeing next year!

Sharon Kirby (2011-01-01 03:04:44)

Perfect sentiments to start a new year! I also reflect on where God has taken me this year, and how He has led me every step of the way! As you said - "I'm not in the same place I was at the beginning of the year."

I'm glad for our friendship - and I look forward to the many things that God is going to do as we share our journeys in 2011.

GOD BLESS!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-01-01 03:24:53)

Wanda, I'm sure so many can relate to the words of this post. When I think about where I've been in 2010, I would probably need all 365 days of 2011 to tell the story. Meeting you in "blogland" has certainly been one of the high points of this year. I thank God for your sweet spirit and the timely words from your posts each week. I pray that, with great courage and boldness, you submit yourself to a new level of glory in 2011. I'm looking forward to the journey. God bless you!

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Just Be Real (2011-01-01 10:23:37)

Wanda, wonderfully and beautifully said. You have been an inspiration for me through out this past year. Blessings

to you and Happy New Year!

Bernadine (2011-01-01 16:55:07)

Beautiful post Wanda. It's so awesome that during the difficult times in 2010 He never left our sides
Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to reading more of your inspiring blog this year.

LisaShaw (2011-01-01 20:42:45)

Wanda, with the exception of a few differences in what we do I felt like I wrote this post :) You hit my thoughts on the head perfectly.

Thank you for sharing dear one and Wanda, I'm truly thankful the LORD allowed us to connect online. I look forward to sharing the LORD on our blogs in 2011.

P.S. I will mail your Bible Study this week. I appreciate your patience.

Ellen aka Ella (2011-01-02 05:50:37)

I love your voice and your wisdom!

You know we all have to find ourselves through these hills n' valleys! I hear your voice loud and clear! I look forward to seeing what the New Year brings you! I hope you are surrounded with happiness!xXx

Judy (2011-01-02 20:06:21)

Hi Wanda!

Happy New Year! 2010 was a pretty good year for me. I can relate to your journey. I'm looking forward to what God is going to do in my life and in the lives of those I'm praying for, which I write about in my new blog post. I am now a follower of your blog. I invite you to follow mine at <http://virtuouswomanministry.blogspot.com> where I write devotionals and <http://judysphotogallery.blogspot.com> where I share only my photography.

Blessings,

Judy

Karen (2011-01-02 22:49:19)

This was a great post. I will have to give this some thought. Many changes for me this year.

Wanda (2011-01-03 13:51:14)

Thank you all for the beautiful words of encouragement and your support & friendship throughout the year. I'm looking forward to forging ahead in new frontiers with each of you. God bless & keep you.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-01-03 19:57:06)

For all of this, Lord, I give You praise.

Boonchai (2011-01-06 12:11:37)

Thanks for sharing this very nice tips.

Chapter 2

2011

2.1 January

The Pace Setter (2011-01-03 13:46)

I will move along slowly at the pace of the droves before me and that of the children. Genesis 33:14

The devotional for today from Streams of the Desert highlights this verse, which is Jacob's statement about the pace, he would take when returning to meet his brother Esau. I have never walked with cattle but I certainly have with kids and those tiny steps of theirs have a way of slowing you down. Jacob wasn't on a leisurely stroll but was going to face his past. Finally having the nerve to do so, I would think he might want to go ahead and get it over with thus pushing those traveling along with him to move faster. Yet he chose to set his pace to match the cattle and children, although he already knew the terrain ahead. His brother, Esau on the other hand was not journeying with such a caravan and could probably forge ahead faster.

It makes me think of how at times I'm tempted to compare my pace in life with the sister (or brother) next to me. It seems like I should be farther along. I should be married with 2.5 kids. I should be doing more volunteering, more mission work, leading more groups. There are so many should be(s) one can get caught up in when peeking into the lives of others. Whether it deals with family life, housekeeping, or blogging, the temptation to follow someone else's pace exist. However, just as Esau and Jacob's travelling companions differed, my baggage, my companions are uniquely my own.

Before I was born, God set the course of life for me. It is He who knows the way that I take. I have never been this way before but God has and He knows all that the journey comprises. Because He knows me, He knows the proper pace for me even when I think it should be faster or I'd much rather slow down. I find comfort in the writer's statement below.

He knows that all the time and will never make you take even one step beyond what your feet are able to endure. Never mind if you think you are unable to take another step, for either He will strengthen you to make you able, or He will call a sudden halt, and you will not have to take it at all. –Frances Ridley Havergal from Streams in the Desert.

Sending you cheers as you walk (or run) along the journey and resolving to stay at my own pace.

Joanne Sher (2011-01-03 15:05:02)

What a wonderful reminder. Love that last line.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-01-03 15:53:07)

As Joanne said above a wonderful reminder. Lovely read.

Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-01-03 19:40:51)

Happy New Year, Wanda! Praying for the strength to stay focused on my purpose and my pace, without looking back or to the left or right.

Sharon Kirby (2011-01-03 20:20:47)

Wanda, How grateful I am for this post today. It really reached my spirit. I am so bad at comparing myself to others - and I always seem to judge myself falling "short." I am going to resolve to stay at my own pace - the one that GOD sets for me.

GOD BLESS!

LisaShaw (2011-01-03 22:30:49)

Wanda, your last paragraph really hits home for me and the quote that followed! Thanks for sharing with us today! Blessings to you on your journey...

Ellen aka Ella (2011-01-04 15:25:27)

Our own pace is all we can manage, but the way you wove in the scripture made it beautiful! It is so easy to compare ourselves in all facets. Thanks for the reminder it is our journey, it resets our stride

xXx

lioneagle (2011-01-05 01:34:55)

Hi Wanda -

Your pace is uniquely you. Only our Lord knows precisely the pace for each one of us. I believe that your heart is in earnest to know our Lord's will. Truly, you will keep step with Him!

We all have our "seasons" of uncertainty.

Surely, we return to our SOURCE to drink more of His living water....

Lisa (2011-01-06 17:42:32)

I love your new layout, Sister! Beautiful!!

This post is very timely for me and thought provoking too.

I have to often remind myself not to "compare yourself among yourselves", because as His word says, "It's not wise".

You have this, a great ministry which I'm sure some of "us" (LOL) compare our own blogging to and again, it just ain't wise.

Love you Sis!

Headed Out, But... (2011-01-05 13:57)



[1]

He was headed for the land of Canaan, but they stopped at Haran, and settled there. Terah lived for 205 years and died while still in Haran. Genesis 11:31b-32. (NLT)

Do you see the verbs in this passage of scripture?

HEADED...Terah started moving toward a particular place

STOPPED...but something happened and he stopped progressing toward the specified place

SETTLED...therefore, he chose to take up residence in another place

LIVED...he spent day after day in a place opposite of where he had intended

DIED...he ceased to exist any more after spending much of his life in the place of compromised.

I understand that we all have dreams that don't quite materialize and at times we find those dreams are exchanged for much better God-ordained dreams. But this passage of scripture just stands out to me today. Rather than rushing past it to the rest of chapter my eyes and mind were drawn back to these verses. As I reflect upon them, these questions come to mind.

Where was I headed?

What caused me to stop seeking, stop desiring, or stop making progress toward that place?

Have I elected to settle at a place short of the destined place because of disappointment or fear?

Am I willing to spend the rest of my days just settling and not pursuing?

My friend, could there be some place you have settled that God longs for you to start back on the journey toward this year?

Linking up with Word-Filled Wednesday hosted at the [2]Internet Café Devotions.

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TSR4xz02pwI/AAAAAAAAAa4/nQi6EAMHXJo/s1600-h/Gen%2011-31%5B4%5D.png

2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>

holycamp09 (2011-01-05 14:17:49)

Wanda,

Great words. I was reading those passages last night and I didn't notice this. I'll have to go back today and really mediate on them. Thank you for sharing.

Deborah

Joanne Sher (2011-01-05 14:34:28)

Oh wow, Wanda. SO much to ponder here. Lots of good questions - LOVE this!

Alida (2011-01-05 15:52:47)

Powerful post...

We were headed for at least 20 years in Russia and God gave us five. We are settled now in Belize. But are we really settled here? My aim is to live a life of rejoicing in Him no matter where He takes us.

thank you so much for these words to ponder on.

Happy Word-filled Wednesday!

Joy & Blessings,

Alida

PatriciaW (2011-01-05 16:01:22)

When you put it like that...

A thought-provoking piece, Wanda, one all too meaningful.

Andrea (2011-01-05 16:43:44)

Blessings,

andrea

Carey (2011-01-05 17:36:16)

What wonderful questions to ponder! Thank you so much for sharing your insight!

Audrey (2011-01-05 18:05:38)

Thank you for these powerful words. God bless you!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-01-05 18:13:32)

Great words Wanda written with conviction.

Yvonne.

lori (2011-01-05 18:50:32)

ohhhhh Wanda! It's great to be back! This is just absolutely awesome! The visual and the words! Girl, you are an incredible blessing each week here!

Life interrupts. God intervenes.

Louie Giglio's, Life Interrupted is an awesome one to listen to!

Powerful Word girlfriend!!

Happy New Year! May it be full of peace and grace...

lori

Kelli (2011-01-05 19:26:00)

I really like the breakdown of this verse. This year I don't want to settle for my best. I want God's best all year through. Great post!

Dawn (2011-01-05 20:39:09)

Wow Wanda YES I read that this morning too and your thoughts echo my own for this new year. Where am I going? Such important things to be thinking about. Thanks for dropping by my blog this morning. :)

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-01-05 22:44:17)

OH I LOVE IT!!!! Love it!! I won't even say much more than that. I LOVE how the power of the Holy Spirit spoke through you on this one.

theemissarysfeet (2011-01-05 22:53:11)

wow what a great revelation and a great message to reflect, i have to ask myself those questions.

Peggy (mazmagi) (2011-01-06 00:09:39)

Blessings Wanda! Powerful reflection and power packed questions on verses we may just pass by...but your analysis from checking out the verbs is excellent! So I must ponder as well... HEADED out for but STOPPED... *where?* and what part of my journey do I need to return and pursue? Great questions to start out my new year quest! Thank you for such profound wisdom as you search God's Word in your reading! Love your visual and post!

Peace and joy,

Peggy

Sharon Kirby (2011-01-06 02:02:48)

Powerful, Wanda!

I'm so glad you brought all of this out of this passage. Yes, in many ways, complacency is a tool of the enemy. We get settled - and often, too secure - in a place that is familiar. Today, in my one-year Bible reading, these verses really stuck out to me. I think it's appropriate to what you're saying here:

"The LORD had said to Abram, 'Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you'...So Abram departed AS THE LORD HAD INSTRUCTED." (Genesis 12:1, 4a)

Lord, never let me get so used to one place - physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually - that I am unwilling to MOVE when You call...

Thanks, Wanda -

GOD BLESS!

Bernadine (2011-01-06 03:00:25)

Love those nuggets you shared from that scripture Wanda. They give much to ponder upon.

Donna (2011-01-07 02:48:19)

Chewing on these rich words and your great questions.

Wanda (2011-01-07 03:59:58)

Thank you for stopping in and sharing your thoughts. I'm honored that you were able to glean something from the truths that struck me as I did my daily Bible reading. For any place that you have stopped prematurely, I pray that you have the courage and strength to head again. Love & blessings to you.

Amydeanne (2011-01-07 13:38:31)

great thoughts wanda! how many times we "forget" where we are destined for and stay else where... I've been feeling like that lately and trying to get back on track! Thanks for the great post!

Short Poems (2011-01-07 16:37:39)

Great writing Wanda!

Enjoyed it!

Best wishes for 2011!

Marinela

sarah (2011-01-07 18:37:11)
great word

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-01-08 14:30:02)
For your Inspirational faith I have awarded you an award on my Inspiration post.
Yvonne.

Ellen aka Ella (2011-01-09 01:07:27)
I also settled, fear and constantly moving, threw me off course. I had a scare last year, that woke me up...I need to try, not wonder on my death bed,"what if"! I think we have to continue to take steps on paths, we find interesting to keep our passion alive! It is easy to settle, I did it for a long time. It is easier than making waves...I am making waves. Messy ones and I'm happier!
xXx Great post

Dena E's Blog (2011-01-09 21:00:58)
What a JOY in His Spirit it is to visit with you here Sis...
Beautiful post as you're sooooo anointed in the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ.. You're prayer at the end of the post so fits my heart for Him also...Thanks for ALWAYS sharing about Our God ,, the Only One who Leads and asks us to follow Him with our whole heart mind and soul...
May you continue to feel the best blessing's of His presence Sis Love and Hugs Dena

lioneagle (2011-01-10 00:59:29)
Hi Wanda -
I love what you did with this - quite artistic indeed!
Also the truth of what you have expressed goes deep...
Thank you, Wanda, for this message that certainly gives cause to ponder!

The Unexpected (2011-01-10 13:44)



[1] Yesterday, we got snow here in Arkansas. Although I had heard the weatherman's prediction of possible snow, I didn't quite expect his prediction to come true. Especially when I peered out the door early Sunday morning only to see things looked exactly the same as it did when I last saw it the evening before. So I went about getting ready for morning worship. Leaving my driveway everything looked the same. Along the journey to church, things looked the same as well. Entering church, outside conditions looked the same. But, somewhere between entering the sanctuary doors and wrapping up our Sunday school class, things changed. Through the windows, we saw the fluffy white

stuff that had been announced should make its arrival.

The weatherman had predicted it but why didn't I expect it to happen? For one, we all know the weatherman does not always get it right but another reason was because it rarely happens here. As I trekked through the snow this morning to take Bella out, my mind is drawn to the similarities between the snow event and our spiritual lives. Whether we hear the gospel proclaimed or open up His Word ourselves, we find many proclaimed promises that have yet to be fulfilled in our personal lives. Unlike the weatherman, God knows all things. He is not just making educated guesses. But I still find some places in my life where I have been looking yet everything looks the same. I looked last week...nothing. Looked last month...nothing. Looked last year....nothing. Has the nothingness I see led me not to expect the fulfillment of His proclaimed promises? Or rather have I allowed what I see with these natural eyes to dampen my faith?

Oh Lord, I know that you are God and that you are sovereign. I know that you cannot lie but I find at times my faith is just not where it should be. So I say as that father, Lord I believe but help my unbelief.

P.S. Speaking of unexpected, Yvonne at Welcome to My World of Poetry passed on the inspiration award to me over the weekend. I appreciate the lovely award and her faithful support.



[2]

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TsNHEajDLI/AAAAAAAAAbA/MeAwjc177Bs/s1600-h/snow%20tree%5B19%5D.jpg
2. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TsNIKw0FiI/AAAAAAAAAbI/mmT1Nhvn1-4/s1600-h/inspiration%20award%28Yvonne%201-11%29%5B3%5D.jpg

Joanne Sher (2011-01-10 14:08:03)
Nothing is unexpected to Him. Great reminder, Wanda. :)

Stuff could always be worse (2011-01-10 16:24:57)
I felt the same about the weathermen predictions! Great point, God is not like this...He knows!
kim

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-01-10 16:30:13)
Great is our God, Wanda. We may not see the changes with our natural eyes or feel them with our natural senses, but God is working.

a sojourner (2011-01-10 17:08:29)
waiting for anything is extremely difficult for me. our Father speaks to us in so many ways. i've prayed your prayer before in my own life. (i believe, but help my unbelief...) when i first went to China, i happened to discover a Chinese proverb that when i saw it...thought, "thank You, Lord." He speaks to us in many ways... everytime i see fresh snow, i'm amazed how white it is and remember that ours sins are now white as snow. ADD alert! ADD alert! the chinese proverb:
"The oxen are slow...but the earth is patient."
everytime i take matters into my own hands, i screw everything up. then HE has a bigger mess to deal with.
congratulations on a very deserving award!

Wanda (2011-01-10 18:13:02)

You are so right Joanne, absolutely nothing is unexpected to Him.

Yes, he does Kim.

Bluebutterfly, indeed He is at work.

Bud, I like that proverb. God's handiwork is amazing.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-01-10 21:43:43)

We here in the UK has had the coldest December in over a hundred years.....that was unexpected but I hope it stays away.

Enjoyed your post .

Yvonne.

Sharon Kirby (2011-01-11 02:54:46)

Such a good point, Wanda. It seems that lately I've been caught up in "cloud watching" - looking at my life and wondering why "x, y, or z" hasn't happened yet. Maybe it's time to get my head out of the clouds, and just wait...God will come through, just in the nick of HIS time!!

GOD BLESS!

Monica (2011-01-11 03:08:22)

I hear you and can very much identify with the idea of waiting but things appearing to always look the same. However, the Lord is showing me now that situations and circumstances (just like the weather) can change in an instant. His timing is always perfect. We just have to keep the faith and stand on the truth of His word.

Mike (2011-01-11 08:40:44)

Interesting. was listening yesterday to podcast about Jesus talking re "you know how to read the weather, but...." He gives us signs that we need to follow. Blessings to you Wanda!

Ellen aka Ella (2011-01-12 03:43:31)

YOU always have insightful post

Congrats on your award, I love the beauty of snow, but not locked indoors with my family for 3 days.

Cabin fever sets in...

GlowinGirl (2011-01-12 15:24:04)

Keep looking, Wanda. Our LORD loves to surprise us!

LisaShaw (2011-01-12 15:27:27)

Very true Wanda. So important for us to keep our eyes on HIM and to live expectancy for nothing is a surprise to GOD and I'm thankful that His promises are true...always!

You said it best here: "Has the nothingness I see led me not to expect the fulfillment of His proclaimed promises? Or rather have I allowed what I see with these natural eyes to damper my faith?"

Thanks for sharing Wanda! Much love!

Dakota (2011-01-12 17:12:48)

Hey, I just came across your blog by doing a bit of blog-surfing and I'm glad I did! I've added myself as your newest follower, and I hope you'll check out my Christian devotional site as well: www.nocondemnation81.blogspot.com

Have a blessed day!

In Christ,

Dakota

Analisa (2011-01-13 01:02:08)

So been there Wanda. I pray Lord I know you won't forget me...so please don't forget me. LOL
I also increase my thanks. Work may be hard and other things are shaky but I am healthy. I get under warm covers each night. I know my son is asleep in the room next to mine and we are safe. I know there is food in my fridge...When I think about those little things that others don't have it helps me endure the wait.

LisaShaw (2011-01-15 12:50:46)

Popped back over to say thank you for your LOAM post this morning! Love you and praying for you; for all of us as we branch out in the LORD!

lioneagle (2011-01-15 18:05:13)

Hi Wanda -

Thank you for this sincere piece.

When we are fully armored with GOD, the unexpected does NOT shake us because GOD has us covered!

Now as for those who are not fully armored, the unexpected can indeed shake them...sometimes to the core.

But prayer changes people and things.

May GOD help us all...

Branching Beyond (2011-01-15 18:10)



[1] Hi friends, will you join me as I branch beyond my own blog? Lisa Shaw of [2]Sharing Life With Lisa graciously invited me to share a post as a part of Ladies On A Mission (LOAM). Below is a snippet of the post entitled, [3]Branching Beyond that I'm sharing at Lisa's place.

As I walked that morning just beholding the beauty of God's creation and the awesomeness of the trees, I could not help but notice the vividness of the colors of fall. As often happens when I walk, I heard the gentle whisper of the Spirit of the Lord. He states that is the way He designed my life to be-colorful. I have spent too much time living in the dullness of black and white. Failing to embrace the full spectrum of the life He had designed for me.

I have been away from the blogging world for a few days but I look forward to catching up with each of you soon. God bless.

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TTHi_9JU2HI/AAAAAAAAAbQ/7YYTrRQk7sI/s1600-h/SANY0347%5B14%5D.jpg
2. <http://www.lisashawshares.com/>
3. <http://www.lisashawshares.com/2011/01/loam-wanda-shares-branching-beyond.html>

Sharon Kirby (2011-01-15 20:22:03)

Hi Wanda - Left a comment for you over on Lisa's blog!
GOD BLESS!

Karen (2011-01-15 23:44:41)

Missed you, Wanda. Thanks for this beautiful post.

Stuff could always be worse (2011-01-16 05:14:34)

Yes I loved this post, and trees too. I like the analogy
kim

Wanda (2011-01-16 12:14:31)

Thank you ladies. I've missed you all too and I'm looking forward to reconnecting with each of you. Blessings & peace to you.

Ellen aka Ella (2011-01-18 15:08:42)

Hi Wanda, love the tree imagery. WE all have to take time out and rework our soil/souls

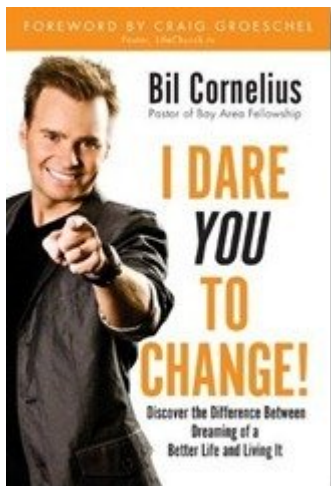
BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-01-18 18:28:51)

Too much time in dullness ... Amen, Wanda, and a lesson for us all.

I Dare You to Change! {Giveaway} (2011-01-17 07:00)

There is just something about a new year that has most people looking for and speaking about change. But mid-year many people have given up on all those resolutions made. Pastor Bil Cornelius' latest book, *I Dare You to Change*, helps us not just talk about change but gives us a 10-step battle plan to make change a reality in our lives.

About the book:



[1] *I Dare You To Change!* was released in September 2010 and has already become a **USA Today** and **Wall Street Journal National Best Seller** with over 60,000 books in print!

A no-holds-barred motivational action plan that shows you how to take charge of your life and find God's best for you from one of the most exciting new pastors in America! *Why can't I ever get ahead? Why do I always have to settle for less than I planned?* Most of us have asked ourselves these questions at one time or another. Pastor Bil Cornelius firmly believes that everyone wants to do better, live better, and to be a better person but we find it difficult to sustain a life of peace and fulfillment. In *I Dare You to Change!* Pastor Cornelius explains in his trademark winning style how to live the life that God has planned for us. In this inspiring and biblically oriented book, he shows us the difference between dreaming of a better life and actually living one. Using the story of Gideon from the book of Judges, he shows you how to re-imagine life and to understand the steps that you need to take each day to make it happen.

Currently I find myself in the midst of change and at times I feel overwhelmed by all that needs to be done. When asked how someone could go about changing their life when they feel overwhelmed, Pastor Bil gives the following advice.

The first step when wanting to change something in your life, especially if overwhelmed, is to pray, and break it down into bite-size chunks of change. The prayer part is obvious, but most people don't do it. Prayer releases God's confidence in you, so you have the vision and power from God to move forward. What comes next is a good strategy: if something is overwhelming you, it's typically because we are thinking of changing everything at once (or one really large change) rather than breaking into a series of smaller changes. You may not be able to own a high rise in New York City, but you can buy a small fixer-upper home, work on it, get it rented, then do it again. If you are consistent enough with this, then within a few years you can sell it, take your profits and reinvest them into a 4 to 6 unit. Sell this a few years later, and you can invest into a 15 to 20 unit. Sell this a few years later and reinvest into a small office building. Sell this...you get the point. It's all about taking baby steps first. Another angle is if you want to lose 50 pounds, lose 5 first and keep going.

Giveaway

Are you in the midst of change or hoping to see change in your life in 2011? Get off to a good start with an opportunity to win your personal copy of *I Dare You to Change*. To enter:

1. Leave a comment on this post. Please make sure I have a way to contact you.

For extra entries:

1. Become a follower and leave a separate comment. (Current followers count too)
2. Share one thing you are hoping to change this year.

Giveaway ends Friday January 21 at midnight. Random winner selected and announced on Saturday.

Check out a sneak peak inside the book [2]here or view the [3]book trailer.

Disclosure: I was provided a complimentary copy of the book as a part of book tour.

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TTPJwVjc5DI/AAAAAAAAAbY/yDLM8-1WSvg/s1600-h/IDYTBookCover%5B2%5D.jpg
2. http://www.bilcornelius.com/files/u11/I_Dare_You_to_Change_Reader_Sample.pdf
3. <http://vimeo.com/14329418>

Amanda Stephan (2011-01-17 16:53:01)

Hello Wanda! Thank you for the opportunity to win this book! I find change isn't an easy thing for me to cope with, and maybe this book will help. Hope you have a marvelous day!

kjv1611as at gmail dot com

Amanda Stephan (2011-01-17 16:53:59)

And, I'm a follower of your blog :)

kjv1611as at gmail dot com

Amanda Stephan (2011-01-17 16:54:53)

One thing I'm hoping to change this year, is get my other novels published. That would be awesome, but tons of hard work.

Thank you again!

kjv1611as at gmail dot com

Ellen aka Ella (2011-01-18 15:07:34)

Hi Wanda,

This book sounds amazing! What a great giveaway; I think everyone struggles with this in some arena of there life. I love you shared a bit of the book. Toss my name in the hat; Thank you! xXx

I've missed you; Hope you are doing well.

Julia Shpak (2011-01-18 16:03:49)

Hi, I would like to share with everyone that I am also having a giveaway and sharing my book with the world for FREE!

I can send you one! <http://www.forwardquote.com>

Faith Imagined (2011-01-18 20:25:11)

Awesome book and an amazing Christian leader! I don't need a copy, but I know that whoever wins it will be BLESSED!

Wanda, I'm praying your week is filled to the rim with God's mighty presence!

Kate {The Parchment Girl} (2011-01-19 22:58:14)

I'd love to win a copy of this book! Thanks for hosting the giveaway!

kate[at]parchmentgirl[dot]com

Kate {The Parchment Girl} (2011-01-19 22:58:31)

I'm following you via google friend connect!

Kate {The Parchment Girl} (2011-01-19 22:59:13)

This year I want to change my health! I have a chronic illness and I would love for this to be the year that I finally kick it.

Anonymous (2011-01-21 03:58:02)

I would love to win this book for my husband and I, we have changed goals for our family this year and are this could help us keep on track!

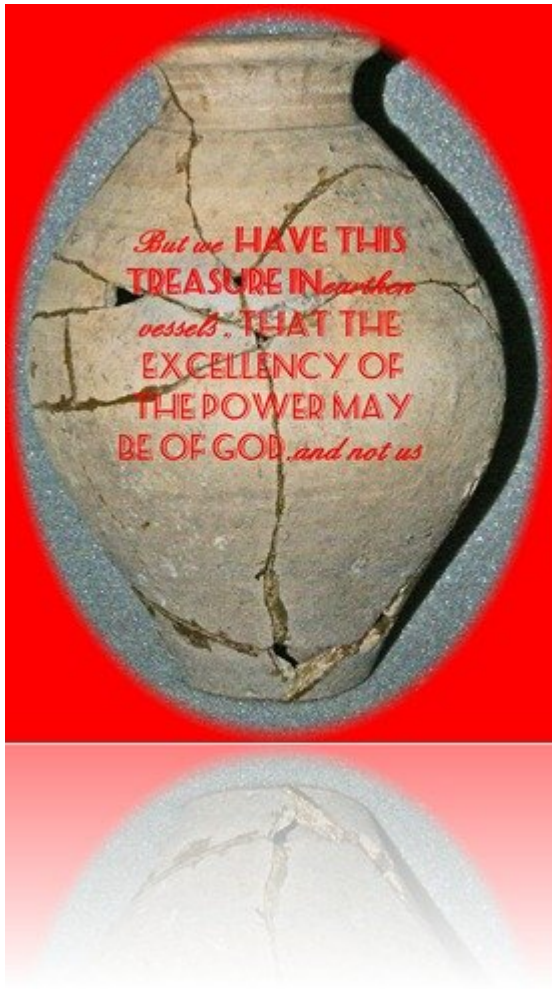
kdanna1 (at) yahoo (dot) com

Jennifer U (2011-01-21 15:09:52)

This sounds like a marvelous book to keep people motivated in the new year.

Broken but Useable (2011-01-19 07:00)

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not us. 2 Corinthians 4:7



[1]

Attempting to carry something of value in a broken container is counterintuitive. Yet it's amazing that God chooses to use broken people like myself to carry the essence of Himself.

Be sure to enter the [2]giveaway for your opportunity to win a copy of I Dare You to Change by Pastor Bil Cornelius.

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TTZiKbL8UdI/AAAAAAAAAbg/M1-HAv4zkQY/s1600-h/2Cor%204-7%5B5%5D.jpg
2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/01/i-dare-you-to-change-giveaway.html>

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-01-19 12:04:24)

Excellent Wanda, so enjoyable.

Yvonne,

Dorie (2011-01-19 12:21:21)

It is amazing isn't it? That the Lord would chose to use us - broken as we are - for His glory! Thank you, Lord.

ozjane (2011-01-19 13:10:16)

Am feeling pretty broken tonight...so grateful for a reminder that He can still use broken vessels.

Joanne Sher (2011-01-19 13:49:41)

WOW - never thought about it that way. Thank you. Great one.

Amydeanne (2011-01-19 14:13:34)

very cool! thanks for posting this today!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-01-19 14:36:46)

Wanda, your words bring me right back to my meditation early this morning: "If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself." - 2 Timothy 2:13

Eileen (2011-01-19 14:37:44)

Beautifully worded. Thank you.

Stuff could always be worse (2011-01-19 16:03:47)

I love this photo verse! Such true words, we are broken vessels
kim

Chelle (2011-01-19 18:27:02)

Amen amen and amen.

lori (2011-01-19 19:53:35)

WHOA.....so simply stated and so incredibly true...
awesome Wanda!

peace,

lori

theemissarysfeet (2011-01-20 06:49:07)

Amen,amen, i love being broken in the presence of the Lord

the all-around mom (2011-01-20 07:16:19)

Amen! very beautiful words you've shared :)

Btw, nice new theme for your blog :)

Sharon Kirby (2011-01-21 01:01:15)

Loved this picture -

And yes, God works in counterintuitive ways. His Wisdom seems foolish to the world. That's at least ONE of the reasons I love Him so...

Those broken containers?

They're still broken, but Jesus sealed them with His Blood and they are filled to abundance with the Holy Spirit!

GOD BLESS!

Karen (2011-01-21 03:53:32)

Amen! I really loved this, Wanda...

Ellen aka Ella (2011-01-22 05:12:10)

Great post and reminder of the human condition xXx

Just Be Real (2011-01-22 10:15:23)

This is how I have been feeling these past few days. Thank you Wanda for posting such a great post. Blessings.

Bernadine (2011-01-22 16:51:38)

I'm so glad also that He uses broken vessels or where would I be.

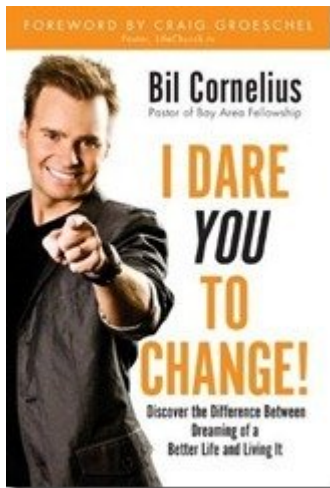
Pamela (2011-01-24 03:39:53)

So broken yet worthy to be a vessel for God. I want to be willing and ready.

Mike (2011-01-28 20:57:06)

That's me!

I Dare You to Change ...Winner (2011-01-22 23:28)



[1]

Congratulations to kdanna1 on winning a copy of I Dare You to Change by Bil Cornelius. The winner has 24hrs to respond or another winner will be selected.

Visible

links

1.

http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TTPJw752muI/AAAAAAAAAbc/0i7ZwJx68wg/s1600/IDYTCBookCover_thumb

Andrea (2011-01-23 00:47:09)

Congratulations to the winner!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. GOD BLESS YOU!!

Hugs,

andrea

gemini (2011-01-24 04:10:45)

Thank you for visiting and God bless always.

Wanda (2011-01-24 12:04:51)

Blessings to you Andrea. You've been a great support too.
Gemini, enjoyed visiting with you. Have a great week.

Monday Manna (2011-01-24 11:59)



[1] Linking up with Joanne at [2]An Open Book for Monday Manna. Today's verse comes from Matthew 13:58 And he(Jesus) did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith. As I reflect on this passage, the following stand out to me:

- Jesus had the capacity to do more than He did.
- The people's faith limited the manifestation of miracles in their own lives and community.
- People from a certain geographically region missed out on what was available to them because they could not get pass their familiarity with the vessel that God was using.

Which leads me to ask myself do I have His hands tied in certain areas of my life due to unbelief? And, what have I been missing out on because my inability to see beyond the package God has chosen to wrap the miracle in?

1. <http://www.joanneshet.com/>

2. <http://www.joanneshet.com/>

Yvonne Blake (2011-01-24 12:58:58)

Wanda, thanks for joining in Monday Manna. Yes, this verse is very "soul-searching", isn't it?

Joanne Sher (2011-01-24 16:12:24)

Oh - I never thought of the "package" aspect of this. I think I'm pretty awful about inspecting the messenger rather than the message. thanks for the reminder!

Stuff could always be worse (2011-01-24 20:31:38)

It is all a package, do not know how I reach out?

kim

Sharlyn Guthrie (2011-01-25 02:06:45)

Excellent points, Wanda. I like how concisely you presented them, too.

lioneagle (2011-01-25 02:48:17)

Hi Wanda -

You are seeking - you shall find.

Praise our Lord's worthy name.

Love to you, my sister in Christ.

Belbin9 (2011-01-25 04:33:59)

I just read that chapter a couple days ago. Its powerful and made me ask the same questions. Thanks for sharing

Wanda (2011-01-25 07:51:37)

Hi Belbin9, good to hear from you. It's good to look beyond the text of the Word and find ourselves in it.

Sandra, blessings to you my sister.

Sharlyn, thank you.

Kim, just be sensitive to His leading and He'll surely direct you.

Joanne, I've been guilty of that myself.

Yvonne, it's my pleasure to take part in Monday Manna when I can. Always interesting to see what others glean from the same passage of scripture.

Sharon Kirby (2011-01-25 23:59:08)

Food for thought, Wanda -

Where is God most at work? Maybe, just maybe, where I least see it...

Asking the Lord to make me more spirit-sensitive to what He CAN do, and what He WANTS to do...

GOD BLESS!

jackie (2011-01-26 07:31:08)

when doubts overwhelmed us we become blind of the truth that God wants to reveal to us...

I can relate to this because sometimes, if not often, I tend to doubt out of fear and confusion...

Just Be Real (2011-01-28 12:23:44)

Wanda, came by for a pick me up of encouragement. Which you seem to always provide. Thank you.

Toia (2011-01-28 23:05:30)

You got me thinking the same thing. This is something I really need to examine and meditate on.

This made me realize that we can be our own worst enemy due to our disbelief in various areas of our life.

Thanks for sharing this thought provoking post!! Blessings to you!!

Connie Arnold (2011-01-30 21:49:06)

Your post sure makes me think. How many times do we miss out because of our lack of faith and inability to see!

Staying Within the Lines (2011-01-31 07:00)

I must admit it's been quite some time since I have been a part of a formal school setting and grade school[1]



is even farther away. But I do recall how lining up and staying in the

line was an important part of that world. You lined up to go the restroom, cafeteria, library, or any other destination. And for a girl whose last name is at the back of the alphabet chain, I often found myself near the caboose of such lines. Then there was those coloring pages that we were expected to stay within the lines.

Lines, lines, lines, and more lines. Lines create order. Lines create expectation. If I know my place in line relative to others, I can estimate when my turn is next. But what happens when someone breaks line? For most people, unless they are feeling extra nice that day, to be cut in front of is not a welcomed occurrence.

The account of Israel's blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh found in Genesis 48 reminds me of how God often breaks our preconceived lines. According to their tradition, the oldest son was in line for the blessing. Joseph being the good little father that he was even attempted to help set things up so the blessing would come to the one at the head of the line.

13 Then Joseph took the two boys, Ephraim with his right hand setting him to Israel's left, and Manasseh with his left hand setting him to Israel's right, and stood them before him. 14 But Israel crossed his arms and put his right hand on the head of Ephraim who was the younger and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, the firstborn. 17 When Joseph saw that his father had placed his right hand on Ephraim's head, he thought he had made a mistake, so he took hold of his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's, 18 saying, "That's the wrong head, Father; the other one is the firstborn; place your right hand on his head." 19 But his father wouldn't do it. He said, "I know, my son; but I know what I'm doing. He also will develop into a people, and he also will be great. But his younger brother will be even greater and his descendants will enrich nations." Genesis 48:13-14, 17-19

However, Israel did a switcheroo. He skipped over the firstborn. Leading Joseph to assume he had made a mistake. I can't tell you how many times I wrongly believed that God some how made a mistake. Didn't he know I was next? And, there has even been those times, when he picked me but according to the natural order of things it was not yet my time. I'm so glad that God does not have to stay within the lines of our human thinking or our man-made traditions.

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TUYsz6wzStI/AAAAAAAAAbs/x-n_hBdnPas/s1600-h/eraser-line5.jpg

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-01-31 15:13:22)

Amen! Amen! His ways are not our ways, His thinking not our thinking, and He is not limited by us. Thank you, Lord.

a sojourner (2011-01-31 15:56:47)

Hi Wanda:)

like this post. you set me to thinking/looking at this in terms of the law versus grace. the law set lines for us too. i love His unfathomable grace that doesn't have a set line.

Joanne Sher (2011-01-31 16:28:17)

Needed this reminder. His ways are not mine.

Kim-Stuff could always be worse (2011-01-31 17:39:33)

Yes we do want to stay in line but Thankfully God know better!

Ella (2011-02-01 13:42:59)

I like this post, when the lines are blurred, it reminds me to expect a different outcome or don't expect anything at all. Well Done

Angel @ Finding The Inspiring (2011-02-01 15:03:36)

Great post Wanda! I love the analogies you give to help remind us that God is sovereign "does not have to stay within the lines of our human thinking or our man-made traditions."

And thanks for stopping by my place too. :)

Lisa (2011-02-01 21:06:28)

Ain't that the truth!

We limit God with our preconceived ideas about "how" He should do things.

Have a great week, Sister!

Sharon Kirby (2011-02-01 21:40:01)

Yes, indeed! I love that God can color "outside the lines" but He still makes a masterpiece EVERY time!

He works in His perfect timing...

GOD BLESS!

lioneagle (2011-02-01 22:57:32)

Hi Wanda -

I love how you worked this. It gave me heart flutters.

Thank you for this treat, Wanda.

Arlee Bird (2011-02-01 23:40:12)

As humans we must maintain a sense of order in order to avoid conflict and chaos, but on the larger scale God's in charge and He can certainly do what He wants. After all God knows best.

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out and the Blogging From A to Z April Challenge 2011

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/2011/01/very-special-and-exciting-announcement.html>

jackie (2011-02-02 02:56:58)

So true... God knows what's best for us and He is absolutely in control of everything!

Thanks Wanda ?

Another inspiring thoughts and truth!

2.2 February

Refuse to Lose Ground (2011-02-02 06:00)



[1]

Only let us hold true to what we have already attained and walk and order our lives by that. Philippians 3:16 (AMP)

The past two weeks Philippians 3:16 has been my siesta scripture I have been memorizing. While there are a lot of things I have yet to obtain or comprehend, this passage of scripture reminds me that as I wait on them to materialize, I should not lose what I have already received.

Rather than focus on what is missing in your life, take a moment to do an assessment of what is in your possession now. Do you still have a measure of faith? Then hold onto it. And don't just hold onto it but put it to use.

Hope over to the café to find others dishing up the word for Word-Filled Wednesday.



[2]

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TUjKB0btuDI/AAAAAAAAAb0/bA_a4rrBp-0/s1600-h/Philippians3-165.jpg

2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-02-02 09:15:24)

Most inspiring Wanda,

Have a lovely day.

Yvonne.

jackie (2011-02-02 11:09:28)

You are right Wanda... we should not lose what we already have... We could be expectant but we should not dwell much on what is yet to come.. We must instead cherish on what God presently gave us...
Thanks again for the inspiring reminders! God bless us!

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK (2011-02-02 13:17:41)

Wonderful advice and what a sweet blessing from the awesome Word of God. I can't tell you what a special blessing it was to me today. :)

Karen (2011-02-02 14:14:30)

Wanda, This is very good. I need an attitude adjustment to be thankful.

Amydeanne (2011-02-02 14:30:09)

ahh yes! i've been learning about doing instead of just listening as well!
happy WFW!

Chelle (2011-02-02 14:30:34)

I love that picture and verse, such power in the picture alone! Great word today, thank you!

Kim-Stuff could be worse (2011-02-02 14:33:31)

Such a wonderful verse and thought!

Joanne Sher (2011-02-02 16:22:48)

YES! We must hold on. Beautiful

Peggy (mazmagi) (2011-02-02 20:28:16)

Bless you Wanda, Refusing to LOOSE ground along with you! Great verse to memorize for SSMT and hold on to!
As I struggled to MOVE FORWARD all last year, I press into 2011, expecting more like JOY as I hold true to what we have already attained!!! Let's walk and order our lives by that!!!

Powerful and vivid image to grasp this as we wait and trust His Word, His promises, His strength, His power not ours... So now I will reflect on what I already possess and build on my faith as I put it to use. Great brief message and to the point with excellence and wisdom! Thank you Wanda!

Peace and JOY,

Peggy

Toia (2011-02-03 01:33:40)

Very encouraging and very true!! Happy WFW!!! =D

Cathy (2011-02-03 05:30:16)

That is very neat, Dear, thank you.

Sharon Kirby (2011-02-05 06:11:35)

I hold on tightly to my faith, and ask God to increase it every day!
GOD BLESS!

Resisting the Urge to Run (2011-02-07 07:30)

Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:13-14

Exodus 14:13-14 is Joanne of An Open Book pick for this week's Monday Manna. It provides an opportunity for fellow bloggers to chew on the same scripture passage and share their insights.

Most of us are probably familiar with the Israelites exodus from Egypt. Oppressed for hundreds of years, they suddenly found themselves in the midst of God's deliverance plan. However, it didn't feel or look much like deliverance to them. In fact, it seemed foolish to leave oppressive comfort for a wilderness journey full of the unknown. So foolish that they were complaining and seeking to go back to bondage. Not to mention that their taskmasters were now pursuing them.

When posed with danger, it is natural to be scared and to be tempted to run. Which makes Moses instructions sound illogical and like a sure recipe for disaster. So what does it take for one to be able to follow such unnatural instructions?

The exact same thing it takes for you and I to follow the illogical instructions, we hear uttered to us in our daily lives. TRUST.

To stand still when everything in us wants to run.

To forge ahead when our knees are shaking.

To face our enemies instead of avoiding them.

To rely on God rather than defend ourselves.

All takes TRUST.

Not in ourselves but in the one who is with us always to the ends of the earth.

What does this passage speak to you? To find out what others are saying visit An Open Book. [1]



1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TU9vI_X73qI/AAAAAAAAAdw/R1VXbke0AxA/s1600-h/Monday%20Manna%5B3%5D.jpg

Follow2Serve {Lorna} (2011-02-07 12:18:34)

Ah, He knows me so well. Trust is something I'm working on - thanks for the post.

Wanda (2011-02-07 12:54:28)

Hi Lorna, He knows the very number of hairs on our heads. It's amazing to be known so intricately by a Sovereign Lord. Trust is pretty hard spot for me as well.

jackie (2011-02-07 13:27:07)

so perfectly true. And this is exactly what I need right now Wanda. A COMPLETE, UNWAVERING TRUST IN GOD FOR HIS PROVISION ON MY UPCOMING WEDDING. Please pray for me.

Thank you and God bless you more and more.

Yolanda (2011-02-07 14:00:37)

I totally agree Wanda, and with that trust, we walk out obedience. Obedience is what God desires of us!
Blessings-
Yolanda

Joanne Sher (2011-02-07 16:48:10)

Trusting Him. That's the key for all of it, isn't it? Great post, Wanda. Thanks for participating.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-02-07 17:24:15)

The urge to run...yes, indeed. I'm one of those folks that has many pairs of running shoes (literally and symbolically), so I can get up and go at anytime. I have, however, learned the value of standing still.

Kim-Stuff could be worse (2011-02-07 19:27:33)

I Love this scripture. It has become real to me, when I finally stood still, He did fight the battle for me!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-02-07 22:08:13)

A very good post Wanda and I agree with what you say.

Yvonne,

Just Be Real (2011-02-07 23:56:13)

Truth reigns in the words of this post. Blessings to you Wanda.

Sharon Kirby (2011-02-08 01:42:15)

I loved this one, Wanda. Trust is such a struggle for me. I love this passage - because it speaks to what I need to calm my fears - just BE STILL.

I was reminded that "in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength."

In my Bible Study, we are studying the book of Jonah. It's been so good. He was a person who gave in to the urge to run - and he ran as far as he could from God. But, God was there - and God rescued Jonah - and returned him to HIS purpose.

Rely on God - the only antidote to shaking knees, and quaking hearts.

GOD BLESS!

Wanda (2011-02-08 01:45:16)

Jackie, congrats to you and I will be praying.

Yolanda, you are so right. Only when we trust Him will we go about obeying Him.

Thanks, Joanne. Trust a small word but such a big key.

Bluebutterfly, thank goodness that He keeps on working with us and takes us from glory to glory.

Kim, stand still is hard work. Isn't it.

Thanks, Yvonne.

JBR, blessings to you too.

Wanda (2011-02-08 01:48:22)

Sharon, there was time period God had me meditating on in quietness and confidence is your strength. You are not alone in your trust struggle. But there is hope for the runners too. Where can we go from His presence.

Joanne (2011-02-08 03:50:47)

The urges to run, to hold back with shaking knees, to defend ourselves and to turn to others instead of God can be so strong at times. Yet what a blessing when we TRUST God instead. Thanks for a great message.

Catrina Bradley... (2011-02-08 05:08:01)

Yes! Thank you, Wanda - I'm fighting those urges constantly, and praying for the faith to TRUST.

Beth in NC (2011-02-08 11:49:11)

You're right Wanda. (If we do run, at least run TO God, not from Him.)

Your blog looks lovely. I haven't had a chance to visit my Sisters lately!!!

Julie Gillies (2011-02-08 15:34:03)

Hi Wanda,

Thank you for visiting my blog--yours is SO beautiful! And I love your post!

This happens to be one of my favorite scriptures, and God really spoke to me through this particular verse last October. I hope you don't mind me sharing a post I wrote about Exodus 14:14:

<http://www.juliegillies.com/2010/10/whose-battle-is-it-anyway.html>

Blessings to you!

Ella (2011-02-08 16:35:10)

A great word and remainder! I keep hearing the whispers of my intuition and I am trying to trust, it isn't easy! xXx
Great post

Toia (2011-02-09 00:18:30)

Trusting God only for everything is something we need to be reminded of....Thanks for such a beautiful Word!! Have a bless week!!!

Faith Imagined (2011-02-12 04:11:43)

Trust... so hard to do yet so important. Thank you for illustrating how important it is for us to TRUST God with every aspect of our lives!

Dean Spencer (2011-02-17 03:58:26)

Wanda -

When I was reading this I was thinking of 1 Corinthians 1:18:

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Trust is powerful. But the Object of our trust is so much bigger.

Great post! God bless!

Dean

My Heart's Answer (2011-02-09 00:00)

My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming." Psalm 27:8 (NLT)

Like the rest of the world, there are so many things that require my attention during the course of the day. Needful things. Critical things. Routine things. So much stuff and things that at times, I find myself overwhelmed by it all. And, if I'm not very cautious all of those things will drown out my ability to hear His call and my willingness to answer.



[1]

Can you hear Him calling you today? Will you answer Him or leave him waiting?

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TVIGsDSSst4I/AAAAAAAAAd4/014fddcfzwY/s1600-h/Psalms-27-83.png

jackie (2011-02-09 00:18:11)

Everyday I know He is waiting for me to call unto Him...

I just ignore it sometimes and could only think about Him when I have nowhere to run...

God's reminder is very evident but I choose to disobey and ignore Him...

But He made me realize that apart from Him I AM ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!

Thanks for reminding me again today... thanks for watering my soul, Wanda.

God bless...

Wish to talk to you for long in person ;)

Jessica (2011-02-09 01:35:17)

Oh my GOODNESS! The Lord led me to this verse about a week ago and my heart rejoiced seeing it again! Blessings...and continue allowing the Lord to speak to your heart, and continue to listen.

In His love,

JB

Dorie (2011-02-09 05:54:06)

Wanda,

What beautiful words and verse. Your post is so true. It is so easy to let life and activities drain our energy and ability to hear Him. May my life not drown out His voice today.

Follow2Serve {Lorna} (2011-02-09 06:17:57)

Love the picture . . . what a perfect word for today.

ozjane (2011-02-09 06:38:54)

This is such a challenge and I thought by this time of my life it would surely be habitual.....but while I have a set routine of a night...I am not awake in the mornings...although I have tried to pick up a book of daily readings first thing.....but it is so easy to get into bed.....unfortunately I can no longer kneel and spread my Bible and books over the bed a I used to love to do.....so it is easy to start reading a novel and then decide you are just too tired for the word, your journal prayer diary etc. And that shames me when it happens.

I need to start with the word....

Kathryn (2011-02-09 07:03:14)

So true. May God be at work in all of our hearts, showing us his Word, and conforming us to his image

Pia (2011-02-09 07:41:12)

He does talk to us everyday. we have to ask God to open our ears to hear His voice clearly. what a privilege to get to talk to the King of Kings and He talks back to us.

Theresa Miller (2011-02-09 07:45:10)

Thank you. I need that reminder every waking morning!

Joanne Sher (2011-02-09 08:04:32)

Oh, Wanda - I LOVE this verse! May have to tuck it away for Monday Manna some week. And the picture is wonderful as well. Great stuff!

Guiding Light (2011-02-09 08:48:56)

AMEN to that - thanks for the reminder not to be bogged down by everything of this world. Blessings to you!

Stuff could be worse (2011-02-09 09:09:31)

We need this scripture. We are too busy
kim

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK for the Sandwich Generation (2011-02-09 09:30:09)

Oh Wanda - you read my mind yesterday, didn't you? I usually do Bible first thing, unless I am going out - and then I listen to it first thing. But yesterday, I put it off "For just a bit." Next thing you know, that just a bit was bedtime, and I lasted 5 minutes before I fell asleep. PTL - He is gracious and merciful and forgives us and gives us a NEW DAY with NEW MERCIES, and YES I did my Bible study bright and early. :) And what a delightful way to start the day, isn't it. Thanks for the awesome encouragement. :) Have a blessed week!

sophieandmomma (2011-02-09 09:48:23)

I love this, thank you for sharing this verse! Sometimes, I just need to stop what I'm doing and follow him because he's calling! :)

I would love it if you saw my word filled picture!

<http://sophieandmomma.blogspot.com>

Chelle (2011-02-09 10:37:07)

Amen! Excellent post!!

Peggy (mazmagi) (2011-02-09 10:39:54)

LORD, I am coming!!!

Blessings Wanda...what a beautiful heart's answer and verse to choose!

As only Our Lord fills those empty pieces (in this puzzle or our lives).

Focus on the drumbeat of Our Lord and let all the other "stuff" be drowned out, or wait and those pieces will come together so much better just for acknowledging God's place first in our day, in our lives, in our heart! I know you want to so now praying that it happens, cuz we both know the delight it is for the Lord and us when our heart is full of His love!

May He complete this WFW as you abide in Him, and He in you!

Really wonderful WFW and message!

Looks like it's awakening some hearts! Let not our hearts be overwhelmed but overflowing! Great Psalm for this season! Thanks for speaking to the hearts of so many!

Love, peace and JOY in Christ Jesus,

Peggy

lioneagle (2011-02-09 13:19:05)

Hi Wanda -

Such a great reminder this is for us. We do need wake up calls...

Thank you for sharing what we need to remember.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-02-09 15:09:54)

Yes, Lord, yes. I am ever thankful for all the times You have overlooked the times I have failed to stop and listen to You.

lori (2011-02-09 16:12:13)

Girl! I so needed to be reminded of this! He calls and I like you find myself being pulled in so many different directions that if I'm not careful, I'll neglect to hear His voice....I long to answer, "Lord, I am coming." ALL the time...not putting Him on hold, but always being ready to hear and listen and respond....

Wanda.....soooooo good! sooooo good!

peace girl!

lori

Heidi (2011-02-09 16:19:54)

Great post... love the picture, you did a wonderful job and the love the message!

Amy (2011-02-09 17:01:09)

this is an awesome post! SO powerful!!!! thank you for sharing!

Beth in NC (2011-02-09 18:13:44)

Great verse Wanda! Thank you for sharing this with us!

Sharon Kirby (2011-02-10 19:22:38)

I hear Him calling and I'm picking up the phone!!

Oh, yes, Lord - speak to me. Your servant is listening.

Thanks for sharing this, Wanda. It really made me stop and take a moment - just to be still. I needed it!

GOD BLESS!

Just Be Real (2011-02-11 05:54:50)

Came for my encouragement Wanda. Blessings.

Kathryn (2011-02-11 13:39:19)

I love this verse thank you for sharing it with us.

Your blog is simply gorgeous as well. I just love the flow and colors.

Ella (2011-02-12 09:18:19)

I also try to listen, but sometimes I am confused if it is my intuitive voice or his Usually the hard stuff, I know it is him Great point to ponder, as always! Happy Weekend!

Toia (2011-02-13 14:03:38)

This verse and post was meant for me as well. So often, I tend to get caught up with my day to day routine and not be cautious of God's voice like I should be. Thanks for the reminder. Blessings to you and Happy Valentine's Day!!!

God Whispers (2011-02-17 04:07:22)

Blessings to you Wanda.

Anna K(arlene) Jeffrey (2011-02-21 17:43:49)

Oh so good. It sounds like the Lord is calling, doesn't it?

I'm going to take the challenge and *listen* more.

Discover the Way to Love (2011-02-14 16:56)



[1]

Ephesians 5:1-2 MSG: Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

Happy Valentine's Day

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TV1ewYmAJ0I/AAAAAAAAAeA/wcnZTNb5z2c/s1600-h/DSCN1289red%5B5%5D.jpg

Alida (2011-02-14 19:12:25)

Happy Valentine's Day! Love, joy and lots of blessings to you!

Joanne Sher (2011-02-14 19:52:21)

Love that translation. Wow. Good stuff. Happy Valentine's Day!

Ella (2011-02-14 21:39:00)

LOVEly Wanda!

Happy Valentine's Day to you

Stuff could be worse (2011-02-15 00:07:02)

Love like that! Happy Valentines Day to you...

kim

Sharon Kirby (2011-02-15 01:56:24)

Oh, this was really wonderful. Sometimes it's just good to hear the words of God in a simple way.

Love like Him - yes, Lord, help us do just that.

Happy Valentine's Day, Wanda - and GOD BLESS

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-02-15 17:40:45)

Love! Love! Love! The greatest of all. I hope you had a beautiful Valentine's Day!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-02-16 01:17:38)
Hope you had a wonderful Valentine's Day!

clavs (2011-02-16 07:40:10)
That was a wonderful message for valentines...

MTJ (2011-02-17 20:00:51)

Hi Wanda,

I just got around to visiting your blog and found these wonderful words, "**Watch what God does...what God does is love you...His love was not cautious but extravagant...to give everything of himself to us.**"

Thank you for encouraging me to *love like that*.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

clavel (2011-02-18 05:51:56)

Hi! Ms. Wanda, I am your new follower. tnx for leaving a comment on my post, appreciate it very much.GOD bless!

Karen (2011-02-21 11:20:39)

Blessings to you Wanda. Love that scripture!

Hello (2011-02-21 02:12)

Wow, it seems like forever since I have the time to write something here. Wanted to send out quick hello and let you know I'm still around. You all have been in my thoughts and prayers. Hope you've enjoyed a wonderful Sabbath rest. May the Father's love and peace be multiplied in your life.

Ella (2011-02-21 03:13:05)

Thinking of you, hope you had a wonderful weekend I think everyone will be a bit better, when spring finally makes it's appearance xXx

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-02-21 09:05:55)

Lovely tp hear from you again, I have just returned from my holiday.

Take care.

Yvonne.

Wanda (2011-02-21 13:50:06)

Thanks, Ellie & Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-02-21 15:10:18)

Love multiplied back to you.

When is long better than short? (2011-02-21 13:48)

Being what I call directionally challenged, I often go the route I know best rather than run the risk of getting lost. Times when I felt rather daring I have ventured down uncharted territory and on several occasions I have discovered that for months I had been going the long way around. I wasted needless time and gas going the sure way.

When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land.

Now God is not directionally challenged like me but even He, the all-knowing one, had people take the long way around. Everything He does is purposeful.

God said, If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt. So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea.
Exodus 13:17

Going the long way around processed the Israelites for possession of the promise. Had they went the short route, perhaps they would have visited the land but certainly would not have had the stamina to maintain it.

Dear Lord, forgive me for all the times I've assumed that I really know best. Forgive me for all the times I have murmured and complained about what is yet to manifest in my life. For your promises are yea and Amen. You already know my final destination but it is me that you are preparing for it as I go along the journey of life. Thank you that you know the way that I take. I'm never out of your eyesight or reach of your loving hands.

Father I pray for my fellow brothers and sisters as they walk along the course you have set for them. May they be ever mindful that you are with them whether they find themselves wearily walking the long road or speeding down the fast track. Strengthen them I pray. May they have renewed confidence in You, Lord. In Jesus name, Amen.

Joanne Sher (2011-02-21 14:42:01)
Wonderful reminder. Thanks for this!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-02-21 15:01:31)

Oh, Wanda, I was falling out of my chair about being directionally challenged. Thank God for His grace...really. "I am reminded of a favorite verse: By your endurance you will gain your lives." - Luke 21:19

One Heart (Marcia) (2011-02-21 15:19:02)

Oh, Wanda, this is so on target for me today after a very challenging week last week AND weekend too. I began to look for the promises that have not manifested and the thorn that is still in place after a lifetime and it only brought me pain. Just this morning I shared with friends how some promises we will simply not see this side of heaven, BUT, Heaven lives in us and He is all we need. I also commented to them that instead of praying for the thorn to be removed, we should always pray that the abundant grace which has already been given to us would be revealed to us more profoundly because with it, although the thorn is not removed, it will no longer sting us.

Thank you for your visit. Always good to stop by. Love your blog design. Blessings!

One Heart (Marcia) (2011-02-21 15:20:54)
BTW, I took your lovely new button too. ;)

Stuff could be worse (2011-02-21 16:12:42)
I like this thought, God is not directionally challenged :) I agree...

Sharon Kirby (2011-02-22 07:24:52)
Wanda, dear Wanda - I just took this prayer of yours, and quietly let you pray it over me. I so needed it tonight. Thank you for your wise and encouraging words. God takes us down just the right path, at just the right pace - yes, this gives me renewed confidence!
GOD BLESS!

Tina C (2011-02-24 12:50:40)
I enjoyed your post. I'm directionally challenged too. That's why I have to seek God so much about what road to take or what turn to make. Lately, I've been thinking more of the process. There is a reason for the path (long or short) He gives us. After all He has to prepare us for the war and the victory that lies ahead. He will be our guide even unto death...

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-02-25 04:13:07)
Wanda, LOL. That first paragraph is me all over. Sonetimes, I take the long route in order that I can have some thinking and reflection time!! Strange but true.
Thank you so much for your prayer, which came straight from the heart of God.
Keep sweet in the Lord.

Rita's Random Ramblings (2011-02-25 17:36:30)
You have inspired and blessed me! I'll grab your button for my blog before I leave! Have a wonderfully blessed day!

Faith Imagined (2011-02-25 19:25:14)
I feel like God is taking me the long route at this very moment! I am positive He is doing a good work in me so that I can be ready for the promise land He has for me!
Awesome insights!

lioneagle (2011-02-26 12:58:25)
Hi Wanda -
I feel you on this, lady. Thank you for sharing.
In particular, I love this that you expressed, "...or reach of your loving hands."
"May they have renewed confidence in You, Lord. In Jesus name, Amen."

Mike (2011-03-01 11:09:06)
That's really helpful. God is more interested in the process and how it changes us more than the destination? Very helpful. Thank you.
This I do...

Review: iShine Bible (2011-02-22 08:00)

Designed specifically for tweens, the iShine Bible packs a lot of punch in a small pink or blue package. I chose to review the one for girls and loved the girly designs on the Bible cover. Its size of 6.13 x4.13 inches makes it a perfect to carry along in a purse or bag without being weighted down.

It uses the New Living Translation, which I find to be one of my favorite translations. It features 3 color sections that focuses on helping tweens to realize they are V.I.P(s). Meaning they are valued with a unique identity in Christ and called to a specific purpose. The front of the Bible is filled with helpful information about growing in their spiritual walk and a topical index addressing common questions tweens may have. Additionally, it incorporates multimedia by using links to videos and/or QR codes that are readable by smartphones.

Overall, I think the iShine Bible is one any tween would enjoy. For me, I wish it contained more culturally diverse tween photos. Since it is a compact Bible, the writing is small; however, most tweens would not find that to be a problem for their young eyes.



[1]

List Price: 19.99

ISBN: 978-1-4143-4815-5

Trim Size: 4 1/8 x 6 1/8

Binding: Leather-Like, Lip Sync Pink/Rockin' Ruby

Release: February 2011

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Tyndale House Publishers as part of their blogger review program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TWMG4V01bwI/AAAAAAAAeI/aobE9K98UKY/s1600-h/Tyndale-iShine-Bible16.gif

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-02-22 08:35:37)

Good review Wanda, good there is a book for the young.

Thank you for your visits and comments most appreciated.

Yvonne.

Just Be Real (2011-02-22 10:37:46)

Thank you Wanda for taking the time to share here. Very good. Blessings.

Joanne Sher (2011-02-22 14:49:39)

Looks great, Wanda! I have one in the tweens, and one "on the crux," so this is great information for me!

Ella (2011-02-24 03:55:21)

Nice book; great review

Judy (2011-02-25 01:43:11)

Hi Wanda,

I have a 15-year-old teenage boy. He has a teen bible written especially for guys his age. It's a great bible. I think

it's wonderful there are bibles customized for all different age groups and sexes. God is awesome!

Blessings,

Judy

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-02-25 04:19:58)

From your review, Wanda, it sounds like a Bible I should check out, when it becomes available here in the UK.

I love my NLT Bible and always suggest it as a version for new christians. (after the NIV), it is great that there is now a new design for Tweens.

God Bless

The Life Ready Woman (2011-02-26 14:23)

Are you a doing it all or doing what matters most kind of girl?

For me I often find myself overwhelmed by the burden of trying to get it all done. And to think that I don't even have near the responsibilities of those of other woman, who are balancing motherhood, marriage and ministry. In *The Life Ready Woman: Thriving in a Do-It-All World* authors Shanti Feldhahn and Robert Lewis asks us women to examine our lives in light of God's design.

The freedom to excel can also lead us to take on burdens we were never meant to carry, to find ourselves stressed and torn, and to experience an outlook that that is all too often marked by worry or guilt instead of the absolute peace of knowing we are in the exact center of God's will every day.

The book is divided into two parts. Part 1: God's Plan and Purposes for All of Us and Part 2: Getting to God's Best for You. Authors point out that all humankind has been issued a call by God to leave and cleave, be fruitful and multiply and subdue and rule. In addition to our universal call, the book states that women share feminine callings to:

- help
- influence our setting
- nurture life
- bring special wisdom and perspective
- multitask.

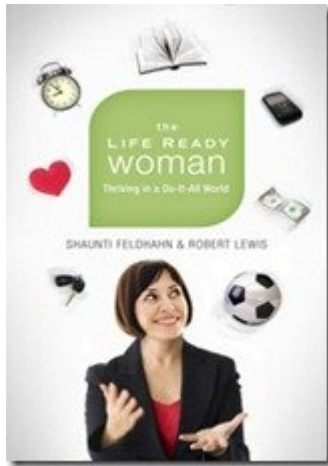
As affirming as learning about and embracing these feminine calls may be, women are warned that these callings can leave us vulnerable to sinful tendencies such as manipulation, being controlling, and resisting set limits.

Part two focuses on living in view of our callings and how to be better stewards of our personal gifts by reliance on God.

It's so easy to default to walking the path that we already know rather than the one God is leading us to.

What I like about the book:

It addresses the many facets of womanhood from married women to the older single woman, who each faces a very different set of circumstances. The authors did not sugarcoat the fact that to really live according to God's design requires self-sacrifice and obedience, which is not always popular or easy.



[1] About the author: Shaunti Feldhahn is a former Wall Street analyst, best-selling author of the book *For Women Only*, national speaker, and regular commentator in the media. She has been featured on The Today Show, PBS, TNT and Fox News- to name a few. You can learn more about her many activities by visiting her website [2]Shaunti.com or get some great mom advice from her at [3]MomLifeToday.com. She and her husband live with their two young children in Atlanta, Georgia and enjoy every minute of living at warp speed.

Does this sound like a book, you would like to read? As a part of the LitFUSE blog tour I was graciously provided a copy to give away to one of my readers. Simply enter your name and email address in the form below to enter.

DISCLOSURE: I was provided a complimentary copy of the book for review purposes as a part of the Litfuse blog tour. I was not required to write a positive review.

IFRAME: [4]<https://spreadsheets.google.com/embeddedform?formkey=dDJ3QkV5azg4UU12ZlVaQjVtalVzeVE6MQ> Loading...

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TWkM8Tdfm-I/AAAAAAAAeU/352aV9MgZ8Y/s1600-h/the%20life%20ready%20woman%5B3%5D.jpg
2. <http://shaunti.com/>
3. <http://www.momlifetoday.com/>
4. <https://spreadsheets.google.com/embeddedform?formkey=dDJ3QkV5azg4UU12ZlVaQjVtalVzeVE6MQ>

Joanne Sher (2011-02-26 15:18:00)

This absolutely sounds like a book I could use. Entered - thanks for the opportunity, Wanda!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-02-26 19:32:30)

Thanks for the chance of winning this book, your review was great.

I had to smile in the beginning of your post you mentioned the name

Robert Lewis I have a son of the same name.....but he don't write.

Thanks for the visits and comment which I appreciate.

Yvonne.

Sharon Kirby (2011-02-27 01:01:53)

Wanda - sounds like a great book. It's speaking about many of the issues I was thinking and blogging about last week. As a woman, I need to be mindful of my priorities and activities. As a Christian woman, I need to rely on the Holy Spirit to help me sort it all out. Because the devil will also attempt to get me so, so busy, that I burn out and become useless for the Lord's work.

Thanks for sharing this.

GOD BLESS!

Dena E's Blog (2011-02-27 05:16:11)

Hey Sis,, Just stopping by to say thinking of you!!!

May you feel Christ's Presence throughout your weekend and new week..and May His blessings continue on you and yours... Amen and Amen Hugs Dena

aterhea (2011-02-27 17:54:29)

From the way it sounds, the book really interests me. I hope i could win. I feel that this book would be very enlightening to me as a woman. Just entered!

MTJ (2011-02-27 22:17:07)

Hi Wanda,

Living **"...according to God's design requires self-sacrifice and obedience, which is not always popular or easy."** When I read that, I immediately thought, *that's true for both men and women.*

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-02-28 08:54:27)

Thank you for your visit on my Debut 8 blogfest, you write you have never heard of these, short and to the post, well recently I walked around the Hall Of Fame In Nashville, and apart from a handful of legends have never heard of the majority, living over the other side of the pond we both get artistes that the other never hear of, some make it to the other side others not but I included Americans, and international stars.

Still in the throes of jet lag I sat for a good time compiling and

posting them offI am not very quick on a pc and I thought your comment was non committal.

Have a good day.

Yvonne.

Stuff could always be worse (2011-02-28 16:18:28)

I never get it all done :) Great book

kim

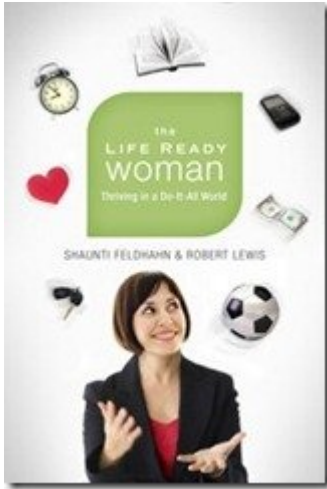
Bernadine (2011-03-01 01:25:45)

Great review Wanda, the book sounds like very useful to one like me who can never seem to get done all of the things I need to.

2.3 March

The Winner is...(Revised) (2011-03-01 12:30)

A new winner has been selected since no response from the original winner. Congratulations to Joanne on winning a copy of The Life Ready Woman by Shanti Feldhahn and Robert Lewis. Winner has 24hrs to response to email notification[1]



[2]

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TWzm1ouIK6I/AAAAAAAAAec/em0v_bp7j18/s1600-h/the%20life%20ready%20woman%5B2%5D.jpg
2. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TWzm1ouIK6I/AAAAAAAAAec/em0v_bp7j18/s1600-h/the%20life%20ready%20woman%5B2%5D.jpg

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-03-01 13:24:51)
Congratulations Aterhea on your win.
Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-03-01 17:52:27)
"Life ready"; I like that title. I'll have to check it out.

What to Wear? (2011-03-02 14:10)

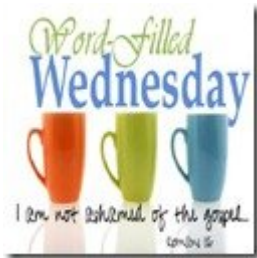
Wondering what to wear today? God has something special picked out for you today. Nope, you will not find it hanging in your closet beside your favorite pair of jeans. But it is just as essential as your go to black dress. For a glimpse of God's favorite attire on you:

Colossians 3:12: So chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. (The Message)



[1]

For more Word-Filled Wednesday Devotions visit [2]Internet Café Devotions.



[3]

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TW5PrMMW83I/AAAAAAAAAek/cfyvJXfPC4Q/s1600-h/God%27s%20Dress%5B5%5D.png
2. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>
3. <http://internetcafedevoations.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-03-02 14:27:34)

The best anyone can wear,
 Good message Wanda.
 Yvonne.

Peggy (mazmagi) (2011-03-02 18:10:19)

Blessings Wanda... How intriguing!
 Love how you stripped down to the basics and picked out the BEST wardrobe in God's Word! Truly a divine clothing... but I'm not too sure how often I pick these out of my closet and put them on! Oh yes, I may prefer them as my favorite attire but how often do others see and admire these bare essentials in my persona:
 Compassion (most likely, but my how the enemy likes to use this one)
 Kindness (not visible to those who had to live with me daily)
 Humility (more now than in the past, but even thinking so makes me a bit prideful)
 Quiet strength (only of the Lord when HE is able when I am weary or weak)
 Discipline (a constant necessity to keep my life in order but also a struggle)...
 Guess I need to hang this verse on my closet door daily! Thanks for sharing and I pray that God helps me get dressed more often. I'm to use to wearing the bare necessities.
 Always inspirational Messages here.
 Love, peace and JOY,
 Peggy

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-03-02 18:42:45)

Amen! when we cover ourselves with the basics which God requires, life becomes something to be shared instead of a burden we carry.

lori (2011-03-02 19:46:49)

GIRL, if we would think these over, truly PUT THEM ON, we'd always feel fully clothed and ready for anything! I LOVE this!

What truth! I needed this!

peace,

lori

Connie Arnold (2011-03-02 19:48:41)

Great message, Wanda! The world would be much more beautiful if we all dressed that way!

Susan (2011-03-02 21:58:53)

Second time on this subject. God's speaking for sure.

Have a blessed day?

jackie (2011-03-03 00:07:51)

perfectly true...

If this won't fit you, ask for God's assistance ^ _ ^

Thank you so much Wanda for this reminder.

God bless

Alida (2011-03-03 00:15:05)

May we all be so well dressed!

Cathy (2011-03-03 03:13:27)

I love that. Thank you, Dear. Blessings And thanks for your sweet visit today.

Nicole (2011-03-03 03:27:25)

I love that! and it is one of the most important 'outfits' to put on!! You know my other one! ;)

Maria@yourbrainmedia (2011-03-03 05:55:33)

Nice, thank God for that idea!

Amydeanne (2011-03-03 16:23:55)

sweet! must be what I need to learn this week! ;0

Melissa (2011-03-03 19:27:09)

Love the way you applied that verse! So true ... and so much more important than whether I wear the blue or the brown top. :)

Julie Arduini (2011-03-06 00:28:19)

The visual drives the verse right home. Thank you for that, love it! Thank you also for leaving a kind comment on my post. Have a blessed weekend in Him!

Ella (2011-03-06 15:33:07)

You can't beat that out fit! Wish everyone could adopt this style

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-03-12 02:46:26)

Wow, I'm going to ensure that I don't leave home until I am fully dressed.

Loved that scripture, Wanda.
The Message Bible always comes straight to the point. :)

God Wants to Heal You (2011-03-03 12:01)

God wants to heal you
Everywhere you hurt , Everywhere you hurt
God will see you through
He'll take the pain away

God Shall provide for you
Each and everyday
So lift your hands and say
Lord i need you, i need you right away

IFRAME: [1]<http://www.youtube.com/embed/Ma1EOLs5j3c?fs=1>

Woke up this morning with this song playing in my head.

1. <http://www.youtube.com/embed/Ma1EOLs5j3c?fs=1>

Stuff could always be worse (2011-03-03 15:25:14)

This is the best way to wake up! I love it when I wake up with these type of songs, in my head :)
kim

Lorena G. Sims (2011-03-03 17:19:51)
Wanda, that's a wonderful song!

Sharon Kirby (2011-03-04 01:38:26)
Lovely, lovely song.
God shall provide - how often do I forget this?
He will see me through - through the good and the bad.
Lord, I need you right away - yes, Lord, come quickly.
Thanks for this, Wanda - GOD BLESS!

sarah (2011-03-04 15:18:05)
and Wanda...I know this truth....He is a healer...the One who can make a difference....thanks for posting this.

Just Be Real (2011-03-04 18:06:13)
Thank you Wanda. Needed this encouragement.

lioneagle (2011-03-05 17:18:26)
Hi Wanda -
Thank you for sharing your wake up song. It truly blessed.

Karen (2011-03-06 12:48:57)

Thank you for this song. This is new to me, and I will be singing it my head all day! Bless you, Wanda!

Ella (2011-03-06 15:32:15)

Nice way to wake up; I can dream!

I have waited 24 yrs for a cure, not yet...

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-03-06 17:16:37)

Hello Wanda there is an award awaiting you at my blog , it's called Friends For The Journey.

Yvonne.

Judy (2011-03-06 20:11:38)

Hi Wanda,

A very nice song to have on your mind when you woke up. Thanks for stopping by my blog. Hope to speak with you again soon!

P.S. If you're not familiar with Spiritual Sundays, you should consider joining. It's a web site dedicated to Christian bloggers who post their blogs each week and link them to a particular spiritual article. It's a way of driving more traffic to your site and to meet new Christian bloggers.

Blessings,

Judy

MTJ (2011-03-06 22:17:12)

Hi Wanda,

Thank you for sharing this song of encouragement..."**God will see you through
He'll take the pain away**"

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

Bernadine (2011-03-07 05:14:03)

Thanks for the intro to this new singer Wanda. I've never heard him before but I love this song.

Mike (2011-03-08 19:57:15)

Thank you :)

jackie (2011-03-09 02:16:05)

I am longing for it...

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-03-12 02:53:54)

Wanda, Thank you for reminding me of the precious promise of God; that He wishes above all things that we prosper and be in health, even as our soul prospers.

He has also promised that He will restore us to health and heal any wounds.

I Praise Him!!

Better Than Hamburger Helper (2011-03-07 13:59)

Looking for a way to dress up that lone package of ground beef? General Mills offers individuals a quick and easy way to present that ground beef in a more tasty manner. Wikipedia states that the contents of



the box are combined with [1] browned hamburger meat, water, and milk (something the cook has to have on a hand already) to create a complete dish.

In the same way, God has given the believer a prayer helper—the Spirit. When we combine the Spirit with our weaknesses and willingness to pray, we have a prayer that is complete and free of selfish ambition and manipulation. The Spirit knows the mind and heart of the Father and only prays according to His perfect will.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. Romans 8:26 NIV



For more Monday Manna thoughts visit Joanne at [2]An Open Book. [3]

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TXTkt_Qi9vI/AAAAAAAAAew/m4DIIFNvAE4/s1600-h/02-11-10%20025%5B3%5D.jpg
2. <http://www.joannesher.com/2011/03/wordless-monday-manna.html>
3. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TXTku9rfPNI/AAAAAAAAAe4/0y34iWwRG80/s1600-h/Monday%20Manna%5B2%5D.jpg

Joanne Sher (2011-03-07 14:28:39)

What a fabulous analogy, Wanda! I will never look at Hamburger Helper the same way again :) Thanks for participating!

Michelle Gregory (2011-03-07 16:54:01)

i came on over from Yvonne's blog. lovely blog you have. always nice to meet another Lover of God on the web.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-03-07 17:06:34)

You've made me hungry...to pray ... to eat. Think I'll make Hamburger Helper my last meat meal before Lent begins.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-03-07 20:41:22)

This is simply wonderful Wanda.

Take care.

Yvonne.

Stuff could always be worse (2011-03-07 21:23:42)
I so agree with this post, we do have a Holy Helper!
kim

Karen (2011-03-08 01:39:34)
Isn't it awesome that the Holy Spirit prays for us and through us even when we don't know exactly what to say or do (which is most of the time, these days, for me!)

Joanne (2011-03-08 01:49:19)
I really like your recipe for prayer: Spirit, weakness, willingness to pray. Our prayer pantry should never be without any of these.

Wanda (2011-03-08 13:14:32)
Joanne, it's funny the things God often uses to illustrate a point to me. **Michelle** happy to have you stop by for a visit. Pleasure to meet you & hope you'll stop by again soon. **Bluebutterfly** may we each have a renewed thirst and hunger for Him. **Yvonne** thank you. **Kim** the best helping hand we could ever have ;) **Karen** yes it is. God knew just what we would need and He provided the solution. **Joanne** love the idea of prayer pantry. We really do have all the fixins :)

B. Niles (2011-03-09 21:04:56)
Hi Wanda,
Great thought for the day. It's amazing to me how God uses everyday activities or fixins to teach us about the spirit realm. It's those little things that give us just the right food for thought and food for the spirit.
God Bless.
Beverly

jackie (2011-03-11 04:15:35)
So much better indeed...
I confirm and believe every lines you wrote here.
Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will all fall down?

Just Be Real (2011-03-11 18:36:43)
Came for a refreshment. Blessings.

Ella (2011-03-12 18:46:48)
How creative you are Wanda! Yes, we need to be selective about our ingredients and what we hope for the outcome xXx

Mining for Diamonds (2011-03-13 23:25:41)
Wanda, thanks for stopping by my blog! :) Nice to "meet" you. This is a great analogy!!! I'm like Joanne, I'll never see Hamburger Helper again! ;)

Not Left to My Own Devices (2011-03-14 12:47)

"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13, NKJV)

I remember the first time I discovered this verse and really contemplated its meaning. I had a light bulb moment. Not only did God give me new desires but He equips me with the power/ability to follow through

and act upon those desires. He does not leave me to depend upon my will power alone.

Which happens to be a good thing because sometimes, if truth be told, I don't have the will to do what pleases Him. I had much rather cling to self-righteousness than to forgive like He commands of me. So He has to do a work on my will. I don't think it's mere coincidence that the scripture lists will first. Without having first the mind to do, we will never get busy with the doing.

Most things God calls us to do goes against our natural inclination but He gives us the power to do them. Whose power are you relying on to get things done?

desire + power + my cooperation = accomplishment

if anything is missing from the equation nothing really gets done.

desire - power + my cooperation = frustration

power - desire = no cooperation from me

For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him. Phil 2:13 (NLT)

Lord, I thank you that you are at work within me at this very moment. Thank you for giving me the willingness and the power to obey your word. I pray for my fellow brothers and sisters and those that are lost. Align our wills with your will God. Helps to remember you have already provided what we need to please you. We choose to accept the gift and we cooperate with the work you are doing within in us. In Jesus name. Amen.

Linking up with Monday Manna, which is being hosted by Vonnie at [1]My Back Door.

1. <http://mybackdoorministry.blogspot.com/2011/03/monday-manna-pick-me.html>

Joanne Sher (2011-03-14 13:24:01)

SOOO grateful for His power. Great thoughts, Wanda. Thanks!

Andrea (2011-03-14 13:52:57)

Praising GOD for all HE is doing in and through my life. Thank you for always posting just what I need. Blessings, andrea

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-03-14 14:54:14)

Wonderful post Wanda, also a most beautiful prayer.

Yvonne.

Stuff could always be worse (2011-03-14 15:27:18)

We need Him always! We try to cooperate with His desire, I hope

kim

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-03-14 20:43:36)

Had a conversation about this just a few days ago with a friend of mine. You said it beautifully AND truthfully! Thank you!

Ella (2011-03-15 01:39:42)

Thanks Wanda, I was in frustration mode, have been all day. It is me getting in the way. I am now going to go with the flow xXx

Sharon Kirby (2011-03-15 02:36:45)

Sometimes I just plain lose my way - and then I try to find my way on my own.

Left to my own devices - I always fail.

Thanks for the great reminder.

GOD BLESS!

jackie (2011-03-16 03:17:36)

Amen and Amen...

God's will is indeed the most Perfect will!

Thank you again Wanda :)

lioneagle (2011-03-19 23:35:57)

Hi Wanda -

Amen to this, my sister, -

Amen

You expressed in your prayer,

"Align our wills with your will."

Yes, please, Lord!

Up for a Challenge? (2011-03-15 12:10)

Life throws us a bunch of challenges. Most times we don't have the option of choosing which ones we will gladly accept and the ones we had rather pass. But every now then, you do get a choice. This April [1]Arlee Bird is giving bloggers around the world the opportunity to build a little blogging muscles with the return of the A to Z Challenge.



[2]

Participants are challenged to write a blog post, relating to the letter of the day, everyday except for Sunday during the month of April. I know, I know you are already juggling a bunch of to do(s) so why would any sane person take on such a feat? As a newbie blogger last year, I chose to join the first A to Z Challenge. Now I had no clue as to what I was really getting into but it proved worth my while. Here's a few of the benefits I received.

Good community support. I met such a welcoming community of bloggers through the challenge and several of them I continue to maintain virtual friendships.

Wider blog reach. When I started writing down my thoughts in a blog, I couldn't begin to imagine that

others would find value in my writing. Through the blog challenge my blog readership moved beyond the support of my sister to many around the world. I'm still in awe every time I read a comment from someone who has read my thoughts.

Focused regularity. Although a letter theme can leave things pretty wide open, it helped to give me focus and to get in the habit of writing on a regular basis. As you can see from the looks of things around here, I have kind of gotten out of the habit of writing regularly.

And the best part is you don't have to change your blog's ultimate focus. All types of bloggers participate from poets, authors, cooks to those with a spiritual theme.

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>
2. <http://www.tossingitout.blogspot.com/2011/01/very-special-and-exciting-announcement.html>

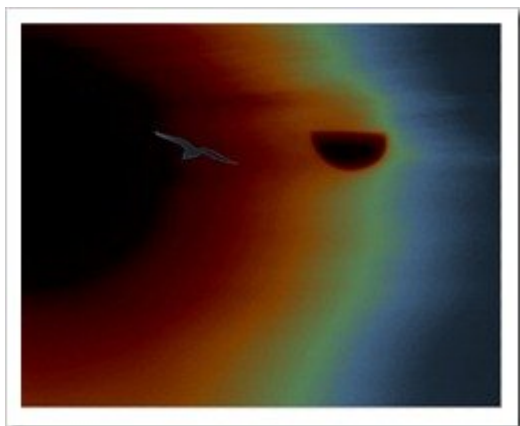
welcome to my world of poetry (2011-03-15 12:24:55)
Very good write up about the fun challenge as I call it.
Good luck with yours this year.
Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-03-15 13:37:07)
I'm smiling as I read on "challenges". It is amazing how the most difficult things end up broadening our sphere of influence and teaching us things we would not otherwise know.

Arlee Bird (2011-03-16 00:51:06)
You said it well. Thank you. I will link to this in my next Thank You post on Friday.
Lee
[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>
wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-03-20 19:22:05)
Thinking about taking the challenge! :-) We'll see what happens.

Still I Sing (2011-03-16 13:14)



[1]
Inspired by the song of the birds
Been through the stark darkness of the night
Wasn't sure if I'd ever see the slightest crack of light

but still I sing

Devastation and destruction surrounds me
I'm not even able to take flight
But even now I choose to sing!

Betrayed and wounded my wings find no strength to soar
Things appear hopeless but I dare to dream there's so much more
But today I still sing

I sing not because all is good
Rather I'm thankful that things are not as it could
I sing because You are worthy
So whether in a whisper or in an exuberant voice
to sing unto You is an easy choice.

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TYC3uAp6NnI/AAAAAAAAAfA/30YCW-kzfN0/s1600-h/bird%20soar%5B14%5D.jpg

Joanne Sher (2011-03-16 13:18:56)
Beautiful, Wanda. Praying I can do the same.

Andrea (2011-03-16 13:59:34)
Prayer request at arise 2 write.
andrea

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-03-16 15:50:24)
Lovely Wanda, I get many birds and wildlife in my garden, it's a joy to hear them sing and watch the squirrels scurry about.
Have a lovely day.
Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-03-16 17:32:06)
Let all who take refuge in You rejoice; let them sing joyful praises forever. Spread Your protection over them, that all who love Your name may be filled with joy. - Psalm 5:11
Joy unspeakable, peace unexplainable and glory unimaginable.

Stuff could always be worse (2011-03-16 22:24:59)
Yes I love the way you sing, I try to sing also :)
kim

Faith Imagined (2011-03-17 00:40:41)
Absolutely beautiful Wanda! You have blessed me immensely with this poem!

Connie Arnold (2011-03-17 02:23:11)
Beautiful, Wanda! We always have something to sing about in thanksgiving and praise to God.

Mike (2011-03-17 10:07:24)
Thank you for the encouragement to keep our eyes heavenwards. Blessings.

Ella (2011-03-18 01:57:59)

Beautiful Wanda..you are a POET!

This reminds me of the challenge of Poets United this week, HOPE and reading this inspires, just that
Lovely xXx

lioneagle (2011-03-19 23:33:27)

Hi Wanda -

Amen - When truth walkers sing - our Lord is delighted. Praise His melodic name!

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-03-20 00:00:49)

Thank you for blessing me today with your 'singing', Wanda.

Whatever, the situation or circumstance, I will keep singing and praising the Lord. :)

God Bless, Carole

Just Be Real (2011-03-20 15:43:32)

Lovely Wanda. Came by for my usual.....

Blessings.

Deirdra Eden-Coppel (2011-03-21 18:14:04)

I love your site and as I browsed your blog I decided to award you the Inspiring Blog Award.

Go to <http://astorybookworld.blogspot.com/p/awards.html> and pick up your award.

Deirdra

Sharon Kirby (2011-03-23 03:18:11)

Loved this, Wanda - it was beautiful!

My favorite line? "I sing because You are worthy."

AMEN, indeed!

GOD BLESS!

LisaShaw (2011-03-23 17:22:02)

Amen! Thank you for sharing Wanda. I'm still singing... no matter what because GOD is too good for me not to sing.

My love and prayers are with you and thank you for the warm words and prayers for me at my blog.

Pam (2011-04-02 02:46:29)

Thank you for this post, Wanda. My friend Frank found out today that he has cancer and I want to pass this page on to him and his wife. I know it will be a blessing to them.

I am... (2011-03-24 09:51)

How would you finish that statement today? Would it be tired, weary, confused, scared or disappointed? Go away ahead and answer it honestly. It's just between you and the Father and no matter if your I am statement is positive or negative, He's not intimidated by your I am(s).

Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is Him. Psalms 62:5 (NLT)



[1]

If I am weary

am confused

am sick

am hurt

am disappointed

I will not attempt to hide it but will bring it before Him.

Even if I am scornful

am lustful

am prideful

am bound

That too will I bring to Him. Yes, it will wait with me. Why? Because He is our only hope for true strength, peace, healing, deliverance or lasting change.

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TYtoeN0E7XI/AAAAAAAAfI/sFi56FotTeE/s1600-h/IAM%5B11%5D.jpg

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2011-03-24 11:33:06)

The Lord already knows our heart but as we surrender it in honesty to Him, we allow Him to come in and work. Our burden is given to Him. What a relief!

It's been a while since I've been here. Used to see you at WFW at the Internet Cafe. Would love to have you stop by and visit me.

Blessings,

Janis

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-03-24 19:21:28)

It's amazing how potent 2 small words can be. We can go to Him with our "i am" in the flesh, and He can remind us of His "I am". He can remind us of our "I am" that only comes through Him. Through Him, our "I am" becomes something altogether different, altogether lovely. I am a child of the most High God. I am royalty. I am a princess, daughter of the King of Kings. I am more than a conqueror. I am the head and not the tail. I am strong in the power of His might. I am persuaded. I am convinced. I am loved.

Patrina's Pencil (2011-03-24 23:17:51)

I am ...learning to TRUST Him with ALL my heart!

Vinni (2011-03-25 05:07:10)

I am alive and that's enough proof (if needed) that he has all of us in his thoughts.

Have a nice weekend.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-03-25 08:23:31)

I am all that I need to be in this moment because the "I AM" is in me, with me and ahead of me now and forever.
I am loved by the Lover of my soul.

bendedspoon (2011-03-25 11:54:38)

I am always in awe of Him and His creations :)

Sharon Kirby (2011-03-25 14:50:16)

Great thoughts, Wanda.

I am many things today - but mostly I am grateful that I am loved by the great I AM.
GOD BLESS!

Karen (2011-03-25 18:34:28)

Amen, amen! Our only hope...the only One...

Stuff could always be worse (2011-03-26 07:33:43)

I love these thoughtful words. It makes me think but I know He can handle these feelings....

LisaShaw (2011-03-26 10:22:53)

Oh precious one from end of December to this moment I walked this, I am...

but I'm thankful that He is the Great I Am and therefore nothing I say or feel is a surprise to Him and He's my Anchor in it all.

Thanks for sharing through the pen of your heart; my heart thoughts.

Love you!

Toia (2011-03-26 12:16:37)

This is an awesome and truthful word!!! To God be the Glory!! Thanks for sharing and have a bless weekend!! =D

Judy (2011-03-26 19:58:25)

Hi Wanda,

Thanks for this wonderful post and the scripture from Psalm 62:5. It really spoke to me as I wait quietly before God and put my trust and hope in Him for a new job and much needed rest.

Blessings,

Judy

Wanda (2011-03-27 16:21:03)

Thank you dear ones for sharing your thoughts. Regardless of where I am (or you are), the Great I AM is with us!
And because He is there, hope and help is available for us. Wishing you a bless week.

Wanda (2011-03-28 20:32:29)

Hi Wanda... I came over from Beth's blog, and so glad I did.

I am "Wanda" and I share your faith in Jesus Christ, and was blessed by your blog today.

Wanda (2011-03-29 07:27:13)

Hello Wanda nice to meet my namesake and a woman after my own heart.

Carla (2011-03-30 22:53:24)

This is beautiful! It is such a great reminder of how He loves us, warts and all. Thanks for sharing!

Carla

Connie Arnold (2011-04-01 19:44:43)

I am thankful for your post, Wanda. Blessings to you!

Prime Aque (2011-12-29 08:51:57)

One of the best posts I read at the end of this year my friend, now I have the weapon to take for the battle of 2012, thank you so much for this, I am into nurturing my faith so that it will like a strong tree that wont die amidst a long period of drought...

11 Favorite Posts in 2011 | wateredsoul.com (2011-12-31 08:17:17)

[...] I Am – lets us know that whatever I am I can bring to [...]

Susan Wachtel (2011-12-31 16:21:26)

Thank you Wanda for the reminder that I can take all that I am to the great I AM.

Keep it Tied Tight (2011-03-29 07:25)

Behind those crisp pages a new story unfolds. There lies a new truth to be discovered. Big ones, little ones, entertainment ones, or enlightening ones...I am never too far away from a book. Even with all the advances in technology, I still prefer to clutch them in my hands.

Today as I read this passage in Deuteronomy 29:18, So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders, I was reminded of the



importance of ma
my hands.

king THE BOOK the number one book I keep grasped in

His Word was not meant to be tucked away on shelves only to be brought out on special days of the week. The more our hands are found tied to His Word the more seeps down into the crevices of heart. And just when life dishes out something you think you can't handle, the Holy Spirit brings to your remembrance a word...the Word that sustains, comforts, guides or corrects.

May a hunger for His Word be stirred a fresh in each of us today.

Joanne Sher (2011-03-29 07:45:32)

Great image, AND reminder. It needs to be close - to our hands, feet, and heart.

Stuff could always be worse (2011-03-29 07:49:03)

I love this reminder of this verse. We do need to bind it to our hearts, etc.

kim

a sojourner (2011-03-29 08:17:31)

amen!!!

love this post sister:)

quote:

the more(Living Water) seeps down into the crevices of heart.

Wanda...you truly are a Watered soul and your's and His blog is appropriately named!!!

Mystiqua K (2011-03-29 14:24:02)

Wanda your blog is so pretty and refreshing! Amen!

Pat (2011-03-29 16:25:10)

Amen!!! Good word!!

Love ya and your new look.

Rita Garcia (2011-03-29 17:29:46)

Thanks for this beautiful reminder to hunger after His Word!

Thanks for visiting my blog today! Your comment was a blessing to me!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-03-30 06:02:27)

Wanda, the image is such a perfect visual. Thank you for reminding us of the priority of God's word.

Pam (2011-03-30 06:56:11)

Good morning! What a wonderful piece to read for this morning's devotions! I would like to pass on to you the Inspiring Blog Award which you can pick up at <http://astorybookworld.blogspot.com/p/awards.html>.

Your blog is a blessing to me each time I visit. Thank you for following the Spirit's leading and posting your thoughts.

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK for Grandparents and Caregivers (2011-03-30 08:15:16)

Hi Wanda, Wonderful analogy and words of encouragement along with such a great graphic. Thank you for such vital advice. May we always make the Word of God the top priority in our day! :)

Toia (2011-03-30 08:45:51)

And awesome and encouraging word!! It so true that we should not read the Bible on special occasions, but all the time. So when trials come, we can stand on God's Word without wavering or compromising who we are in Christ!!

Blessings to you!!! Happy WFW!! =D

Lisa (2011-03-30 09:29:32)

Wanda, that scripture has been on my heart lately too. We must grasp tightly to God above all else.

I found you through WFW at Internet Cafe. I'm your newest follower.

Many blessings!

lori (2011-03-30 12:53:40)

Wanda! THIS is why I LOVE Deuteronomy...these reminders tucked into God's Word!
THIS inspires me and reminds me! I LOVE this and I LOVE the new look!! SO clean and pretty....springy! ;) Thank you for the blessing that I'm leaving with!

peace,
lori

Alida (2011-03-30 13:34:16)

What a great word! Thank you!

Just Be Real (2011-03-30 18:55:33)

Certainly a convicting reminder Wanda. Blessings to you dear one.

Stefanie Brown (2011-03-30 19:12:08)

This is an amazing Word! Love the picture!

Monica (2011-03-31 13:34:24)

Inspirational post!! Found you from the A-Z Challenge, it sounds like it's going to be so much fun and I can't wait to get started!! I'm now following your blog on GFC and I hope you have a chance to check out my blog and maybe follow me back!!

Monica

<http://oldermommystillyummy.blogspot.com/>

Wanda (2011-03-31 14:58:22)

Thanks for sharing your thoughts. Bud, your comment touch my heart :) Hi Lisa, glad to have you as follower. I look forward to getting to know more about you. Pam thank you for the award. Monica, I'm looking forward to reading your post as we take on the challenge.

Sharon Kirby (2011-03-31 16:42:00)

Amen, Wanda! There have been many days (especially lately) when I literally run to my Bible. It's the only place that calms me down sometimes.

His Word - His peace.

GOD BLESS!

Niki (2011-03-31 18:48:21)

Thanks Wanda, I think I have the link working now :)

[1]Wool'n'Nuts

1. <http://wool-n-nuts.blogspot.com/>

Ella (2011-03-31 21:18:15)

A creative reminder; Great Job Wanda!

Karen (2011-04-01 11:40:24)

Amen! Nothing satisfies that deepest hunger but the Word....

bettyl (2011-04-04 18:57:53)

It's harder these days with so many distractions, but it is so worth getting into the Word.

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-04-10 21:38:06)

When I quench my thirst with the Word of God, nothing else matters.
The answer to every problem is in the Word, we just need to keep digging deeper.
Praise the Lord:)
Thank You Wanda for a great post, still loving your site :)

Dean Spencer (2011-04-17 16:32:04)

Wanda,
I completely agree. We definitely need to keep God's Word close to us at all times!
God bless!
Dean

2.4 April

Angles, Arrows, & Awards (2011-04-01 05:01)



[1]

Copyright (c) [2]123RF Stock Photos

Angles

I remember studying angles in geometry class. Some were narrow, many were wide and others were right angles. Each blogger has their own unique angle. According to Wikipedia the world wide web is infested with with over 156 million public blogs. Now that's a bunch of talking and writing going on. But what determines the right angle for you? Some blogs focus in on a narrow selection of topics, while others have a wide scope. What's your blogging angle? Is it acute or obtuse?

Today, I jump in with more than 500 other bloggers into the triathlon of blogging challenges—the [3]A to Z Challenge. As with any course, each blogger will face it their unique way. Throughout the challenge The Watered Soul's angle will remain narrow in it's focus on sharing inspirational truths I learn as I journey throughout this course of life.

Whether you like to swim around and discover broad topics or prefer the calm waters of a small pond of ideas, you are bound to discover some new blogs through the many participants.

Arrows

As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Psalms 127:4

This passage of scripture came to mind today. I don't have any children and uhhh you can't really call 30's young but I walked away with some fresh insight. An arrow is meant to hit a target and if the one who is shooting the arrow is mighty and/or skillful, He has the ability to reach his goal. Children are fruit that is

produced. A parent's job is to help aim that child in the direction that it should go. Our relationship status or family roles do not exempt us from birthing out or producing something of purpose in our lives. It does not matter if we are birthing blogs, books, poems, art or clothing lines, we have to use the skills we have been given to aim it in the proper direction.

Is there something in your life that needs to be readjusted?

Awards

On another note I'd like to take the opportunity to thank those who have so graciously bestowed awards to this blog.



Thanks to Yvonne for passing along the Friends for the Journey award. [4] it on to Kim of [5]Stuff Could Always Be Worse.

I'm passing



And thanks to Jackie for giving me the Stylish Blogger award awh[6] to pass this one on to JBR of [7]Just Be Real and Sandra of [8]Lion's Share Majesty.

ile ago. I would like



Thanks to Dierdra & Pam for passing along the [9] Inspiring Blog award.

I'm sharing this one with Carole of [10]The Faith Lounge, Sharon of [11]Sharon Sharing God and B. Niles of [12]Wealth of Character.

Hard to believe it has been a year since I dived head first into the last A to Z challenge. Couldn't help taking a peek at my last year's post for the letter A, which was about [13]availability. Sending out cheers to my fellow challengers.

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TZU3VdHEjtI/AAAAAAAAAfU/NJdxpspIPuQ/s1600-h/7637691_s2.jpg
2. <http://www.123rf.com/>
3. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>
4. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TZU3Wv0xvpI/AAAAAAAAAfc/2aeDzJyarhY/s1600-h/Friends%20for%20the%20Journey%20%28Yvonne%203-11%29%5B4%5D.jpg
5. <http://stuffcouldalwaysbeworse.blogspot.com/>
6. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TZU3X8iwk2I/AAAAAAAAAfk/NeTo93Ebc_Q/s1600-h/stylish%20blogger%20award%20from%20Jackie%201-25-11%5B4%5D.jpg
7. <http://justbereall77.blogspot.com/>
8. <http://lioneaglesoar.blogspot.com/>
9. [http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TZU3ad7oYZI/AAAAAAAAAfs/y020_Vvuv6w/s1600-h/inspiringblogaward%20%](http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TZU3ad7oYZI/AAAAAAAAAfs/y020_Vvuv6w/s1600-h/inspiringblogaward%20%20)

283-11%29%5B3%5D.jpg

10. <http://www.thefaithlounge.com/>

11. <http://sharonsharinggod.blogspot.com/>

12. <http://wealthofcharacter.blogspot.com/>

13. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/04/ready-set-go.html>

bendedspoon (2011-04-01 05:53:51)

Congratulations on the awards and you hit A+++ with your post! You made me look back with my geometry – one of the interesting concept of math. Happy A to Z challenge :)

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-01 08:13:57)

Congrats on your awards and for the excellent start to the challenge.

Thanks for the visit, much appreciated.

Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-01 15:09:55)

The awards are deserved!

Math! Geometry! I'm getting a cold sweat just thinking about it...help me, Jesus! Isn't God good? He's given us all the tools to walk the straight path and to make all adjustments. I need all the help I can get!

septembermom (2011-04-01 17:43:08)

Congratulations on your awards. I'm very happy to meet you as a fellow challenge participant. I love your post today. Your reflections on the scripture passage from Psalms is very thoughtful and interesting. Thank you!

Yamini Meduri (2011-04-01 18:59:35)

wow...wonderful start dear..!!!

thanks for stopping by at my Land of Dreams...keep visiting..!!!

Angela Felsted (2011-04-01 19:16:23)

It's nice that everyone has their own unique angles. I admit I enjoy seeing everyone's different perspective.

Sandra Ulbrich Almazan (2011-04-01 19:31:07)

Nice going with the triple A topic!

Ella (2011-04-02 01:43:17)

Congrats on your awards! I love this post the thought of direction, our target Audience(A word) who we Aim to reach. Great post Wanda; So happy you are in for round 2! Pass the cherry coke, will ya?! ;-D diet for me

a sojourner (2011-04-02 04:12:47)

hi sister Wanda:)

figured i'd wait till the crowd cleared out a bit. am sure you will understand. i'm always out of adjustment!

Stuff could always be worse (2011-04-02 04:17:21)

I love your post about angles and bloggers, so true

kim

wow I thank you for the award

Stuff could always be worse (2011-04-02 04:17:26)
I love your post about angles and bloggers, so true
kim
wow I thank you for the award

jabblog (2011-04-02 08:55:55)
Nice post with plenty of food for thought - always a plus in my book:-)

Bury the Excuses (2011-04-02 11:47)

What is that thing you started out with good intentions and enthusiastic zeal? But some where between the start and finish, the excuses began piling up.

I'm too tired.

I'm too busy.

I don't have time.

I need help.

Blah, blah, blah...you know all the excuses you use for just not following through. In order to accomplish our dreams, there just comes a point where you have to be willing to bury all the reasons why you can't and decide that you can and will do what it takes.

He said to another person, "Come, be my disciple." The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father." Jesus replied, "Let those who are spiritually dead care for their own dead. Your duty is to go and preach the coming of the Kingdom of God." Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family." But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."

In Luke 9:59-62, we see two men giving Jesus an excuse that seem reasonable for not immediately keeping their word to follow him. Who would not want to attend their father's funeral or say goodbye to their families before leaving on a journey? But surprisingly He showed no leniency for grief or goodbyes. At first glance His response seems harsh to me but perhaps He took that attitude with them because He could see beyond their logical sounding reasons to the real issue at heart.

I love The Message version of verse 62, which states, Jesus said, "No procrastination. No backward looks. You can't put God's kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day." Will you bury the excuses today and make the most of the gift of this day?

Carole Anne Carr (2011-04-02 12:21:40)
I'll try my best! :0)

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-02 13:24:41)
Yes. This morning, instead of regretting the extra pound, I actually walked a few extra miles. Small achievement in my goal of consistent progress in all things, but at least I did not look back.
Have a blessed day, Wanda.

Wanda (2011-04-02 13:32:17)
That's really all one can do Carole.
Way to go Bluebutterfly. Keep moving.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-02 13:36:28)

A good B post Wanda, I agree it takes longer to think of excuses than put some effort into our dreams.
Yvonne.

septembermom (2011-04-02 13:36:38)

Wow! You gave me a good push to think in a clearer way about where I am right now. Thank you! I'm so happy that I found your blog and count me in as a follower :) Enjoy your day!

Cherie Hill (2011-04-02 13:41:15)

What an AWESOME post Wanda! You've managed to hold a pep rally for my faith!
Blessings!
Cherie

Joanne Sher (2011-04-02 13:42:35)

Oh did i EVER need this reminder. FIRST - no place else will do.

Stuff could always be worse (2011-04-02 14:51:24)

Excuses, we do make them! Yes I will make the most of the day! Thanks
kim

Holly Ruggiero (2011-04-02 14:59:49)

Great advice as we start the weekend!

baygirl32 (2011-04-02 15:06:43)

great advice!
stopping by from the a to z
<http://baygirl32.blogspot.com>

Joan (2011-04-02 22:24:04)

also think that Jesus saw beyond their words...He knew there hearts. They were only offering excuses.
And how many times in my own life have I done the same? Great reminder to put aside the excuses and obey!
Blessings,
Joan

Giggle, Laugh, Cry (2011-04-02 23:13:09)

Just stopped by from the A-Z Challenge!!
gigglelaughcry.blogspot.com

Nf1andprek-whisper (2011-04-03 00:01:44)

i always need some spiritual words.. so I am glad... to find your blog

Penned Pebbles (2011-04-03 01:32:27)

Great B post! One that I needed!! Thank you for stopping by my site. Blessings and happy A2Z!
[1]Penned Pebbles

1. <http://pennedpebbles.wordpress.com/>

Jingle (2011-04-03 02:31:19)

love your B word,
beautiful message on it.

Lorena G. Sims (2011-04-03 05:04:39)
wow this really makes me think..great post!

Melissa Kline (2011-04-03 05:18:22)
Hi Wanda! Beautiful and inspiring blog! Thanks for the lovely comment. :)
Melissa
[1]Reflections on Writing

1. <http://melissakline.blogspot.com/>
Patrina's Pencil (2011-04-03 05:36:00)
Excellent word. I love the way the message put it too. Plain language.

Just Be Real (2011-04-03 09:09:22)
Oh Wanda, this is a good one. With great advice. Thank you always for touching me at the right time with God's word. Blessings.

Laura Pauling (2011-04-03 11:13:18)
Thanks for sharing. Seize the day! In all ways, for God, our family, our writing. Great post!

Manzanita (2011-04-03 12:17:45)
You're so right. We shouldn't look around or a sideways glance.... just do it now. Such timely advice.
Manzanita
Wanna buy a duck

Grammy (2011-04-03 16:17:45)
Yeah, Wanda, No excuses is right. I never make an excuse, I just say, "nope, didn't get it done...too bad!" Ha. Thanks for your visits and support. Love,Ruby

Candyland (2011-04-03 17:22:20)
LOVE this! I actually needed to hear this as I've been procrastinating on some important things lately. Thanks)

Sylvia Ney (2011-04-03 19:11:45)
What a wonderful blog - a true inspiration and testament to the Lord's design. Thank you for sharing.

Jeffrey Beesler (2011-04-04 02:37:12)
I will definitely strive to live each day to the fullest and to seize opportunities as they arise.

bendedspoon (2011-04-04 10:19:53)
I am determined on not making an excuse on why I can't finish this A to Z challenge! Lord please help me :)

Mike (2011-04-04 17:33:31)
Great encouragement! Thank you.
Brings to mind Hebrews 3:15 *As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.*

Choosing to See Chariots (2011-04-04 11:33)

What do you see when faced with problems? Victory or defeat? Do you see it as something that you are passing through or as something that will forever be at your side? We all can quote the victory chant when the end can easily be seen but as the days turn to weeks and weeks turn to months and months to years, there is a tendency to lose the cheer and lose our ability to see change coming.



[1] Reading today's devotional from Streams in the Desert reminded me that it is my choice on how I view the test and trials that come my way. Will I see them as chariots transporting me from places of immaturity to maturity, weakness to strength, indifference to compassion, lameness to mobility? Or will I refuse to confront them and see them only as boulders crushing down upon me keeping me locked in, tied up and shut out?

Can I share with you the portion that caused my mind to go a churning this morning as I read?

Once our eyes are opened by God, we will see all the events of our lives as, whether great or small, joyful or sad, as a "chariot" for our souls. Everything that comes to us becomes a chariot the moment we treat it as such. On the other hand, even the smallest trial may become an object crushing everything in its path into misery and despair if we all it.

The difference then becomes a choice we make. It all depends not on the events themselves but on how we view them. If we simply lie down, allowing them to roll over and crush us, they become an uncontrollable car of destruction. Yet if we climb into them, as riding into a car of victory, they become the chariots of God to triumphantly take us onward and upward. Hannah Whitall Smith

Now I know that life can throw some pretty difficult challenges our way and sometimes for the life of me I can't see anything but doom and gloom. But it is at those times that I can pray, Lord open my eyes that I might see.

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TZmsmg7qFnI/AAAAAAAAAf0/NFAqpUdUdnY/s1600-h/09brandenburg%5B9%5D.jpg

Angela Felsted (2011-04-04 12:26:43)

I like your positive perspective.

Misha (2011-04-04 13:10:04)

I agree with you. It all depends on the perspective we take.

Something that looks like an obstacle could in fact turn out to be an opportunity.

:-)

Karen (2011-04-04 13:13:46)

Timely words of wisdom, Wanda. Thanks and God bless you.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-04 13:15:57)

Wonderful Wanda, it is how we look at situations whether victory or the other is ahead.

Speaking of challenges in life this one is far bigger than anticipated don't you think?

Yvonne.

Joanne Sher (2011-04-04 13:42:18)

LOVE Streams in the Desert - and this morning's devo got me to. Choosing to see the chariots right along with you.

Penned Pebbles (2011-04-04 14:08:07)

Very encouraging C post. Thank you!

[1]Penned Pebbles

1. <http://pennedpebbles.wordpress.com/>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-04 15:10:13)

Glory Hallelujah!! Such an on-time word, which reminds me of some of my meditation from 2 Corinthians 5 this weekend:

4. While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life.

5. God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit.

6. So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord.

7. For we live by believing and not by seeing...

16. So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know Him now!

17. This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Lisa (2011-04-04 17:56:32)

Amen! I want to keep my focus on God and see things through His eyes. Nothing is too big for Him.

Ella (2011-04-04 19:24:10)

Beautiful Wanda! Now pass me some cherry coke(C'mon it give me a bit of courage) No, really this is a wonderful post. Some of the challenges I'm having right now, make me feel mowed over. You give me insight to remember the grass will grow and I need to tend to it! Thank you @>—

Tundiel (2011-04-04 20:36:12)

Very positive 'c' post! And yes, we definitely need to look at things from as many angles as possible.

Thanks for visiting my blog!

Grammy (2011-04-04 21:29:12)

Dear Wanda,

What does not slay us, makes us stronger. God is ever here, to give us support and help us over the rough times, and to give us blessings even when we don't see them. Thank you for the uplifting post.

Ruby

Lorena G. Sims (2011-04-04 21:45:47)

What an encouraging post Wanda! It is indeed that God gave us freedom to choose. It is up for us to choose on how to deal with things that comes our way. God is always with us, just have faith and trust him. Thanks for a wonderful post.

Pam (2011-04-04 22:16:42)

Beautiful, Wanda. This is a message we all need to tuck inside our hearts for those days (weeks, months, years) of trial. Thank you so much!

Wanda (2011-04-05 02:20:18)

Appreciate the thoughts you shared. Ella, there's a cherry coke waiting for you dear.

Sharon Kirby (2011-04-05 03:11:47)

Great word, Wanda!

I was reminded of these verses in 1 Kings 6:

"Then Elisha prayed, 'O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!' The LORD opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire."

The secret is looking UP!!

GOD BLESS!

M (2011-04-05 10:36:17)

I love the title and the message that follows.

Giggle, Laugh, Cry (2011-04-05 11:54:22)

Thanks for stopping by my blog!

gigglelaughcry.blogspot.com

Karen Walker (2011-04-05 15:39:02)

Amen, Wanda.

Karen

Stuff could always be worse (2011-04-06 01:55:46)

The challenges will come so we need to keep this attitude

Elizabeth West (2011-04-07 01:29:53)

I wish I could be as positive as you. I'm usually positive that God is really ticked off at me for something. If only I knew what it was, I could fix it and we could just dump the crap and MOVE ON. LOL!

He's Into the Details (2011-04-05 23:32)



[1]

After a long day of work I'm drained but I dare not bow out of the A to Z Challenge this early. Thus I am keeping it simple and sharing a scripture that encourages me on days like this.

Psalms 37:23 The steps of the godly are directed by the LORD. He delights in every detail of their lives. (NLT)

It is awesome when you think about it. The God who holds the universe together is concerned about the details of my life. No matter to trivial to Him. I'm His daughter.

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TZumcqtWfQI/AAAAAAAAAf8/606vEUE3JAK/s1600-h/details%5B4%5D.jpg

a sojourner (2011-04-06 00:12:33)

hi Wanda...

simple but SOOOO meaningful:)

Alison Miller (2011-04-06 01:04:49)

I love your post. It's amazingly awesome that our God is concerned about each and every one of us.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts.

New follower from A-Z - nice to meet you!

BARBIE (2011-04-06 01:15:08)

There is so much beauty in simplicity.

I nearly forgot about my post. Off to figure out what I will write about!

Stuff could always be worse (2011-04-06 01:51:46)

Thanks for that scripture! It is encouraging to be reminded on our busy days....and every day

kim

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-06 11:47:19)

This was wonderful to read Wanda, very simple but so very true, Thanks,
Yvonne.

Chelle (2011-04-06 12:20:49)

And sometimes, simple is best and absolutely stunning.

Margo Kelly (2011-04-06 14:30:24)

Great post! I'm a new follower from the A-Z challenge. Nice to meet you! :)

Wanda (2011-04-06 14:52:01)

Hi Margo and Allison pleasure to have you guys join in. I look forward to reading more from you. Best wishes in the challenge.

Sojourner, thxs...it means the world that He's concerned about all the little things.

Barbie, Kim, Yvonne, Chelle, thank you

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-06 17:06:50)

Everything about us, everything that concerns us, matters to Him. I am so thankful that He cares about all the details.

Peggy (mazmagi) (2011-04-06 18:47:59)

Thank You Lord for DELIGHTing in the DETAILS of our lives! Energize Wanda after her DRAINing Day of dreaded work and DIRECT her steps with DREAMS and more DELIGHT! This makes a lovely WFW though I think the A-Z challenge is the "E" one and so I Exalt You with the "D"s of Dreams and Delights that You have given us and walk Wanda through all the A-Z challenge, entering and exiting through her EXODUS with You!

Bless Wanda and give her some REST!

Peggy (over at [1]The Power of Your Love for WFW)

1. <http://www.thepowerofyourlove.blogspot.com/2011/04/wfw-redemption.html>

PatriciaW (2011-04-06 21:26:44)

It's good to remember He's a detail-oriented God who sees the big picture too. Nice post.

lioneagle (2011-04-07 13:20:36)

Hi Wanda -

Thank you

Oh! Hallelujah. That is music to the spiritual ears.

Especially, I love that you said,

"No matter to trivial to Him. I'm His daughter."

Those words started a heart melt in me.

Glory to His love abundant name!

Penned Pebbles (2011-04-07 17:45:17)

Beautiful post!

Entries & Exits (2011-04-06 14:47)

The letter of the day is E. Not a lot of E-words come to mind other than eyes, emotion, exude, emote, and excel. Rather than use any of those I have decided to focus on the e's that keep coming up in my

reading-entry and exit.

As the Israelites were traversing from Egypt in route to the place of promise, several warnings were issued about how to act when they finally entered the land. In summary, they were advised of three key areas:

1. Obedience
2. Temptation to Compromise
3. Keeping First Things First

Failure in these areas meant the difference in them just entering but only passing through and then entering in and being established. Are these not the exact challenges we each encounter today when faced with the opportunity to enter and occupy new places in our lives? Does not matter if the new place is a relationship, career, ministry endeavor, or hobby. We will have to fight tendencies to want to do things our own way rather than obey God's voice. If we do not stay alert, areas of compromise will creep in. Seeing how others do it will have us venturing off the path set out for us. And, the busyness, pleasure, and perks of the good place can squeeze out our time for the one who made it all possible.

Entering into a place by nature means we are exiting out of another. Some places I have exited with regret and others with enthusiasm. Just as some places in life I have entered feeling elated but others with a bit of mixed emotions. Regardless of the emotions, I don't want to be forced to exit the places of promise prematurely because I failed to keep the proper balance.

Andrea (2011-04-06 15:17:02)

Oh my..this speaks to my heart! Thank you!! I need to keep the proper balance!

Hugs,
andrea

Lisa (2011-04-06 15:52:52)

I want to enter and exit as directed by God, not me. God's will and not mine.

KarenG (2011-04-06 16:07:42)

This is really interesting and thought-provoking! I had never thought about exits and entrances in this way, thanks for a great post and a word!

Sarah Allen (2011-04-06 17:03:25)

This is so great :) I especially need #3. I am so one track minded, its hard to keep all of those tracks in the right order. Thanks for the inspiration!

[1]Sarah Allen
(my creative writing blog)

1. <http://fromsarahwithjoy.blogspot.com/>

Lorena G. Sims (2011-04-06 17:55:33)

This is such an encouraging words for me. Exiting is the new entering. Yes, we need to be alert all the time! Thank you Wanda.

Ella (2011-04-06 19:10:51)

Wonderful and so on target of my life lately. I don't which doorway to enter next! Thank you Wanda, some how your thoughts always link to something happening in my life! xXx

elisa.lu (2011-04-06 20:04:46)

I have been thinking about keeping my balance this week too. It's funny how the longer I walk with God the more I realize that I know less about Him than I think. There is so much more to discover.

nutschell (2011-04-06 21:33:10)

new follower here!what a fresh way of looking at something we encounter mindlessly everyday. entrances and exits indeed! thanks for sharing.

Nutschell

www.thewritingnut.com

bendedspoon (2011-04-07 05:01:57)

Thank you so much for the Enightenment :)

Penned Pebbles (2011-04-07 17:46:49)

Very timely and encouraging post! Blessings!

Focus (2011-04-07 05:01)



[1]

What do you give the most focus? Wikipedia defines focus as selectively concentrating on one aspect of the environment while ignoring other things. When we spend most of our time tuned into what is wrong in the world, we easily miss all the good things that surrounds us every day.

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TZ0o-pc_oVI/AAAAAAAAAgE/w8s7yJnGKvw/s1600-h/focus%5B9%5D.jpg

BARBIE (2011-04-07 06:53:31)

So true! I wish I could say Christ was my one and only focus. Oh how easily I get distracted.

Karen (2011-04-07 12:58:39)

I agree...so very true! Help me, Lord, to stay focused on You...

lioneagle (2011-04-07 13:17:16)

Hi Wanda -

How interesting that you have the topic FOCUS. I just finished reading on another blog the words, "Focus, Focus,

Focus.”

Your words here are so important to keep in mind. GOD is the SOURCE - all else is resource material. Truly, we need to keep that truth in focus.

GOD FIRST - all else after...

Matthew 6:33 - KJV

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Thank you, dear friend, for sharing this rich FOCUS message.

Nflandprek-whisper (2011-04-07 14:37:23)

i am your newest follower.. and I found you again... with the surprise button.. I love this idea.. focus.. I have adhd.. so I tent to focus on so many different things, blog, my new buisness, my son... crafts.. etc.. but right now.. it's on exercise.. eating write.. and consistency..

Lisa (2011-04-07 16:34:09)

I want to keep my focus on God, not this world. Only He can truly satisfy.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-07 17:15:35)

As a photography junkie, "focus" got my attention. I've taken lots of photos of weeds over the years, and have come to realize that when I really focus and get that shot, most are really pretty and no longer look to me like something to be rooted out of the garden as useless.

Penned Pebbles (2011-04-07 17:48:49)

I hope to stay tuned in on all that is right about God's truth, grace, faithfulness, and sovereignty! Blessings!

Bz (2011-04-07 19:45:30)

It's so important to be here in the moment, and never take anything for granted!

Nice to meet you through the A-Z challenge!

Tyrean Martinson (2011-04-07 23:58:38)

Great thought - and on that note, I'm off my PC to experience real life again.

Thanks!

Blessings!

<http://tyreanswritingspot.blogspot.com/>

Ella (2011-04-08 00:28:02)

Damn it, that is what is wrong with me! Thanks, I have been obsessive about an issue lately. I need to let it go; Thanks for the reminder

Pam (2011-04-08 10:35:55)

Amen, Wanda! Thanks for verbalizing my thoughts.

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-04-11 03:31:13)

I was delighted to read this post, Wanda, as the word focus has been popping up in many areas of my life lately, therefore I know the Lord is telling me something.

Even as I write this comment, I am looking at the little post it notes on my PC monitor that remind me that 'What you focus on expands' and 'Stay focused on your current task'.

With so much happening around us, it is so easy for the things of the world, to crowd out the still small voice of our Heavenly Father.

Be blessed, Carole

How does your garden grow? (2011-04-08 13:17)



[1] Have you notice how easy it is to gripe rather than express gratitude? As I read The Message version of Colossians 3:15 (Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness.) one day, I kept been drawn to the word cultivate. It made be think of gardening and how one has to work hard at breaking up the ground before planting seeds. But the work of gardening doesn't just stop when the seeds are sown but it requires continuous care to keep the weeds from snuffing out the life of the good plants.

Thinking about gardening brings up memories of my grandmother, she meticulously tended and groomed her garden and kept her grounds free of leaves. I often wondered why she was so obsessed with raking the leaves. Back then it seemed like she was out picking up leaves daily even when you could easily count just 5 or 6 leaves floating around. Persistent and consistent in her watch of the landscape, she did not allow the weeds or leaves to overtake her ground.

Like my grandmother or Big Mama as we called her, I need to be ever on the look out for things that would come to smother out gratitude in my life. It does not take much effort to think of something to complain about but I have to work at seeing the good and expresses thanks for it. Rather easy to take a peek at another person's garden and get excited about the glitz and glam of their fruit but when is the last time you have examined the good fruit of your ground? Romans 12:6b says, in his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. Have you thought about that [2]grace? I always thought of grace from the perspective of underserved mercy and salvation and that certainly defines grace. But His grace also equips me with certain gifting. Can I be honest for a moment? I am guilty of looking at the gift of others and sizing myself up as coming up short. I so wish I had the gift of gab (as I call it) like my mom or the gift of encouragement like my sister but I was not graced with it. So I can either gripe about it while neglecting my own [3]gifts or I can get about the business of cheering them on while cultivating my gifts.

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TZ8K117uInI/AAAAAAAAAgM/ZL1u0nuZ7hQ/s1600-h/cohdraNKNgardntools5%5B6%5D.jpg
2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/01/broken-but-useable.html>
3. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/07/lost-found.html>

Stuff could always be worse (2011-04-08 15:36:20)

It is work to keep the weeds out. I called some of my grandparents Big Mama and Big Daddy too.
kim

ps. It is worth the work

Joanne Sher (2011-04-08 15:46:22)
Great reminder, Wanda. Gotta be vigilant!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-08 16:14:58)
A wonderful post Wanda, it was refreshing to read.
Yvonne,

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-08 16:38:52)
The gift of grace is such a wonderful blessing, and so important to growing and grooming life's garden. My dad was much like your grandma. I never really understood why he put so much work into his gardens until I got old enough to understand what happens when a garden was planted and left to run wild. I realized that good intention in planting was not enough. It required work, work and more work...constantly.

Lisa (2011-04-08 18:36:17)
We are all parts of the body. God made each of us different and gave us different gifts. We need to make sure we are using those gifts instead of focusing on others gifts.
Have a blessed weekend, Wanda!

Matthew Vanacore (2011-04-08 20:32:05)
Interesting post. I'm not one to garden, but I appreciate nature and its natural beauty.
And nice blog!

Sharon Kirby (2011-04-08 23:24:17)
Wanda - what a great word! Yes, I have been guilty of checking out other people's gardens, and being envious of them. And then, looking at mine, and getting very discouraged. I am not proud of that - but just being honest. However, if I'm looking at other gardens, I'm probably not tending to mine, you know?? Yes, your advice is perfect. Cheer on our brothers and sisters, thank God for His grace - and ask Him to help us grow as much as possible in our own garden!
GOD BLESS!

Penned Pebbles (2011-04-09 04:28:16)
Wonderful post! I like working in the garden. I even like pulling weeds! I'm strange like that. :-) And you're so right, we need to check our own fruit and pull our weeds. The master gardener will help, and He will even prune! Blessings!

lioneagle (2011-04-14 04:01:20)
Hi Wanda -
Wow! Imagine my surprise when I came here tonight and noticed your topic's title.
Just yesterday I did a post titled, "HOW DOES OUR GARDEN GROW?" We have a one word difference in our titles. I wonder what our Lord is doing with this garden message...?

The How(s) (2011-04-09 12:58)

How?

I must have asked the question a million times or more
How could it be? How is it that it didn't work for me?

I read your Word loaded with promises.

So many good things you promise

But my eyes do not see.

The clock keeps ticking away and it seems there is absolutely no way.

Shattered pieces, disappointment, broken trust fills my days.

Staring at my reality the chasm between the two seems to grow larger day after day.

I have got my eyes looking at the wrong places and faces.

The how doesn't matter; it's the who that makes all the difference

Because you are who you say, I can throw away all the questions of how.

Not how but the question is who am looking unto?

When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer. Psalm 94:19NLT

For surely you have a future ahead of you; your hope will not be disappointed. Proverbs 23:18 NLT

Nf1andprek-whisper (2011-04-09 13:18:32)

I did an H poem.. too.. and I did not use the word HOW... I can't believe i missed that.

Joanne Sher (2011-04-09 13:29:01)

This is great - and thought-provoking. Thanks, Wanda.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-09 14:15:24)

I agree this is very thought provoking , a very good post.

Yvonne.

Anne K. Albert (2011-04-09 14:39:31)

So glad I found your post, Wanda. Wondering HOW I missed it, actually! ;)

Pam (2011-04-09 15:18:59)

Wanda, I so appreciate how in tune with Scripture you are and that you share it with the rest of us. This post reminds me of Jeremiah 29:11 "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

Kimberly (2011-04-09 17:11:05)

What a lovely post. Thank you for sharing it.

Bernadine (2011-04-09 18:07:34)

Lovely post Wanda. Just today I was asking some of the same "how" questions. Reading your post today has given me a different perspective. Thanks for sharing.

Dawn M. Hamsher (2011-04-09 20:24:14)

Wanda, Thank you for posting this today. I needed it.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-04-09 21:20:52)

The How's is always with us, but I like your 'Who' is what matters!

Charmaine Clancy (2011-04-10 00:13:39)

Very sweet poem :)

[1]Wagging Tales - Blog for Writers

1. <http://clancytales.blogspot.com/>

a sojourner (2011-04-10 01:29:37)

yeah, i'm often thinking/worrying about the "how" instead of remembering the Whom. thank you for the encouragement that's always found here, sister Wanda:)

Penned Pebbles (2011-04-10 02:32:53)

"The how doesn't matter; it's the who that makes all the difference" I just have to Amen that! :-)

damyantiwrites (2011-04-10 02:39:25)

Thanks for a very thought-provoking post...it is not the how but the who.

Pat (2011-04-10 04:21:44)

Praise God!!! We are all going through very hard and difficult trials,thank God for understanding and keeping us when it seems as if our trust in him is going no where. But God will see us through and carry us to his desired place Amen. Very good poem.

BARBIE (2011-04-10 07:26:25)

This is a wonderful post! Thank you for blessing me today. I am behind on my A-Z challenge but a couple. Hope to catch up tomorrow!

Theresa Wiza (2011-04-10 18:08:07)

I like the gentleness of your words. Nice flow to them, and even nicer message. If you would like to read my latest post for the A-Z Challenge, just click <http://myheartblogstoyou.blogspot.com/> and look at the top blog.

Lynda R Young (2011-04-10 23:30:41)

Beautiful! I love this :)

Wanda (2011-04-11 03:01:34)

Hi guys, the A-Z posting is proving itself to be a real challenge for me. I appreciate your visits and lovely comments. May your eyes continue to watch God no matter the circumstances you face. Have a blessed week.

doreen (2011-04-11 04:58:50)

I used Heaven for H. I thought your post was quite thought provoking and I have really tried to stop the hows...it is tough!

Judy (2011-04-11 11:39:11)

Hi Wanda,

I often ask these questions as well. But I know the Lord is with me despite the dark, dreary times. He doesn't always answer the way I want him to in that moment but he answers in his unique way that often brings me delight. I write about this in my latest blog post. God delighted me this past week.

Blessings,

Judy

Interruptions or Invitations? (2011-04-11 11:51)



[1] The A-Z challenge resumes with the letter I today. Today I tackle the word interruptions. I'm not one to operate from a written to-do list but on most days I have a mental idea of what things I hope to accomplish. Yet its rare to have a day without some form of interruption. Sometimes it's a just a simple question someone needs to ask or an unexpected thing that needs to be added to the already burgeoning mental list. At times the interruption comes in the form of a slow moving car, road blocks, or unexpected visitors. Depending upon the way you look at them, interruptions can be set-backs or set-ups.

My mind goes back to various ones throughout the Bible whose ordinary lives were interrupted by the divine.

Mary's marriage was interrupted by an unplanned pregnancy that led to her birthing out the Savior of the world.

Rebekah's daily task of fetching water was interrupted by a servant on a mission. Which led to her being married.

Zacharias' service in the temple was interrupted by the appearance of angel bringing good news.

Saul's reign of terror was interrupted on the road to Damascus.

The woman at the well search for water was interrupted by the living water Himself.

Each of them no doubt had their own agenda that day. Perhaps expecting only to do what they always did but in the midst of their ordinary plans a life altering interruption occurred. At times the cleverly robed interruption is not really a nuisance but an invitation to a life beyond the confines of your own imagination.

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/TaLrdLYFY1I/AAAAAAAAAgU/X4RLNeFjcis/s1600-h/PB270194%5B6%5D.jpg

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-11 12:03:00)
Most Impressive Wanda. most enjoyable,
Yvonne.

Belbin9 (2011-04-11 13:04:02)
Well said

Nflandprek-whisper (2011-04-11 13:17:11)

You have me intrigued to read the bible.. again... and soon.

Andrea (2011-04-11 14:03:14)

I am trying desperately to seek GOD agenda and NOT mine! Thanks for an awesome reminder.

Blessings,

andrea

doreen (2011-04-11 14:42:09)

I am trying to enjoy interruptions as I believe they have been placed in our way for good reason.

Great examples!

Trudy (2011-04-11 15:05:19)

Hi Wanda! What a beautiful, though-provoking post for us today. When we look at the 'interruptions' you bring us from the Bible, they don't appear all that unpleasant at all, do they? I hope this will help me pause to seek God in all of the interruptions of my day, to ask what He has in them for me!

God's blessings to you today!!

Trudy

Joanne Sher (2011-04-11 15:15:48)

Oh yes - interruptions can often be appointments with God. Love this post.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-04-11 15:53:05)

I agree with interruptions, they can be good or bad?? Thoughtful

Lisa (2011-04-11 16:27:10)

Great illustrations of God interrupting our plans. I just did a post on new eyes. I want eyes that see these interruptions as invitations from God.

nutschell (2011-04-11 17:46:46)

Thought provoking, as usual. You make me stop and think and that's one of the things i love about your blog. :)

nutschell

www.thewritingnut.com

Lorena G. Sims (2011-04-11 19:05:44)

Love it Wanda! Think positively. When interruption comes, there's always a reason, and yes it may be an invitation. Great post!

Ella (2011-04-11 19:08:41)

Lovely way to view the world; though sometimes I'll admit it is difficult to see the good! But I'll try ;-D

Lynda R Young (2011-04-11 21:14:29)

This is great! And yes, it makes life easier if we view interruptions as opportunities or, as you say, set ups.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-11 21:19:30)

Yes, Lord.

Angel (2011-04-11 21:46:49)

Great post Wanda! Thank you for reminding me that an interruption could actually be an invitation to something

better than my own plans, "a life beyond the confines of my own imagination".

a sojourner (2011-04-11 23:50:19)

you surely were creative on this one! these were Wonderful interruptions, weren't they?:)e

Lisa (2011-04-12 00:15:55)

Wanda,

I LOVE this post--what a gentle and graceful reminder to be open to what God has in store for us... not my way, Thy way!

Grace be with you,

Lisa

Penned Pebbles (2011-04-12 00:16:27)

Great I post! Interruptions can be irksome or inspiring. :-)

Hold my hand: a social worker's blog (2011-04-12 00:27:25)

Definitely a thought-provoking post.

Doris

Gregg (2011-04-12 00:37:38)

Excellent post! Great point or principle to think about.

Gregg Metcalf

Colossians 1:28-29

[1]Gospel-driven Disciples

1. <http://gospeldrivendisciples.blogspot.com/>

Angela Felsted (2011-04-12 12:47:54)

I like your perspective!

lioneagle (2011-04-14 04:03:33)

Hi Wanda -

Very interesting...

Your wise words give cause to ponder...

Thank you for the brain exercise.

J is for Juice (2011-04-13 00:04)

Nothing quite like cup of OJ in the morning. And for me there is only one particular brand of juice I purchase. Despite its cost I'm willing to pay extra because it suits my taste. But sometimes it's inevitable



the juice runs out.[1]

Just as the OJ runs out so does my creative juices at times. How do you keep your juices flowing?

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TaTo1M7Tm-I/AAAAAAAAAgc/n6Pe-90tjZs/s1600-h/Juice3.jpg

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-13 08:23:44)

Love the way you put over the message. Wonderful.

Yvonne.

Joanne Sher (2011-04-13 13:42:58)

Hehe - LOVE it.

Switching to another project helps sometimes. I've also found that a change of "medium" will often get the juices flowing. Switching to longhand, for instance. I've even occasionally "said" what I was wanting to write.

Great question!

Lorena G. Sims (2011-04-13 19:04:03)

I love how you incorporate the two together. Great post!

a sojourner (2011-04-14 01:27:13)

hi sister:)

OJ-original-high pulp!!!

it's pricey but we love it! i can't get enough of it.

Wanda (2011-04-15 01:02:55)

Thanks Yvonne & Lorena. Joanne those are some good suggestions. I'll have to give them a try when the juices are ebbing. Sojourner, no pulp for me ;)

Mike (2011-04-16 08:51:29)

Taking time out and giving my body rest always helps inspiration to start flowing again! Blessings :)

The Danger of Knowledge (2011-04-13 11:24)

1 Corinthians 8:1b Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.



[1]

No one really likes a know it all. Acquiring knowledge is important but we must be watchful of how we use it. How are you using what you know? Does it make you feel superior to others or are you sharing it love?

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TaWH5LcsQbI/AAAAAAAAAgk/7pJm7taAxZE/s1600-h/Knowledge%5B4%5D.png

Joanne Sher (2011-04-13 12:48:01)

SO true. When we trust in what we know, it can be a mess. But GOD's love makes the biggest difference.

Chelle (2011-04-13 13:09:27)

Great post. Knowing is one thing, and important, but believing and living it out are totally different. :)

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-04-13 14:48:30)

I love these thoughts of knowledge!

Lisa (2011-04-13 15:15:04)

This kind of goes along with what has been on my heart and mind lately. Am I confident in my strength, what I know, or am I confident in God's strength? I don't want to be puffed up - just filled up with God.

Stefanie Brown (2011-04-13 15:40:27)

What a great word this morning! The pictures sure enhances your thoughts.

Here's my submission for today:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/upliftingwordsonline/5613581169/>

Wanda (2011-04-13 17:46:29)

Stephanie, your submission is beautiful. Love the calming sea.

Lisa, I think we all have to stop an examine ourselves to see what we are really full of.

Thank you Kim.

Oh so true, Chelle & Joanne!

Susan (2011-04-13 17:57:38)

Love this verse, and oh my, what an incredible picture!!

Love it...

Blessings?

Lorena G. Sims (2011-04-13 18:56:05)

Such a wonderful post. I'll be thinking about it and reexamine myself.

Prayer Partners Around the World (PPATW) (2011-04-13 19:34:12)

we must not be just hearers but also doers of the WORD..

Jerri (2011-04-13 20:46:26)
Any truth comes from love, I believe.

Judy (2011-04-13 21:14:51)
Amen...as Paul wrote, the most important of these is love.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-13 21:26:30)
Without the knowledge AND wisdom which comes from above, we are likely to get tripped up on what we think we know. I was listening to a gentleman on TV explain how smart people end up losing and one of the things he said was that they get to the point where they know so much that they become impatient with those who may not be as smart and they withdraw from sharing what they know or engaging in conversation which could lead to an exchange that helps all who are involved.
May we never get to smart for our own good.

bettyl (2011-04-13 22:04:51)
Amen!

Alida (2011-04-13 23:31:39)
Amen and Amen!

Karen (2011-04-13 23:45:22)
Oh, add an amen from me, too...and great graphic for this scripture...

Ella (2011-04-14 01:42:57)
Great point; I think sometimes we do get peacock proud. I recently had an encounter with a preening one. It made me ugly. She thought she was better; she isn't. It just isn't my time, yet... It is hard sometimes, but we must be respectful! @>—

Cathy (2011-04-14 04:23:52)
A neat WFW, thank you. Blessings

Left Behind (2011-04-14 05:00)

Death is not something I think about often. But I do place my hope in an eternal home with my Lord and Savior. Have you given much thought to what type of legacy you hope to leave behind?

I took a 30 day course(well I started it but didn't actually finish it) on journaling by Joseph Peck and the quote he gave from Jim Rohn led me to think about legacy in all new way. According to Rohn, you have three key treasures to leave the next generation:

- your journal-write out the ideas, inspirations, and revelations you have picked up on your life journey
- your library-pass on the books that were instrumental in shaping your life
- your photos- take the time to capture the moments of your life.

Are you incorporating each of these areas as part of your legacy? If you had to pick your top books to leave behind as a part of your legacy which would you pick?

MTJ (2011-04-14 07:04:16)

Hi Wanda,

How are you my friend? I'm unfamiliar with both Joseph Peck and Jim Rohn, but those are interesting treasures to leave to the generation that follows.

I suppose my blog is a type of digital journal that chronicles my evolution as a Christian. Through it, I am learning to peer into the reflection of my life in God's eyes and see the man I've been, the man I am, and the man I am to become.

I will need to create a list of books which have always called me to read them once more. For the past 16 months, I have read and studied the scriptures daily. It would be nice to brag and say how much I've learned, but the truth is that I've learned how little I really know.

I wish that I had more of a visual record of my life. Photographs were not part of my life growing up and I subsequently placed little importance on it; *to my regret*.

If you had to pick your top books to leave behind as a part of your legacy which would you pick? **This is such a good question Wanda.** It's one I have difficulty answering because there are so many books which have been influential in my life. Books by James Baldwin, John A. Williams, Herman Hesse, Ed Cole (*Maximized Manhood*). I been encouraged by Christian brothers to read Watchman Nee, Norman Grub, Billy Graham (*The Holy Spirit*), and Gary Smalley & John Trent (*The Language of Love*). These books are now part of my library and I hope to God that I finish them all so that I may encourage the next generation to read them.

I like this concept of having a legacy.

Blessings and peace.

[1]MTJ

1. <http://mythought-filledjourney.blogspot.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-14 08:50:13)

This may sound silly but the legacy I would leave behind is my own book as it;s mostly about my family and friends and it would be nice to have them remembered,

But I don't like to dwell on the subject of death....I know it happens to us all but at my age I don't like thinking of it. Yvonne.

Just Be Real (2011-04-14 09:16:11)

The stuff I leave behind, I think only the Lord will understand. Blessings to you Wanda. Like this post. Made me think.

Chelle (2011-04-14 12:14:41)

One of my life's mentors was mentored by Jim Rohn. Sweet. I love what he says. Thankfully, the blog serves as a great journal, we have books overflowing from our shelves, and my family calls me the paparazzi. :)

Angela Felsted (2011-04-14 12:29:17)

What book would I leave behind? That is a really hard question. Maybe my journal. It isn't nearly as fun to read as fiction, but it's real life.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-04-14 13:18:22)

I kinda use my blog as a journal. I know I should do more but?? My legacy??

Ella (2011-04-14 13:59:07)

These are 3 of my favorite things

Thanks Wanda, this was really lovely!

xXx

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-14 16:46:34)

I've got journals, my library (including my first, now worn, copies of Far From The Madding Crowd and Jane Eyre) and more photos than I can count. Very interesting question. All three of those things have to do with what our words and our vision. After my Aunt a/k/a mom died a few years ago, I realized that she had left me words and a vision. These were things that could never be taken away.

Karen Walker (2011-04-14 16:47:00)

Oh, that's a hard question. Little Women would definitely be among them, though.

Karen

Wanda (2011-04-14 23:14:02)

Hi MTJ, our blogs definitely stand as record of our journeys through life. Oh hope to become more intentional about the things I choose to leave behind.

For sure **Yvonne** your book will leave a reach collection of memories.

JBR sure ultimately only God understand our full thoughts but your writings will give future generations insights about you they may never would have gotten otherwise.

Chelle the material I have read of Rohn's has been very good. I can only imagine the insight gain from one on one mentorship by him.

Angela real life is even better than make believe.

Kim it's something to think about.

Thanks **Ella**!

Bluebutterfly what a treasure she left you.

Karen narrowing it down would be hard for me as well.

Belbin9 (2011-04-15 03:14:49)

Such an awesome post. I have been thinking about what I'm leaving behind and what everyone in general is leaving behind and sometimes I don't like what I see. But these treasures are something I have to try out.

Thank you

Arlee Bird (2011-04-15 04:58:08)

I do think about this and the material things that I leave behind are secondary to the memories of those who knew me and whatever good will I've shown to others.

I should keep a journal but I've not for the most part.

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

*The Old Geezer (2011-04-15 17:11:54)

What book would I leave behind?

My marked up Bible.

Penned Pebbles (2011-04-15 17:56:45)

I like all three and God willing will leave all three plus my bible(s)!

sarah (2011-04-15 18:46:19)

writers that made a difference...Maya Angelou...Eli Wiesel....Anne Lamotte.

M is for Meeting (2011-04-16 00:38)

The A-Z challenge marches on and with the little bit of strength I can muster after attending mandatory meetings the past three days, I type this post. I would like to mention a blog that's always full of meaning and it just happens to start with the letter of the day. If you have an extra minute check out [1]Meet Me in the Meadow. With that being said I'll meet you in the morning (hopefully) for the letter N. Have a marvelous weekend.

1. <http://roy.dayspring.com/>

Ella (2011-04-16 02:22:08)

I hope you do, too xXx

Cre8tiv Glory (2011-04-16 03:59:58)

I can really relate=)

Gloria

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-04-16 14:35:52)

How tough it is to be in meetings that long, hope it is over....

Judy (2011-04-16 21:40:05)

Thanks Wanda for sharing Meet Me in the Meadow. What an awesome blog. I pray God will enable you to rest and regroup.

Blessings,

Judy

Wanda (2011-04-17 01:29:43)

I've yet to do an "n" post Ellie. Hi Gloria, nice to meet you.

Thanks Kim, yes they are over. Had a busy Saturday though. Hope you're enjoying your weekend.

Judy, I'm glad you enjoyed Meet Me in the Meadow.

Joanne (2011-04-17 01:43:47)

Thanks for the link. I will check it out. Blessings,Joanne

Could Never Really Be True? (2011-04-17 03:12)

I remember back in elementary school the teachers gave us a tip to help us identify the correct answer when faced with multiple choices. The rule of thumb was that you can eliminate answers containing [1]never and always because there were rarely cases that this would be true.

I grew up hearing [2]never say never and I can say that I found myself doing or saying some things I thought I would never do or say. Heard people say they would [3]never leave, never betray, never stop loving only to have never arrive so soon. Despite their or my own lack of ability to live up to the never(s) we honestly wish never to do, there is one that speaks never and His word holds true.

But the LORD's plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken. Psalms 33:11 (NLT)

For the LORD loves justice, and he will never [4]abandon the godly. He will keep them safe forever, but the children of the wicked will perish. Psalm 37:28(NLT)

1. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/04/never-say-never.html>

2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/02/never-forsaken.html>

3. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/02/never-forsaken-part-2.html>
4. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/07/nobody-likes-me.html>

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-17 08:00:34)
Food for thought here Wanda written in your own special way.
Have a peaceful Sunday.
Yvonne.

Joanne Sher (2011-04-17 12:56:37)
So true - thanks Wanda.

Bernadine (2011-04-17 16:49:19)
Love those two verses from Psalms Wanda. Thanks for sharing.

Karen (2011-04-17 18:24:20)
Great point! Only God can say never and always and mean it! Have a blessed week!

Pam (2011-04-17 19:13:50)
Thank you, Wanda, for the reassurance of absolute certainty in the midst of unreliable times.

Sharon Kirby (2011-04-17 20:58:00)
Yes, the absolutely holy and true promises of God's always and never.
He will never leave us or forsake us.
He will always be with us, even to the end of the age.
Glorious truth - glorious love!
GOD BLESS you on this wonder-full Palm Sunday!

Lisa (2011-04-17 23:16:35)
So thankful that God's never and forever are true. What He says cannot be undone. Amen!

Wanda (2011-04-18 02:43:41)
Hope you each enjoyed a wonderful sabbath.

LisaShaw (2011-04-18 12:49:30)
On point Wanda.
Reminds me of what Paul said in Romans 7:18-21. This passage ministered to me especially in my Teens into mid-twenties when I most had the I'll never do this; I'd never do that attitude and then found myself doing and saying even more things that was not GOD's will for my life. This passage helped me greatly and still does.
Love you!

a sojourner (2011-04-18 18:20:57)
hi Wanda, i too, use to say/use the word "never" often and more often then not....ended up eating my words. like the way you use your wisdom in bringing His message to your readers:)

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-18 19:25:42)
Amen! I wish more people would hold on to His forever promises than let temporary human fumbles bury them. I'm thinking of a friend who just can't seem to understand why her husband has decided he no longer wishes to be part of her life. I am praying that she comes to grip with the fact that there is nothing any person can do that will change who God is in our lives.

Opportunity Knocks (2011-04-18 05:01)

Did you wake up this morning? Are you able to read this post? (Guess so huh) With the rising of the day came a brand new [1]opportunity. Doesn't matter if you are going to the same old job, coming home to the same family, or being challenged by the same old situation. You have been [2]granted an opportunity. An opportunity to [3]grow, learn, think or act differently. Who knows if the opportunity will come to you again. What will you do with it?

“We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations” – Charles R. Swindoll

“Life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give something back by becoming more”- Anthony Robbins

“Most people don't recognize opportunity when it comes, because it's usually dressed in overalls and looks a lot like work.”-Thomas Alva Edison

”Four things come not back: The spoken word, The sped arrow, The past life, The neglected opportunity.”**Arabian Proverb**

1. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/04/open-to-opportunity.html>
2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/06/access-granted.html>
3. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/06/access-granted.html>

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-18 08:03:01)

Oppourtinity is a wonderful thing, sad for those who miss them.

Yvonne.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-18 08:28:29)

Thanks for the comment Wanda,....well I had to incorporate Daniel somewhere in A to Z.

Yvonne,

LisaShaw (2011-04-18 12:41:29)

Dearest Wanda,

Wisdom is what is shared in this message and I thank you! I pray each day that the LIFE God has given to me I would use for His glory.

You're a blessing! Blessed Holy Week to you and your family.

Much love,

Lisa

Joanne Sher (2011-04-18 17:35:52)

Amen!!

Lorena G. Sims (2011-04-18 18:01:25)

God bless you Wanda! I love reading your post.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-18 19:17:37)

I think I'll follow the teaching of an old faithful: Invest in the human soul. - Mary Bethune

This is a good week to invest in the soul, in our soul and in the souls of others.

This posting brought back to me my Saturday meditations (Luke 16:19-31). We need to LISTEN to the soul cries

and help others while we have the OPPORTUNITY:

27-28. "The rich man said, 'Then let me ask you, Father: Send him to the house of my father where I have five brothers, so he can tell them the score and warn them so they won't end up here in this place of torment.'

29. "Abraham answered, 'They have Moses and the Prophets to tell them the score. Let them listen to them.'

30. "I know, Father Abraham,' he said, 'but they're not listening. If someone came back to them from the dead, they would change their ways.'

31. "Abraham replied, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the Prophets, they're not going to be convinced by someone who rises from the dead.'"

Lisa (2011-04-18 19:41:45)

So very true! Everyday we are given opportunities - what am I doing with the them? Definitely something to think about.

Judy (2011-04-18 19:55:08)

Hi Wanda,

So incredibly true! Thanks for the opportunity to read this.

Blessings,

Judy

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-04-18 22:24:42)

Great minds think alike. I love your thoughts on opportunity. I am learning to change my perspective and really pay more attention to the opportunities that each new day affords me.

Gregg (2011-04-18 23:20:42)

Paul told the Ephesians to buy up or redeem time, because we don't know how much we have. We need to use every opportunity for the glory of God.

Gregg Metcalf

Colossians 1:28-29

[1]Gospel-driven Disciples

1. <http://gospeldrivendisciples.blogspot.com/>

Ella (2011-04-19 11:54:06)

I like this one, like a new door to open, we have to be aware, observe and then be open to opportunity

I'm on the look out today! ;-D

Penned Pebbles (2011-04-19 15:45:50)

I'll echo Gregg on this one. he took the words right out of my mouth. :-)

Maria Papadopoulou (2011-04-20 15:11:41)

We miss opportunities because we tend to think there will be more in the future..big mistake.

Elizabeth West (2011-04-23 16:16:39)

Yep, every day there are new possibilities. You don't know what might happen. Keep your eyes open and look for it though, or it might pass you by. Sometimes it's too shy to knock.

P is for Proverbs (2011-04-19 18:08)

Can't believe its taken me this long to come up with a plausible p-letter word for my post. Especially when the book of Proverbs is by far one of my favorite books in the Bible. I like it because it provides so many practical truths for our daily lives.

Chapter 1 of Proverbs outlines the purpose in which they were written, the Message describes it as

Written down so we'll know how to live well and right, to understand what life means and where it's going; A manual for living, for learning what's right and just and fair; To teach the inexperienced the ropes and give our young people a grasp on reality. There's something here also for seasoned men and women, still a thing or two for the experienced to learn - Fresh wisdom to probe and penetrate, the rhymes and reasons of wise men and women. Start with God

No matter our age there are some nuggets of truth to be pocketed from Proverbs.

Lisa (2011-04-19 18:41:29)

The Word of God is full of wisdom for every area of life, isn't it? So much wisdom in the book of Proverbs. I like how the Message puts it.

a sojourner (2011-04-19 20:20:57)

hi Wanda:)

i love the wisdom in Proverbs as well. but!...i prefer reading chapters as a whole or the Psalms. this procrastinator still has another nine hours to complete his P post.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-19 21:30:05)

An excellent choice for the letter P, written so well.

Yvonne.

Pam (2011-04-19 22:10:15)

The book of Proverbs is so timeless in its wisdom. The older I get the more life confirms the truths found there. Thanks for the reminder.

Karen (2011-04-19 22:34:11)

We need WISDOM! Amen.

BARBIE (2011-04-20 06:53:57)

I love the book of Proverbs! I am so far behind on this challenge I gave up. Darn it anyways!

Belbin9 (2011-04-20 12:33:53)

Just started reading the Bible but Proverbs really is great, so much wisdom

salarsen? (2011-04-20 12:34:13)

Very beautiful. Thank you for sharing it. I just hopped over from the A-Z challenge. It's wonderful to meet you. Following through GFC. :)

Wanda (2011-04-20 12:51:53)

Absolutely **Lisa** it's filled with goodness. We need only read it and apply it to our lives.

Sojourner, procrastination is an excellent p-word for a post. I have become a procrastinator myself.

Yvonne thanks!

Pam ditto for me.

Karen only a wise person would know that we need His wisdom.

Barbie don't give up. Just pick up with the current letter. I have been tempting to give in myself. It's rather hard going up with a thoughtful post daily.

Belbin9 congrats to you on taking a dive into the Word. I pray that your appetite for His Word would increase the more.

Salarsen nice to meet a fellow challenger. I look forward to getting to know you.

Maria Papadopoulou (2011-04-20 15:02:27)

A proverb a day...keeps the doctor away.LOL1

Maria Papadopoulou (2011-04-20 15:04:01)

Oh, procrastination...that dear old friend who always knocks on our door.LOL. We just have to find a way to let him know he is not welcomed.

nutschell (2011-04-20 18:42:32)

proverbs would have to be my favorite part in the bible-right alongside songs and the new testament.

nutschell

www.thewritingnut.com

LisaShaw (2011-04-21 15:07:06)

Amen Wanda!

I am very blessed still and always will be; by the book of Proverbs and the entire Bible. We will never arrive until we get to glory so until then, I need the Word of God constantly in order to live this Christian journey in a God-honoring way so I agree with you!

Book of Proverbs holds great wisdom for all of us no matter what stage in our Christian lives.

Blessings and love to you!!

Questions (2011-04-21 02:57)

[1]questions

Image Courtesy of [2]Fotopedia

Kids are some of the most curious creatures around. Their incessant questioning of why or what's that can become a nuisance after about the 1000th(of course it's never really that many times it just seems that way) time of answering such questions. Because they haven't lived long enough to develop inhibitions, they quickly ask whatever comes to mind. Despite the place or time.

I'm not really sure when it happened but some where in the course of my life, I developed hatred for the word no. Of course later I discovered this is more aptly called a fear of rejection. Thus it left me refusing to ask some questions. Unasked questions led to unanswered questions. There are a myriad of reasons why people can not or will not fulfill our requests but there is One who knows all things and stands willing and ready to hear our requests. God is no magic genie or Santa Claus and He should not be approached as such but we don't have to be afraid to ask Him even the really though questions.

If you need wisdom – if you want to know what God wants you to do – ask him, and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking. James 1:5 NLT

You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous for what others have, and you can't possess it, so you fight and quarrel to take it away from them. And yet the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it. James 4:2 NLT

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/Ta7XKwEOxPI/AAAAAAAAAgs/PXA9WnWzVfo/s1600-h/questions%5B2%5D.jpg

2. <http://www.fotopedia.com/>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-21 13:09:21)

Ask! Believe! Endure! Blessings to you, Wanda.

Wanda (2011-04-21 17:28:45)

Thanks Blue!

Bob Sanchez (2011-04-21 17:35:32)

Hi,

I'm stopping by on the A-Z Challenge.

B. Niles (2011-04-22 04:26:06)

So true Wanda.

Elizabeth West (2011-04-23 16:14:57)

I did ask...and I'm still waiting. I'm not going to get any more patient than I am right now!

:)

He Already Paid the Price (2011-04-21 17:56)

Any day is perfect day to reflect upon God's redemption plan but as we prepare to remember the burial and resurrection of Christ, it seems even more fitting. [1]Dictionary.com defines [2]redeemed as:

1. to buy or pay off; clear by payment: to redeem a mortgage.
2. to buy back, as after a tax sale or a mortgage foreclosure.
3. to recover (something pledged or mortgaged) by payment or other satisfaction: to redeem a pawned watch.
4. to exchange (bonds, trading stamps, etc.) for money or goods.
5. to convert (paper money) into specie.
6. to discharge or fulfill (a pledge, promise, etc.).
7. to make up for; make amends for; offset (some fault,shortcoming, etc).
8. to obtain the release or restoration of, as from captivity, by paying a ransom.
9. Theology . to deliver from sin and its consequences by means of a sacrifice offered for the sinner.

The debt that I owe is too great for me ever to repay. Through the shedding of Christ's blood and subsequent [3]resurrection, he released me from the chains my sins bought me.

But the LORD will redeem those who serve him. Everyone who trusts in him will be freely pardoned. Psalms 34:22 (NLT)

Yet they cannot redeem themselves from death by paying a ransom to God. Psalms 49:7

1. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/redeemed>
2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/04/re.html>
3. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/03/revisit-tomb.html>

Susie Swanson (2011-04-21 18:33:42)

Thank you Wanda for your nice comments and for your visit to my blog. I love your blog. It is so refreshing and I agree, I could never repay the price. Susie Swanson

Lorena G. Sims (2011-04-21 19:42:40)

He indeed already paid the price for our sins!

Joanne Sher (2011-04-21 21:10:30)

Fantabulous thoughts, Wanda. Redemption is amazing to think about.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-21 21:11:59)

Well said Wanda ,
Yvonne.

a sojourner (2011-04-21 21:30:09)

hi Wanda:)

a few weeks ago i was listening to a podcast(sermon) concerning Jesus our Redeemer. it's a word i didn't really understand and i hadn't given it much thought, really. it had gotten glossed over. there's SO MUCH to His Word that i know i will never know the depth or the richness of His Word until someday....:)
think i will listen to that sermon again. thank you for the reminder!

kmckendry (2011-04-21 22:42:32)

May you have a Happy Easter. Nice post.

Crystal Mary (2011-04-22 02:01:30)

Ahh Yes, He did it all for us..

None but Jesus...

Like the old song says,

"What can wash away my sins, nothing but the blood of Jesus."

God Bless you sister..

Wanda (2011-04-22 02:02:26)

Thank you Susie!

Amen Lorena!

Yes it is Joanne, so much wrapped in that word and the work of cross.

Thanks Yvonne.

Sojourner we are forever learning more about Him.

Kmckendry, thanks. Hope you & yours enjoy a wonderful Resurrection Day.

B. Niles (2011-04-22 04:30:46)

Thank you Jesus! I think of the words of an old chorus, "When I think of the goodness of Jesus, and what he has done for me, my soul cries out, Hallelujah! Thank God for saving me."

Thanks for your thoughtful post, Wanda.

Beverly

Just Be Real (2011-04-22 09:41:43)

Amen and hallelujah! Blessings to you at this time Wanda.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-22 15:42:04)

Wanda, I cannot describe how thankful I am for His grace. There are no words. All I can do is serve Him until. Blessings as we celebrate Good Friday!

The Savior (2011-04-22 17:49)



[1]

Photo by [2]Heartlight

Sun scorched, battered, and bruised
scorned, spit upon, and despised
one single man to bear the sins for us all
disciples confused and scattered
only heaven knew the full conclusion of the matter
tucked away beneath the earth
death proclaiming an triumphant end to his reign
yet the dress of death and doom could not hold its grip
for in three days time He arose silencing the victorious claims of his assailants
showing that His reign knows no end

[3]He rose that day that I may live again

Wishing you a blessed Easter celebration!

1. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_2wff2Ki6_qg/S7NHKABNhCI/AAAAAAAAADU/6YQ34t68LEc/s1600/jesusonthecross02.jpg
2. <http://www.heartlight.org/>
3. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/05/its-him-you-seek.html>

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-04-22 18:08:59)
Yes we are so thankful for today and 3 days later!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-22 19:24:52)
Beautiful words Wanda, yes, we have much to be thankful for in our lives but none so great than Good Friday and Easter Day.
Yvonne.

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-04-22 21:11:24)
This is beautiful, Wanda. I hope you have a blessed Resurrection Day!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-04-22 21:11:25)
This is beautiful, Wanda. I hope you have a blessed Resurrection Day!

Maria Papadopoulou (2011-04-22 22:25:37)
Beautiful words, beautiful pace, strong messages...

septembermom (2011-04-22 23:53:16)
So very beautiful and moving! A powerful message for us all.
Wishing you a blessed and Happy Easter!

Lisa (2011-04-23 00:08:45)
Thank you for the cross, Lord!

Pam (2011-04-23 01:43:26)
I praise God with you, Wanda, for this awesome, love-filled day.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-23 12:02:58)
Amen! Easter blessings, Wanda.

Hold my hand: a social worker's blog (2011-04-23 12:49:41)
Beautiful words, Wanda.
Have a blessed and happy Easter.
Doris

Thankful for Today (2011-04-23 13:59)

[1]Thankful for today because [2]tomorrow is never promised to any of us.

Thankful for today because I survived yesterday.

Thankful for today because through His grace I am able to stand even after it all.

All of what you may wonder. After all the disappointment, the hurt, the pain, the shame, the tears, and the sadness I'm still here.

Still here looking unto you. Thank you for keeping me when I was sure it was the end.

Thank you for protecting me when I didn't have a clue how close danger really was.

Thank you for ears that are able to hear the melodious morning song of nature.

Thank for a sense of touch that can feel the whispering wind so gently graze my face.

Thank you for eyes which can behold the beauty of your creation.

And, thanks to each of you who continue to stop by The Watered Soul. Each of your visits are a refreshing drink. My prayer is that just as you have refreshed me that others may come along and be a refreshing for you. Have a wonderful weekend.

The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself. Proverbs 11:25 NKJV

1. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/04/how-does-your-garden-grow.html>

2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/10/just-matter-of-moments.html>

Lisa (2011-04-23 15:06:10)

I love that - thankful for today because we aren't promised tomorrow. Often we focus more on the tomorrows than the todays. I want to praise God for what I have today!

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-04-23 15:09:41)

Thankful is the bestest attitude

Lorena G. Sims (2011-04-23 16:27:15)

and Thank you for posting that.

Sharon Kirby (2011-04-23 19:33:54)

I am also thankful for you, Wanda. For consistently watering my soul!

Have a wonder-full Easter morning!

He is risen - He is risen indeed!

GOD BLESS!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-04-23 21:14:27)

"Thank you for keeping me when I was sure it was the end." Thank You Lord, indeed! Have a blessed Resurrection Day, Wanda!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-23 22:26:18)

How true those words are.Wanda.

Yvonne.

Tracy Jo (2011-04-24 00:44:29)

Love this. Such a beautiful post!

Tracy

www.evolvingsoul11.com

Joanne Sher (2011-04-24 01:44:21)

Just beautiful, Wanda. You made me choke up. Thank you for YOU.

Ella (2011-04-24 04:18:15)

I love this post; I am thankful I found you and for your friendship!

Missie (2011-04-25 00:25:14)

Amen! You are truly blessed!

Bernadine (2011-04-25 04:00:49)

Beautiful words Wanda, thank you for sharing.

Unless (2011-04-25 11:59)

Confession is good for the soul isn't it? Well I have a bit of confession today. I have always been the shy, introverted type. And because of that I lived a life full of conditions.

I wouldn't eat inside a restaurant unless someone else was with me.

I wouldn't speak unless spoken to first.

I wouldn't ask unless I was pretty sure the answer would be yes.

I wouldn't go unless someone I knew would be there.

So many unless(s) left me with less than what life had to offer.

Are you living a life full of unconscious and unspoken unless(s) that has kept you in a limited place?

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. Psalms 127:1

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-25 13:25:10)

There are so many "Unless's in our lives new ones seem to appear every day.

Enjoy your U word posy.

Many thanks for your lovely comment.

Yvonne.

Joanne Sher (2011-04-25 14:39:18)

Great word for "u" - we ALL have unlessees. Great reminder.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-04-25 16:03:46)

What can I say, Wanda, except, "I confess".

septembermom (2011-04-25 17:20:30)

Wanda, this is a very thought provoking post for reflection. It's very true that many of us hold back consciously and unconsciously by putting restrictions on being ourselves or being truly free.

I need to believe in me more without putting those kind of conditions on it. Thanks so much for this post!

a sojourner (2011-04-25 19:43:04)

Perfect scripture used:)

Missie (2011-04-25 20:42:00)

I can totally relate.

Fifi Flowers (2011-04-25 21:30:18)

Unless I looked through old emails... I would not be visit YOU today!

ENJOY!

Fifi

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-04-25 21:59:10)

I used to be the same way, Wanda, and I still have a ways to go. I never looked at it this way, though. This was a very good post.

Lorena G. Sims (2011-04-25 23:23:52)

I didn't really thought of that until I read your post. I can totally relate.

Pam (2011-04-25 23:28:26)

Looks like there are quite a few of us who are on a first name basis with "unless", Wanda. Thanks for the spiritual perspective on how limiting this can be.

Wanda (2011-04-26 01:51:03)

Glad to see I'm not alone. This post didn't go in the direction "I" had originally intended but Father knows best. It was one of those kind I immediately wanted to retrieve after hitting the publish button.

Karen (2011-04-26 01:51:20)

Simply profound lesson on this...I share many of these unless(s) with you...thanks for making me realize what this does....

Ella (2011-04-26 02:55:09)

Wow, this stimulates a lot of memories n' thoughts. I always hesitated, felt inadequate. It is a difficult road. I think a lot of us, just get tired of the same turn of events and then we start to change.

It takes time and experience to come to this I can relate! Great post

Empty Nest Insider (2011-04-26 02:57:31)

Thanks for visiting me! I could relate to some of your 'unless' moments. That's why the A-Z Challenge is so great, because it makes us face up to some of our insecurities by putting our thoughts out there. Looking forward to seeing more of you! Julie

Christy LaShea (2011-04-26 10:05:54)

Wanda, I'm like you, I won't eat inside a restaurant unless someone is with me. Your post made me think that when we give in to our introverted ways, we may risk missing a blessing.

I enjoy your site! Found you via the A-Z challenge. Sad to see it ending!

Christy

Monti (2011-04-26 15:49:29)

Interesting "U" post. I know the feeling, "I won't go unless you go with me."

Nice to meet you on A to Z.

Monti

[1]NotesAlongTheWay

1. <http://marymontaguesikes.blogspot.com/>

ginahyatt (2011-04-26 15:51:25)

Wanda, I have come across many people over the years that hold to the "unless" policy. Wow, I love how you brought light to it! I dont want to be a person who is limited by conditions either! great word! - gina

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-04-26 22:05:50)

I can say a few "unless" also.

lioneagle (2011-04-27 12:54:13)

Hi Wanda -

How interesting about you. Are you still inclined in those areas?

It is obvious to me that you have a sweet spirit that leans, in earnest, to the things of GOD. Also, it is clear that you love Him.

That scripture spoke volumes.

Thank you, Wanda.

Value in the Valley (2011-04-26 17:37)

[1]geograph-131848-by-Keith-Havercroft

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[3]Creative Commons License

Several years ago I read a book by Iyanla Vanzant entitled The Value in the Valley. Couldn't put my hands on the book today but as I thought about today's letter V valley was one of the words that stuck out in my mind.

We all have had experiences of walking along various valleys in our life. Some times our stay in the valley extends much longer than we would naturally volunteer to abide. But even the low, depressed places of life have significant value. However, I am not always able to see that at first glance but when I change my view and remember that I am always in God's omniscient view.

Some of the most profound, life-changing revelations I received have been in the midst of the dark valley. It was in the valley that I caught new glimpses of God.

Even when I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. Psalms 23:4 NLT

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TbcCu4xcsLI/AAAAAAAAAhM/bGty66-s-ME/s1600-h/geograph-131848-by-Keith-Havercroft%5B5%5D.jpg
2. <http://www.geograph.org.uk/profile/5189>
3. <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>

Sharon Kirby (2011-04-26 18:51:45)

I have to agree, Wanda. Valleys are not fun. But I have also caught some of the sweetest glimpses of God in the midst of walking through them. I think that the Light shines brightest when the darkness is deep.

Hope you had a wonderful Easter, and thank you for sharing this very encouraging post.

GOD BLESS!

Missie (2011-04-26 20:44:27)

So agreed!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-26 21:23:10)

I'm caught in a valley at present, and am trying to get my head around it.

Loved your post.

Yvonne.

Joanne Sher (2011-04-26 21:52:35)

We grow more in the valley - and get closer to God - than at any other time. Thanks for the reminder, Wanda.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-04-26 22:10:10)

Yes we do not want to stay in the Valley. We are not alone there!

Nf1andprek-whisper (2011-04-27 00:33:43)

I have been reading psalms.. all this.. week what an appropriate post.

Pam (2011-04-27 12:46:57)

Good stuff here, Wanda! Very meaty spiritually! Thanks for posting!

lioneagle (2011-04-27 12:50:59)

Hi Wanda -

This piece is quite helpful as a reminder of our Lord's keeping power through it all.

And the scripture that you used

is perfect for this post.

Thank you, dear lady of GOD.

Monti (2011-04-27 14:05:51)

What lovely insights about the valleys of life. I love the 23rd psalm!

Thanks for stopping by my blog in A to Z.

Monti

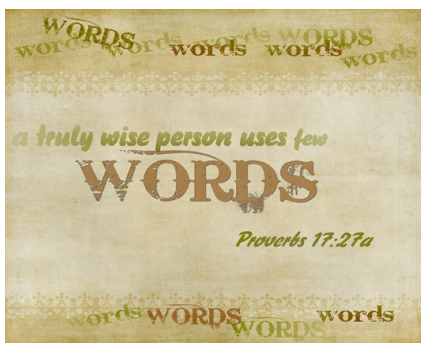
[1]NotesAlongTheWay

1. <http://marymontaguesikes.blogspot.com/>

Elizabeth West (2011-04-28 01:48:42)

Thanks, Wanda, I needed that.

Enough Said (2011-04-27 13:57)



[1]

A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is even-tempered. Psalms 17:27 NLT

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/TbggZpZccnI/AAAAAAAAAhU/EpUJHy6PQvg/s1600-h/Words%20Prov%2017-27a%5B4%5D.png

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-04-27 14:45:50)

This is a good reason to be quiet!

Lisa (2011-04-27 15:42:46)
Wow! Ok, I will stop talking.

Joanne Sher (2011-04-27 16:04:33)
So very NOT my strong suit. Need this reminder all the time. Great graphic.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-27 17:07:46)
I keep being told to shut up, what does that say about me?
Loved your post food for thought.
Yvonne.

Alida (2011-04-27 17:55:39)
I love Proverbs! Great graphic and awesome words to live by!

Missie (2011-04-27 18:10:34)
So true...I definately talk too much!

Gregg (2011-04-27 18:48:43)
You are so right, enuff said! Good post!
Gregg Metcalf
Colossians 1:28-29
[1]Gospel-driven Disciples

1. <http://gospeldrivendisiples.blogspot.com/>

Peggy (mazmagi) (2011-04-27 20:19:42)
Blessings Wanda,
I came to have my soul watered by few words... by a wise woman of God! You truly are wise.
I pray that you are not going through a trying time, but you are so right about it's hard to see beauty that surrounds us each day when we are...
Amen and amen to may He open our eyes that we might see in a fresh way... and few words!
Peace and JOY,
Peggy

Judy (2011-04-27 20:36:31)
Amen – good reminder that it's often more important to listen than to speak. Blessings!

nutschell (2011-04-27 21:33:25)
love that proverb! thanks for sharing.
nutschell
www.thewritingnut.com

Lorena G. Sims (2011-04-27 21:51:27)
I think I can consider myself as a wise person because I use few words, my husband hates my silent treatment though.
Great post Wanda!

a sojourner (2011-04-27 22:39:45)
even tempered? UH-OHHHHH:)

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK (2011-04-27 23:54:33)
Love it!

Dawn M. Hamscher (2011-04-28 00:47:00)
I want to be wise, but it is so hard to shut my mouth. I'm getting better at it with age. Maybe when I'm 80, I'll be a pro, or maybe I'll just have forgotten what I was going to say in the first place. Either way, I'll be wiser, right?
[1]The Write Soil

1. <http://thewritesoil.blogspot.com/>

Karen (2011-04-28 00:47:37)
Amen...I really need to remember this the next time I feel the need to spout off...Lord, help me!

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2011-04-28 02:05:17)
I think there's a Scripture that says "even a fool is thought wise if he keeps his mouth shut." Too many words come sliding out of my mouth at times.
Thanks for the reminder.
Janis

Joan (2011-04-28 02:31:56)
There is a reason God gave us two ears and only one mouth. Unfortunately, I'm often guilty of doing too much talking and not enough listening.
Great word for today.

jhunnelle (2011-04-28 06:11:18)
I'm a quiet person, my husband doesn't like it though:) i just don't like arguments:)
If I don't have something good to say, I've rather shut up.
I'm your new follower through networkedblogs

ginahyatt (2011-04-28 07:23:41)
Ahhhhh!! Sooooo Gooood!

lori (2011-04-28 18:14:26)
ohhhhh yes Wanda....enough said.
Powerful and perfect!
peace,
lori

Lucy Adams (2011-04-28 22:04:26)
I do find that the less I talk, the less explaining I have to do.
Lucy

Cathy (2011-04-28 22:48:21)
I love that, Dear, thank you. Blessings

Nisey (2011-04-29 00:22:37)
Hi Wanda, thanks for stopping by my blog today. I am now your newest follower and would a follow back.
Have a blessed day!
www.soulfulsandstone.com

Karen (2011-08-17 13:05:20)

Talking seems to be how I get myself into trouble, sometimes! Great WORD for today!

Xed Out (2011-04-29 00:29)

Thinking about the letter x brings to mind those dreaded red marks teachers would place all over your papers to signify you answered the question wrong. Being the studious type, I aimed for A's so those x-mark were never a welcomed sight. And why did they need to make them in red? As if the big x wasn't enough. With the end of my formal education, the x's didn't stop following me. Why? Because I was still getting things wrong. Saying the wrong things, doing the wrong things, and saying the wrong things. Yep I did them and still find myself in the wrong. Of course there is no teacher following me around marking my paper but God sees all and knows all. All of the wrongs. Nothing hidden from Him even when others can't see.

But over 2000 years ago He sent a remedy to x-out my sins. And wouldn't you know it that the only thing strong enough to cross out my sins and yours was the red shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Pam (2011-04-29 01:05:29)

All I can say is Amen, Wanda, Amen!

[1]Pam Williams

1. <http://encouragementforchristianwriters.blogspot.com/>

Joanne Sher (2011-04-29 01:06:12)

Great thoughts, Wanda. When I used to correct papers in my "former life" as a teacher, I actually enjoyed using purple. But the red blood is the only thing that really crosses them out, isn't it?

Lisa (2011-04-29 01:37:41)

Amen! Thank you for the cross, Lord!

Ella (2011-04-29 02:38:11)

Well said! Love that cross out our sins

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-29 08:04:37)

I am in total agreement in what you write Wanda.

Yvonne.

Missie (2011-04-29 12:48:25)

I get so down on myself because of lots of old xs...and forget to remember that my xs were erased. Grace is so hard to believe sometimes, so we keep ourselves in these chains instead of letting ourselves free of the xs.
great post!

Lucy Adams (2011-04-29 13:45:01)

I was sensitive to those red Xs, too, in school.

Lucy

Donna Weaver (2011-04-29 18:47:22)

And life's all about learning. Those Xs, as tough as they are, teach us. We learn some of our greatest life lessons from the mistakes we make. Not that I'm into making mistakes just for the sake of the learning though. =D

And yay for redemption and the one who made it possible.

Sharon - Grandma is a Writer (2011-04-29 19:34:56)

This is an awesome comparison and one I have never thought about. So thankful that He did that for me. You really expressed this concept well.

Sharon (2011-04-30 01:11:10)

Wonderful, Wanda!

Yes, I know exactly what you're talking about! Those X's were always HUGE - sometimes it felt like they really represented "loser."

But no - on a cross, my sins got x-ed out! Now, I'm proud to be a "loser" - for if I lose my life for Christ, I will find it! GOD BLESS!

Judy (2011-04-30 01:57:18)

Hi Wanda,

Amen to that!

Judy

Still Say Yes (2011-04-30 03:04)

After all the heartache and tears

After all the time waiting

After all the misunderstandings

After all the disappointments

After all the ups and downs

Even through the smiles and frowns

My answer remains the same

I still say YES to you Lord!

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 1:20 NIV

Lisa (2011-04-30 03:14:23)

Amen! I still say yes too.

a sojourner (2011-04-30 03:38:48)

amen sister, Wanda!!! :)

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-04-30 07:59:22)

Amen to that Wanda.

I would like to thank you for your support throughout the A to Z Challenge.

Yvonne.

Missie (2011-04-30 13:33:01)
Amen! Yes it a great Y!

Joanne Sher (2011-04-30 13:34:43)
Amen and Amen! Great post for Y - and anything ;)

Wanda (2011-04-30 18:19:31)
A yes to Him is the best answer we could ever give. Isn't it? Thanks for sharing your thoughts. Blessings

Z is for Zip (2011-04-30 14:37)

The month of April and the A-Z challenge is zipping to a close. It has been quite a challenge indeed. And it has been a pleasure zooming around the blogosphere and meeting new bloggers. Only wished I had more time to visit each of you. Congratulations to each of you on a job well done. Hope you enjoy some refreshing ZZZs this weekend.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 Endings are better than beginnings. Sticking to it is better than standing out. (The Message)

Joanne Sher (2011-04-30 14:57:58)
You did GREAT, Wanda. Enjoyed reading through your posts for this challenge.

Missie (2011-04-30 17:46:13)
Congrats on your A to Z end!

Elizabeth Mueller (2011-04-30 18:24:56)
Wanda, we did it! Congratulations! I have an [1]award for you!!

1. <http://elizabethmueller.blogspot.com/2011/04/z-is-for.html>
Donna Weaver (2011-04-30 19:28:25)
Congrats on finished. Good feeling, isn't it?

Dawn M. Hamsher (2011-04-30 19:40:27)
Wanda, So glad I got to meet you through A to Z. I'll come visit soon.

Judy (2011-04-30 20:43:21)
Hi Wanda,
I have a Nikon D5000 DSLR. It came with what's called a kit lens (18-55mm). I bought the two-lens kit, which also came with a 55-200 mm telephoto lens for zooming in on subjects far away. It's a must have.
I traded in the 55-200 mm for the 55-300 mm some months ago. If you want to see all of my camera gear, click on Camera Gear at the top of my blog to the right. There, you'll see photos and a list of what I have.
Blessings,
Judy

Penned Pebbles (2011-05-01 01:57:38)
Congratulations on finishing the A-Z challenge! It was nice to meet you. I'm ready for a break, but will be back soon.
Blessings!

Pam (2011-05-01 09:24:31)

Wanda, I visited your blog every day of the challenge simply because I didn't want to miss any of your wonderful nuggets of truth. I will definitely keep you bookmarked so I can return in the future for more God-inspired wisdom. Thank you so much!

[1]Pam Williams

1. <http://encouragementforchristianwriters.blogspot.com/>

Connie Arnold (2011-05-01 23:12:14)

You did great, Wanda! I've been reading your posts. Hope you're getting some good ZZZs this weekend!

Ella (2011-05-02 02:26:27)

Congrats Wanda; enJOY those zzZzz's ...I am! I am so glad we crossed the finish line together! Let's celebrate...pass the Cherry coke; diet for me, please ;-D

Grammy (2011-05-02 16:01:57)

Hi, Wanda, Congrats on finishing the challenge..Thank you for coming to visit me and all your support. I am enjoying going back and reading a lot of the a to z posts and will do so over the next ouple of months. :)

Love,

Ruby

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-05-02 16:42:21)

Thank you for your faithfulness, and for posting one of my fave verses today.

Car Title Loans (2011-05-03 00:22:23)

Can you believe you blogged for thirty days? Reading all the posts, it sounds exhausting!

Ava

Wanda (2011-05-03 01:45:45)

Woohoo, we made it and I'm in need of break I tell you. Thanks to all of you for your support.

Sharon (2011-05-03 20:56:46)

Great job, Wanda! I've been amazed at your zealous dedication (did you like the a to z there??)

Always blessed by your faithful witness to our great and glorious Lord!

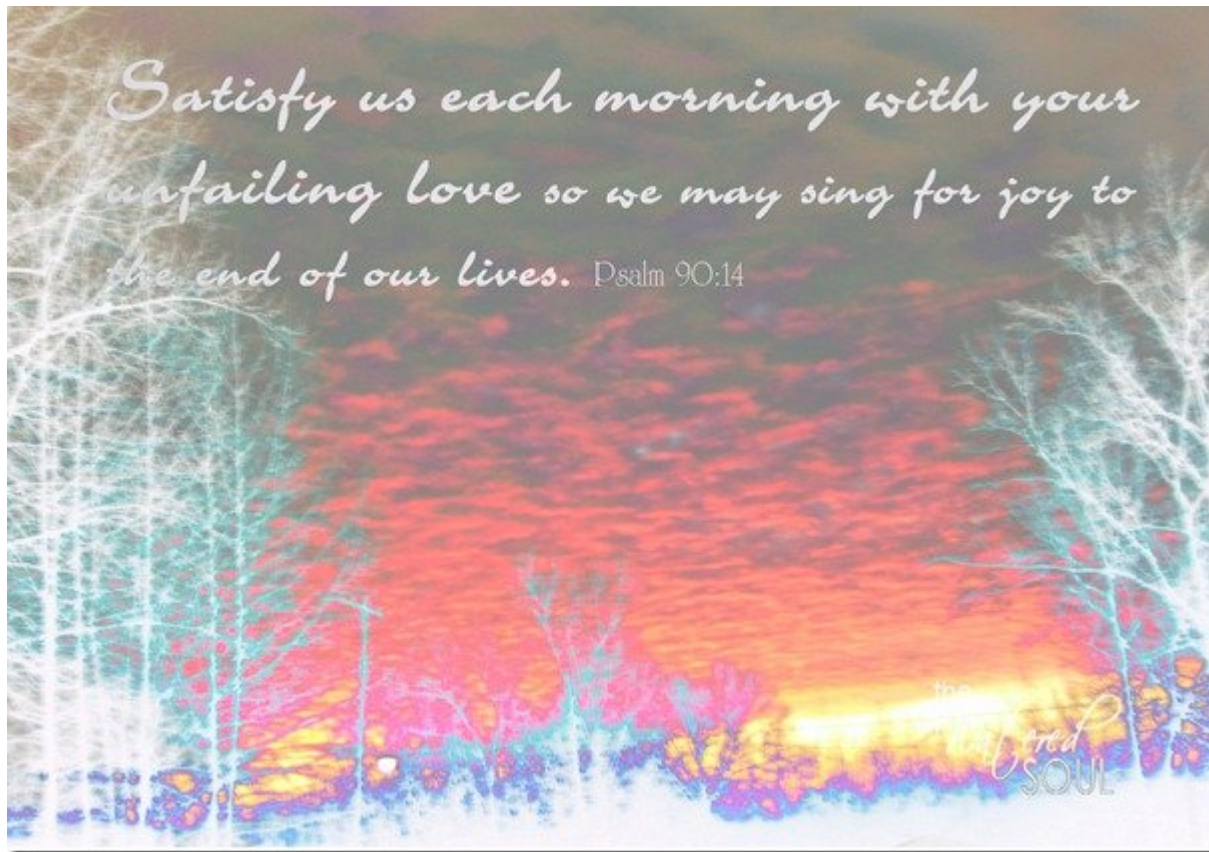
GOD BLESS!

Wanda (2011-05-04 01:04:55)

Yes I caught that Sharon :) Thanks for your support.

2.5 May

Morning Manna (2011-05-04 05:45)



[1]

Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives. Psalms 90:14 NLT

Happy Word-Filled Wednesday

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wF2Ki6_qg/TcE80297LsI/AAAAAAAAAho/P20waGYXyxU/s1600-h/Morning%20Psalm%2090-14%20%28negative%29%5B4%5D.jpg

Chelle (2011-05-04 06:18:50)

Beautiful post! Amen and amen again!!!!

Deb (2011-05-04 06:27:24)

I love this verse and the background picture!!! Praise HIS name for His unfailing love...and that His mercies are new each morning!!! HOPE you have a blessed day!

Twinkle Mom (2011-05-04 07:02:14)

Very beautiful blog and the image for Psalm 90:14, really captured the first breath of the new morning that our Father in Heaven, blesses us with...wonderful wonderful!! Thank you so much for your sweet comment and giving me the opportunity to discover a beautiful new site to visit!

ozjane (2011-05-04 07:56:53)

It is so special to start the day off with at least some portion of God's word.

Sharon - coping with a loss (2011-05-04 08:34:29)

Oh that we would truly be satisfied with His love. I speak for myself and for all of us who trust in Him. Thanks for the reminder, Wanda and thanks for your visit and comment at my blog. You're a dear! Huge blessings to you today and every day!

Peggy (mazmagi) (2011-05-04 08:43:46)

Blessings Wanda... Hallelujah... How spectacular this photo and Word that HE may satisfy us each morning! So thankful for His unfailing love! Sing for JOY... oh yes, amen... I'm off to sing and shout for His love is NEW every morning, great is His faithfulness! Praise flowing from this glow and Word... thanks Wanda!

Peace and JOY,

Peggy

Lisa (2011-05-04 08:57:08)

Taste and see that the Lord is good! He does fully satisfy.

lori (2011-05-04 10:10:03)

Wanda! LOVE this!! Love how you captured it perfectly!!

peace!

lori

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-05-04 10:53:46)

Thank you, Wanda, for touching on one of my favorite daily verses.

Beth in NC (2011-05-04 11:43:17)

Love this scripture Wanda!

Thanks for sharing!

Love,

Beth

Missie (2011-05-04 11:48:16)

Amen! What a great way to start the morning! I should hang this one on my mirror

Grammy (2011-05-04 14:26:37)

Hello, Wanda,

I enjoy your posts so very much. They are indeed uplifting to the soul. Thank you too for coming to see me so often. I know how very busy we bloggers are. God blesses us all so very much, does He not?

Ruby

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK for the Sandwich Generation (2011-05-04 14:38:32)

Thank you for a lovely picture and inspirational and encouraging Scripture for Word-Filled Wednesday.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-05-04 14:54:51)

Most Inspirational, thanks for sharing.

Yvonne,

Alida (2011-05-04 17:19:26)
Amen! Beautiful post again... thank you!

Pauline (2011-05-05 15:17:38)
An inspiring post, Wanda.
Thanks for stopping by, it's much appreciated :o)
God bless you.
Hugs

BARBIE (2011-05-05 20:13:19)
This is beautiful. He is the only one who can satisfy my thirsty soul.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-05-06 08:17:15)
Amen!

lioneagle (2011-05-12 06:18:27)
Hi Wanda -
Great reminder. It is so helpful to me at this moment in my day.
Thank you, lady of GOD for posting this rich message.
THANK YOU, LORD, FOR LEADING ME HERE THIS A.M.

Faith Imagined (2011-05-15 07:29:15)
Love the graphic and verse!

In Tha Muthahood (2011-05-06 12:21)

Thought I would share a laugh in tribute to all the mothers.

Missie (2011-05-06 12:37:17)
Love it!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-05-06 12:57:36)
Most enjoyable to watch,
Here in the UK we celebrate Mothers Day in March/April ,
But happy Mothers Day to all in the US.
Yvonne.

Karen (2011-05-06 13:05:02)
Good one! As an empty-nester, I kinda miss that mountain of clothes in the laundry room -NOT!

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-05-06 14:16:33)
I see others saw the video but it will not play for me? Access denied...Maybe just me

Shirley (2011-05-06 16:11:17)
We have a young moms class at my church. I have printed out the words and included them in this week's announcements. Now trying to get them to put the video up on the screen too. Words are listed on this web page:
<http://www.squidoo.com/anita-renfroe-lyrics-in-the-muthahood>

Thanks for the laugh, Shirley

Shirley (2011-05-06 16:13:40)

We have a young moms class at my church. I have printed out the words and included them in this week's announcements. Now trying to get them to put the video up on the screen too. Words are listed on this web page:

[1]In Tha Muthahood by Anita Renfrow

Thanks for the laugh, Shirley

1. <http://www.squidoo.com/anita-renfroe-lyrics-in-the-muthahood>

Wanda (2011-05-06 19:08:54)

I'm not sure what happened Kim but the direct link to the video is [1]here

1. <http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=FBCEJ1NU>

Wanda (2011-05-06 19:10:36)

Thanks Shirley for sharing the link to the lyrics. I think most mothers would get a laugh from it. Hope you able to show it.

Sharon (2011-05-07 17:14:28)

I'm bustin' out a belly laugh. I'm gonna share this with my homies.

LOVED IT!!

Sometimes, some things - only another mother understands.

GOD BLESS!

Bernadine (2011-05-07 22:54:58)

Gasp... you mean motherhood is not as easy as it looks on TV? :) Thanks for the laugh.

Amydeanne (2011-05-07 23:30:30)

i'm craking up! that's hilarious! i've got share it too! thanks for posting it!

Ella (2011-05-09 02:34:09)

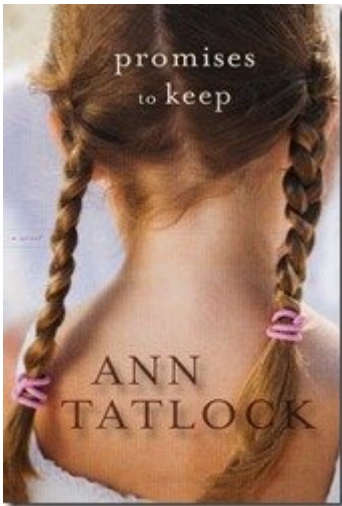
Thanks Wanda, for sharing! I couldn't watch it before! Glad I came back and now see the reality I loved the apple jeans...funny! xXx

Faith Imagined (2011-05-15 13:28:07)

This is hilarious! I've seen a couple of her videos and it always brings me to tears from laughing so hard!

Promises to Keep (2011-05-09 07:39)

Who hasn't made a promise that they intended to keep?



[1] In Ann Tatlock's *Promises to Keep* there are plenty promises made. A mother promises to protect her children, an old lady promises to die in the home she and her husband built, an abusive father promises to get his family back, two girls promise to pray until they are reunited with their fathers. The problem is each of these promises collide with the promises made by another. Through the eyes of 11 year old Roz, readers are taken along a winding road of naïve trust, laughter, loss, love, and reclaimed faith.

Fresh on the hills of striving to start a new life after escaping her abusive marriage, Janis Anthony finds herself dealing with an unexpected and repeated visitor, Tillie Monroe, who has come to reclaim her home and fulfill her last promise. Tillie, an old folks home escapee, persistence and presence turns out to be a disguised blessing for Janis and her three children. By far, my favorite character was Tillie with her quick wit.

As a first time reader of Ms. Tatlock's work, I was pleasantly pleased by her characters and writing style and look forward to reading more of her books. According to the author, God as father and discernment are the two central themes. She points out, "Not everything we think we want in this life is God's best for us. Some dreams only weigh us down; it's when we let go of those dreams that we begin to soar. We need to be wise and discerning, trusting God the Father to fill our lives with all that He has deemed good and beneficial."

I was provided a complimentary copy of the book from [2]Bethany House Publisher in exchange for an unbiased review.

To read an excerpt, click [3]here

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_2wfF2Ki6_qg/Tcfufe53NoI/AAAAAAAAAh0/utKZ_DoyCIw/s1600-h/Ann%20Tatlock%5B5%5D.jpg
2. <http://www.bethanyhouse.com/ME2/Audiences/Default.asp>
3. <http://www.bethanyhouse.com/ME2/Audiences/dirmod.asp?sid=0477683E4046471488BD7BAC8DCFB004&nm=&type=media&mod=Media+Manager&mid=8E7ADACE794A4BDC91C037C03EB903&tier=3&rid=D89C14D3223C4514BD66B0AEC6E20D3>

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What a great review, sounds like an interesting book

Nflandprek-whisper (2011-05-09 09:56:48)
I would read this.. is this in stores?

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-05-09 10:03:00)
A great review Wanda, will pop over later, all behind to day commenting.
Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-05-09 10:44:56)

Wanda, thanks for the review. I've certainly being at that "when we let go" junction several times in my life, and I have found that it is much better to just let go.

Wanda (2011-05-10 06:02:51)

Thanks, I sure enjoyed reading the book. It was released in Feb so it should be available in bookstores or at Amazon.

Missie (2011-05-10 18:23:27)

sounds good!

Ella (2011-05-10 19:23:59)

Thanks Wanda for sharing; sounds like a lot of subjects. Wow, dreams weighing us down...think that is me and the Culinary dream. xXx

Sharon (2011-05-11 17:50:56)

Great review - and such truth. Yes, letting go of our dreams to the Lord, knowing that His Wisdom is the only true freedom - that's what I want to do.

GOD BLESS!

Beth in NC (2011-05-12 09:42:29)

Sounds interesting Wanda!

I just came over to check on you. Have a blessed day!

Faith Imagined (2011-05-15 07:28:52)

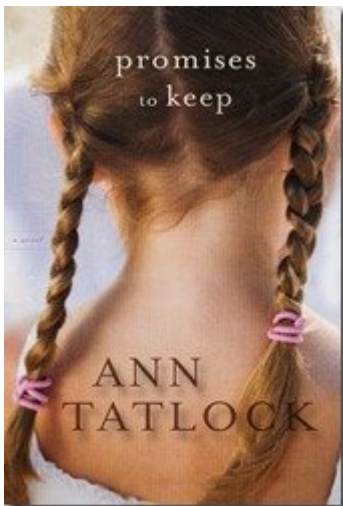
Great review!

Bernadine (2011-05-15 16:10:06)

Great review. I love reading good fiction books.

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2. <http://www.bethanyhouse.com/ME2/Audiences/Default.asp>
3. <http://www.bethanyhouse.com/ME2/Audiences/dirmod.asp?sid=0477683E4046471488BD7BAC8DCFB004&nm=&type=media&mod=Media+Manager&mid=8E7ADACE794A4BDC91C037C7C03EB903&tier=3&rid=D89C14D3223C4514BD66B0AECC6E20D3>

backlinks service (2011-12-09 19:13:08)

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1. <http://xrumerservice.org/>

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sounds good!

Ella (2011-05-11 01:23:59)
Thanks Wanda for sharing; sounds like a lot of subjects. Wow, dreams weighing us down...think that is me and the Culinary dream. xXx

Sharon (2011-05-11 23:50:56)
Great review - and such truth. Yes, letting go of our dreams to the Lord, knowing that His Wisdom is the only true freedom - that's what I want to do.
GOD BLESS!

Beth in NC (2011-05-12 15:42:29)
Sounds interesting Wanda!
I just came over to check on you. Have a blessed day!

Faith Imagined (2011-05-15 13:28:52)
Great review!

Bernadine (2011-05-15 22:10:06)
Great review. I love reading good fiction books.

Got Ta Get Ma Groove Back (2011-05-16 06:40)

Whew, I can't believe a whole week has past without me writing here. The hiatus was unplanned but needed. Had a bustling week of business activities last week and on a personal level I was battling a bit of the blues. But I'm BACK. Well I'm slowly trying to get my bloggy groove back. I have missed you all and I'm looking forward to catching up with you in blogland real soon. Blessings to you.

Joanne Sher (2011-05-16 06:51:05)
Definitely missed you - praying for ya - and glad you're back!

Pam (2011-05-16 07:06:00)
Missed you and your nuggets of truth about Jesus, Wanda. So glad you are back.
[1]Pam Williams

1. <http://encouragementforchristianwriters.blogspot.com/>

Missie (2011-05-16 07:34:05)
Welcome back! You were missed!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-05-16 16:38:31)
Having God in our lives is like being in the Conga, you can take a break and get right back in without missing a beat. Sometimes a girl's got to sit on the sidelines and tap her toes to the beat...you're still in rhythm, even if out of sight.

wisdomvirtueandrudies (2011-05-16 17:09:00)
Although I'm sure we've all missed you, too, I realize that very often an unplanned hiatus is the best kind. I'm sure you'll be back in the swing of things very soon!

Karen (2011-05-16 19:06:04)

Glad you're back! Thanks for dropping by.

Tracy Jo (2011-05-16 20:14:46)

Welcome back! Sending you positive groove vibes....

Wanda (2011-05-17 05:14:30)

Ahh, thanks guys you make a girl feel special.

Jiu Jitsu Los Angeles (2011-05-25 15:37:27)

Girl, I think everyone lost a little of their groove this past few months. I blame the weather- it's put everyone in a funk! Good luck on coming back into things; just remember to stay positive and it will come to you!

Sara

Mission Complete? (2011-05-17 11:12)

There is nothing quite like the feeling of seeing one's task complete. However, as I read passages of scripture from I Samuel chapter 15, I found myself wondering how many times have I, have you, have we called a mission complete prematurely.

Saul was given specific instructions on how to complete his God-given mission.

Now go and completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation-men, women, children, babies, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys. I Samuel 15:3

And he got busy doing the assignment.

vs. 4a So Saul mobilized his army at Telaim. vs 7-9 Then Saul slaughtered the Amalekites from Havilah all the way to Shur, east of Egypt. He captured Agag, the Amalekite king, but completely destroyed everyone else. Saul and his men spared Agag's life and kept the best of the sheep and goats, the cattle, the fat calves, and the lambs-everything, in fact, that appealed to them. They destroyed only what was worthless or of poor quality.

Saul and the people were pleased with his work but God was not.

vs. 20 But I did obey the Lord, Saul insisted. I carried out the mission he gave me. I brought back King Agag, but I destroyed everyone else. Then my troops brought in the best of the sheep, goats, cattle, and plunder to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.

Could there be some places in our lives that we self-righteously assume we have completed the assignment God gave us but if we stop to examine the original instructions, we would find that we veered off course?

It doesn't matter how many people are singing our praise because we look successful on the outside. If we fail to obey God, we run the same risk of displacement like Saul.

Lord forgive me for all the times I assume my way of doing things was better. Or I gave into fear and simply didn't make even the first step toward completing the assignment you had given unto me. Lord give me a willing and obedient spirit. Not just willing to do your work but willing to do it your way Lord. In Jesus name, Amen.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-05-17 12:45:25)

Oh, Wanda, you have hit on something today. Many people are waiting like the kid who's turned in homework that was not done exactly as the teacher had instructed, expecting some sort of reward or recognition, and are angry when the teacher hands us back the paper with an "F". Sometimes the teacher extends the deadline, but sometimes the "F" is the final grade. It is much better to pay attention during every step of the assignment, follow instructions exactly as given and don't quit until our task is complete. It is better to obey early and completely.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-05-17 13:26:52)

You said it right, we do assume that we have it right! I need help with that also!

Joanne Sher (2011-05-17 14:10:50)

Oh, absolutely! We don't listen carefully to Him, do we? We think we're done, and we're not. And he's displeased. Great reminder, Wanda!

Shanda (2011-05-17 16:03:14)

I have thought about this often and even spoke to a women's group about the subject; including the reasons why we stop too early. Never used those Scriptures tough. Great passage to back up the thought.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-05-17 16:07:30)

I have not got it right at all,
somewhere along the line I have failed my son, who don't want me in his life anymore and am being deprived of my three grandchildren.

I have prayed for guidance, thought through my last conversation we had and I can't fathom where I have failed.

Yvonne.

Missie (2011-05-17 16:53:43)

how, so true...I don't know how many times I have given one part to God, but not the whole thing. Thank you for sharing these verses

Lisa (2011-05-17 20:52:32)

How true! We must be careful to do what God says completely. I don't want to try to justify my actions like Saul did. I want to obey - period.

Tours In Venice (2011-05-17 22:29:36)

I try to be an all or nothing type of person, but I too, get distracted. I think it's in human nature to get somewhat distracted and in it for ourselves from time to time. However, with enough self control and preservation, I feel that we'll be reminded to do the right thing and all of it in His name in the end.

Sara

Sharon (2011-05-18 00:51:13)

Great lesson, Wanda - one that I'm really taking to heart. And, I so appreciated your prayer - I prayed it as my own, because it so echoed my feelings.

By the way, really sounds like you're getting your groove back! :)

GOD BLESS!

Wanda (2011-05-18 01:59:52)

Bluebutterfly, you captured my thought about sometimes disobeying leads to a permanent loss. There are some times when we don't get the opportunity for a do-over.

Me too Kim :)

Joanne, I think there are times that we really think we have done it right but it doesn't what we or others think. Does it?

Shanda, great mind think a like. What passages did you use in your talk?

Yvonne, none of us are perfect and despite what you son may feel that you have done wrong (rather it's real or imagined) I can assure you that you done a bunch of good too. I pray that your relationship will be able to be restored.

Missie & Lisa, oh me too.

Sara, yes the reminds come in many forms but of course its best to pay attention the first time.

Lol, Sharon, I'm trying to find it again.

Susan (2011-05-18 05:47:12)

Thanks for stopping by my blog. I enjoyed this - what we often forget is when we fail to complete the task God has for us, others losse out too - not just us. Thank you for your insight into this scripture!

einujackie (2011-05-18 08:09:37)

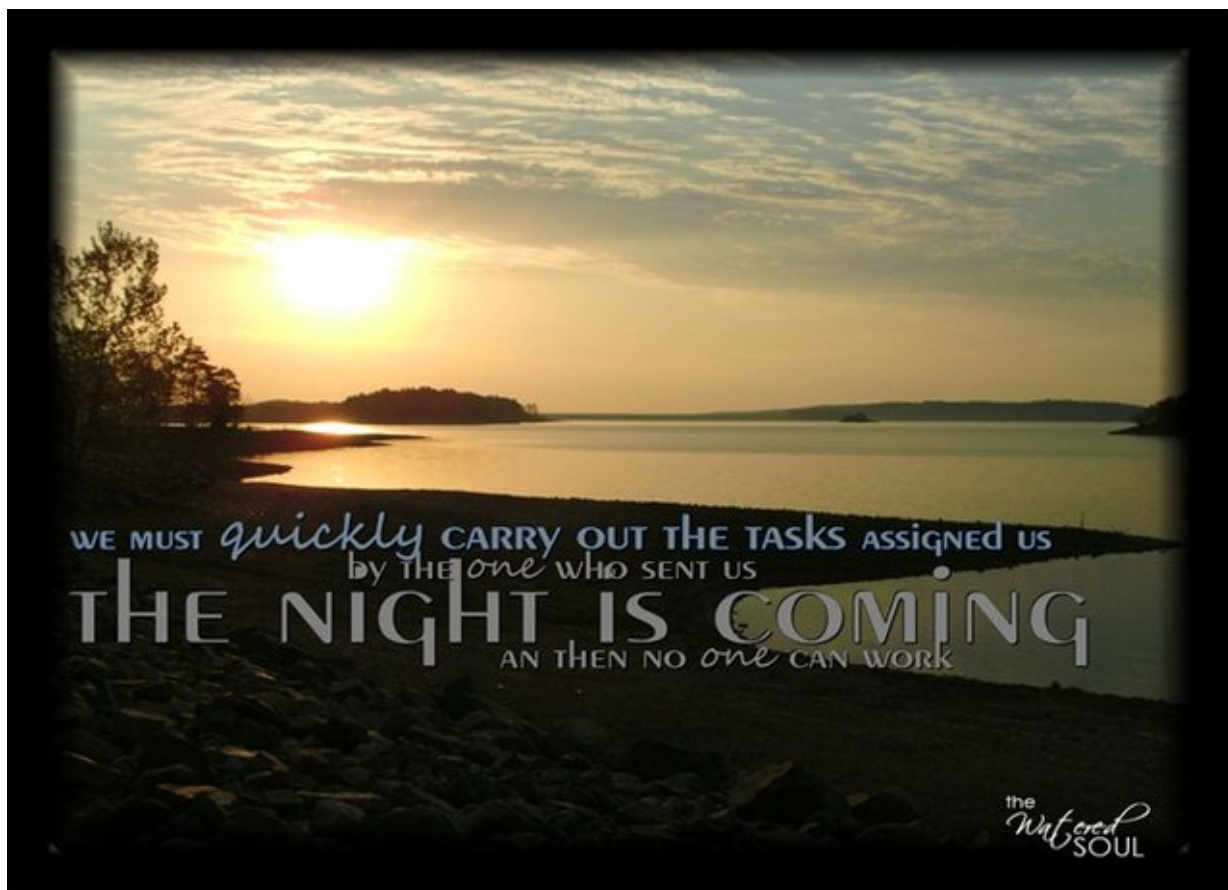
You got it Wanda... it is very true to me.... I am so guilty about it...

Wanda (2011-05-18 12:44:08)

Susan, excellent point. It's not just about us.

Jackie, I think we all have been guilty of it at some point.

The Night is Coming (2011-05-18 06:33)



[1]

We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no

one can work. John 9:4 (NLT)

We all know that we will not be here (not on this side of heaven anyway) forever despite the lyrics in Fame. But who knows the number of our days? Whatever the number, we only have a certain window of time to complete the work He has given us.

Are you using the time wisely? Night is coming you know.

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/_2wF2Ki6_qg/Td08rVaqnUI/AAAAAAAAAh8/HIw1yzwfJBk/s1600-h/John%209-4%5B5%5D.jpg

Marta Benicá (2011-05-18 06:49:30)
Adorei o post!! Um abraço, Marta.

Angela Felsted (2011-05-18 07:34:44)
Maybe I should spend less time blogging and more time writing my MS.

Cherie (2011-05-18 07:36:06)
Absolutely beautiful photo. What a great reminder to make every day count for His glory!

ozjane (2011-05-18 07:52:56)
So very true.

Missie (2011-05-18 09:08:13)
I don't know how many times I must have read over this verse and not grasped it....thank you for bringing it to a new light

Joanne Sher (2011-05-18 10:02:43)
Need the reminder absolutely. And a beautiful picture too. Happy WFW

Ginger (2011-05-18 10:34:16)
Oh my goodness, I love the look and the pic. Just beautiful.

Lisa (2011-05-18 10:35:18)
Great reminder!

Dorie (2011-05-18 11:53:23)
Yes, our time on earth is finite, and I pray and hope I use my time wisely, but there are days when I know I could have chosen better. Thankfully, each morning I am reminded of His mercy and grace to begin again - Thank you, Lord! Wanda, your post is a wonderful reminder of the coming night. Gorgeous photograph, too!

Stefanie Brown (2011-05-18 12:06:56)
I sure feel the immediacy of the moment. I just believe the Lord's return is at hand. May he find us loving, serving, worshiping and winning souls upon His return.
Thank you for this word!
Happy WFW!

Susan (2011-05-18 13:40:39)
Oh I pray I am and I'm always thinking about it for sure...
Have a blessed day!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-05-18 14:36:40)

A wonderful post and picture was awesome.

Yvonne.

Alida (2011-05-18 14:59:26)

with how fast things are moving in the world and all that pulls on our attention this is a great reminder to focus and do what is important... thank you!

jhunnelle (2011-05-18 15:09:39)

Oh that He may find me faithful till the end, thank you for this great reminder, awesome picture.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-05-18 16:19:09)

I like this, we do have a short window of time...

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-05-18 16:43:28)

Wanda, Wanda, Wanda Oh yes. Earlier today, I listened to NPR as a theologian stated that one of the reasons so many false doctrines and extremes within Christianity are drawing people away from the Body of Christ is that the average mainstream church no longer teaches the word, especially the second coming of Christ. May we all walk in light and take every opportunity to live in light and be aware of the time and the season. Night is coming.

bettyl (2011-05-18 17:06:16)

Great verse and photo. Thanks for the reminder!

Karen (2011-05-18 18:28:21)

Makes me think about what matters most! Thank you.

Beth in NC (2011-05-18 18:48:49)

Wow, wonderful and sobering post!

Thank you for sharing!

Love,

Beth

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2011-05-19 01:16:54)

A great reminder, Wanda. We only have so much time to accomplish what the Lord purposed for us.

Blessings,

Janis

Laurencita (2011-05-19 04:14:31)

What a great reminder for us now a days. Thanks.

lori (2011-05-19 08:32:30)

wanda!! OH GIRL!! YES...I love the "fame" reference in there...WE aren't going to live "forever" and it's about time we get LIVING as if we are wearing Jesus huh...

This is my fave of the week lady...so perfectly said and imaged...

I'm blessed...

lori

sharon (2011-05-19 09:02:59)

Teach us Lord to number our days...Amen.

Thanks for sharing and for the lovely comment you left on my blog.
God bless...

Peggy (mazmagi) (2011-05-19 11:37:40)

Bless you Wanda... this is breathtaking! Whata mean "I'm gonna live forever..." just not here.
How very true that we must be about Our Father's business NOW and quickly! The night is not only coming soon, it is upon us and we DO need to carry out the tasks that Jesus gave us. Beautiful reminder and Word!
Thank you Wanda for your understanding words yesterday. I'm a day late! I'm so glad Bella hanging by your side reminds you of God's faithfulness...so very true.
Give her a hug today and tell her thanks!
Such beauty and peace here,
Peggy

Living Water (2011-05-19 23:24:53)

The only time left is the time remainder before our Lord's return. May we spend our time wisely to fulfill the will of God!

Just Be Real (2011-05-20 03:05:25)

Very true Wanda. Thank you for sharing. Blessings.

LisaShaw (2011-05-20 07:21:30)

Hi there dear Wanda,
What a TIMELY word! I've been engrossed, once again, in the Dream Giver as I teach it at Bible Study at church and that has been the running theme I've been encouraging them as the Holy Spirit encourages me; that we must get busy working and completing what GOD has purposed us to do.
Your message is a blessed reminder and confirmation to my spirit. Love the photo you selected.
I pray that you are doing well Wanda. You are a blessing to ALL of us!
Much love,
Lisa

Ella (2011-05-20 21:39:48)

When it does, I hope there is an eclipse to stall it a bit Point taken and you are sooo right! We need to make the best with our time

Sharon (2011-05-21 16:38:04)

Convicting and inspiring, Wanda.
Yes, I am doing my best to be about the Lord's work. Night is coming...
...and He is coming, the Light of the World.
GOD BLESS!

Wanda (2011-05-21 19:42:58)

Thanks beautiful ones for sharing your lovely thoughts. May we each find ourselves busy doing the work in which we have been called.

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-05-22 19:30:39)

Very good message, Wanda. This is definitely something I've been thinking about a lot these days. Thank you for the reminder.

Judy (2011-05-23 09:40:25)

Hi Wanda,

Amen! I'd like to think I'm using my time wisely. Writing for the Lord and living for him. In light of the false prediction of judgment day this past weekend and all of the natural disasters lately, our time on this earth as we know it is short. Judgment day may not have occurred Saturday, but it is truly coming soon! I wrote about this in my latest blog posts. Enjoy!

Blessings,

Judy

Susie Swanson (2011-05-23 17:42:44)

Thank you for posting this. We all need a reminder sometimes. Great photo as well... Susie

Susie Swanson (2011-05-23 18:36:28)

I just wanted to pop back over and thank you for the nice comments on my post. I cherish them and May God continue to bless.. Susie

jackie (2011-05-23 18:38:31)

thanks for the reminders...

Shanda (2011-05-23 23:35:33)

It is scary to think how much time I waste. Thank you for the reminder.

He Makes it Possible (2011-05-26 02:52)

Give me an eagerness for your laws rather than a love for money!

Turn my eyes from worthless things and give me life through your word.

Help me abandon my shameful ways; for your regulations are good.

Psalms 119: 36-37, 39 (NLT)

Do you ever have those times that you want to do better but it seems your actions just don't line up with your heart's desire? Reading this passage, reminded me that I can take my shortcomings to God. For it is Him that gives the desire and the ability to do His will.

Joanne Sher (2011-05-26 13:38:45)

Amen. SO glad He is there for us. Thanks for this wonderful reminder, Wanda!

Missie (2011-05-26 16:04:57)

So am there...a lot actually. thank you for your honesty and sharing this verse.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-05-26 17:24:34)

Thank you, Wanda, for covering a verse from Psalm 119 today. I study through Psalm 119 at least twice each year and it never fails to accomplish a work in me.

Thank you, also, for commenting on my blog. For some reason I am unable to make a comment on my own blog.

Blessings to you, I plan to recruit you into Starbucks land soon.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-05-26 18:28:43)

Amen, this is a great lesson. We all have shortcomings but He can handle it.

Beth in NC (2011-05-27 21:23:35)

He is a good and loving Father!

Thank you for the reminder Wanda.

Bless you!

Beth

Dawn M. Hamsher (2011-05-28 02:27:59)

Yeah, I'm feeling it right now. Mine is my selfish nature and wanting to do what I want, rather than seeking what He wants.

Thanks for posting this. Blessings!

[1]The Write Soil

1. <http://thewritesoil.blogspot.com/>

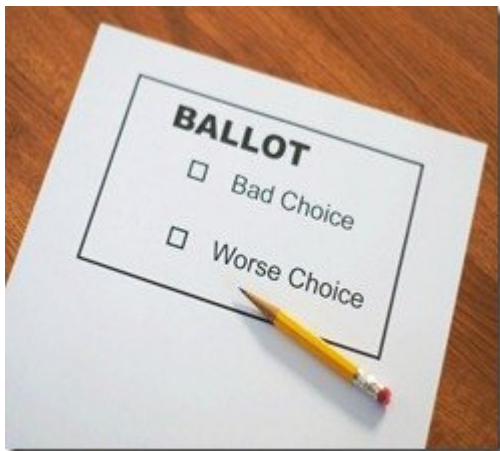
Sharon (2011-05-28 03:05:57)

I totally get this one. And yes, it's hard when my actions don't line up with my desires. It's even harder when I not only want to DO better, I want to BE better. But, for both things, God is the answer.

Philippians 2:13 (NLT): "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him."

GOD BLESS!

The Choice Wasn't Mine (2011-05-28 05:01)



[1] I have made a lot of choices in my life.

I chose the car I drive.

I chose the home I live in.

I chose the college I attended.

I choose the clothes I wear.

I choose the food I eat.

I choose the television program I watch.

Many, many choices to be made during the course of day and even more during the course of a lifetime but there is one choice I didn't make.

I didn't choose Jesus. Yep, you heard right. The most important choice one can make in life and I didn't really make the decision.

Nope something far greater happened, Jesus chose me. Yes, me...Wanda.

John 15:16 (NLT) You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/-1A7hxXQCAEs/TeBySo4Y2tI/AAAAAAAAAiE/n3K4ogZi6Yg/s1600-h/sw_fake_ballot_sa03045%25255B5%25255D.jpg

Joanne Sher (2011-05-28 12:49:57)

Oh yes. And that is even more amazing. That He would choose me.

Toia (2011-05-30 00:47:05)

Love it!! Well, just from reading this post, along with all the other ones that was an inspiration to my spirit, I think Jesus made the right choice by choosing you.

Blessings to you!!

Keep doing what you are doing!!

Wanda (2011-05-30 02:30:03)

I know, it's unbelievable when you think about it, Joanne.

Toia, what a lovely dose of encouragement. Thanks!

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-05-30 02:50:07)

Aww! (Deep sigh with a broad smile looking upwards) -”and thank you Jesus for choosing me”.

Great Post Wanda :))

Marcia (One Heart) (2011-05-30 23:33:32)

Yes indeed. SO thankful that He did and that you surrendered to His pursuit making it the perfect love story.

Thank you for stopping by, Wanda. It was good to see your name pop up. Blessings!

Bernadine (2011-05-31 02:49:04)

Wanda, I love this. I am so grateful that he chose me.

Thanks for sharing.

BARBIE (2011-06-05 06:41:09)

I love that He choose me! Such love!

Mike (2011-06-13 18:14:17)

I like this :) Our choices have consequences but the choice He made for me is the most important one!!

Pondering the Path (2011-05-30 14:10)

What trodden [1]track are you trekking upon at this time in your life? What course of action or conduct is governing those [2]steps of yours?



Like I have expressed many times here, I am what I c[3] all “[4]directionally challenged”. As you can imagine, this handicap has left me headed in the wrong direction, lost, confused, frustrated and frantically trying to navigate myself back onto the right road many times. On one such occasion, my nephew asked why do we ALWAYS get lost whenever we go some where. Any sane adult knows that when you are in the middle of a lost episode is not the time one welcomes the opportunity to ponder the question of why am I always getting lost. Oh no, instead I want to know how to find my way out of it.

But if one only asks the how to get out of here question instead of the why am I here question, they find themselves repeatedly in similar situations. Am I here because I have been trying to be in the driver’s seat of my own life? Proverbs 14:12(NLT) says there is a path before each person that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Yet when I allow God to be my GPS He directs my life’s turns. And even though the roads He takes me down often look different from those I would like to take, I can be assured that He is leading me along a path that leads to life. But not just a life of existence but one of liveliness filled full of Him and all that He is.

You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalm 16:11

Linking up with Joanne at [5]An Open Book for Monday Manna.

1. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/12/traveling-shoes.html>
2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/05/steps-along-way.html>
3. http://lh4.ggpht.com/_mHGhNuhTd4s/Te01b7CVs0I/AAAAAAAAAiM/L46t0QtTqVQ/s1600-h/duns%252520castle%25255B4%25255D.jpg
4. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/06/god-of-detours.html>
5. <http://www.joannesh.com/>

LisaShaw (2011-05-30 14:31:53)

Wanda,

This is RICH!

Loved when you said, ”But if one only asks the how to get out of here question instead of the why am I here question, they find themselves repeatedly in similar situations.”

Thank you for sharing, reminding and encouraging!

Much love to you!

Joanne Sher (2011-05-30 14:42:19)

Thanks for this, Wanda - a great reminder of WHO we need to seek direction from. Thanks for linking up.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-05-30 15:07:24)
I agree, this is rich thoughts here. We need the direction!

Shanda (2011-05-30 19:19:27)
Great analogy of letting God be our GPS. It is so true. Often taking my own path is what gets me over committed and going in a wrong direction.

Missie (2011-05-30 22:41:16)
Amen! Great post!

Sharon (2011-05-31 00:24:32)
Good stuff, Wanda!
I'm asking the Lord for clear direction in my life. But, most of all, I'm just asking Him to teach me more about Himself. I just want to see Him, no matter where I am or where I'm going.
He is the Lamp to my feet and the Light on my path...
GOD BLESS!

Anna K(arlene) Jeffrey (2011-05-31 02:59:23)
I love that reference to the GPS and its connection to the Scripture. SO fitting! I often find myself right where you've described.
One time, I was lost in territory I knew nothing about. There was only road, forest, and more forest to mark my way. If it weren't for someone with great navigational skills, I'd have been driving frightened and frustrated for much longer than necessary. Thank you for the reminder to rely on God for directions. :)

Prayer Notes by Cynthia (2011-05-31 03:09:25)
My GPS for life! I just need to make sure I check that GPS before I my daily journey! Loved the post!

lioneagle (2011-05-31 05:04:28)
Hi Wanda -
Thank you for this rich message.
Especially I love this that you expressed, "... filled full of Him and all that He is."

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-06-01 01:17:57)
God as our GPS - Love it Wanda.
Thanks for the reminder.
It was nice to see that you popped into The Faith Lounge for refreshment - thanks for the comment.
God Bless.
Carole in the UK

Ella (2011-06-01 03:33:36)
I love the GPS guidance and this post
I have missed a lot; I will be back to catch up! xXx

Anna (2011-06-01 14:13:37)
Wanda,
What a great metaphor for the way God seeks to direct our paths. I do wonder though whether we have a tendency to decide that the left we want to talk is what God wants for us. How do you think we should go about ensuring that we're not deciding that our way is God's way, rather than seeking his will and his guidance from his word and applying the principles we learn there with the guidance of his spirit?

Blessings.

PS: Your blog layout and design are lovely! Very easy on the eye.

David C Brown (2011-06-01 20:13:58)

"And when ye turn to the right hand or when ye turn to the left, thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it", Isaiah 30: 21.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-06-01 21:06:31)

We do always need Gods GPS directions!

2.6 June

He Keeps Watch (2011-06-06 14:57)

God's faithfulness continues to amaze me. This weekend the unexpected happened-a medical emergency that could have resulted in my older sister's death BUT God! He keeps us from dangers that we don't even know exist.

A song for the ascent to Jerusalem. I look up to the mountains – does my help come from there? My help comes from the LORD, who made the heavens and the earth! He will not let you stumble and fall; the one who watches over you will not sleep. Indeed, he who watches over Israel never tires and never sleeps. The LORD himself watches over you! The LORD stands beside you as your protective shade. The sun will not hurt you by day, nor the moon at night. The LORD keeps you from all evil and preserves your life. The LORD keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever. Psalms 121 (NLT)

Would you agree in prayer with me that she has a full recovery with no adverse reactions from any treatment?

Karen (2011-06-06 15:13:46)

Standing in agreement and lifting up prayers!

Joanne Sher (2011-06-06 15:50:53)

Absolutely praying for your sister, dear Wanda. Thank you for sharing. God is in it.

Toia (2011-06-06 16:23:00)

I am standing in agreement with your prayers for your sister. "When 2 or 3 are gathered in His name, He is in the midst."

I thank God for your sister's full and complete recovery in the name of Jesus!!!

Toia

Pam (2011-06-06 16:44:24)

Praying, Wanda! Keep us posted!

BARBIE (2011-06-06 20:22:36)

Saying a prayer now!

LisaShaw (2011-06-06 20:55:12)

Thanks be to GOD for being our Overseer in EVERYTHING we face! He is GOD Almighty and His Hand is with your sister as with all of us.

Indeed I'm praying right now for her!!

Blessings to you dear one!

Lisa (2011-06-06 22:20:51)

I will be praying, Wanda.

Ella (2011-06-06 22:41:29)

Wanda, sending prayers and healing thoughts to your sister and you

xXx Amazing!

Beth.. One Blessed Nana (2011-06-07 00:39:30)

will be praying for her my sister!

Wanda (2011-06-07 02:16:33)

Thank you so much for your prayers ladies.

Faith Imagined (2011-06-07 02:59:14)

I'm am praying! I almost lost my twin in a car accident. And I KNOW it was the prayers that made the difference!!!

Believing with you!

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-06-07 10:44:22)

I stand in agreement and prayer, with you, Wanda, awaiting the blessed news that God has moved mightily again, in this situation, as He sends His Word and heals.

Blessings to you.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-06-07 16:28:43)

Lord, You are good, and Your mercies endure forever. We thank You for Your amazing grace. We thank You for your strength. We thank You for Spirit life. Strengthen Wanda (in mind, body and Spirit), Lord, so that she will be able to stand in the gap.

Lord, we believe. Lord, we receive. Be it unto this family according to Your word. Even when we are weak, and even when our faith fails, You are strong, and You are are faithful. You will never deny who you are. Your word is fixed.

Our faith may fail, His never wanes- That's who He is, He cannot change! - 2 Timothy 2:13

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK for the Sandwich Generation (2011-06-08 15:29:20)

Very encouraging promises of God in the Bible! And WOW! PRAISE GOD for protecting your sister! And praying with you for complete healing!

Got You Covered (2011-06-08 06:20)



[1]

I have never been to Jerusalem but I have seen mountains. They are massive and I pale in comparison to them. Same way with my God. He is bigger than me, can see farther than me, and He sits higher than me.

I like The Message translation as well

Mountains encircle Jerusalem,
and God encircles his people—
always has and always will.

Happy Word-filled Wednesday!

And thanks so much for your prayers for my sister, she is doing better but still in the hospital.

1. <http://lh3.ggpht.com/-PteTMTS122w/Te9pEp9FCxI/AAAAAAAAAiU/NUQftAuw9ws/s1600-h/Mountain%252520Surround%25255B4%25255D.jpg>

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-06-08 06:31:04)

Good thoughts Wanda, loved the read.

Yvonne.

Beck Gambill (2011-06-08 06:38:06)

Beautiful picture and excellent reminder of God's ever present care!

Chelle (2011-06-08 07:09:43)

I love this, excellent post. Blessings to you!

Susan (2011-06-08 08:11:38)
What a great word of comfort!
Beautiful picture too.
Hope you have a blessed day!

Susan (2011-06-08 08:11:43)
What a great word of comfort!
Beautiful picture too.
Hope you have a blessed day!

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-06-08 08:43:25)
This is a nice reminder of His surrounding us. Comforting!

Stefanie Brown (2011-06-08 10:23:22)
I'm so thankful He covers and protects us. What a wonderfully, loving Father!
Happy WFW!

lori (2011-06-08 10:56:31)
Surround me Lord! Love this Wanda!! Powerful image girl!!!
peace!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-06-08 12:23:37)
Praying for you, Wanda, and your sister.... "You are my hiding place; You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah" - Psalm 32:7

Theresa Miller (2011-06-08 13:19:47)
That is awesome! Beautiful reminder of His presence.

Renee Ann (2011-06-08 13:57:49)
Beautiful! Thanks for sharing, Wanda!

PatriciaW (2011-06-08 14:19:28)
A most powerful piece of Scripture.
Prayers for your sister.

Lisa (2011-06-08 15:01:33)
Love this, Wanda!

David C Brown (2011-06-08 15:17:57)
God is the God of the mountains and the God of the valleys - see 1 Kings 20

Alida (2011-06-08 17:06:40)
So grateful that He surrounds us...the depth of His love for us always amazes me.

Pia (2011-06-08 21:03:27)
it's very comforting to be reminded that He's always with us.

Nicole (2011-06-08 21:22:45)
Beautiful verse and beautiful picture!! Like the Messages translation too!

Cathy (2011-06-08 21:39:09)
Very lovely, thank you

Sharon (2011-06-09 19:33:04)
I really liked the Message translation - it sums it up perfectly. Oh, how glad I am to be surrounded by God!
Sorry to hear about your sister - glad to hear she's better, but will support her in prayer.
GOD BLESS!

Karen (2011-06-10 17:19:49)
I loved this, Wanda...

lioneagle (2011-06-11 07:44:59)
Hi Wanda -
Glad to know that your sister is doing better. Praise be to the Great Physician!
I love that photo - splendor from GOD indeed.

Retromus-ik (2011-06-11 21:31:02)
Our God is amazing. We must never discourage;) A work in progress on my part...

Just Be Real (2011-06-12 04:58:19)
These words are a comfort to my soul, which I so desperately need. Thank you Wanda. Blessings.

Monday Manna...1 John 5:4 (2011-06-13 12:33)

Sharing my thoughts on this week's Monday Manna verse over at [1]An Open Book.

Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world,
even our faith. 1 John 5:4 (NIV)

As I read this verse today, the word overcomes leapt out at me. For me to OVER come anything, it first
must COME. Yep, even all the stuff I would rather stick my head in the sand and avoid, it MUST come.

Essentially this verse says to me that yes

heartache did COME

trouble does COME

trials do COME

struggles COME

but I get OVER them not because I'm so smart but only because of faith in Him. It is Him that gives us
the VICTORY OVER the things that COME into our lives.

For every child of God defeats this evil world by trusting Christ to give the victory. (NLT)

No matter what is come into your life at this time know that victory has already been declared for you.



[2]

1. <http://www.joanneshier.com/2011/06/already-won-monday-manna.html>
2. <http://www.joanneshier.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-06-13 13:31:51)
Very truthfully wrote.
Thanks for your visit and comment much appreciated.
Yvonne.

Joanne Sher (2011-06-13 13:34:13)
Oh Wanda - I LOVE this. Never thought of it that way. Thanks so much for contributing!

Carol Fleisher (2011-06-13 13:57:21)
Just what I needed to hear this morning. Keep up the great work. God bless you! :)

Beck Gambill (2011-06-13 15:09:19)
Wonderful truth! Let it all come, He takes me over, so thankful!

Karen (2011-06-13 16:29:54)
God is able to make ALL GRACE abound to you!! Isn't He good?!

Pam (2011-06-13 16:36:10)
Great perspective, Wanda. Thanks for sharing insights.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-06-13 17:50:14)
Good word, Wanda. The things that would otherwise overtake and overwhelm us cannot because our God has already overcome all things. Praise You, Lord.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-06-13 17:56:55)
So true and thoughtful. Struggles do come and victory also!

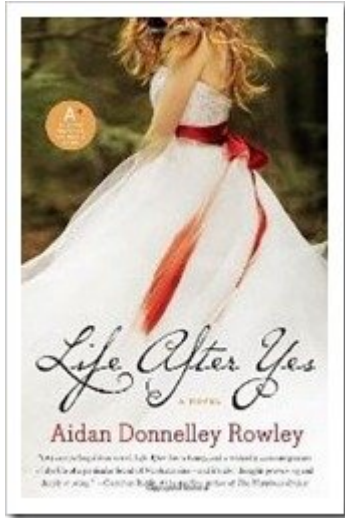
Becky Jane (2011-06-13 18:25:23)
Thanks you for this inspiring post...I love the way you separated over and come and then brought them together again!

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-06-14 03:27:11)
Amen, Thank you for the wonderful Manna that I have received here this morning.
It is so wonderful to know that as children of God we are armed with victory, that was brought through the blood of Jesus Christ.
Wanda, thank you for popping into [1]The Faith Lounge recently and for leaving a comment that added value to the conversation.
Blessings

1. <http://www.thefaithlounge.com/>

Life After Yes {Teaser Tuesday} (2011-06-14 08:00)

But even as I say these words, I know I don't mean them. Again I know better. There aren't any accidents. For the most part, we do things intentionally, don't we? Life After Yes by Aidan Donnelley Rowley



[1]

Teaser Tuesday is weekly book meme hosted by [2]Should Be Reading. Got an interesting quote from a book you read recently?

1. <http://lh6.ggpht.com/-9Gagkq7PyH4/Tfayfg2hTXI/AAAAAAAAAig/ufi5bXCDR9Q/s1600-h/Life%252520after%252520yes%25255B3%25255D.jpg>

2. <http://shouldbereading.wordpress.com/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-06-14 16:23:29)

The only quote that comes to mind is a book I read some time ago is
"Today's Gratitude Buys You Tomorrow's Pleasure"
Yvonne.

Ella (2011-06-14 20:40:09)

Can't think of one now, but I'll come back and post one when I do. My eyes are turning blue from looking at all the blue art! This looks really interesting, tell me more when time permits xXx

Amydeanne (2011-06-16 01:35:21)

looks like an interesting book!

Bernadine (2011-06-16 02:46:32)

The quote you chose made me want to know what comes next...

When Loving You is Wrong (2011-06-16 08:01)

[1] loveyou_4650

I remember the lyrics of song that said if loving you is wrong, I don't want to be right. Kind of sounds like a song a hopeless (or should a say reckless) romantic might sing. I have had my own encounter of loving when it was wrong. And wouldn't you know I found myself in the Word of God as I read I Kings 11. My sneaky suspicion was confirmed that I was not the only one to find themselves on the wrong side of love. Solomon-the wisest person in the world and a king no doubt-found himself in a precarious position. He had a thing for foreign women. Even after receiving clear instructions to avoid them.

The LORD had clearly instructed his people not to intermarry with those nations, because the women they married would lead them to worship their gods. I Kings 11:2a

Solomon was a man well versed in God's Word and man full of wisdom.

Yet Solomon insisted on loving them anyway. I Kings 11:2b

I guess he wasn't willing to give them up so he could be right. Some how he consider them worth the cost of being wrong.

Stay tuned as I explore the cost he paid for loving when it's wrong.

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/-9kfK0IQaKTs/TflvetDd-nI/AAAAAAAAiW/XX110JTH014/s1600-h/loveyou_4650%25255B3%25255D.jpg
2. <http://mrg.bz/YhucQn>

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-06-16 12:36:02)
Thought provoking, Wanda.
Have a nice day,
Yvonne,

Missie (2011-06-16 13:24:07)
So true.

Joanne Sher (2011-06-16 14:20:12)
Sin is a CHOICE - we like to think it's forced on us by culture, but it isn't. Great reminder - looking forward to further posts.

Pam (2011-06-16 16:33:57)
Great post, Wanda, and so true. No matter how appealing the wrong choice is, if we can just hide behind God's Word He will help us make the right choice.

Shanda (2011-06-16 18:12:07)
Very interesting post. I cannot wait for the next to read what you have to say. I have loved wrongly in my life too!

Lisa (2011-06-16 20:13:28)

This struck me with Solomon too. He was the wisest man, yet he chose to ignore God's word and married many foreign women. I look forward to the rest of your thoughts on this subject.

David C Brown (2011-06-17 18:17:55)

If we love Christ first and best the rest will fall into place.

Ella (2011-06-19 04:33:15)

I look forward to your next post! Why do we want what we can't or shouldn't have...for me chocolate, lol

Diana Dart (2011-06-20 11:44:51)

Intriguing thoughts. Looking forward to digging in deeper with future posts!

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-06-20 14:28:36)

I remember that silly love song. Solomon will be interesting.

Sharon (2011-06-20 23:59:44)

Wanda, me too. I was also once on the wrong side of love - as a grown woman who should have known better. Can't wait for more on this interesting topic...
GOD BLESS!

Just Be Real (2011-06-21 10:50:59)

Appreciate you sharing. Wanda, thank you for your recent prayers. Blessings.

lioneagle (2011-06-21 12:40:16)

Hi Wanda -

For sure, you parked on my street with this post. More than once, I loved wrong. Praise be to our Lord that now I love right - GOD first.

May He help us all to steadfastly do that. Everything AND everyone must be AFTER GOD!

Thank you, Wanda, for this post.

Note: Yes, I remember that song. Yesterday, our Lord put Marvin Gaye's and James Brown's music on my mind. Back in the day, they were two of my favorites.

Sharon - inspiring stories (2011-06-21 15:13:18)

Sounds like an interesting topic and one that really needs to be addressed. I'll be back to read more.

I just wanted to let you know that I have posted the details for my signed book giveaway later this week and you can start accumulating chances (opportunities!) today.

Blessings!

Sharon

Alida (2011-06-21 20:55:20)

What a great post! Our counseling office is visited each week by people, mostly women, who have loved wrong. It keeps me on my knees praying for this country.

Connie Arnold (2011-06-21 21:05:07)

Interesting post, Wanda. No matter how wise a person is, temptation is there and often hard to resist. Sometimes love can truly make you blind to what is right.

Wanda (2011-06-22 02:27:48)

Appreciate each of you chiming in on this topic. I think many of us have had the experience of being on the wrong side of love. Hope to pick up with this topic soon; I have been a bit frazzled lately. Blessings to each of you.

Dawn M. Hamsher (2011-06-29 00:36:19)

Wow...talk about a topic!

Been there. Thank goodness I learned from my mistake. Second time around I let God choose my husband.

Now, I talk to my 11 year old about what to look for in a future husband (it is never too early) and that she needs ask for God's guidance. I hope she learns from my 1st mistake.

Where Art Thou? (2011-06-22 00:43)

Where ever you are God sees it but do you?

He is not intimidated by your location-whether it be a physical, mental, or spiritual place.

All He wants from you is you to realize where you are. He extends the same questions to each individual as he did to Adam in the garden.

Where art thou?

What is your real location? Not the one you that you would have everyone else to believe you are but rather the place where you retreat to in the solace of your mind.

Where are thou?

God doesn't ask us to get ourselves from the place but only acknowledge that we are there.

Here is where I am.

I am distracted.

I am frustrated at times.

I am afraid at times.

I am confused.

I am scattered.

I am lonely.

I am tired.

I am disappointed.

I am questioning.

I am thinking of quitting.

I am considering giving up.

I am seeking for direction.

Yep I AM all of that. Nope I didn't throw any of those good things but rather exposing the inner struggles of where I am currently. Why do I dare pull the cover back—only because God requests that I do.

During my time of prayer, praise and worship to Him, He reminded me that where ever I am, I can admit that to Him even when I can't articulate it to others.

And when I admit where I am is when I AM reveals Himself to me in other facets.

When I am confused, the I AM is my SHEPHERD.

When I am tired, the I AM is my STRENGTH.

When I am disappointed, the I AM is my HOPE.

When I am distracted, I AM restores my SIGHT.

When I am lonely, I AM is my COMFORT.

When I am lost, I AM is my WAY.

When I am thinking of quitting, I AM UPHOLDS me.

Lord I thank you that you are the great I AM. Your greatness super exceeds any of my past, present, or future I am (s) . Thank you for renewed strength and power today. Father I lift up my sisters and brothers and pray that wherever they are that your glory would be revealed to them in that very place. In Jesus name, Amen.

[EMBED]

Lisa (2011-06-22 01:36:07)

Love this Wanda - "God doesn't ask us to get ourselves from the place but only acknowledge that we are there." No matter where I am, the great I AM is there too. Amen!

Prayer Notes by Cynthia (2011-06-22 01:45:13)

He is always there...just waiting for us to seek Him. He's right there. I loved this post! Thank you and blessings!

Wanda (2011-06-22 02:30:40)

Hi Cynthia and Lisa, it was one of those post that flowed freely as I was sipping on the residue of His presence. But afterwards I wanted to pull it from the blog.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-06-22 08:21:46)

Most inspiring Wanda, I have been most of those things at some point of my life.....but have come through. Thanks for sharing.

Yvonne.

Joanne Sher (2011-06-22 14:26:46)

Oh do I love this. Wonderful reminder, Wanda. You absolutely blessed me.

Fresh Garden (2011-06-22 15:34:19)

Happy moments, praise God.

Difficult moments, seek God.

Every moment, thank God.

Mike (2011-06-22 20:29:31)

So encouraging. Thank you :)

kemarias (2011-06-22 20:58:45)

Bless you with your honesty. He is awe-inspiring with his gracious love for us. Praise God.

Angel (2011-06-22 22:09:52)

Wanda,

Thank you for sharing this powerful word. The great I AM knows who I am and is willing to meet me wherever I am because of His incredible love. Awesome!

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-06-22 23:46:50)

Amen, I too have been overwhelmed with those times Wanda, but I thank God that wherever I AM, I can draw from Him whatever I need.

What a mighty God we serve!

Stay sweet in the Lord,

Carole

Beck Gambill (2011-06-23 00:32:30)

Great comparison of the am's! I'm glad he is enough for every place I find myself in. Thanks for the reminder!

Just Be Real (2011-06-23 09:59:43)

Came by for encouragement. Blessings to you Wanda.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-06-23 13:15:56)

He is with us...always. No one else on earth can say that, not even the people who love us the most. Be blessed beyond.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-06-23 17:37:19)

I recognize those excuses and glad that you showed the way the Lord can take care of them...

Sharon (2011-06-24 03:30:12)

Wanda, this has to be one of my all-time favorite posts of yours. It was so good. I loved how you contrasted all the "I am" phrases that describe how we often feel, with the great and eternal I AM. That was powerful.

Thanks so much for sharing this - I have been encouraged tonight.

GOD BLESS!

Crystal Monae (2011-06-25 13:35:16)

God just wants us to be authentic so that we do not hide behind layers. We can't hide anything from God anyway. When he calls out to Adam, it is for Adam to tell the truth. We need to be honest with God...tell Him what you are going through.

Blessings!

Faith Imagined (2011-06-28 02:53:43)

This is absolutely beautiful! You have refreshed me and turned my attention back to Jesus! Thank you!

lioneagle (2011-06-28 13:31:29)

Hi Wanda -

I am feeling you on this, lady.

You wrote this with such openness.

I so appreciated that you expressed these rich truths.

And I love what you did with I AM in this piece. No matter where we are and what circumstances occur, GOD is present and a very present help.

Jeremiah 32:17 - KJV

Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

Ella (2011-06-28 22:06:22)

Wow Wanda, it just flowed...really beautiful xXx

Dawn M. Hamsher (2011-06-29 00:31:55)

I am struggling in my writing.

I am waiting for it to fall into place.

I am selfish.

I am thankful for a God who loves me no matter what. One that lifts me up and I don't deserve it. One who cheers me on even when I am not focused on him.

Wanda, Thank you for your ministry. Your words help me get my focus back on God.

Strength for Today (2011-06-29 17:50)



[1]

There are days that I feel feel tattered and worn like this old door. But as I stumbled across verse 25 of Deuteronomy 33, I was encouraged and invigorated knowing that God gives me strength equal to the day's challenges.

1. <http://lh5.ggpht.com/-3GCwsEZzKKU/Tgt19WfIeuI/AAAAAAAAA4/Cp3tAdo-ymE/s1600-h/Strength-Deuteronomy%25255B4%25255D.jpg>

Joanne Sher (2011-06-29 18:54:43)

Dontcha love when verses grab you like that? Love this. Thanks, Wanda!

Peggy (mazmagi) (2011-06-29 19:01:08)

AMEN and Blessings Wanda... I am strengthened too just reading this and knowing this! May our tattered and worn out doors, be refinished and restored in His Strength as we keep on knockin' and seekin' Him! Great encouragement... so glad invigorated you and pointed out this verse with a good photo of a worn out wood... in need of a new coat of paint! Love how the letters of STRENGTH stand boldly.

Thanks... as always a great one.

peace, love and JOY,

Peggy

Beck Gambill (2011-06-29 19:11:55)

Wonderful encouraging thought, thanks for sharing!

{Inspire Me,Beautiful.} (2011-06-29 19:15:44)

I read this at just the right time. Thank you for this wonderful word for today.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-06-29 19:18:50)

Yes, Wanda. He gives us all that we need for today. I was reminded of this last night when a friend who is in the hospital was getting anxious about things that had not been accomplished. I reminded him that he is alive for a reason and God will enable Him to do all that he is called to do until he is called to his eternal rest.

My daily walk in His grace! (2011-06-29 19:22:09)

Hi Wanda. Thanks for visiting my blog, I really appreciate it. I'm glad I bounced back and visited yours. Its good to know God gives us enough strength for what we need. We just need to remember it at those times we feel so weak.

God bless

Tracy

Pam (2011-06-29 19:51:51)

Love the way the photo and the verse speak the truth together. Never thought about that verse in that way. Thanks for the encouragement, Wanda.

Blessings

Pam @ www.2encourage.blogspot.com

Alida (2011-06-29 20:13:24)

I love the way this door illustrates the verse... what a powerful lesson!

Lisa (2011-06-29 20:13:25)

What a beautiful promise!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-06-29 20:46:58)

I think we all need strength at some point in our lives, thanks for this wonderful example.

Yvonne.

Joan (2011-06-29 22:51:51)

Wanda:

I also feel like that tattered door at times.

Thank you for this encouraging word today.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-06-29 23:37:21)

This helps me with strength too!

Phather Phil Malmstrom (2011-06-30 14:01:57)

Isn't it wonderful when Scripture just reaches in and reinvigorates our hearts? :-)

Thank you so much for stopping by my blog yesterday, and for the lovely words of encouragement you left!

Have a Blessed Day!

Arlee Bird (2011-06-30 20:19:55)

We all need strength more than what we ourselves can provide. God will get us through anything when we rely on him.

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

jackie (2011-07-01 11:36:09)

Amen and Amen Wanda...Same experience with me. No matter how we might feel right now, God is still in control of everything!

God bless

tiffany @ tea w tiffany (2011-07-01 21:57:43)

Love this texture and love the Word. I need His strength.

Ella (2011-07-02 05:16:11)

I love the image and the thoughts behind it xXx

Sharon (2011-07-03 00:37:51)

Wanda - love the picture of this old, weathered door. And on those days when I feel tattered and worn, I'm going to think about this door. Even old doors can be opened to the abundant blessings and purposes of our loving Father!!

He gives us the strength we need, to do what He calls us to do.

GOD BLESS!

Prayer Notes by Cynthia (2011-07-05 02:14:36)

Amen! This verse speaks, loud and clear! I absolutely love the photo, as it "drives everything home." Blessings!

Mike (2011-07-09 18:40:09)

I feel like that today. I pray for His strength to serve Him better.

Donna (2011-07-12 00:09:07)

Love the post. I love Psalm 23. I am a new follower from Book blogs (GFC). I would like to invite you over to my blog for a visit and follow when you have a moment. Thanks. Donna

<http://mylife-in-stories.blogspot.com>

I have a give away going on. Hope you enter.

2.7 July

Random Musing (2011-07-12 00:43)

Seems like forever since I have written anything of note. Lots of things cross my mind yet my fingers can not seem to find their smooth rhythmic pattern these days. However, it's probably at those times that

writing would prove to be most therapeutic. It seems my mind is divided in a thousand little pieces that lack congruency.

Am I slowly resolving to my own little plan B or am I really prepared to stay the course until my personal GPS, the Holy Spirit, directs me to my next turn? At times the silence between the designated turn points is deafening. It's then that I question like my six-year old niece, has the man stop talking. Intellectually, I know that it's only necessary for the GPS to speak when its time to make some change in course. But, it doesn't stop me from longing to hear His voice in the in between spaces of life.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-07-12 01:37:42)

I am glad to see you writing! I do the same with not knowing what to write, even though I have a million thoughts??

Pam (2011-07-12 02:11:52)

Ah, Wanda, it is good to hear your voice on web again. You've been missed. Praying that God will give you clear direction for your life, my friend.

Blessings!

Pam at www.2encourage.blogspot.com

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-07-12 08:14:39)

Lovely to hear from you again Wanda, hope all is well.

Yvonne.

Just Be Real (2011-07-12 09:21:02)

Thank you for sharing Wanda.

Ella (2011-07-12 13:28:16)

I suggest you write the GPS may come from your words. I think morning pages are an important way to clear your mind, path way Type or write your thoughts on 3 pages. It clears the mumbo jumbo out of your head...it helps xXx

Joanne Sher (2011-07-12 17:26:46)

Praying, Wanda.

Grammy (2011-07-12 23:46:03)

thank you, Wanda, for sharing your thoughts...keep writing. Love, Ruby

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-07-13 01:03:17)

I said a pray for you Wanda as I know exactly what you are going through!

I am there too!!

Blessings, Carole

Wanda (2011-07-14 02:59:08)

Thanks ladies for your thoughts and prayers you have shared. At times I wonder does my writings matter much with so many blogs around. I have discovered others who seem to be experience a bit of writing drought these days. Perhaps cooler weather will help ;)

But What About the Brook (2011-07-14 08:00)

Amongst all the disarrayed thoughts, the account of Elijah at the brook of Cherith has been lodged in my mind for several days now. Some how I keep having reoccurring encounters with this story. My sister brings it up during a conversation and then my devotional book just happens to have a passage of scripture from this particular event in the Bible. Seems as if someone has been flashing a neon light at me that I need not flippantly pass by.

After a while the brook dried up because there was no rain in the land. And the word of the Lord came to him: I kings 17:7-8 (AMP)

While I have heard of Elijah's experience at the brook before, I had never considered how he must have felt as he sat and watch the brook come to a dry dust bowl. In my mind, I imagine him wondering how exactly did he get here. After all, he was following God's command. But after a while that place no longer provided provision. I wonder if he might have become antsy and was tempted to get moving elsewhere when in noticed the continually dwindle water supply. Had he possible cooked up his own plan B? Did he wonder if he had some how "missed" God on this one?

To remain steadfast beside the brook until it dried up displayed Elijah's trust in God's ability and willingness to provide for his needs. To stay when tempted to run out and do our own thing reveals our refusal to be lead by our own understanding.

One thing I noticed was that Elijah only received his next instruction after the brook dried up. Which brings to mind how I'm often trying to figure out the next steps along the path rather than just trusting that the Master will direct my footsteps.

Here's an excerpt from Streams in the Desert:

Most of us would have become anxious and tired, and would have made other plans long before God spoke. Our singing would have stopped as soon as the stream flowed less musically over its rocky bed. We would have hung our harps on the willows nearby and begun pacing back and forth on the withering grass, worrying about our predicament. And probably, long before the brook actually dried up, we would have devised some plan, asked God to bless it, and headed elsewhere.

Have you found yourself sitting along you own brook of Cherith recently? Did you step out into something in which you felt was spirit-inspired only to see it dwindle away? Were you able to sit patiently as it dried up or did you find yourself gravitating to cooking up your own options?

My daily walk in His grace! (2011-07-14 11:56:40)

Hi Wanda - This is so true. We've been waiting on the Lord for something and we believe He is going to come through for us, but as time has gone by and we have felt pressure, we start thinking, did we hear right? Is there a plan b? etc. Thanks for the encouragement to hang in there in faith.

God bless

Tracy

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-07-14 12:02:27)

Wow you have a thought provoking post with this scripture. I have another scripture that has been coming to me but not sure I can make sense with it....Elijah was at a tough place with the water dried up.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-07-14 13:06:29)

Yes indeed Wanda very thought provoking, making a wonderful read.

Have a good day

Yvonne.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-07-14 14:20:35)

Wanda, what can I say? I've been looking around at the dryness and clinging to God. I'm praying for those who are sinking, unable to hold on. It takes unshakable faith to stand still, to be still, even when things seem completely out of the expected sequence.

Yet praising Him!!!!

Joanne Sher (2011-07-14 17:00:45)

This passage grabbed me in Streams in the Desert too. Thanks so much for your thoughts. Waiting for Him is hard, but we must.

Pam (2011-07-14 21:26:41)

What a wonderfully encouraging post, Wanda. Thanks for sharing your thoughts and faith with us.

Pam at www.2encourage.blogspot.com

Lisa (2011-07-15 01:06:11)

Wanda, I never noticed this before. Elijah's next instruction didn't come until after the brook dried up. Wow! I want to have that kind of relationship with my God, that no matter what, I won't move until He says to go. Great post!

Peggy (mazmagi) (2011-07-15 01:27:45)

Blessing Wanda...What a thought provoking post about Elijah! I love how you pointed out his steadfastness beside the brook! I guess I've found myself more than once along my own brook. Your questions were good for me. I enjoy your insights and reflections as well as Streams in the Desert. Certainly appropriate in this case pointing out our frail reactions. I think there may have been a time or two when I hung up my harp and paced. Ohhh the humanness of it all. Hoping that I am done with doing it my way and that I'm learning to wait on the Lord!

You are so right! Sometimes God sends the same message from everywhere hoping we get the picture. Thanks for sharing! Hope you enjoy a great weekend.

Thirsty for more.

Peace and JOY,

Peggy

Wanda (2011-07-15 22:42:32)

Yes He was Kim. If something keeps reoccurring it does us well to delve a little deeper to see what God may be trying to relay to us. Hope you have a fantastic weekend!

Thanks, Yvonne. Always a pleasure to have you stop by.

Hi Tracy, I understand about how as time passing by doubts can try to creep in. Praying that your faith fails not. Blessings to you.

Bluebutterfly clinging to the vine is the best place when can find ourselves in whatever season we may be.

Joanne, I'm learning more and more about the strength necessary to really wait upon Him.

Pam, it was one those things that I just couldn't get past. Thus I wrote to try to make sense of the things in my head. Pleasure to have you stop in.

Lisa, in all the times that I have read/heard of Elijah's story, I hadn't really paid much attention to it either.

Peggy hope you a wonderful weekend as well.

JBR (2011-07-18 12:57:57)

Wanda, thank you for sharing on this. Blessings.

Beth in NC (2011-07-18 13:10:20)

Wanda, FIRST, I have to say I LOVE LOVE LOVE the look of your site! I especially love your design repeated in your quote box! You go girl! Love it!

Second, what a great observation! I probably would have been fearful and having a big ol' pity party!

I just watched Moses (Ben Kingsley version) and placed myself in the shoes of the Israelites – in the shoes of Moses as well. I wept and prayed for God to have mercy on all of us.

Thank you for sharing your heart!

Love,

Beth

Ella (2011-07-18 16:37:09)

Wow, this one is tough; sometimes I have had to move on other times I have sat Powerful post!xXx

Sharon (2011-07-18 21:07:49)

Oh Wanda, so eloquently spoken. It was really good to be reminded of this story of Elijah. I am comforted by the example of these great pillars of the faith. They were also human, after all - and they got scared and discouraged. But, their faith speaks to me and encourages me.

I do not wait patiently - because a "dry brook" usually gets me nervous. Oh, how I must remember this fact - that even in the driest desert wilderness, Living Water still flows!

GOD BLESS!

Arlee Bird (2011-07-19 04:25:44)

When everything's going just fine in our lives it's sometimes easy to put God at the back of our priority list and we stop listening. It's often in our times of trials that God's voice becomes audible and we hear what he is telling us.

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

Dawn M. Hamsher (2011-07-19 22:40:24)

Oh, how we want to handle our own destinies. I need constant reminders to ask God what he wants for my life.

Thank you, Wanda.

[1]The Write Soil

1. <http://thewritesoil.blogspot.com/>

A Stone Gatherer (2011-07-20 00:54:47)

I so have done that! Glad that God was patient with me and that I hopefully am becoming a better student and daughter! Thanks for stopping by my blog. I am loving my study in the books of Peter.

Shanda (2011-07-20 21:59:39)

This is so good. I am an impatient person and so often take off ahead of God rather than waiting for him.

Prayer Notes by Cynthia (2011-07-22 02:16:36)

Oh Wanda, I love this post! Yes, I have found myself sitting beside that dried-up brook. And, yes, I became antsy. No, I didn't move, I just prayed harder and tried to have faith during the dry spell. Then, I remembered what the Lord told me to do in such circumstances: pray, listen, wait, have faith, and look more closely at the brook. Sometimes, there is an obstruction in the way and all you have to do is move it. Many blessings and thank you, so much!

lioneagle (2011-08-02 11:50:36)

Hi Wanda -

I much enjoyed this read. It stirred my soul juices indeed!

Thank you

You expressed, "One thing I noticed was that Elijah only received his next instruction after the brook dried up."

Praise GOD for rivers in the desert and a way in the wilderness.

Truly, He keeps proving that He reigns over ALL!!!

Full but Empty (2011-07-22 14:31)

The state of being full is in stark contrast to that of being empty. Funny how the two co-exist in our lives. Looking around we see fullness all around us.

Closets bulging,

pantries full of outdated products,

medicine cabinets cramped with meds to heal our every ache and pain,



[1] calendars full of activities,

countertops cluttered with things.

With so much stuff to hold and find places for and so many things in which to busy ourselves, why does beneath the fullness lies the often unvoiced feeling of emptiness within? Perhaps its not the things or to do's in which we should be relying on for fullness.

This is written as part of Five Minute Friday, where you just write without worrying if it's just right.



[2]

Visible links 1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/-PBNZvZys26w/TimJu_7g7jI/AAAAAAAAAjo/q2Wj7Gu8zIM/s1600-h/toothbrushes%25255B8%25255D.jpg

2. <http://thegypsymama.com/category/five-minute-friday/>

Sabrina (2011-07-22 14:49:15)

Wise observations! We really can keep our hands so full of unimportant things that we don't have to acknowledge our emptiness. I pray that my perspective stays set by the mind of Christ....I want to be full of the things that matter! Thanks for posting!

Lisa (2011-07-22 16:26:54)

Love this Wanda!!! It's not much stuff we need, it's more Jesus. He is the only fullness that truly satisfies. Many blessings!

Amy Bennett (2011-07-22 16:29:06)

Yes, can totally relate.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-07-22 16:54:49)

I can relate to many of the things you mentioned.

Have a good week-end.

Yvonne.

vicki (2011-07-22 17:12:39)

I agree. Our true filling can only come from God.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-07-22 21:05:47)

Wanda, we should all take some time to think about what fills us. I am praying that we are all filled with His grace and mercy and love and hope and joy and faith ...and the power of His Spirit.

Alida (2011-07-22 22:20:02)

We don't own a lot of material things right now...but I have noticed that as our schedule fills up I find myself feeling emptier. It is so important for me not to lose connection with the only One who brings fullness to my life.

Pam (2011-07-22 23:27:59)

Great truth here, Wanda. Full but empty--sounds like a good start to a sermon. I'll have to share this with my husband. Thank you!

Pam at www.2encourage.blogspot.com

Beck Gambill (2011-07-23 00:47:32)

Great first 5 Minute Friday! I certainly relate to the underlying empty while spilling over full.

Salviano Adão (2011-07-23 02:02:28)

MUITO BOM! Eu acredito que Deus criou o homem e deixou o manual de instrução, a “BÍBLIA SAGRADA!” A bíblia é a divina revelação da palavra de Deus e não produtos enlatados, eu costumo dizer que: “As pessoas precisam parar de comer tudo o que dão. E começar a questionar! ” Alguém escuta alguma coisa de alguém, e saem falando, sem questionar, sem saber se é verdade ou não. As pessoas precisam se perguntar! Será que a minha crença esta de acordo com a lei de Deus? Será que a religião que eu nasci sempre me falou a verdade? Quando uma pessoa morre pra onde ela vai? Ela volta? A bíblia apóia o homossexualismo? Quem não herdara o reino de Deus? O que devo saber sobre idolatria, imagens e escultura? O que devo saber sobre o único batismo? Será que tem uma seqüência para salvação? A quem eu devo me confessar, quem pode me perdoar? Religião salva alguém? Essas e outras perguntas e respostas em:

www.aunicaverdadeemsuapropriabiblia.blogspot.com

Você pode dizer, eu já sou salvo amém! Vamos atrás de quem não esta, “Se você quer se dar bem com o mundo seja hipócrita, mas se você quer se dar bem com Deus seja verdadeiro!” divulgue este site, porque: “Eis que vêm dias, diz o Senhor Jeová, em que enviarei fome sobre a terra, não fome de pão, nem sede de água, mas de ouvir as palavras do Senhor. E irão vagabundos de um mar até outro mar, e do norte até ao oriente; correrão por toda parte, buscando a palavra do Senhor, e não a acharão.” (Amós cap 8 ver 11 e 12)Fale para outras pessoas, por que “O Senhor não retarda a sua promessa, ainda que alguns têm por tardia: mas é longânimo para convosco, não querendo que alguns se percam, senão que todos venham a arrepender-se.” (II Pedro cap. 3 ver 8) e “Que quer que todos os homens se salvem, e venham ao conhecimento da verdade. Porque há um só Deus, e um só Mediador entre Deus e os homens, Jesus Cristo o homem. (I A Timóteo cap 2 ver 5 e 6)

Seja sua bíblia, católica ou evangélica, aqui você vai tirar suas duvidas.

www.aunicaverdadeemsuapropriabiblia.blogspot.com

E conheceréis a verdade, e a verdade vos libertara (João cap 8 ver 32) Se você tiver coragem de perguntar, a bíblia terá coragem de responder!

Arlee Bird (2011-07-24 04:56:06)

You must have been in my house. I can relate to all that you've said. But I have been trying to downsize over the past couple years. I've been trying to get rid of things and not buy more than I need. Material stuff holds us hostage and I want to be free.

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

Shanda (2011-07-24 16:17:06)

Great post. I definitely agree that all our things consume so much of our time that we do not go to God like we should to fill us up.

How Much Does a Nation Weigh? (2011-07-25 12:00)



What defines the weight or value of a nation? Is it its gross national product, [1] population size, natural resources? Or perhaps it's real value is found in its wealth or its military prowess.

On our humanistic scale each of these may be considered valid measures of a nation's strength. However, God doesn't see things in the same way. According to Isaiah 40:17, a nation equals nothing.

Compared to the Lord all nations are worth nothing; to him they are less than nothing.
(NCV)

A whole body of people end up in the red on God's scale. Which is good news to me. It lets me know that no matter what I'm looking up at that seems colossal in my eyes, God can handle the weight of it.

Selah.

What is that has you weighted down with worry, doubt, confusion, frustration? Have you taken the matter to God?

Linking up with [2]Monday Manna, which is being hosted by Vonnie at [3]My Back Door.

1. <http://lh3.ggpht.com/-mtkj4JIHV7c/Ti1YagizdfI/AAAAAAAAAjw/VqR0hYMA7g/s1600-h/DSCF0253%25255B8%25255D.jpg>
2. <http://www.joannesh.com/>
3. <http://mybackdoorministry.blogspot.com/>

Donna Lynn Grace (2011-07-25 12:16:02)

Thanks for the reminder that my needs are important to my Lord and Savior. As of late, my worries have centered around my 18-year-old daughter and her wayward heart. I have been on my knees and will continue. God has a plan for her and will turn this all around. Thanks for your post!

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-07-25 12:41:47)

Thanks for this post about He does want to help our needs and worries....I just worry too much about nothing in particular?

Beck Gambill (2011-07-25 12:43:57)

Good word for the day. He is incomprehensible, high above the things of this world!

Pam (2011-07-25 13:02:38)

Worry is a sin I battled for a long time and still overtakes me at times. Thank you for the encouragement, Wanda. I admire your ability to say so much in so few words.

Blessings!

Pam

Karen (2011-07-25 13:21:29)

Thankful I can take my burdens to the Lord and leave them there! Have a blessed week!

Lisa (2011-07-25 13:57:42)

Nothing is too heavy for God. We can take all our burdens, worries, and cares to Him - He can handle it.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-07-25 16:05:23)

Worry can and will overtake your life if you're not careful. I speak from experience.

Great post to read Wanda.

Yvonne.

Joanne Sher (2011-07-25 16:11:05)

Great thoughts, Wanda. So glad He can carry it all.

Sharon - grief and loss (2011-07-25 20:42:12)

God's scale is so different from ours. May we learn to measure our lives by his measurement instead of the measurement of those around us. Speaking to myself here, too.

Ella (2011-07-26 02:52:32)

Worry is on my scale these days

Great post by the way; hope those morning pages are helping you! xXx

Yvonne Blake (2011-07-26 10:54:46)

I like that "God can handle the weight." Thanks for linking up to Monday Manna.

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-07-26 22:11:58)

It's always a blessing to be reminded that there is simply nothing too hard, or too heavy, for our God. Great post!

Just Be Real (2011-07-27 09:25:50)

Good analogy Wanda. Thank you for the reminder. Blessings.

Beth in NC (2011-07-27 11:03:19)

Amen Wanda! Puts things into perspective doesn't it.

Bless you today!

Beth

Beth in NC (2011-07-27 11:03:55)

By the way, I just stole your button for my blog. :o)

Sharon (2011-07-27 23:52:46)

Wanda, my scales are woefully weighed down right now with several health concerns in my immediate family. I feel crushed by them. But yes, thank you for reminding me that God holds those scales - and His love and wisdom and guidance and presence FAR outweigh any struggles on the other side.

Oh, praise His name - I continue to take these matters to His feet. May I just have the strength and trust to leave them there!

GOD BLESS!

Judy (2011-07-29 01:15:46)

Hi Wanda,

Thought provoking words. God holds the mountains in his hands. Nothing is too big for him to handle. Awesome. Thanks for stopping by!

Blessings,

Judy

B. Niles (2011-07-29 16:02:25)

Hi Wanda,

Thank you for the reminder. There is nothing too big for God to handle. "For nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

Thanks for sharing.

May He Do It For You (2011-07-30 15:57)

In times of trouble, may the Lord answer your cry.

May the name of the God of Jacob keep you safe from all harm.

May he send you help from his sanctuary and strengthen you from Jerusalem.

May he remember all your gifts and look favorably on your burnt offerings.

May he grant your heart's desires and make all your plans succeed.

May we shout for joy when we hear of your victory and raise a victory banner in the name of our God.

May the Lord answer all your prayers.

Psalm 20:1-5

My daily walk in His grace! (2011-07-30 17:47:58)

Hi Wanda - Psalm 20 is one of my favourite Psalms. Great to read it this evening.

God bless

Tracy

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2011-07-30 18:17:35)

Wonderful blessing from the Psalms for your readers.

Blessings,

Janis

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-07-30 19:46:40)

This lifted my morale thanks for sharing Wanda.

Yvonne.

Lisa (2011-07-30 20:19:10)

Amen!

Pam (2011-07-31 01:22:13)

It felt like you were praying a blessing on each reader. Thank you, Wanda.

Blessings to you, my friend!

Pam at www.2encourage.blogspot.com

LisaShaw (2011-07-31 15:21:04)

Praise the Lord and Amen!

Wanda, I've been MIA from blogging for a while and returned about three days ago so making my rounds to blogging friends. I've missed you sis! I pray that all is well with you!

Thank you for sharing this beautiful passage of Scripture that strengthens my heart greatly. GOD is so good to us!

Much love!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-08-01 21:12:34)

Yes, Lord, I'm raising the banner and shouting for joy because I'm still in the land of the living, I can still pray and I can still tell someone that "God is love"!

May you be blessed, Wanda.

Wanda (2011-08-02 02:35:14)

Glad you all were encouraged. As I read this passage it so touched me and I wanted to share it with you all.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-08-02 16:15:31)

Amen!

2.8 August

Were All the Tears Wasted? (2011-08-01 12:33)

Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.
Psalm 126:6



[1] I must confess I am a crier. (I already feel better getting that off my chest...lol)
The tears flow on many occasions like when I'm sad, frustrated, or angry. Just last night I was admitting to someone that I cry, yep even at my age. I can recall times that my life was filled with tears. My every morning cry was Lord help me to be better and not bitter. When your in a place of sorrow getting up and getting out is no easy task. To get moving when you would rather just pull the covers up over your head and call it a day is laborious. But to be purposeful in your sorrow and sow is even more admirable.

Have you ever had to serve others while inside you were weeping? God saw it even when no else could see past the façade of your smile. He knows the struggle it was to continue on when you would have rather stopped. But your coming back will not be the same as your going out. The weeping will not last.

Are you purposefully sowing even when you are experiencing personal sorrow? Are you able to sow a word of encouragement, sow a smile, sow a good deed? Or do you find yourself too consume with your own problems to realize that you still have something of value to give to others?

This post is being linked with [2]Monday Manna

Photo Credit: [3]Morguefile

1. <http://lh3.ggpht.com/-UZuezglu5yc/TjadDrySphI/AAAAAAAAAJ4/18IA7M8blvE/s1600-h/Tear%25255B3%25255D.jpg>
2. <http://www.joannesh.com/2011/08/seeds-to-sheaves-monday-manna.html>
3. <http://mrg.bz/8Jngce>

My daily walk in His grace! (2011-08-01 12:55:38)

Hi Wanda - It is so hard to sow seed when inside you can barely breathe. We had a season of this recently and we decided that the purpose of the hurt was to stop us sowing - so we were determined to continue sowing. It hurt, it was hard - but I'm so glad we did.

God bless

Tracy

Pam (2011-08-01 13:28:28)

Tears can be a healing release. Thank you, Wanda, for reminding us that we can still be used by God, even in the midst of our sorrow. Sometimes it actually helps others to see us keeping on even when we are hurting.

Blessings, my friend!

Pam at www.2encourage.blogspot.com

Joanne Sher (2011-08-01 17:44:37)

Just LOVE these thought, Wanda. I have so been there. Blessings, my friend. Thanks for linking up.

Lisa (2011-08-01 21:02:53)

Wanda, I have had to serve through my tears - smile on the outside and personal sorrow on the inside. I have found that when we continue to minister to others though our heart may be breaking, God blesses us in return. Many blessings!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-08-01 21:05:54)

Tears are priceless. They are seen by our Father and He responds. Our God is awesome. He even responds to those unshed tears, those unspoken words.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-08-01 21:25:11)

I can cry with happiness also of sadness, with the latter I think it is a great help one get over something that has happened in their life.

Yvonne.

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-08-02 00:35:31)

This is a good challenge, Wanda. I've found that sowing into others during my times of sorrow often made me feel better. Very often if I was encouraging someone else with my words, I found that I was preaching to myself. The Holy Spirit is so kind that way!

Wanda (2011-08-02 02:33:17)

What a wonderful testament to God's ability to strengthen us even during the hard times, Traci.
So true Pam. I have certainly been encouraged by the perseverance of others.
Always a pleasure, Joanne. You guys always seem to pick verse that gets my wheels a turning.
Amen Lisa & Bluebutterfly.
You are right Yvonne, tears serve many purposes.
It is a challenge indeed Monica.

lioneagle (2011-08-02 11:46:40)

Hi Wanda -

Jesus wept.

Also, crying can be medicinal. It can bring relief.

Praise GOD that He wipes away all tears of sorrow... When we love, trust and obey Him, He certainly can bring tears of joy!

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-08-02 12:53:04)

I get sad but no tears for me, I wish I could cry more often. I can cry more with age, I think?

Ella (2011-08-03 01:55:51)

Thanks Wanda, I cried today! I wish I could give you a hug

My families demands and I'm left holding the bag, while they all go have fun. I'm tired of it; I feel like their Personal Assistant, Taxi, Chef,...I'm tired I needed this post

Thank you! xXx

Shannon Lawrence (2011-08-03 02:35:03)

I've served while drowning in sorrow inside, BUT I think one can never be reminded enough that they will always have something to give, no matter how much they may be struggling.

[1]Tina @ Life is Good

and I are joining forces in a followup A to Z challenge. We're going to visit and comment at each of the original A to Z participants, and we hope you'll join us!

[2]Shannon @ The Warrior Muse

1. <http://kmdlifegood.blogspot.com/>

2. <http://thewarriormuse.blogspot.com/>

Peaches Ledwidge (2011-08-03 12:51:27)

I'm a "crier" too. News, blogs, stories, I cry when I hear or read something sad. I even cry tears of joy.

Pat (2011-08-05 00:00:58)

Hi Wanda

Just marvelous! Weeping,weeping,weeping yes I'm a crier also and I'm so glad that God sees and knows our struggles and just how to get us through victoriously Amen. I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Love ya

Prayer Notes by Cynthia (2011-08-05 22:22:39)

I know exactly how you feel. There were times when I just didn't want to move. But, I did. Afterwards, I was always glad that I made the effort to live my life, but the sorrow remained. I'm so glad the Lord brought me out of that particular pain. I'm just the opposite when it comes to helping others and not myself. I'd rather forget about me and dwell on a task, job, or helping others. But, that wasn't good for me. It allowed me to forget for a while, and not address the issue. Either way you lean, you just better make sure it's His shoulder you lean on. Thank you for

making me more thankful for today, than yesterday. Blessings!

Rebecca Bany (2011-08-06 14:42:38)

Wonderful post!

www.rebeccabany.com

Judy (2011-08-07 20:27:02)

Hi Wanda,

I, too, am a crier. I've been called cry baby many times. But I'm not ashamed of it. Crying is good for the soul. And yes, I have cried and have been in deep pain while sowing into others lives. It is NOT easy, but through much prayer God got me through and now I'm reaping the blessings. Halleluja!!

Judy

Mike (2011-08-08 18:21:12)

Just been reading Nehemiah and how he wept for Jerusalem... but it all ended in the most glorious celebration!

Alida (2011-08-09 07:07:03)

This past year of ministry for us has been one of grieving. We are caught in between our loss of leaving Russia and our new life here in Belize. We left behind people we dearly loved and served for five years. I can totally relate to serving through tears.

Shanda (2011-08-09 18:05:49)

Wanda, I LOVE this. I want to never be so consumed by myself and my sorrow so as not to serve another.

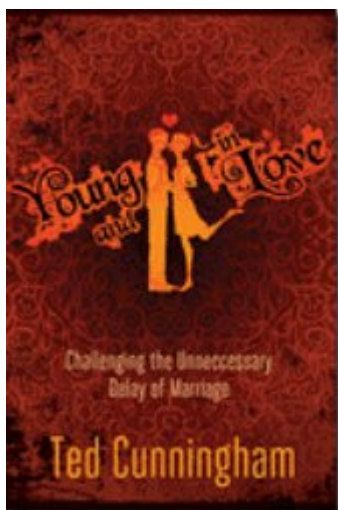
Sharon (2011-08-10 14:42:11)

Wanda, this was so beautiful. I have recently found myself in a season of weeping, and it's been difficult some days to function. And yet, I still hear the still, small voice speaking through my tears - "Peace, I am here."

I loved your thought - "your coming back will not be the same as your going out." That's my heartfelt prayer.

GOD BLESS!

Young and In Love (2011-08-09 19:00)



[1]

In a time when more people are foregoing marriage, Pastor Ted Cunningham's book, *Young and In Love*,

not only advocates marriage but he is a proponent of individuals tying the knot at younger ages.

We have adapted to getting our life in order first and marrying last. We don't want a spouse to screw up our plans or tweak them.

While *Young and in Love* is a stark contrast to some of the ideologies I held toward marriage, I found the author made valid arguments that challenged my thinking and made me reconsider what I deemed as essentials for marriage. I love it when a book does this. He points out consequences to delayed marriage such as: removal of grandparents from families, prolonged adolescent, self-centeredness, independence, and fewer choices in partners.

You see, time alone is not the primary tool of character building. We develop our characters through pain, trials, and difficulty and by how we choose to handle this adversity, not through simple independence. Marriage offers plenty of opportunities to grow our character because it forces us to think about someone other than ourselves.

I found that he painted a balanced view of unnecessary delays like money, career, dream weddings, living together and waiting to find your soul-mate with necessary delays such as completing high school, avoiding rushes due to pregnancy, military deployment or desire for sex, and dating someone who is not a believer. Pastor Cunningham does not encourage recklessly jumping into marriage but rather guides them into examining the four C's: character, chemistry, competency, and calling.

Who is the book for?

According to the author, the book is not for those who are decidedly single, seeking love but can not find it, nor for those seeking to learn contentment while waiting to be found. Instead, Pastor Cunningham targets this book for those who are in their late teens or early 20s , already in love with someone and desiring to marry but are meeting the you are too young opposition by family and friends. Admittedly, I don't fall into this category but the premise of the book still drew my attention due to my curiosity regarding what makes marriages work.

Whether you are young and in love, a parent, or just family member of someone who is, I would recommend reading this book. You might find that you are one of the little foxes that could destroy love and/or marriage.

From the back cover:

Developing a godly relationship can be hard when you fall in love at a young age. Few people offer support. Many doubt your love is real. It seems almost everyone-your friends, your parents, even your church-thinks you're much too young for marriage. You're not ready. But maybe that's not true.

Pastor Ted Cunningham reveals the secrets to creating a healthy, successful, and lifelong relationship in early adulthood. He explains where the arguments against young marriage often go wrong. Then he offers wisdom on how to know if you are making the right choice and helps you understand what it takes to be ready for marriage. And along the way, he sows you that, far from kissing dating good-bye, the answer to staying pure might be to prepare for marriage. Because it's often easier to say, "Let's wait," when "I do" isn't so far away.

Disclosure: I was provided a complimentary copy of the book by The B & B Media Group in exchanged for my unbiased review.

1. <http://lh4.ggpht.com/-7V1Hcvt9uvo/TkFzme-hN0I/AAAAAAAAAkI/Qe1V8tph1CI/s1600-h/Young%252520%252526%252520Love%25255B6%25255D.gif>

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-08-09 21:34:15)

This sounds like an interesting book Wanda, lovely to hear from you,
Thanks also for getting in touch, I am back now music and all.
Yvonne.

Beck Gambill (2011-08-10 10:57:09)

Good review! I'll have to keep this book in mind as my kids get older. Thanks for sharing.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-08-13 14:48:58)

I like books that challenge my thinking with love, also...

What's Your Writing Style? (2011-08-11 05:01)

Cruzing the blogosphere I am amazed at all the sheer talent that exist. So many captivate me with their vibrant way with words. Others enchant me with their ability to interject humor in their writing.

As I was blog hopping I discovered the link to a fun site that analyzes your writing style. Reportedly I write like Margaret Mitchell. If you are like me, you're like who is that. Apparently Ms. Mitchell wrote *Gone With the Wind*.

Now go ahead and give [1]it a try and see who's your famous writing twin.



I write like

[2]Margaret Mitchell

I Write Like by Mémoires, [3]journal software. [4]**Analyze your writing!**

1. <http://iwl.me/>
2. <http://iwl.me/w/ce65a7ad>
3. <http://www.codingrobots.com/memoires/>
4. <http://iwl.me/>

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-08-11 09:20:26)

I write whatever happens in my life mostly, I may happen to write a poem which is about the world about me. I don't really know who I twin with.

Good concept Wanda.

Yvonne.

Wanda (2011-08-11 11:41:12)

When you go to the link you actually paste the text of some of your writings and it analyzes your writing and you can discover your twin.

Susie Swanson (2011-08-11 18:26:02)

Yes this is a good concept. I don't know who I write about, just whatever comes to mind..Susie

Marcia (One Heart) (2011-08-12 22:53:22)

How fun is this, Wanda!! You KNOW I'm checking it out.

Not really sure what my writing style is because it's always evolving. Typically, I write about personal experiences that I'm passionate about and I write as I speak. Occasionally, I am inspired by other artists and might use plenty of

flowery words. There's so much inspiration across blogland, don't you think?
Thank you for visiting. It's always so nice to see you stop by. Blessings.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-08-13 14:45:10)

Margaret Mitchell is better than my score! I write like "Stephen King" with one post, ewww I do not like horror! The next post was Cory Doctorow, and English writer....at least his name has doctor in it:)

{Inspire Me,Beautiful.} (2011-08-15 17:11:30)

This was fun to do. My first post I submitted it said I wrote like William Shakespeare. It was because I had several KJV Bible verses in there. :)

The next one said I wrote like Cory Doctorow.

It kind of gives you perspective on your writing style.

Thank you for this! :)

LisaShaw (2011-08-15 21:36:52)

Hey Wanda, how are you beautiful lady?!

I love this. I will have to do this and post it on my blog as well.

I'm scared mine will be something crazy as I'm not a "writer" by definition. I just write what the Lord gives me to write.

Love ya!

Ella (2011-08-16 03:35:37)

Hi Wanda,

How are you? Life is taking a turn, as the weather cools a bit. I have missed you Sorry I haven't been by; my challenge is over so hopefully I can return to my blog routine ;D

I love this; so fun...but I don't have any clue who the author is.

I write like David Foster Wallace

Sharon (2011-08-17 02:01:38)

Isn't Blog Land a wonderland? There are so many terrific people out there, and God uses so many personalities and styles to get His messages out. I think it's great.

I haven't done the analysis yet - but I'd have to guess that I'm a cross between Charles Dickens and Dr. Seuss - sometimes wordy, sometimes silly!

And for the record, Wanda (Margaret Mitchell) - I LOVE your style, and am consistently blessed by how and what you share from your heart.

GOD BLESS!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-08-17 22:25:09)

This is neat. I'll have to check it out and see who my writing style is like.

Beck Gambill (2011-08-18 20:18:18)

I agree I'm amazed by the sheer talent represented online, it's beautiful! I'm going over to check out who I'm like right now!

Beck Gambill (2011-08-18 20:28:15)

Okay, checked it out and had to laugh. My twins are Stephen King and Anne Rice! I don't read horror or thriller books and certainly don't write them!

Do Your Own Job (2011-08-19 10:59)

It isn't your responsibility to plan your future. That has been planned before your life began (remember He saw every day of your life before you were born). You are being conformed to His image. Every incident, every setback, every disappointment, every unexpected tragedy are to be used to further His purpose of conforming you to His likeness in your life and in my life.

This quote stood out to me in a devotional I read this morning by Anabel Gillham. I have been guilty lately of trying to work out the details of my life and nothing has come together as I had planned. And then comes along these words to warn me that I have attempted to take on a job that is not my responsibility.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-08-19 11:01:24)

A very good quote and one to remember Wanda.

Yvonne.

Pam (2011-08-19 11:14:22)

We all seem to fall into the trap of wanting to be in control instead of resting in the knowledge that God is in control. I need reminded of this more often than I care to admit. Thanks for sharing, Wanda!

Pam

Carol Fleisher (2011-08-19 12:03:23)

What a good quote and so appropriate for my life right now. I keep trying to plan every detail. It's comforting to me to know that I don't have to plan every detail and that when things don't work out He's still in control! Thanks! Mind if I copy it?

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-08-19 13:15:11)

Wanda, you have no idea. Well, actually, you do. I happen to be in the same place, and I have decided to just be still.

Shanda (2011-08-19 16:23:12)

I love that quote. Not only does it take the pressure of me but it gives me rest and assurance knowing I am in good hands.

Joanne Sher (2011-08-19 17:28:57)

Fabulous quote, Wanda. One I need, too. Thanks, dear.

Wanda (2011-08-19 22:35:58)

Oh ladies I'm glad to know I'm not alone. It's weird that I have this head knowledge that He is ultimately in control but at times I find it so easy to get into trying to work the plan, which is one I don't even fully know. Other than His Word promises that He will take all things and work it for my God for those who love Him. Carol by all means copy, I cited the author of it.

Sharon (2011-08-21 22:51:40)

Great words, Wanda. Very timely for me. Yes, it's so very difficult to rely on the Lord, and then to rest in that abiding sense of dependence. It's the prideful urge to control that so often thwarts God in His work to make us like His Son.

Oh, that I could stay out of His way!!

GOD BLESS!

Reformed rebel (2011-08-22 00:23:29)

Hi Wanda Isn't it funny? I was just talking about control on my last post. Do you think maybe GOD is trying to tell me something? I do!

Glad I found your blog.

Blessings...Chelle

Karen (2011-08-22 13:37:09)

Good one! I love Anabel. I heard her speak years ago and still remember her message. Thanks for your encouragement.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-08-22 18:10:22)

We all worry too much and yet He has a greater plan than we could imagine

Debbie Dillon (2011-08-23 15:51:40)

Oh, I love this! Thanks for the encouraging reminder! Thanks so much for stopping by my blog and commenting - means so much! Be blessed today :)

Spiritual Warfare for Women (2011-08-23 05:01)

Can what you don't know be hurting your home? Your family? Your friends?

According to Leighann McCoy the answer is a resounding YES. In her latest book, *Spiritual Warfare for Women*, she tackles the subject-spiritual warfare- that many Christians would just assume to pretend doesn't really exist. But whether we admit it or not we are all in a spiritual battle. She aims not only to make us aware that there is a real war going on but acts as a spiritual coach helping women to identify the key areas in which the enemy wages battle against us and arms us with strategies for winning.

Here's quote from the book that points out how subtle the enemy's tactics are:

Caricatures would have you believe that he is a dragon surrounded by fire, or a red monster with horns and a forked tail, or even a slimy snake ready to strike. But most often the devil comes in the form of a compassionate man who is eager to hear how your man isn't measuring up...or a chocolate cupcake piled high with icing that promises to make you feel better for yelling your kids this morning...or a friend eager to hear the intimate details of your problems at home so that she can offer her compassion and remind you that you are too good to put up with that. Never does the object of temptation reveal itself to be as wicked as it truly is.

The book is divided into four sections:

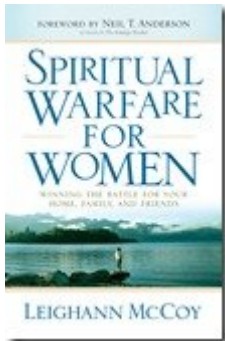
- Part One: The Most Powerful Weapon of All-God's Love
- Part Two: The Enemy Exposed
- Part Three: The Targets in Our Lives
- Part Four: Victory is Mine

Each chapter of the book concludes with scriptures to sharpen your sword and creative exercises to help you commit the Word to memory, which I really liked. McCoy uses a conversational style tone and shares her own personal battles with cancer and raising her teen daughter.

About the Author:

Leighann McCoy is sought-after speaker and writer. She is the prayer and women's minister at a large Southern Baptist Church where her husband serves as pastor, and she has written a number of devotionals and Bible studies for women. She lives with her family in Franklin, Tennessee.

About the book:



[1]

ISBN: 978-0-7642-0890-4

Pages: 239

Publisher: Bethany House

Year: 2011

Here's a sneak peek inside: [2]Spiritual Warfare for Women

IFRAME: [3][http://www.scribd.com/embeds/59613566/content?start_page=1 &view_mode=list](http://www.scribd.com/embeds/59613566/content?start_page=1&view_mode=list)

Disclosures: I was provided a complimentary copy of this book from Bethany House Publisher in exchange for an unbiased review.

1. <http://lh6.ggpht.com/-5h3n15Lzx70/T1LP0zfQmUI/AAAAAAAAAkU/5W3G1uvcwJ4/s1600-h/mccoy%25255B8%25255D.jpg>

2. <http://www.scribd.com/doc/59613566>

3. http://www.scribd.com/embeds/59613566/content?start_page=1&view_mode=list

My daily walk in His grace! (2011-08-23 06:31:58)

Hi Wanda - I really like what this book is all about. I'm going down to my local christian bookstore and see if I can get me a copy. Thanks

God bless

Tracy

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-08-23 08:56:19)

Sounds like a good book, hope they sell it here in the UK.

Yvonne.

Lisa (2011-08-23 15:23:28)

Sounds like a great book, Wanda. I believe her description of the enemy and temptation are right on. Thanks for the honest review!

PatriciaW (2011-08-23 17:34:36)

I'm adding this to my "Buy" list. Thanks for sharing.

Donna Lynn Grace (2011-08-23 21:55:29)

This is a definite read for me. I am new to Brentwood, TN, so it appears we're neighbors! Your book's subject has

been on my heart for a while. I can't wait to begin. Thanks!!

Ella (2011-08-24 04:59:53)

This does sound like a great book; damn cupcake has been winning at my house

In Expectation (2011-08-24 13:07)

Yet my friends laugh at me, for I call on God and expect an answer. Job 12:4a (NLT)

Notice the two verbs in the last section of the passage. One of the definition of call is to make a request or



demand, which sounds like prayer to me.[1] has become a part of daily lives even if it's not for extended periods of prayer time, we find ourselves sending up quick Lord help me prayers.

But what is it that you expect from your calling? Do you really anticipate that He will answer? Or have you grown accustomed to calling on Him about the same condition so long that your level of expectation of change has diminished?

As I examined myself in light of this scripture, that wouldn't let me just cruise on by in my reading, I had to admit that there are some places in my life that my expectation of His answer showing up had dwindled. Oh Lord forgive me for not fully placing my confidence in you. Thank you for loving me enough that you would bring light to this area of my life. I pray for my brothers and sisters who are also experiencing diminished expectations in areas of their lives. I pray that their faith would be stirred a new. In Jesus name, Amen.

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/-_AH48sUJmn0/TlT3gZJKsI/AAAAAAAAAkc/ydMvNfXD15k/s1600-h/PICT3177%25255B3%25255D.jpg

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-08-24 14:30:40)

Well, Wanda, I too must admit that there are some things that I have simply given up all expectation of. Yet, your words brought back to me one of my favorite verses:

"Don't be afraid. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. - Daniel 10:12

My daily walk in His grace! (2011-08-24 14:35:59)

Hi Wanda - I love this post but I also really love how you said, "I examined myself in light of this scripture". That is what we should be doing.

Great post

God bless

Tracy

Pam (2011-08-24 15:09:32)

This seems to be a recurring theme that God is reminding me of the last few weeks. Thank you for confronting us with Scripture, Wanda. With it you bring hope for what seems impossible.

Blessings!

Pam at www.2encourage.blogspot.com

Susie Swanson (2011-08-25 00:32:45)

I love this Wanda. I agree we all should examine ourselves more often. Thank you for your uplifting post..Susie

Sharon (2011-08-26 00:00:46)

Good convicting message, Wanda. I have a few things that truthfully I don't even pray much about anymore. Isn't that awful to admit that??

Thank for giving me the encouragement to renew my hope, and to learn once again that I must pray without ceasing over these seemingly impossible things.

All things are "HIM-possible" with the Lord!

GOD BLESS!

Joanne Sher (2011-08-26 00:35:26)

So needed that reminder. We have to EXPECT His answer, or we are not praying in faith. Thanks, Wanda.

Prayer Notes by Cynthia (2011-08-26 00:46:17)

Could it be that God has taken care of those areas in our lives and caused us to move forward? I often wonder about this. What seemed in need of repair and refurbishment last year, just seems to drop away, in importance. Thank you, for this post, as I am going to go back through my journals and think about what has changed in me and my faith. Is there an area that I have given-up hope of repair or does it no longer need repair? Many blessings!

P.S. I'm so glad you liked your bookmarks. If you need more, let me know. Blessings!

Alida (2011-08-26 08:53:38)

Thank you for sharing this...it really speaks to me today. I have almost given up on a few situations we are facing.

Just Be Real (2011-08-27 11:39:33)

deep provoking words here Wanda. Examining our own heart is where it begins. Blessings.

lioneagle (2011-08-27 14:54:11)

Hi Wanda -

A new fruitful journey is ahead for you. Prepare for the fresh revelations. Our Lord will quicken you and give power to your faintness. Cleave to Him and KNOW that bountiful avenues will be in your "travel" plans. Have no fear, JESUS abides in you as you abide in Him.

Satan hinders but He cannot cancel GOD'S plans...

Mike (2011-08-29 12:28:08)

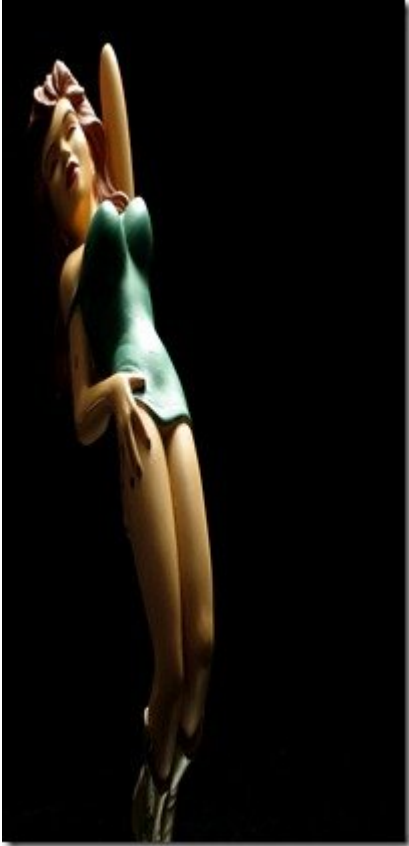
Yes, really tough for those long term struggles. But God loves faith right? May I have the perseverance to keep knocking and asking!

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-09-07 13:02:25)

I love this! I do not want to call on God only when things are tough....want to call on Him for daily fellowship.

Everybody Needs a Stripper in Their Life (2011-08-30 05:01)

What's your chosen stripper's name? Not the one swinging on the pole. Or the one that[1]



stimulates your sensuality. Oh no I'm referring to the one that was used as an agent of change in your life. Strippers come in array of disguises. Just take a look at Joseph's story in the Bible.

In Genesis 37, we find the story of this young man, who was favored by his father but hated by his own brothers. Joseph was adorned with a special coat signifying the esteemed position he held in his father's eyes. And if that was not enough, he was a dreamer. All of this contributed to him being put on the strippers' hit list. For him, his strippers were cloaked in the form of his own brothers. They were determined to dash his hope and kill his dreams so much so that they set a plot to fake his death and secretly sale him into slavery.

But that wasn't the end of Joseph's story. I would imagine that his route from favor to the pit to the place brought about a level of maturity in him that he would have never gained had he not had to experience the heat of his brothers' vendetta.

Our strippers may not be people but perhaps they are situations like failed marriages, physical/sexual abuse, rejection or disappointments. Regardless of the form the stripper comes in, it's purpose is the same to render you void of hope, dreams, faith, and identity.

However your story (and my story) doesn't have to end there. God can take all of stuff we encounter in this life and work it for our good. Some things like pride, selfishness, and independence gets worked out of us while other things such as perseverance, gentleness, meekness, and love get worked in us.

Are there some situations in your life that is attempting to hold you hostage and keep you in the grips of pain and despair. If so maybe it's time you look at from a different perspective, so that you may be able to proclaim the enemy meant for your harm but God worked for your good.

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/-RWL1tCPIBN4/T1xQ699hAvI/AAAAAAAAAkk/rVAvqEiTW0o/s1600-h/IMG_95536.jpg

Alida (2011-08-30 05:31:52)

Love this! And I am so grateful that God works it all out for good.

Tracy Teppler (2011-08-30 12:24:54)

Hi Wanda - great post :) Kind of feel like I'm being sanded right now! Great encouragement

God bless

Tracy

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-08-30 13:15:59)

Well, well, Wanda, once again, it seems as if you are in my brain. One of my favorite verses come from Joseph's story, and that verse has been strengthening me. It says this:

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh. - Genesis 41:14

I remind myself daily that we can be "quickly brought from the dungeon" into our divine destiny.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-08-30 13:32:57)

A wonderful post Wanda, You chose an eye catching title.

Yvonne.

Ella (2011-08-30 14:05:07)

Wow, strippers...yes, I have had a few of those in my life. I think I still do...time to push them aside and forge new paths! Thanks for the reminder...they do bring us down, if we aren't careful! xXx

Dawn (2011-08-30 14:43:20)

Found you on Faith Barista....

Love this-

"I would imagine that his route from favor to the pit to the place brought about a level of maturity in him that he would have never gained had he not had to experience the heat of his brothers' vendetta."

So true, even for us today!

Lisa (2011-08-30 18:10:34)

This is good, Wanda! God has been working to remove some things from my life through His gentle stripping. All things work together for good. So thankful for that truth!

Just Be Real (2011-08-31 13:20:30)

The title really intrigued me Wanda. Wonderful post and message. Blessings.

Faith Imagined (2011-08-31 18:25:24)

You always give strong messages in a way that makes it easy to understand. You are such an annoyed writer!

This pushes me to fully embrace my strippers realizing I'll be a better Christian from them. Thank you!

Toia (2011-09-01 02:56:48)

This is a great post. I love the analogy. This post gives me alot to think about. Blessings to you!!!

Bernadine (2011-09-04 02:43:08)

Great post Wanda. I'm so glad that no matter how bad our stuff is God can work it out for our good.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-09-07 12:59:37)

This is a great thought! I like the way God uses what satan meant for bad...

Reformed rebel (2011-09-07 23:42:21)

Hi Wanda Strippers...Wow! Never thought of it like that before. However God has been working on me lately and "stripping" away things that I have been holding on to for way too long. Thank you for this...well timed for me! Blessings...Chelle

Sharon (2011-09-08 20:46:57)

OK, Wanda - a clever and catchy title!

I have to admit, many of the stripping times in my life came from my own doing. But God uses everything for His good if we turn to Him.

Health, money, family issues - happy times and sad - they are all part of the re-tooling that the Master Carpenter is doing in our lives.

I am so grateful that He cares - for instance, He didn't leave Adam and Eve naked - He clothed them. This shows me that though those times of being stripped will come - God will also be there to clothe me with robes of righteousness. GOD BLESS!

2.9 September

Popping In (2011-09-15 07:17)

As you may have noticed things have been rather quiet around these parts. However, I haven't stopped thinking of you. I can't really pinpoint the reason for my silence other than I'm in the midst of life changes. Changes big or small (good or bad) can leave us disoriented, out of alignment and need of a second wind. So as I gather my thoughts and breathe His fresh breath again would you whisper a pray for me, as I pray for you.

Before I go I wanted to share a song with you I heard on Sunday that was touching to me and in case you don't have time to listen. Here's the lyrics to A Move of God is On the Way courtesy of elyrics.net.

I feel a breakthrough coming your way,
it's a mighty move of God,
it's gonna change your day.
With signs and wonders, miracles to perform,
God is gonna bless you for just holding on.

Just hold on, a change is coming,
feel it in the air,
it's in the atmosphere.
Just hold on, a change is coming,
a move of God is on the way.
You've been expecting a change in your life,
looking for your midnight to turn to sunshine.
It's gonna happen, you wait and see,
all things are possible to them that believe.
Just hold on, a change is coming,
feel it in the air,

it's in the atmosphere.
Just hold on, a change is coming...
A move of God is on the way. [EMBED]

Pam (2011-09-15 08:24:10)
Been missing you, Wanda! So glad you checked in. Praying for you, my friend!
May blessings rain down on you and "water your soul"!
Pam at www.2encourage.blogspot.com

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-09-15 08:56:35)
Yes I have missed you also! I have been slow at blogging myself?? I guess we all do that

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-09-15 09:45:15)
Wanda, I have been praying for you. I now call to mind a Psalm that brings me great strength:
Psalm 138
1-3. Thank You! Everything in me says "Thank You!" Angels listen as I sing my thanks. I kneel in worship facing Your holy temple and say it again: "Thank You!"
Thank You for Your love, thank You for Your faithfulness; Most holy is Your name, most holy is Your Word. The moment I called out, You stepped in; You made my life large with strength.
4-6. When they hear what You have to say, God, all earth's kings will say "Thank You." They'll sing of what You've done: "How great the glory of God!" And here's why: God, high above, sees far below; no matter the distance, He knows everything about us.
7-8. When I walk into the thick of trouble, keep me alive in the angry turmoil. With one hand strike my foes, with Your other hand save me. Finish what You started in me, God. Your love is eternal—don't quit on me now

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-09-15 09:49:07)
Lovely to hear from you, whatever changes you are going through my thoughts and prayers are with you,
Take care.
Yvonne.

Bernadine (2011-09-15 17:37:53)
Praying for you Wanda. Happy you're alright.

Wanda (2011-09-15 20:28:26)
Thank you so much ladies. Your thoughts and prayers mean a lot to me. It's been one of life surprises and joys to share this blogging journey with each of you. May God's face continue to shine upon you.

Karen (2011-09-18 07:29:11)
I needed to hear this song this rainy morning!! Thanks, Wanda!

Dawn M. Hamsher (2011-09-18 14:53:51)
Our pastor talked about change today. Most change we view as bad, but when it comes to Christ, that is a good change. If we allow him, he comes in and cleans house and gets rid of the bad habits and the sin.
This is a time of season change too. A good time to re-focus on Christ.
Blessings in your time of change. Talk to you soon!

Just Be Real (2011-09-18 15:19:23)
Glad for the pop in and even the pop over to my blog. Blessings to you Wanda.

Sharon (2011-09-18 16:04:41)

Wanda, I have noticed you being a little MIA! I will be praying for you as you face life changes. I know well the unsettling feeling that comes when things get a little (or a lot) topsy-turvy.

Thanks for the song. It was particularly uplifting as I'm considering some changes in my life, too. This was the best: "A move of God is on the way."

Oh yes, indeed.

Will eagerly await your return!

GOD BLESS!

Susie Swanson (2011-09-18 17:09:31)

It's good to hear from you Wanda, hope everything gets better for you and you're in my prayers..Susie

Mike (2011-09-19 05:18:09)

Such encouraging words! Amen Amen!

Ella (2011-09-20 19:34:05)

I am also in this mode!

Sending you hugs n' prayers and a Cherry coke ;D

Bob Sanchez (2011-09-21 10:32:52)

Stopping by to say hello. I hope all is well.

Prayer Notes by Cynthia (2011-09-21 14:06:43)

Praying for you, Wanda. Asking the Lord to keep His loving arms around you and guide your footsteps. Here is a prayer I wrote about seeking His direction:

Dear and Precious Lord,

There is so much that I want to accomplish for You, in this lifetime. Yet, my thoughts are scattered and my path is unclear.

I ask that You clear my thoughts and direct my footsteps so that I may be a vessel for Your work.

Place me where You want me to be.

Keep me safe in the face of danger.

Put the words in my mouth that

You would have me say.

For, I know that I am useless without You, but made invincible, with You at my side.

Although I may be afraid,

give me the courage to set my fear aside, and follow Your path.

Remove all of my obstacles, Lord,

and, illuminate my way.

Let Your work be done, in me, through me, and in spite of me.

This, I ask, in Your Most Holy Name.....Amen.

prayer notes

LisaShaw (2011-09-22 17:35:03)

Praying for you dear sister! I understand the season...we all go through them. Keep close to God's Word and heart as He ministers to you. Much love!

Let It Be Settled (2011-09-22 11:34)

He is settled in his mind that Jehovah will take care of him. Psalm 112:7b (TLB)

Is the question of God being on your side settled in your mind?

Amongst all the turmoil that you have experienced or are experiencing in your life, are you convinced that God will carry you through it?

Through the crooks, turns, valleys, caves, and rough terrain are you convinced that indeed the Father has a plan for you life?

As I came across Psalm 112:7, those are the questions I'm asking myself. It's easy to give off the expected answer of yes. But does my actions, my moods, my speech line up with that confession is the real question.

Tracy (2011-09-22 11:46:37)

Excellent Wanda - let it be settled. God said it, I believe it, that settles it. Now I must act like all the above is in my heart :)

God bless

Tracy

Angela Felsted (2011-09-22 13:17:19)

That is the hardest question of all, because no matter how hard we try we can never truly measure up. And it's up to us to have faith that our best is good enough for God.

Joanne Sher (2011-09-22 13:28:03)

Excellent thoughts, Wanda. The head ALWAYS says yes - but do we live that way? Praying I do.

Lisa (2011-09-22 15:25:59)

Great question, Wanda. The quick, expected answer is yes. But God wants us to do more reflection and introspection. Many blessings!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-09-22 15:50:47)

Wanda, Wanda, that question made me feel like Paul...I want to do right, but then...and I don't want to do wrong, and then. At the beginning of this week, I had to - again - remind myself to "stop flirting with God" and settle it in my mind that "Our faith may fail, His never wanes- That's who He is, He cannot change!" 2 Timothy 2:13
Standing on the Everlasting Rock and holding on for dear life.

LisaShaw (2011-09-22 23:33:43)

Amen Wanda! Your last paragraph said it best!

From December 2010 until May 2011 I was very ill. Dropped 43 lbs and saw 5 specialist and 2 regular dr's. Went through all sorts of medicines, even some that they should not have given to me apparently. I had to stand on God's Word even in moments when I felt like folding due to pain and not knowing what was wrong. It was then I reminded myself that my FAITH IS IN GOD in the good and in the bad. "Where is our faith when all hell is breaking loose?" Faith in God is not meant for just when everything is going good but for sure when all seems to be going wrong.

I appreciate you and miss you!

Wanda (2011-09-23 00:23:58)

Hi Lisa, missed you too sweet sister. Thanks for sharing your testimony.

Bluebutterfly, I read that post of yours and it was oh so powerful girl!

Lisa, I agree we need to go deeper than surface reading and answers.

Thanks Joanne, Tracy and Angela for sharing your thoughts.

Susie Swanson (2011-09-23 00:46:46)

Excellent Wanda, you took the words out of my mouth. Thank you for posting this, I needed it..Blessings, Susie

Pam (2011-09-23 01:35:43)

My walk does not always reflect my faith, but I want it to. Thanks for letting me know that others struggle the same way. It's so easy to talk the talk-not so easy to walk the walk.

Blessings, my friend!

Pam at www.2encourage.blogspot.com

Beck Gambill (2011-09-23 14:46:38)

Our actions tell on us don't they! I'm settled in my mind that God is on my side, or more importantly I'm on his, but I'm going to watch my actions today to see what I really believe!

Belbin9 (2011-09-24 03:44:32)

That's something I think everyone has asked at some point. I know I'm still asking it. How do we know we are on God's track

Just Be Real (2011-09-24 09:28:58)

It is the only thing that keeps me going. Even if I do not feel God always with me, just having the faith that He is helps.

Sharon (2011-09-24 23:17:11)

Great question, Wanda. Yes, it is settled in my mind. God is for me, on my side, through thick and thin. Now that doesn't mean that I understand what He's doing all the time - nor does it mean that I like it! But, I am doing my best to learn how to align my actions, my moods, my speech with the Truth that I believe in my heart...

If God is for me, who can ever be against me?

GOD BLESS!

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-09-26 23:23:43)

I try to always remember this.

Three Things (2011-09-26 12:14)

I received the following message from a friend today. Thus I'm sharing it with each of you (my bloggy friends).

3 things in life that never come back when gone

1. *TIME*
2. *WORDS*
3. *OPPORTUNITY*

3 things in life that should never be lost:

1. *PEACE*
2. *HOPE*
3. *HONESTY*

3 things in life that are most valuable:

1. PRAYER
- 2 LOVE
3. FAITH

3 things in life that make a person:

1. HARD WORK
2. SINCERITY
- 3.COMMITMENT

3 things in life that can destroy a person:

1. LUST
2. PRIDE
3. ANGER

3 things in life that are constant:

1. GOD
2. CHANGE
3. DEATH

Reading this email reminded me of 1 Corinthians 13:13. May our lives be built upon that which is eternal.

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. I Corinthians 13:13 NLT

But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love. I Corinthians 13:13(The Message)



[1]

1. <http://lh4.ggpht.com/-ZBiebadQY5U/ToBshk45MbI/AAAAAAAAAk8/MR6Sf315uHw/s1600-h/three%252520remain%25255B5%25255D.jpg>

Susie Swanson (2011-09-26 14:35:25)

And I love those three things. Thank you for the reminder and the wonderful post. Hope you have a blessed day..Susie

Joanne Sher (2011-09-26 15:37:17)
Just beautiful, Wanda. Thanks so much for sharing it.

Tracy (2011-09-26 15:59:21)
Hi Wanda - wow, so simple but so true. Great post
God bless
Tracy

Pam (2011-09-26 20:22:59)
I love Peterson's translation of 1 Corinthians 13:13! I never read that verse in that version before. So beautiful,
Wanda. Thanks for sharing!
Blessings!
Pam at www.2encourage.blogspot.com

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-09-26 23:22:28)
Thanks for sharing these 3 things!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-09-27 08:44:25)
Thanks for reminding us of the important words in life,
Yvonne.

Angela Felsted (2011-09-27 13:45:14)
These lists are fabulous. I especially like how you narrowed down destroying factors to three: Lust, Pride, Anger.

LisaShaw (2011-09-27 13:47:27)
Simplistic and POWERFUL! Amen! Thanks for sharing with us! I would add to the things that can destroy...FEAR
when not managed by the Holy Spirit. I lived it so I know first hand.
Hey, I shared your "writing style" post on my blog this morning. A little late :) but wanted to share it!
Blessings and love sis!

Sharon (2011-09-27 21:21:22)
Beautifully simple, and simply beautiful.
Yes, and isn't it interesting that the three things that are most valuable come from the heart of God...
He alone is the unchanging Three-In-One. The same yesterday, today, and forever.
GOD BLESS!

jackie (2011-09-29 03:16:10)
hello wanda!
I am back! I miss to read your recent post. I received the same message from a friend too and all of it are absolutely
true or shall I say ALMOST (to be safe:)...
How's life going on? I am now 5 months pregnant! :)
Hope to read more from you soon...
Please visit my other blogs too:
<http://www.bloggersnook.info>
<http://www.femalescentsation.info>
and please leave your mark there :)
Thank you..
God bless

2.10 October

Refreshed (2011-10-03 02:10)

It's been no real secret, I have been wandering around in a dry place. A place of shadows that threaten to overtake me. A place where the taunts of the enemy are heard screeching louder and louder in my ears. A place of taking two steps but seeming to make no ground at all.

But today something change. I feel revived and refreshed. I feel as if I can continue this journey with renewed vigor and passion. Only God can change a dry place to a watered garden. This blog was birthed out of a Isaiah 58:11 experience. That passage of scripture serves as the backdrop for all that is written or shared here. Hard to believe that it's been over one year and 272 posts ago since I typed my first post. I'm so grateful for each of you that have joined me here as I rediscovered my voice.

Sharon (2011-10-03 04:41:54)

I have missed your voice, Wanda. And I praise God that He has revived your heart and refreshed your spirit!

The father of lies is such an incessant enemy - and he is so clever at devising ways to silence us. We must not let him...

Put those warrior shoes back on, and let him know that you will not be stilled...

You will stand.

GOD BLESS!

Tracy (2011-10-03 06:21:26)

Hi Wanda - that is one of my most favourite scriptures. I pray your passion returns and congrats on your bloggerversary

God bless

Tracy

Pam (2011-10-03 08:13:06)

So happy to hear your "voice in the desert" again, Wanda. You have truly been missed. Your posts are like well-aimed arrows that always find their mark in my heart.

Blessings, my friend!

Pam

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-10-03 08:23:09)

It's wonderful to have you back. We all go through uncertain changes in life and to me it's a bit scary.

Have a wonderful week.

Yvonne.

Wanda (2011-10-03 12:27:53)

Thank you ladies. I look forward to reconnecting with each you. Miss visiting you all.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-10-03 14:46:51)

You've been such a blessing, Wanda. As I read your honest words, I was reminded of what we often forget: Satan is brash; a bully. Specifically, I remembered his challenge to Jesus after His days of fasting; attempting to get Him to deny His source. That bully satan is ALWAYS looking for an opportunity to challenge our foundation. He will fail. The NAME OF THE LORD is our tower and God will defend us. He is the glory and the one who lifts your head. He honors you as His unique creation. There is no place so dark that we are beyond His love. He is our God, our healer, our breath. "He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name." - Psalm 23:3

Joanne Sher (2011-10-03 15:12:32)

Praying, Wanda. And thrilled to have found you and have been blessed by you.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-10-03 17:51:59)

It is a desert many times that we wander in...but God does bring us out. I am happy to see you again

Rebecca Bany (2011-10-03 21:40:20)

That's wonderful news!

www.rebeccabany.com

Muslim in the Midst (2011-10-03 12:25)

I'm sending out a request to my brothers and sisters in Christ today. I have come across an unexpected challenge in my life. For anyone that has visited here knows, I'm unapologetically Christian while respecting the right of other's to choose differently. My path has crossed with that of someone who is of Muslim faith, which I know very little about. Since I believe that NO thing enters my life without the permission of God, I believe that our meeting is not without purpose. However, I do not want to set up our encounters to be one debate. Can anyone of you share ideas/tips or your personal experience with a similar situation?

Thanks for your help.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-10-03 14:32:20)

Wanda, this is a definite opportunity to "live your faith". I have many friends of different faiths, but I must tell you that I was thoroughly blessed by a Muslim I met in 2009. She came into my life in my role as caregiver. We had prayed for the right nurse during a very critical time. We have had every type of nurse over the years, but this was do or die (as in sent home to die) and we knew it. In the door walked this tiny woman, veiled. When she walked in, I knew she was the one. I can't even explain it. Out of her mouth came words of faith and life and her spirit was undeniably of God. We talked about our histories, about how God had helped us during our lifetime and how we serve the lives around us. Our connection flowed, no arguments, no battles against each other. It was and still is a time of acknowledging the miracles and the work of God unto His glory. She has been touched; I have been touched. I really believe that you will touch this life and be touched yourself. Go with the flow of God's spirit. You will look back and see the footprints of God all over this opportunity.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-10-03 17:54:35)

I do not believe we should argue our faith. We just live it and they will see it...I have not much experience with Muslims but non-believers are around me...

Alice Lynn Alfred (2011-10-03 19:31:39)

Dear friend I know with any religion, or any person, religious or not, who does not know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, what will change them is the same thing that changes you and I....the LOVE of God. Religion is all about "works" and proving you are ok based upon your behavior. Jesus is different because He is about love and grace and our works are NOTHING. LOVE, LOVE, LOVE and show much grace....and talk of your LOVE for JESUS, and His GRACE....this will make any Muslim question their own faith....and though they may act defensive or self-righteous in the face of truth....God is at work. PS thank you for the wonderful visit and comment over at my place!! Much love alice

Lisa (2011-10-03 19:33:15)

Wanda, I'm with BlueButterfly, there is a purpose in this meeting, and I think you already feel that. Build upon your common beliefs. You both believe in God, kindness, joy and living a good life. Talk and rejoice in your similarities. Remember that contention is of the devil and a spirit of debate and angry only furthers the unholy one's cause. Go forward in faith and Christ will be with you always. Much love and blessings to you!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-10-03 20:23:28)

I'm sure God has sent this person into your life for a purpose, once you know what that purpose is then all will become clear.

With all faiths we all believe in God and that can't be bad can it?

Yvonne.

Arlee Bird (2011-10-03 22:20:43)

I avoid arguing religion with others unless it's someone who is very close to me and we have a certain mutual playing field and respect for each other.

In your case I would learn as much as I could about Islam just in case the discussion ever arises. It's difficult to defend one's faith against someone who knows more about both. I think it is important to understand that Muslims reject the concept of the Trinity and that Jesus is part of the Godhead. They see Mohammed as more important than Jesus Christ and that is a pretty major difference.

If we can live in peace and mutual respect that's a great thing, but the differences in beliefs ultimately can cause friction.

Lee

[1]Tossing It Out

1. <http://tossingitout.blogspot.com/>

Wanda (2011-10-04 00:11:16)

Bluebutterfly, thanks for sharing your personal experience and words of wisdom.

Kim, I'm definitely not one to argue. I believe God can do a much better job than I ever could of defending Himself.

Alice, enjoyed my visit to your place and thanks for the sharing your insights with me.

Lisa, totally agree with what you said.

Yvonne, I agree that it's not without purposes. It just isn't always clear from the beginning.

Differing belief systems can cause contention. Thank you Arlee for sharing more about Islam. I plan to do a bit more research on it.

Pam (2011-10-04 02:05:16)

Praying for you, Wanda. Just had a discussion this evening at Stephen's Ministry Training about 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, especially verses 3-5 "When I came to you, I was weak and trembled all over with fear, and my teaching and message were not delivered with skillful words of human wisdom, but with convincing proof of the power of God's Spirit. Your faith, then, does not rest on human wisdom but on God's power." God knows your heart and will guide your words. Blessings!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-10-05 01:37:40)

Wanda, I have recently met someone who was raised Muslim, but was exposed to Christianity by other family members. Today, she "borrows principles" from them both and incorporates them into her lifestyle. I've had some interesting conversations with her. I'm like you. I'm not well versed on their faith. However, I continue to be strong in the Lord before her. I know you are sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. If He leads you into an opportunity to discuss faith, I know you will speak the truth in love. Love is truly the key. In the meantime, as you said, there's a reason for everything. If nothing else, you have an opportunity to be a picture of Christ in this person's presence.

lioneagle (2011-10-06 00:18:55)

Hi Wanda -

I have encountered Muslims who I have addressed as "Precious..."

It is important to glow with the love of our Father because He is love. Yes, we have different beliefs but love is core to our engagements.

I'm not familiar with how to effectively witness to them so the best that I can offer is that when I encounter them I love and respect them....

It may be a good idea to find a common demoninator, such as if they like to cook and you share that passion...

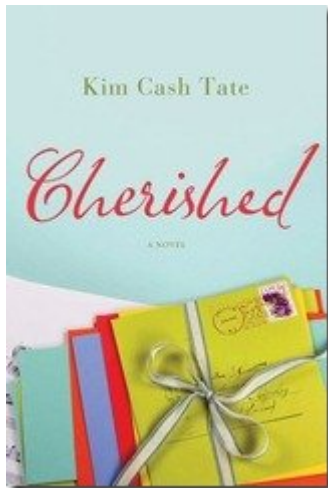
LisaShaw (2011-10-06 15:25:21)

What a beautiful opportunity for you to live, show and extend Christs love in your connection with them. As one whose brother was a Muslim until over a year ago; I have been saved since I was 12 and he a Muslim since he was an upper teen; and I loved him and shared Christ verbally but EVEN MORE in my walk before him so that he'd see Christ love at work. He is not saved YET but he is no longer a Muslim. He is searching/seeking and I know he is ripe for falling into the arms of God. It was me who he called to say he was no longer a Muslim and asked me to pray for him. He said, "Sis you've always lived your faith out loud with love". That's humbling and it's the key Wanda. Live your faith out loud with love!

Praying for you as God uses you to touch the person He's allowed to enter your life.

Cherished by Kim Cash Tate (2011-10-04 08:00)

A novel of unconditional love



[1] Having read Kim Tate's previous book Faithful, I was excited about reading her new novel Cherished and I was not disappointed. Mrs. Tate does an excellent job of exploring the challenges of real life and faith. Through her latest book readers will be forced to examine their own lives for areas of unforgiveness and evidence of them fully accepting God's unconditional love. Even when we know what God's Word says, its often hard to forgive ourselves and accept that we are His beloved.

The central storyline focuses on Kelli London, a single sister trying to bury the pain and guilt of an abortion she had in her teens, and Brian, her high school sweetheart. However, readers also reunited with other characters like Heather, Cyd and Dana from Faithful. It was pleasure to get reacquainted with each of these characters.

No matter one's walk of life, I believe that readers can identify with having felt unusable and that a dream was lost. Below is one my favorite quotes from the book:

For years she thought her dreams had turned to dust-dreams of music, dreams of future with Brian. God had brought the dreams back, but in ways she never could have imagined...out of a pain she never thought she could endure. Would she had dreamed those dreams, had she known?
pg. 305

Indeed this book is about unconditional love, acceptance, God's grace, mercy and restoration. Thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and my only criticism was how neatly everything seem to wrap up in the end, which I don't believe is always the case in life.

Disclosure: I received a complimentary copy for review purposes from The B & B Media group. Views and opinions expressed are my own.

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/-Pzh-oXvgDUE/TopzW7x8EeI/AAAAAAAAA1E/_ve2zyEutrY/s1600-h/image001%25255B3%25255D.jpg

Tracy (2011-10-04 10:21:07)

Hi Wanda - I've been looking for a good Christian author, will look her up.

God bless

Tracy

Pam (2011-10-04 10:54:29)

Thanks for the recommendation, Wanda. I love Christian novels and how they can so powerfully share God's truths.

Blessings!

Pam

Susie Swanson (2011-10-04 12:32:03)

Thank you for the info. I will look it up.. Have you ever read any of Jannette Oke's series. I love her writing. She is a good christian writer..Susie

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-10-04 13:28:51)

This sounds like a fun, interesting book to read....Thanks

Reformed rebel (2011-10-04 23:02:12)

HI Wanda Sounds like it would be good. I'll have to check it out. Thanks for sharing it.

Blessings...Chelle

Susie Swanson (2011-10-05 22:22:29)

Thought I'd pop back over to let you know I'm back in the commenting business for the time being anyways. Thanks to Paula. Thank you for the nice comments on mine and May God Bless, Susie

Bernadine (2011-10-08 04:32:02)

I love books that have characters from previous books woven in. Thanks for sharing, this sounds like an interesting book.

A Spacious Place (2011-10-07 13:06)

A quick scripture share this morning.

Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; Isaiah 54:2 KJV



Linking up with Nicole at [1]Coming Alive in Christ for His Word Friday. [2]

1. <http://comingaliveinchrist.blogspot.com/>
2. <http://comingaliveinchrist.blogspot.com/p/his-word-friday.html>

Nicole (2011-10-07 14:00:25)

Love this Wanda! Thanks so much for sharing! HE wants us to grow and to get stronger. Love it!!
Thanks for joining in! Its there every week if you want to continue! ;)
Have a blessed weekend!!

Michelle (2011-10-07 14:17:03)

Thanks for joining in today with a scripture share.
Have a wonderful weekend!

Sharon (2011-10-07 18:02:31)

Beautiful Scripture.
This was a great verse for someone like me who goes camping. The tent imagery was very visual.
It reminds me of how Jesus promises to give us life abundant. Sometimes my vision of Him is just too small.
GOD BLESS!

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-10-07 18:51:37)

A great scripture to share!

Grace. B (2011-10-07 20:41:40)

Hello Wanda,
Thanks so much for hopping over today to share HIS WORD. You have a lovely place welcoming and this space opened by God today with HIS WORD. Enlarged the tenth...GREAT to hear. In this spacious place HE ill quiet US by his love; HE will exult over US with loud singing.
My best bless for your night or day, here it's night and I'm quiet ready to go sleeping.
Grace

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-10-07 22:43:26)

One of my favourite scriptures, Wanda.
We need to continually stretch ourselves, enlarge and make room that God can continually fill that space made.
Thanks for sharing.
<><

Karen (2011-10-09 12:17:31)

Great verse...and prayer..that God will surely answer! Have a blessed Sunday.

lioneagle (2011-10-15 11:05:30)

Hi Wanda -
Hearty Amens!

Thank you

Reclaiming Ancient Paths (2011-10-10 13:58)



[1]

This is what the LORD says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, ‘We will not walk in it.’” Jeremiah 6:16

I admit I’m not one that appreciates the value and/or beauty of antiques. Like many, I have an eye for what’s new or modern. Much of advertising today is aimed at keeping us in pursuit of the latest it thing. Values such as modesty, monogamy, integrity, discretion are not portrayed as essential but are considered out-of-date. But is new always better?

In this particular passage, the people are instructed to pause and really look. To not just forge ahead making decisions mindlessly but to be conscious. Our lives are filled with crossroad moments and if we are not careful we can find ourselves on the wide open path of doing what is expected. Aimlessly following the culture instead of choosing a path with far less glitz and glam, accolades, or notoriety.

But the seeking for the latest and greatest is not where true satisfaction lies. Rather its discovered when go back to doing things God’s way that we find rest for our souls.

At this very moment you’ve entered a crossroad, which path will you choose?

This post is linked with [2]Monday Manna

1. <http://lh4.ggpht.com/-J7s9K4H3yas/TpL588JeSWI/AAAAAAAAA1M/S6VbPdiuFk8/s1600-h/Crossroads%25255B13%25255D.jpg>

2. <file:///localhost/mnt/ext/blogbooker/tmp/4c1nyqhk/www.joanneshesher.com>

Tracy (2011-10-10 14:08:43)

Hi Wanda - as I was reading your post this thought came to mind - God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Great post

God bless

Tracy

Lisa (2011-10-10 14:41:23)

Wanda, this is really good! I'm learning to appreciate antiques now, but I've always been about the latest and greatest too. But I don't want to run after things just because they are new or even because they are old. I want to run after the things of God. That's all that matters.

Joanne Sher (2011-10-10 14:43:40)

Wonderful thoughts, Wanda. Thanks for sharing, and participating in Monday Manna.

Prayer Notes by Cynthia (2011-10-10 16:10:09)

Yes! You are right. STOP and LOOK. This is my mantra, but there are times that I am tempted to step off the path and do "it" my way. I always get hit by a "bus" and have to remove the bumper from my teeth! LOL! Blessings!
P.S. I'm glad you enjoy my crafts! Drop by my shop and peruse! <http://www.etsy.com/shop/PrayerNotes>

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-10-10 16:28:08)

Amen! the latest and greatest it...is not where happiness is.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-10-10 16:54:55)

Wonderful post Wanda with the message coming over.

Yvonne.

Susie Swanson (2011-10-10 23:09:29)

Wonderful post, yes God is the same and always there for us.. Praise his Holy Name..Blessings, Susie

Carole in the Faith Lounge (2011-10-11 01:54:04)

Mmm... It interesting, I have been reading a few blogs over the weekend, which all seem to include verses from Jeremiah and Isaiah, that have helped me greatly, to understand certain challenges I am facing at the moment.

Wanda, this verse is a direction from the Lord for me today.

God Bless you for sharing.

I was delighted to see you popped into The Faith Lounge for refreshment. Thank you for joining the conversation.

Carole in the UK

Ella (2011-10-12 04:58:56)

Hi Wanda, I have missed you

I go for something familiar when crossroads occur. I prefer the old, better made, but I do like new, too

See another crossroads ;D

Faith Imagined (2011-10-12 05:08:06)

That is what God is really teaching me lately – to pause and really look. I think our culture keeps us so rushed that we don't realize that history gives us insight into the paths we should take! Thank you for such a beautiful post!

susanwalkergirl (2011-10-12 14:50:28)

Very good post Wanda. We must be wise and mindful that we are engaged in a spiritual battle every day.

Praise God we have the Bible, God's holy inerrant word to compare and measure thing against so that we may choose wisely.

Blessings in Christ...Susan

Marcia (2011-10-13 01:44:23)

God, timeless. Integrity, timeless. Morals and values, timeless. Some things never change and I am thankful.

Always a pleasure stopping by, Wanda. Thank you so much for the warm birthday wishes.

Much love!

Sharon (2011-10-13 17:49:19)

I really love that verse. Sometimes when we get confused along the way, we need to return to a place where God is waiting to lead us again.

I am a huge antique-lover. I love them because of the stories that come with them. They remind me of simpler times. That's also what God wants for us - His way is narrow, and difficult - but it is the simple path of LIFE!

I am choosing to follow the Lord - not sure where the path is leading - but I know my Guide.

GOD BLESS!

lioneagle (2011-10-15 11:04:14)

Hi Wanda -

Yes the latest gadget mania is a trip, people waiting in lines...

Praise GOD that we don't need to wait in line to get the benefits of loving, trusting and obeying Almighty GOD.

THANK YOU, LORD, for how YOU enrich us with YOU. How grateful we are that YOU are the same yesterday, today and forever!!!

Embracing Farewell (2011-10-14 12:37)

Growing up I have always been shy, which didn't lend itself to making large number of friends. Instead I



chose to develop a small circle of friends.[1] I have always envied my sibling's outgoing personality but it just never came that easy for me. Letting someone new in is never easy for me. So you can imagine how difficult goodbye must be.

But as you know, God never leaves us in our places of comfort for too long. He nudges us and at times gives us a big push in order to produce growth in our lives. That's what He has been doing for me in the past few months of this year. He's taken me down new roads meeting new people and encountering new experiences. At times I have trodden along timidly and other times a bit defiantly, kicking, screaming, and pleading that He give me a moment to catch my breath.

Once I have said hello to something new I long to cling to it but I have experienced quite a few exits that caused me to grieve and question why I had to go through the experience. But God in His kindness has been teaching me the true value of goodbye. When I clutch onto to the things in my life that He has chosen to usher out, I keep myself stuck and stunted. It is the farewells of life that makes room for new hellos.

Father help me (and others like me) to embrace what you're doing now. Teach us how to mourn during the allotted time but not to get stuck there. Lord I thank you for the ability to move forward in You. Thank

you that as we walk along life's journey you are with us! We chose to place our confidence in You and in Your ability to guide us along the right paths for lives. In Jesus name, Amen.

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/-Sjsour230zc/TpgtCtCLG0I/AAAAAAAAAU/RGHX0bjr0fA/s1600-h/11126484131_edited-1%25255B6%25255D.jpg

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-10-14 14:03:30)

Wow! Wow! Wow! What can I say? When you read my blog today you will understand. God is good; He knows the way that we should take. Goodbyes are difficult, but absolutely necessary. I've been meditating on Romans 5, and what it means to stand in this place of the "undeserved privilege" of His grace:

"...Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love..."

Tracy (2011-10-14 14:48:57)

Hi Wanda - its so true what you say that if God wants us to let something go, and we don't, it hurts and harms us, or stunts us. Something to definitely think on with issues I hold on to. Thank you

God bless

Tracy

Joanne Sher (2011-10-14 14:52:14)

Beautiful and heartfelt, Wanda. Praying right along with you.

Pam (2011-10-14 15:00:33)

My husband, our children, and I have moved A LOT during our lifetimes. It is always difficult saying Goodbye—not just to the friends we have made but to the familiar and comforting. I always feel like a deer caught in the headlights when we walk into a new church. But God has always been faithful and along with all the scary parts of new places and new people have come new blessings and new friends. If I had been unwilling to let go of the past, I would never have met some of these wonderful people or experienced the thrill of new adventures. So, with God, it is always worth it to step out in faith. Thanks for the reminder Wanda! Have a blessed weekend my friend!

Pam

Wanda (2011-10-14 16:42:38)

You know I had to hurry over and read your post Bluebutterfly. And it serves as confirmation to what God has been teaching me. Funny thing is this post has been brewing in my spirit and heart for days but I finally felt the push to release it. I pray that others that stop by will read your post. It bless me and I know others will be blessed as well.

Angel @ Finding The Inspiring (2011-10-14 17:45:07)

Wanda, your post speaks straight to my heart. I too have a hard time letting go. Thank you for the reminder that "It is the farewells of life that make room for new hellos."

Pamela (2011-10-14 19:36:21)

I understand the sister thing. We'd go to the mall and my sister would say, "I hope I see someone we know." I'd say, "I hope we don't see anyone we know." But you're right about the fact that sometimes we need to say good bye to the comfort zone. I'm always blessed when I do.

Blessings,

Pamela

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-10-14 22:03:07)

Wonderful Wanda.

Have a good week-end.

Yvonne.

Susie Swanson (2011-10-14 22:14:12)

This post spoke straight to my heart and brought tears. You spoke what I hold in my heart and can't release at times. So heartfelt, thank you my friend..Susie

lioneagle (2011-10-15 11:01:08)

Hi Wanda -

Thank you. I enjoyed this message.

Do you remember the song, "It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday?"

That came to mind after I read this.

Yes, Goodbyes can be challenging but as the Spirit of GOD leads, we must follow.

This is an encouraging and hopeful piece, Wanda.

Karen (2011-10-16 13:44:02)

I prayed that prayer with you this morning, Wanda! Thank you for sharing this.

Bernadine (2011-10-17 00:07:23)

Wanda I so identified with this post today. Thanks for sharing your heart.

Just Be Real (2011-10-17 11:29:08)

I know that God only has our best interest. To fight Him on this only makes matters worse. Blessings to you Wanda.

Alida (2011-10-18 02:22:58)

What a great post...thank you for the reminder to embrace what is happening right now. I needed to hear that today. joy & blessings,

Alida

susanwalkergirl (2011-10-18 03:39:44)

Dearest Wanda,

Thank you for sharing lessons from your life journey with the Lord. There is something about your openness that touches me.

Blessings in Christ...Susan

Sharon (2011-10-18 22:47:20)

Wanda, this was an amazing post. God has certainly pushed me out of my comfort zone in the last few months, and so I can totally relate to what you're saying.

One of the farewells that I've had to say lately actually happened several years ago - and yet, it's been hard again. That would be letting go of my adult sons. It's been so hard lately watching them work out their own lives, watching them grapple with their own struggles, watching God write their faith stories. Yes, I'm still there for support and advice - but so often I have been unable to help any more than to pray.

But God reassures me that He is moving us all forward, into something better that we would never see if we stayed *stuck* -

Thanks for this word of encouragement today.

GOD BLESS!

wisdomvirtueandrubies (2011-10-18 22:52:53)

I've always said you remind me so much of myself in so many ways. This post is additional evidence of that. I pray the Lord will continue to grace you to embrace the seasons of goodbye so you can welcome the seasons of hello.

Ella (2011-10-19 04:41:17)

It is difficult; I too have moved a lot and know the unsettling feeling of moving onward. Sometimes I welcomed it, but most of the times I resisted I love the idea of saying goodbye to welcome hello...so beautiful! Great post @>—

Hands to Work, Hearts to God (2011-10-19 20:48:48)

My sister was just saying yesterday that she has a phobia for saying goodbye! So this struck a cord! But we shouldn't be anxious for anything, God is able to be responsible for our lives and He will teach us if we are open. Patsy from [1]HeARTworks

1. <http://patsypat.blogspot.com/>

Stacy @ Heartprints of God (2011-10-20 00:53:19)

Wanda,

As I read your post, I was reminded of how God is all about "new". He re-creates us into new creations, and is ever before us doing a "new thing", so that we might sing a "new song". Goodbyes are hard, but your words have encouraged my heart to embrace the new thing God is ever opening before me.

Beautiful words. Thank you, too, for stopping by my blog today and leaving such beautiful words behind.

Stacy

LisaShaw (2011-10-21 20:47:37)

Wanda, I can so relate! Your last paragraph says it all! Beautiful prayer!

Love you!

Think Before You Speak (2011-10-19 06:00)



[1] Which of you haven't wished to recant your words at one time or another? I know I have on many occasions even though I consider myself to be quieter than most. I'm still guilty of using my words as arsenals rather than agents of healing far too many occasions. While reading a devotional from Bible Gateway the other day, I came across a great acronym to use before speaking (I know the trick is to actually put into practice). The next time we get the urge to speak, it would be wise to ask ourselves the following:

T Is it true?

H Is it helpful?

I Is it inspiring?

N Is it necessary?

K Is it kind?

Read the entire devotional over at [2]Girlfriends in God.

1. http://lh5.ggpht.com/-_skIWplGdKw/Tp4bY-kfYBI/AAAAAAAAA1k/y6-0uJ2rFV0/s1600-h/592557_speak_love%25255B6%25255D.jpg
2. <http://www.girlfriendsingod.com/2011/t-h-i-n-k/>

Tracy (2011-10-19 09:21:08)

OOh, very good. I'm copying that down right now. Great powerful short and sweet word for today, Wanda
God bless

Tracy

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-10-19 13:58:41)

Wow! If I had a dime for every person I meet who's been harmed by words. Of course, I've also met people who have been greatly blessed by one word from someone who took the time to think before speaking.
Praying for a guard on my tongue today.

Susie Swanson (2011-10-19 17:04:32)

Wo, I'm guilty, guilty. Really needed this today and I think I'll copy it too.. Blessings, Susie

Pam (2011-10-19 20:13:46)

This will be very helpful IF I can JUST DO IT! Thanks for the acronym, Wanda.
Blessings!

Pam

Denise (2011-10-19 20:16:08)

Hi Wanda,

Thanks for your heartfelt comment!

What a wonderful way to remember how a peaceful and loving response is a powerful response! :) Before we speak, act, or respond, we should thoughtfully pray and consider a calm and peaceful way to do so.

Blessings and hugs!

Denise

susanwalkergirl (2011-10-20 04:43:19)

Very good...thank you for sharing. Probably most things that come out of my mouth could be nipped in the bud if I would applied THINK! Perhaps that would make more time for words that are edifying, true and build up.

Pamela (2011-10-20 20:05:31)

I love this...what a wonderful youth lesson. Stopping to think would sure keep watch on our tongue.

Ella (2011-10-21 04:30:51)

This is wonderful; thank you for sharing! I needed this reminder

LisaShaw (2011-10-21 20:45:09)

This is awesome! May we all remember...

Love you beautiful sister!

Karen (2011-10-22 15:14:12)

I need to out this on the bulletin board at school! Thankfully, I work with a teacher who puts this into practice...She is a good influence on me!

Beyond (2011-10-21 07:15)

Beyond is moving pass the often self-imposed limitations.
beyond the shame forgetting the pain of the past
No longer clinging to what's gone but embracing what remains
all the while understanding there's more to attain

Moving out of places of comfort to new canvases
allowing myself to paint with new colors
and trusting that even with these hues beauty can be seen.

Beyond the chains of my own thoughts
but grasping for higher & more loftier ones.

Refusing to be chained to the failures of yesterday
I choose to move beyond what I thought relinquishing my own hopes
so that I might received beyond what I could imagine.

Joining [1]Gypsy Mama for 5-minute Friday. When I saw the word beyond, it reminded me of the song that's been playing for days on my car stereo. Sharing it with you.

[EMBED]

1. <http://thegyptymama.com/2011/10/five-minute-friday-beyond/>

Pam (2011-10-21 07:22:46)

I understand why you have been playing JoAnn Rosario's "Beyond" all week! It is a beautiful prayer straight from the heart. And fits Gypsy Mama's theme exactly!
Have a blessed weekend, Wanda!
Pam at 2 Encourage

Deidra (2011-10-21 07:23:54)

There's so much more beyond, isn't there?
[Glad you linked up with Lisa-Jo today. Nice to *meet* you!]

joan (2011-10-21 08:02:01)

Wanda,
Beautifully stated...
I have chosen to live beyond the cares of yesterday, and beyond whatever comes my way today...
Blessings,
Joan

Angela Felsted (2011-10-21 08:25:39)

Thanks for sharing such a beautiful ballad.

Robin (2011-10-21 08:28:18)

Ah so much of what you say reminds me of that quote "You can't discover new oceans unless you have the courage to leave the shore"

Thank you for an eloquent and meaningful post!

Joanne Sher (2011-10-21 08:28:46)

Just beautiful, Wanda. Thanks for sharing.

Sarah Elizabeth (2011-10-21 11:39:27)

You've written such lovely moving beyond prose, Wanda! Thank you for sharing with us!

graceformymess.com (2011-10-21 11:59:57)

Beautiful, Wanda! I love that you're learning to move beyond and paint with the vibrant new hues God has given you. Thank you for sharing your post at Lisa-Jo's today!

LisaShaw (2011-10-21 14:41:58)

I enjoyed the song as I read your words dear sister.

This really stuck out to me: "Refusing to be chained to the failures of yesterday

I choose to move beyond what I thought relinquishing my own hopes

so that I might receive beyond what I could imagine."

May we all move beyond whatever point we are to really know Him more deeply so that we'll be more of who He wants us to be.

Love you.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-10-22 06:47:56)

Wanda, you are using one of my favorite words in Scripture: remains. I met with a friend who lost her disabled daughter years ago, after years of struggle. As I sat with her last night the thought came to me that she no longer looks as if she is about to cry 24/7. She no longer looks crippled emotionally. What remains is being restored and rebuilt. For once, there was no tears, but laughter. There was a time that she was walking dead, but now there is strength to continue on fully alive to see and press on beyond. I was encouraged in ways I can't even describe. I am encouraged by this blog to walk fully alive.

"...you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains..." - Revelations 3:1-2

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-10-22 07:20:21)

I needed to read this...moving past what was in my life. Thanks for this post

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2011-10-22 15:11:02)

"Beyond the chains of my own thoughts," and "Refusing to be chained to the failures of yesterday"—yes, that is what keeps me down. Keeps me from moving forward. Always caught in the "what ifs" of yesterday and the whirrings of my own thoughts.

Moving forward means letting go and trusting God—really believing Him.

Thank you for this thought-filled post, Wanda. So glad to have you visit Sharon's and my IRL meeting. It was sublime!

Blessings,

Janis

Miranda (2011-10-22 19:57:29)

Ah, this post is so refreshing to read. I often put self-limitations on myself and I really need to look beyond and always seek His will.

Monica Watkins (2011-10-23 13:34:14)

Just reading this today. Oddly enough, today I've been struggling to move beyond some past relational mistakes and embrace with wisdom the promises of today and the future. Trying not to get stuck asking "why". God's timing is perfect. This post blessed me today.

Sharon (2011-10-24 12:52:39)

Wanda, this was beautiful - just like your heart.

This was the part that I absolutely loved:

"Moving out of places of comfort to new canvases allowing myself to paint with new colors and trusting that even with these hues beauty can be seen."

As long as I place my whole life into the hand of the Almighty, I can rest assured that the Master Painter will create a thing of beauty.

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." (Ephesians 2:10, NLT)

Don't you just love that?! :)

GOD BLESS!

Bernadine (2011-10-24 19:23:05)

Moving out of places of comfort to new canvases
allowing myself to paint with new colors
and trusting that even with these hues beauty can be seen.

Beautiful thoughts Wanda. Thank you for sharing this and for the beautiful song that accompanies it.

lioneagle (2011-10-25 11:56:48)

Hi Wanda -

Sincere thanks to you for this piece.

Your warmth is obvious.

Alida (2011-10-25 21:29:00)

So beautiful! Thank you for sharing<3

Beth in NC (2011-10-29 05:23:54)

I loved what you wrote, "Beyond the chains of your own thoughts." Isn't that the truth? Our mind is such a battlefield and it battle is often lost in our own minds before we get started.

God bless you today!

Love,

Beth

Just Be Real (2011-10-30 16:50:35)

Wanda, what words. Yes there is certainly something beyond. Blessings.

Regina (2011-10-31 09:59:03)

I love Joann Rosario! Beautiful post and so true. The thing that often holds us down, back, and keeps us stagnate is ourselves! Thanks for the visit! Do come again!

I am adding you to bloglists!

Be blessed!

Regina

2.11 November

The Road Back to Judah (2011-11-01 11:38)

Have you ever found yourself in a place in life that was absent of judah (praise)? While if we just think and examine close enough there is always something for which to be grateful. But life can throw you some blows that shroud the goodness around you. The book of Ruth tells of the story of one such woman, named



Naomi. [1]

In an attempt to avoid famine in her hometown, Naomi travelled with her husband and sons to Moab. During her time there she lost her husband and eventually her two sons. Left widowed, alone, and hopeless in a foreign land. Yet she heard the news of God blessing in her hometown and made the decision to go back home.

Although she was going back to a place she had been before, she wasn't the same. Her condition had changed. She went out married and came back widowed. She went out with children and came back childless. She left full of hope but was returning hopeless. She was coming back bitter, full of sorrow, and blaming God for her plight.

Like Naomi, I have encountered changes during my life journey. Changes that were for the worse instead of better. Changes that led me back to square one again. Only this time my heart wasn't as open as before. I wasn't as hopeful as before. I wasn't rehearsing His goodness as before. Why? Because I thought I heard God but it didn't turn out the way I expected. Or because I experienced loss or disappointment.

Each of our lives have episodes of loss, disappointment, grief, bad decision-making but our stories don't have to end there. All the while Naomi was going about trying to survive, God was orchestrating a plan. He was ushering her back to a place in life, one that she couldn't even conceive in her own mind, that was leading to hope and praise. And He's doing that for you and me. All the times I cried about loss, I didn't readily see that He would bring new experiences, which would lead me back to hope, faith, and love again.

God is one who is in the details of our lives. He is in the midst of our everyday affairs and He can make sense of all the randomness.

1. http://lh3.ggpht.com/-hmGNZXwA5j4/Tq_aTSZurJI/AAAAAAAAAmk/nWEhW_c01YM/s1600-h/80602870%252520copy%25255B5%25255D.jpg

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-11-01 12:40:10)

You expressed very well the disappointments that we go through...I am happy that you have hope back.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-11-01 13:21:06)

All I'll say here is, "Yes, Lord, Yes". I am say yes to God still, even if I don't know which way is up, even if it feels as if I have not advanced one step this whole year, even if I have had more disappointments than I can count. I am say Yes because I absolutely refuse to turn back.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-11-01 18:08:12)

Very well written Wanda, I am pleased you feel you have hope.

Take care.

Yvonne.

Sharon (2011-11-01 20:03:21)

Just absolutely beautiful.

This was my favorite thought:

"God is one who is in the details of our lives. He is in the midst of our everyday affairs and He can make sense of all the randomness."

Yes, there is no such thing as "random" or "chaotic" or "unintended" in the life of a Christ follower. God has every thread firmly in His hand, and He faithfully weaves them into a beautiful tapestry that reflects His image.

It's so much better if we let Him control the pattern from the very beginning - there's a lot less to tear out and do over!!

I love the story of Naomi and Ruth - I just posted something about it on Sunday. Such a testimony of God's hand on a life, directing it behind the scenes, to HIS perfect ending.

Thanks for sharing, Wanda.

GOD BLESS!

Susie Swanson (2011-11-01 23:08:51)

I love your writing, there is always so much hope and you inspire me so much..Thank you for this wonderful post and all of your posts..Blessings, Susie

Lisa (2011-11-02 00:28:24)

Wanda, this is really good. We often see going back as failure and forget that God always has a plan. "All the while Naomi was going about trying to survive, God was orchestrating a plan." Amen!

Deidra (2011-11-02 01:19:41)

Oh, I see myself here. Faced with disappointment, I kick at the dirt and stir up a whirlwind of whining. Not pretty. Sometimes I forget God is in the wilderness. Thanks for this reminder. :)

Wanda (2011-11-02 11:51:42)

Deidra, I've done my share of whining as well. **Lisa** you're right going back is not always a bad thing. Sometimes during our lives we drift away from God and the things of God and need to go back. **Susie** thank you so much! Oh so true **Sharon** all that looks random to us is absolutely no surprise to God and its just one of those things He's using for our greater good. **Yvonne** thanks! **Bluebutterfly** a continually yes is what we all need. **Kim** life is full of disappointments of some kind but as long we are here we are not without hope. Thanks to each of you for sharing your thoughts. Blessings.

B E L O V E D (2011-11-03 05:35)

As I opened the latest edition of [1]Sanctified Together, I was greeted with the words beloved Wanda. The idea of me being BELOVED gripped my thoughts. It was not just some standard opening line but rather I was reminded that it's just what God feels about me. I am His beloved. You are His beloved!

My beloved is mine, and I am his, Song of Solomon 2:16a

1. <http://www.sanctifiedtogether.com/>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-11-03 07:12:27)

Thank you, Beloved Wanda, for quoting one of my favorite verses.

Lisa (2011-11-03 10:05:54)

Thank you for this beautiful reminder, Wanda. Many blessings!

Tracy (2011-11-03 12:03:07)

Hi Wanda - to think that God thinks of us as His beloved...Awesome

God bless

Tracy

Beck Gambill (2011-11-03 12:20:07)

Sweet thought, to be beloved. Maybe I'll refer to myself as beloved Beck today and let the truth sink in, it has a nice ring!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-11-03 12:33:59)

A wonderful reminder Wanda. Thank you.

Yvonne.

Sharon (2011-11-03 13:17:01)

I got that same email - and yes, hearing the word "Beloved" attached to your name is pretty special. And to think of this word coming out of the mouth of God is priceless!

I had already planned to blog something along these same lines on Monday. I'm taking this as a sign that it's what God wants me to do!

GOD BLESS, Beloved Wanda.

BARBIE (2011-11-03 18:20:16)

Love this! Yes, I am His Beloved, and so are you!

Pam (2011-11-03 19:37:03)

So simple, so true, so thankful.

Blessings on you, Wanda!

Pam from www.2encourage.blogspot.com

Alida (2011-11-04 20:06:34)

We are His beloved...what a beautiful way to be greeted!

lioneagle (2011-11-05 05:47:05)

Hi Wanda -

Thank you

Yes, that says so much. How assuring and comforting.

Thank You, Lord, for Your incomparable love, and care!

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-11-05 14:22:08)

Beloved describes so well how we are viewed by Jesus...Thanks

Prayer Notes by Cynthia (2011-11-06 21:05:03)

Yes, we are His beloved. If no one else worries or cares for us, we can rest-assured that He loves us. We are His beloved.... Thank you, for such a wonderful reminder of His love. Cynthia

P.S. I will try to add this Scripture to one of my bookmarks or cards. Be blessed.

alisa (2011-11-06 22:41:02)

I wonder how we all would behave and feel if we fully knew how much God loved us. We are His BELOVED!!!

This post blesses me, Beloved Wanda!

Reformed rebel (2011-11-07 18:17:26)

Reminds me of a song taken from Song of Solomon. I am my beloveds and he is mine, his banner over me is love.

Blessings...Chelle

Carole in the UK (2011-11-07 19:25:07)

Woohh! I just want to give the Lord a big hug after reading this post.

Wanda, thank you for reminding us that we are His Beloved. I am going to add this verse to my Top Verses list

The Promise Keeper (2011-11-07 08:37)



It's hard to believe we are already in the next to last month of the year. Where has the time gone? There is something about this time of year that causes me to look back over the landscape of my year and do an assessment. Although looking for areas of accomplishments is good, I generally find myself examining the areas that I started but never finished. My eyes focus on what I have yet to obtain or see manifest in my life. Do you know what happens when I do this? Disappointment sets in. I lose my grip on the promises of God.

As I walked this morning and pondered yesterday's message in my heart, I heard the whispers of God reminding me that He is the promise keeper. For a girl, who has experienced the heartache of broken promises, it's hard for me at times to really trust. People I thought were trustworthy proved themselves otherwise. And then there is the fact that I don't always keep the promises I make to myself. I promise to eat better, exercise more, venture out more, think better thoughts, or act less selfishly BUT I fail to keep my word. So the issue of promises often has me mentally squirming and pondering should I really believe that it'll happen this time.

Our vision of God is often distorted because we look through the lens of our human experiences. A promise is only as good as the character of the one, who makes the promise. As humans, we all have failed to keep at least one promise but not God.

True, some of them were unfaithful; but just because they broke their promises, does that mean God will break his promises? Romans 3:3 NLT

Despite the approach of the end of year, do not lose hope in God's Word. There is still time left. Do as Psalms 119:82 says, strain to see the promises of God. Daily He is fulfilling promises to you and me.

Tracy (2011-11-07 09:48:38)

Hi Wanda - I was just thinking yesterday how God is the ONLY one you can trust. I asked God once, "why Lord, why wasn't he trustworthy." And the answer that came back was - "you were trusting him and not ME! ouch

Great post Wanda

God bless

Tracy

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-11-07 12:13:32)

Wanda, as I read your words I was reminded that to Him, to our Creator, there is no end. Even when we fall and fail and reach our end, we have Him. Even when we can't trust ourselves, we can trust Him. He will carry us through.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit. - Psalm 147:5

He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever. - Psalm 146:6

The Lord always keeps His promises. - Psalm 145:13

Karen (2011-11-07 14:42:39)

Amen! God is most assuredly our Most Faithful One...He never fails...

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-11-07 16:27:38)

Wonderful to read Wanda, yes time does fly.

Take care.

Yvonne.

Reformed rebel (2011-11-07 18:14:20)

Hi Wanda I tend to think about all I started and never finish also. Praise God He is not like that. His promises we can always count on! Amen!

Blessings...Chelle

Carole in the UK (2011-11-07 19:21:17)

Ooh! I love this post Wanda, as recently my Pastor preached on Promises and it made me think of the promises I had made to others and not always kept. I then pondered on the many, many promises, of God that I do not always stand on, despite **KNOWING** that God never breaks His promises.

Thank you for reminding us 'to strain to see the promises of God'.

I noticed you popped into [1]The Faith Lounge recently. Thank you for joining in the conversation. Look out for my next post about the four words that changed my walk with the Lord, it will help you in **ANY** challenge.

Bless you

1. <http://www.thefaithlounge/>

Pam (2011-11-07 20:56:12)

You always give me much to think about, Wanda. In just a few words you bring us a powerful message straight from God's Word. Your honesty gives us permission to be honest with ourselves. Thank you!

Blessings!

Pam

Sharon (2011-11-08 00:21:42)

What a good reminder, especially in these times of crisis in our nation! We need to keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. I appreciated your post.

Monica Watkins (2011-11-19 14:49:06)

As with most of your posts, I can certainly relate to the thoughts and feelings you've expressed in this post. For years, I would spend the end of the year reflecting on the promises I hoped would come to pass with the dawn of a new year. Just as you said, disappointment would set in quickly. I've learned that God's promises are true and His timing is perfect. I haven't started my reflections of this year, yet, but I pray I will keep the truth you've shared here in mind when I do.

Because Just One is Never Enough (2011-11-09 08:01)



[1] Have you ever just ate one M &M or one potato chip? I can't think of one single time that's occurred for me. It's just something about them that calls me back for another one. And then another one. Even when I tried these new popcorn chips, which I didn't like, I gave it more than one try. For you, it might not be either of two that has you reaching for more. But there is bound to be something that you refuse to settle for just one.

If food, clothes, shoes, or technological gadgets can have us (me) craving for more than one, why is it that we (me) settle for acknowledging God on a matter just once? Ouch, is what I said when this was brought to my attention today. The other day a friend of mine told me that I think too much. Admittedly, I consider myself more of a thinker than a talker but I was prodded by the spirit that the reason for some of all that thinking is that I'm not doing enough acknowledging in my life. You see when I'm thinking, I am pondering ways to fix this, correct that, and predict the future. In essence I'm taking matters into my own feeble hands. The thinking gets me super glued to what-if(s) and how.

When all I really need to do is trust and put into practice Proverbs 3:6,

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. (NKJV)

It's not enough to acknowledge God once but it's something to be done continually. He does not become tired of us coming to Him about the details of our life. He promised to give us direction. If I'm feeling lost, perhaps it is because I have failed to seek His counsel. So even if you asked God once and you did not hear anything (because that happens to me a lot), remain consist in your acknowledging.

Linking up with Tracy for [2]Winsome Wednesday.

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/-Cf07CVn4BE8/TrqHnJwRtSI/AAAAAAAAAps/syMhchTdCos/s1600-h/cookies_u%25255B6%25255D.jpg
2. <http://mydailywalkinhisgrace.blogspot.com/2011/11/winsome-wednesday-he-has-plan.html>

Karen (2011-11-09 08:42:29)

Great food for thought, Wanda! I am guilty of this as well....

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-11-09 11:18:56)

Wanda, I screamed "guilty" when I saw the title of the blog (the image of a bag of Doritos popped in my head), and by the end I was still screaming guilty! guilty! guilty! Lord, help me!

Tracy (2011-11-09 12:24:01)

Hi Wanda - I love how you say we need to continuously acknowledge God in all our ways. So true. Like His mercies are new every day, our acknowledgement of Him should be daily, hourly if need be, too

Great post and thank you for linking up. I look forward to seeing you there.

God bless

Tracy

Sharon (2011-11-09 15:15:08)

Oh Wanda - have you crawled up inside my head?!

This was such a good post. Painfully true for me, but also wonderfully inspiring. This was the line that really stopped me:

"In essence I'm taking matters into my own feeble hands. The thinking gets me super glued to what-if(s) and how."

I also am an interesting mix of very deep feelings and a very analytical mind. The way I try to "break down" life is so very exhausting.

Acknowledging Him - so simple, yet so hard to remember to put into practice. Forgive us (me) Lord, for failing to remember that when we acknowledge You - You promise to direct our paths.

GOD BLESS!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-11-09 17:32:09)

A cleverly put together post Wanda. Interesting to read.

Yvonne.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-11-10 14:52:15)

Beautiful...One is never enough...yes we need that appetite for God

Phather Phil Malmstrom (2011-11-11 09:53:47)

Wonderful truth Wanda. Quite often the struggles and feelings of frustration in our lives come from not seeking God's guidance before plunging into things.

Have a Blessed Day!

Karen (2011-11-11 16:08:11)

Being consistent in acknowledging His faithfulness!! Yes, that is a good word. Bless you.

faith hope love ? (2011-11-12 05:27:40)

Love your post! thank you for sharing...God bless you...loves soraya

Just Be Real (2011-11-12 05:36:47)
Came to get my soul watered. Blessings to you Wanda.

lioneagle (2011-11-12 16:10:39)
Hi Wanda -
Thank you
This is a good reminder for us all.
We are prone to go there instead of to our Lord...

Wanda (2011-11-14 07:11:21)
Thanks to each of you for sharing your insights. May we each put His Word into practice into our daily lives.

LisaShaw (2011-11-18 17:49:08)
"The thinking gets me super glued to what-if(s) and how.
When all I really need to do is trust and put into practice Proverbs 3:6..."
All well said! Thanks Wanda!

Who Said You Were Exempt (2011-11-14 07:09)

Can anyone say with honesty that they welcome trouble? I certainly can not. For trouble is an equal opportunist. It cuts across all cultures, socioeconomic statuses, and races. Money can't shoo all trouble away. And even our profession of faith as Christ followers does not give us an all-exclusive pass from trouble.

Ezekiel serves as a prime example that you can be doing all the right things and still bad things happen. He was serving God, proclaiming His truths, yet he still received troubling news.

"Son of man, with one blow I will take away your dearest treasure. Yet you must not show any sorrow at her death. Do not weep; let there be no tears. Groan silently, but let there be no wailing at her grave. Do not uncover your head or take off your sandals. Do not perform the usual rituals of mourning or accept any food brought to you by consoling friends." Ezekiel 24:16-17

Now putting myself in Ezekiel's shoes, I wonder what my true response would be. Would I be tempted to whine about how unfair it all seemed? Would I continue to proclaim His truth despite my personal situation? I do not have to look back very far to see how I have failed similar tests. Unlike Ezekiel, I haven't experienced the loss of a spouse but I have lost things as a believer. And I must say there have been times that I was a very sore loser. My commitment level waned. My confessions of certain truths were less than normal. But that was not the case with Ezekiel, instead he proclaimed to the people the next morning, and in the evening his wife died but he still did everything God said.

Reading further in the passage, you will find that God was using him as an example for the people so that they might know that God is the sovereign Lord. Granted Ezekiel had the privilege of knowing before hand that this trouble was coming, which we don't always have. But in the Word it tells us that in this life we will have trouble. Can God trust us (me) to be a proper reflection of Him even during troubling times? Will we (I) remain steadfast in our obedience, love, confession and serving?

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-11-14 08:35:37)
Wanda, all weekend I've been focused on the concept of "sharing in the sufferings". We love the gifts and the benefits, but no one likes the suffering. I have yet to meet anyone who likes pain.

Thanks for the reminder that how we respond to suffering, to trouble, matters.

Thanking God for His comfort and presence in trouble.

We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. - 2 Corinthians 4:10

For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. - 2 Corinthians 1:5

Tracy (2011-11-14 09:45:53)

Hi Wanda - very deep thoughts today. I don't think my behaviour at loss has been a very good example but I think even in those times God uses our responses good or bad to guide us. You have challenged me to go read Ezekiel.

Great post

God bless

Tracy

Susie Swanson (2011-11-14 16:50:30)

Great post Wanda and you've challenged me also to read Ezekiel.. Hope you have a nice evening, Susie

Ella (2011-11-14 22:27:06)

It is a tough test. I would like to be able to not feel remorse, but I find this a true challenge

You are always thought provoking!xXx

Denise (2011-11-15 04:36:30)

Hard to remember sometimes that despite our heartbreak and the brokenness of our past (or how many pieces we have been broken into!), God can put us back together and use us as an example of the completeness that we find in Him and Him alone.

Great post!

Blessings and hugs,

Denise

Wanda (2011-11-15 06:28:41)

Bluebutterfly, you're so right. We do love to be partakers of the goodness but some how forget being in fellowship with Him in suffering as well. **Tracy** I just couldn't shake that passage of scripture. **Susie** thank you. It's a challenging book but some good lessons to glean from. **Ella** Indeed it is a challenge. **Denise** love your statement...no matter how many pieces. Yes the potter can take the pieces and use us.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-11-15 09:02:55)

A wonderful post Wanda most enjoyable to read and think about,

Yvonne.,

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-11-16 07:35:17)

Would I whine? I think so...We all seem to have troubles but maybe it ends?? We will understand it all, eventually...trust until then

Sharon (2011-11-17 16:25:17)

I'm sorry to say that I would whine - how do I know this? Because I already do it in my own life now. Why do we have so much trouble understanding that in this life we WILL have troubles. And yet, we are to count them joy - because somehow they tie us even closer to our Lord and Savior.

Great word today, Wanda - you have me pondering.

GOD BLESS!

LisaShaw (2011-11-18 18:06:28)

Reminds me of Philippians 3:10-11 "I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead." I have to be willing to know Him in the good times and in the bad!

Powerful teaching and reminder Wanda!

Monica Watkins (2011-11-19 15:30:43)

I can attest (as I'm sure we all can) that during challenging times it's often quite difficult to boldly remain steadfast in the things of the Lord, especially when experiencing a loss such as Ezekiel experienced. Thank you for the reminder of Ezekiel's example.

Grow (2011-11-18 07:13)

Babies, plants, animals. Each of them are things that [1]grow. No matter what our age there is always room to grow. Growing can be uncomfortable. Stretching you beyond places of comfort. Expanding your mind. Embracing new ideas. Willingness to try new things. Each of those are required to produce [2]growth. One has to be connected to the source of life in order to produce much lasting fruit. Otherwise, the winds of life easily topple those outward growths. If you are not seeing enough growth above perhaps its best to check the roots beneath. Are you fully anchored in the true sustenance of life?

Joining [3]The Gypsy Mama for 5-Minute Friday. What images does the word grow bring to mind?

1. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/04/how-does-your-garden-grow.html>
2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/04/are-you-growing.html>
3. <http://thegypsymama.com/>

Lisa (2011-11-18 09:33:05)

Love this, Wanda! "If you are not seeing enough growth above perhaps its best to check the roots beneath." Great encouragement today. Many blessings! :)

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-11-18 15:28:20)

I'm all for growth Wanda, we can all learn from your post.

The only growth I don't welcome is weight growth...

Have a good week-end.

Yvonne.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-11-18 15:28:22)

I'm all for growth Wanda, we can all learn from your post.

The only growth I don't welcome is weight growth...

Have a good week-end.

Yvonne.

Karen (2011-11-18 16:24:54)

Beautiful thoughts. I was just reading about abiding in the vine! Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours.

LisaShaw (2011-11-18 17:47:29)

Wow! Wow! Wow! We are so on the same page! I popped in to love on you and found you joined in with GROW today too. We both are on the same wave length with this word today. I shared this morning on my post too.

You hit it on the head in this and I love when you said: "If you are not seeing enough growth above perhaps its best to check the roots beneath."

Thanks for your visits and encouragement on my blog Sis. Your love is so genuine and appreciated! Praying for you!! P.S. Did you get my email reply to you the other day?

Hugs!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-11-19 07:11:00)

Yes, indeed. I guess I'll be checking my roots this weekend! No time like the present, as the old folks like to say.

Just Be Real (2011-11-21 03:45:32)

What a God giving gift we have to grow. Thank you Wanda for sharing. Blessings.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-11-21 07:18:25)

Yes it is not easy to grow but necessary!! He helps us however...

It's Not About Me (2011-11-21 08:03)

But let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know Me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD. Jeremiah 9:24

Pedigrees

titles

possessions

achievements

blog stats

are things that can be used by some to define success. The more letters behind one's name and the more toys one can accumulate can often lead one to be revered by others. And if we are not careful, we will become awestruck with ourselves. Surely you have seen those who are in awe of themselves. Their conversations are chocked with I statements.

But as believers we are called to higher level of boasting. Not in the knowledge we've acquired, or the brute of force we can manage, nor in our money are we to call attention. But rather our boasting is to be that we know God. That we have relationship with God. If any man had room to brag on himself it was Paul but even he said:

Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ. Philippians 3:8 (NLT)

While it's perfectly understandable to be proud of one's accomplishments, we must not lose sight of the fact that it wasn't our wisdom, strength, smarts, willpower alone that got us there.

Joining Joanne at an [1]Open Book for Monday Manna.

1. <http://www.joannesh.com/>

Carol Fleisher (2011-11-21 08:40:58)
Great reminder to give God all the glory! :)

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-11-21 09:15:29)
So thankful for this word today. I have declined all invitations for thanksgiving this year. I've gotten tired of people who sit at the table, and instead of giving thanks to God for those around them, and go on and on about themselves. I'm not sitting through that this year. I intend to keep my focus above.

Lisa (2011-11-21 10:28:44)
Love these thoughts, Wanda. May I only boast in the fact that I am loved by the King. Many blessings!

Joanne Sher (2011-11-21 10:33:25)
Great thoughts, Wanda! Nothing worth boasting about besides Him - and what He gives us (as long as we boast IN Him, of course!). Thanks!

Tracy (2011-11-21 12:22:22)
Hi Wanda - amen. I read something today that said to be careful of how highly we think of ourselves as we will lose sight of God, the One from whom all good things, our talents, His favour, etc comes. Great post
God bless
Tracy

Alida (2011-11-21 12:44:40)
Great thoughts, Wanda. It truly is not about us but all about Him and what He can do through us!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-11-21 15:00:24)
Wonderful thoughts Wanda.
Yvonne.

Shanda (2011-11-21 16:25:21)
I like that you said, 'we are called to a higher level of boasting'. We ARE to boast of the Lord!!

Wanda (2011-11-21 17:42:50)
HiCarol. It really does belong to Him since apart from Him what do have?
Bluebutterfly no better place to have one's focus.
Lisayes it's amazing to be His beloved.
Joanne you're right. Boasting in and of Him is what we are called to do.
Tracy I like that statement. When the I(s) exceed Him we are in great danger of estimating ourselves.
Amen **Alida**
Thanks **Yvonne** and **Shanda**

Arlee Bird (2011-11-21 21:05:18)
This the ultimate, the most important truth. We can be boosted up in the eyes of men and just as quickly be torn down by those same people who elevated us. We should be consistent in our love for God because he is consistent in his love for us. He has allowed us to be where we are and we need to recognize that.
Lee

Sharon (2011-11-21 22:02:57)
Oh yes, Amen!!
Less of me, more of Him. And it is only in Him that ANY of us can boast. And boast we should! We serve an

AWESOME God, and we should use whatever talents He has given us to spread the Good News of His Kingdom!
GOD BLESS!

susanwalkergirl (2011-11-21 22:48:55)

Dearest Wanda...thank you for the reminder that it's not about me, but it's all about our Lord Christ Jesus.

Denise (2011-11-22 05:10:45)

Well said Wanda! :)

It's not about us and we need to think beyond accumulating wealth and popularity for earthly security, and focus more on using what He has given to us to help benefit others so that we don't enter eternity empty handed! :)

Blessings and hugs for a Thankful week!

Denise

Sharon (2011-11-22 10:32:36)

Great reminder for today! And well written.

Sharon (2011-11-23 12:50:56)

Wanda, Just stopping by to wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving Day!

GOD BLESS!

Carol Fleisher (2011-11-23 14:27:22)

Happy Thanksgiving! We all have so much to be thankful for! I've very thankful for my blogging buddies. :)

Ella (2011-11-23 22:59:59)

This is a great reminder and a nudge back into reality! Well Done

I want to wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving, filled with warm memories and Cherry coke, lol! :D

Sorry, it's late and I'm silly

Beautiful post @>—

Blue Cotton Memory (2011-11-25 13:52:24)

I know that I am nothing without God:) Wonderful reminder of what should really go behind our name - Child of God!

Enduring Love (2011-11-24 06:26)

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!

His faithful love endures forever. Psalm 118:1 (NLT)

I'm grateful for a love that stands the test of time. Wishing you & your family

Happy Thanksgiving

Karen (2011-11-24 08:41:38)

Wanda, I hope you are having a wonderful day. God bless you.

Tracy (2011-11-24 13:07:13)

Hi Wanda - That is a beautiful scripture. I am also thankful for Gods' love, that it stands firm and true forever.

God bless

Tracy

Alida (2011-11-24 16:26:37)

Happy Thanksgiving to you!
joy and blessings to you and your family,
Alida

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-11-25 03:18:46)

Have a wonderful day, Wanda.
Yvonne.

Sharon (2011-11-25 16:28:31)

Hope you had a very happy Thanksgiving, Wanda. Thanks for your comment on my blog. Yes, one of the youth actually came up and gave me a hug after the lesson. :)

lioneagle (2011-11-25 18:24:43)

Hi Wanda -
Thank you
Yes, indeed, we serve a GOD whose kingdom governs all.
GOD reigns forever - Glory to His awesome winning name.

Just Be Real (2011-11-26 08:31:59)

Blessings to you this day. Hugs.

Wanda (2011-11-27 06:55:48)

Hi sweet friends. As always thank you for stopping in hope. Hope each of your enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Sharon (2011-11-27 17:03:48)

Simple and oh, so profound.
Faithful love (never failing) that endures (lasts, stays, abides, perseveres) forever (and ever and ever and ever...)
AMEN!
Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving!
GOD BLESS!

How Content Are You? (2011-11-28 07:32)

Am I really content? That's the question that's loitering in my head this morning as I rewind yesterday's message in my mind. Can I really say as Paul said in Philippians 4: 11-13 that I have learned the secret of being content?

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned , in whatsoever state I am , therewith to be content. 12 I know both how to be abased , and I know how to abound : every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need . 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (KJV)

11 And I am not saying this because I feel neglected, for I have learned to be satisfied with what I have. 12 I know what it is to be in need and what it is to have more than enough. I have learned this secret, so that anywhere, at any time, I am content, whether I am full or hungry,

whether I have too much or too little. 13 I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me. (GNT)

It would be easy to blast off a quick yes I'm happy with what I have but closer inspection of the word contentment is necessary. According to the Holman Bible Dictionary, contentment is an internal satisfaction which does not demand changes in external circumstances. The American Heritage Dictionary defines content as desiring no more than what has or satisfied; ready to accept or acquiesce; willing.

In examining those two definitions, I can easily see that I don't fully measure up to Paul's declaration. I can think of situations I don't readily accept. Nelson's Illustrated Dictionary defines content as freedom from anxiety or worry.

The idea of contentment comes from a Greek word that means "independence" or "self-sufficiency". But the apostle Paul used the word in a Christian sense to show that real satisfaction or sufficiency comes from God:

Quite frankly there are some conditions I find myself in that I become irritated and anxiously await change to come. So how does one be content yet expectantly wait for fulfillment of the promises? Hmmm, a quick search of my blog archives reveal this has not been the first time I have pondered the question. In a post titled [1]Satisfaction Guaranteed, I stated the following:

How can I be satisfied when I don't like what is occurring around me? Honestly, I haven't mastered the art of contentment. But in reading something the other day, I gained greater insight on contentment. When I know and trust that where I am is not outside of God's radar, I can be confident that He is orchestrating all things and that there is indeed a plan for my life. Therefore, I can patiently wait on Him.

1. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/04/satisfaction-guaranteed.html>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-11-28 08:42:21)

I'm ponder too, Wanda. My big battle this year has been to be "truly" content, and I can honestly say that I am not there yet.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-11-28 09:03:27)

I immediately said Yes I am content...but you ponder it deeper which is food for thought...I will strive to keep content from day to day.

Jessica (2011-11-28 09:13:28)

With many changes God is making in my life, this is a wonderful reminder of being content...genuinely content. Thank you and blessings!

JB

Sharon - grief and loss (2011-11-28 10:15:52)

Great food for thought, Wanda! I can say that I am constantly aware and working on this, but don't always succeed!

Tracy (2011-11-28 13:25:29)

Hi Wanda - my mother-in-law reckons her gift is the gift of contentment and if you think about it, it is truly a gift, to be content in all things. Great post

God bless

Tracy

Lisa (2011-11-28 15:38:58)

I know I haven't mastered contentment. Too often I find myself wanting more. But I am reminded that God's grace is sufficient and more than enough. So I'm learning to count my blessings and wait on Him.
Many blessings, Wanda!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-11-28 16:32:07)

I won't be fully content until my son and grandchildren are back in the fold again.
Yvonne.

Wanda (2011-11-28 17:59:32)

I haven't mastered it either but reading Paul's words lets me know that it is possible to obtain contentment in this life. I do believe some people are gifted more with the ability to be content. May we each grab a hold to the secret.

Denise (2011-11-29 05:08:57)

Oh Wanda; great post! Can I say that I'm content in any circumstance; that I'm completely satisfied in any situation? I have always thought that I am content, but this makes me think much deeper. When I stop depending on myself, and turn to God to get me through any situation, then I can have faith and be content that God is in control of everything, and that everything is for His own Holy purpose and my good will.
I will be pondering on this all day! :)
Blessings and hugs,
Denise

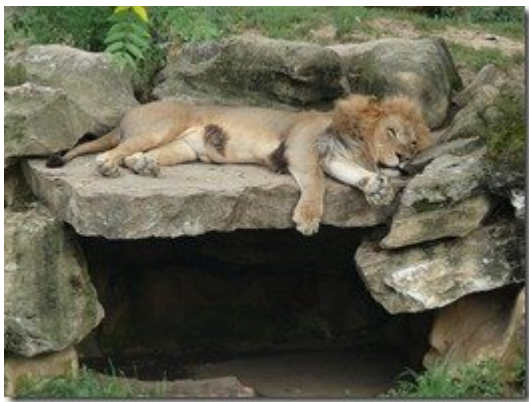
Ella (2011-11-29 23:07:44)

I have moments, but a lot of unsettled thoughts, too! Wow, this one I need to think about more
Interesting post :D

Peggy (2011-12-04 13:43:20)

Blessings Wanda,
This was probably the one I was suppose to read... and I'd love to ponder and dig into but I'm off to Spanish speaking church... content?
Hmmmmmmmmm ...guess I'm working on it in all circumstances but content for right now in who I am and who I am becoming in Christ Jesus! I'll have to soak in Philippians and your blog post another time.
Have a blessed SONday!
Peggy

Did The Den Do You In? (2011-11-30 06:29)



[1] Having faith does not prevent you from descending into the pits of life. Instead, faith gives you the ability to remain steadfast as you go through the those pit experiences. People today are still asking the same question King Darius did in Daniel 6:20.

Wanda (insert your name), servant of the living God! Was (is) your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?

Unlike Daniel I have not been thrown into a physical den of lions. But haven't we all encountered lions of our own. Being thrown into a lion's den was not meant to be a leisurely stroll at the school. It was designed to destroy and to kill Daniel. His adversaries had no expectation of him surviving the experience. What is your lion? What occurred in your life that was poised to tear you and leave you for dead? Some things are sent to destroy your witness, your faith, your character, your marriage, your relationships, your body, your hope, your health, or your mobility.

And you can rest assured that someone is watching to see if you will come out of it alive. But as I pondered over Daniel's date with the lion's den, I noticed that not only did he come out of it but he came out without scars. Can we say we came out of the trial without scars? If the enemy can't stop you from coming out, he will aim to keep you scarred for life. The evidence of scarring shows when we refuse to try again, trust again, love again, hope again, or pursue again.

Dear God, I thank you and I declare that you are mighty! Not only are you mighty enough to bring us out but you are able to make us whole again. Make us whole in our inner man, in our emotions, in our love for one another. We don't want to be limited by our pit experiences. May you get the glory out of our lives. In Jesus name. Amen.

1. http://lh6.ggpht.com/_dJU5siKmMg/TtYhm62sbQI/AAAAAAAAArI/Gk4DKbdgb38/s1600-h/P1040338%25255B4%25255D.jpg

Just Be Real (2011-11-30 07:04:17)

Great post Wanda. Love that picture too. Blessings.

Pam (2011-11-30 07:57:20)

Once again, food for thought. I get so much from your ability to take one small passage of Scripture and challenge us with your insights into it, Wanda. This one made me do some reflecting which in turn revealed to me time and time again when God has brought me through without scars.

Thank you, my friend!

Pam

Renee (2011-11-30 10:07:50)

Love this post! I want to come out of the den victorious. Thanks for inspiring me. Blessings!

Karen (2011-11-30 10:08:49)

Oh, amen, Wanda! Praying that prayer of victory with you....

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-11-30 10:12:59)

Lord, I too thank you for making me whole again, to love again, to pursue again, and to keep getting up again and again.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-11-30 13:56:02)

A wonderful post Wanda and soul searching.

Yvonne.

Lisa (2011-11-30 13:59:09)

Amen! We can come out of the pit without scars. And if we are already scarred, God can deliver us and make us whole again. Wonderful encouragement!

Angel @ Finding The Inspiring (2011-11-30 15:51:03)

Praise God all his good gifts! Yes, He is mighty. Thank you for this great reminder than God can deliver and redeem us. Amen!

Alida (2011-11-30 18:23:52)

So grateful that He helps us to come out victorious!!

Joan Davis (2011-11-30 18:51:08)

An encouraging reminder today!

Blessings, Joan

Nungari M. (2011-12-01 00:03:24)

Thanks Wanda for finding me and helping me find you . You know...this is what I needed to hear this morning. I have been in the den a few times, to the point of serious depression . Out I am, but the scars-that is what I need to deal with, to trust, to hope again, to move on and to truly believe God that, that season is gone. Thanks my dear..thanks.. I know God wants to deal with my scars....

Janis@Open My Ears Lord (2011-12-01 01:15:22)

Wanda, this was great. We don't want scars coming out of the pit. Things that leave us unable to love or trust. We may have survived but we won't thrive and give life to others. I've seen that happen in my own life.

Thank you for some great words of wisdom.

Blessings,

Janis

Peggy (2011-12-04 13:39:54)

Amen! WOW Wanda!

This one is powerful! I wish we had "lions" like that one asleep but we all know that our "enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

I'm so glad I did take time to come and read this one, "the lion drew me here" but not the one that devours, the Great Lion of Judah!

I saw the photo of the lion, and I thought and began singing (and mind you it's Sun. in the middle of 2 church services) "in the jungle, the mighty jungle the lion sleeps tonight"

quickly followed by the one by Jason Upton [1]"Lion of Judah" and the strength in the song by Paul Wilbur that I love so much [2]Lion of Judah ... You have to fill your mind with Godly songs when the others you enjoyed in the past creep in...

I so love what you wrote in your final paragraph before the prayer about scars. Our Lord Jesus has nail print scars in His precious hands and feet and His side lanced. This is so beautifully written:

"The evidence of scarring shows when we refuse to try again, trust again, love again, hope again, or pursue again."

Thank you, this one too speaks loudly to me and strengthens me for the battles! Bless you Wanda!

So thankful I'm not limited by my pit experiences! THE LION OF JUDAH is MIGHTY INDEED! I think I'll go put on my Lion t-shirt and let Him roar!

Peggy

1. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsFidNxPoOk>

2. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCyQjORX3Ns>

Tracy (2011-12-05 02:21:12)

Hi Wanda - this is a great post. i always look at Daniel's den from the perspective of those who got thrown in after. But God's might is definitely the headline here. Excellent. Great encouragement. I want to thank you too for linking up with me. i appreciate it and look forward to seeing you again this week. You are a great woman of God, Wanda. thanks for the encouragement

Tracy

2.12 December

Voice Activated (2011-12-02 06:23)

Go any where there are people gathered and you are bound to hear chatter. Some discussing the latest gossip, others dialoguing about current events, and some sharing the details of their home life. [1]Talk, chatter, babble, words are all around us. We can't escape them. We need them to engage in our world. So much of what is uttered in the course of our day is spoken with a second thought. But today I'm reminded to use my voice to stimulate others.

Don't be afraid, he said, for you are very precious to God. Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!
As he spoke these words to me, I suddenly felt stronger and said to him, Please speak to me, my lord, for you have strengthened me. Daniel 10:19 (NLT)

Although Daniel was being spoken to by an angelic being, each of us have the power to [2]speak words of encouragement to others. You never now how much someone needs to hear a kind word. We don't know all the details of one another lives but we can be assured that we all go through things that sap our strength or causes us to be afraid at times.

Having entered into the last month of the year, one is likely to feel not as invigorated as they were in the beginning of the year. But it doesn't have to end that way. Despite all 2011 has brought into(or out of) your life, don't lose sight of the fact that You, my friend, are precious to God.

I speak peace to you.

Be encouraged!

God has not [3]abandoned you.

Be strong!

What are you activating in the lives of others when you speak? When you write? It's my prayer that the words you find here activate faith, strength, courage, and love. I count it a blessing to be among the community of bloggers here. You may never know how much your words, even though I have never heard your lovely voices, have fortified my steps along this journey.

1. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/10/think-before-you-speak.html>
2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2010/02/ear-mouth-connection.html>
3. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/06/where-art-thou.html>

Joanne Sher (2011-12-02 08:38:53)

Words can be so incredibly powerful. Thank you for the reminder, Wanda - and you often speak encouragement to me. I so appreciate it.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-12-02 09:07:14)

OMG! Speechless. In tears, Wanda. You'll figure it out when you read my blog post for today.

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-12-02 12:52:15)

Words are powerful...I like speak peace to you...be encouraged

Sharon (2011-12-02 12:57:39)

OH AMEN, Wanda!!

I had the chance this week to speak to a group of young moms. It was quite humbling and joyous to be given the opportunity to speak the Lord's words to others. I pray that He forms and shapes my thoughts and feelings as I seek to represent Him well.

I'm taking your very timely words of encouragement, and I'm putting them in my spiritual backpack as I head out to tell the world more about the GOOD NEWS of Jesus!

GOD BLESS!

Denise (2011-12-02 14:11:03)

Great post.

Susie Swanson (2011-12-02 16:53:12)

Wonderful words of encouragement Wanda, I so enjoy your posts. Hope you have a blessed weekend..Susie

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-12-02 17:46:08)

Wonderful words Wanda, enjoyed every word.

Yvonne.

Lisa (2011-12-02 19:24:13)

Beautiful words of encouragement, Wanda! Your words are full of faith, strength, and love.

Many blessings,

Lisa

Alida (2011-12-02 19:27:02)

Amen! Our words are so important...great post.

Just Be Real (2011-12-03 05:31:47)

Amen Wanda. I like this post very much. Blessings.

Karen (2011-12-03 14:30:18)

This is a precious post, Wanda. May I take it to heart and apply it daily!!

Sarah (Nikki) (2011-12-03 20:55:34)

This is so encouraging....thanks Wanda...

susanwalkergirl (2011-12-04 01:04:44)

That was just the encouraging word that I needed to hear today. Thank you!

Peggy (2011-12-04 13:23:57)

Awesome Wanda! I'm refreshed in this powerful word on words and His Word! Perhaps I was meant to visit you on the day you passed my way but I say this one is one that touched me... I quickly scanned the others and I have one more that I want to view and read!

Thank you for this! May we all be encouraged and speak forth words like Daniel and this wonderful word from you! I thought perhaps you were doing a study on Daniel! May God love on you today and this week in a very special way!

Love and peace,

Peggy

Connie Arnold (2011-12-04 17:47:03)

Our words can make a big impact on others, whether spoken or written. Thank you for the encouraging words that you share through your blog. Peace to you!

Bernadine (2011-12-05 20:23:12)

Wanda, your words do strengthen and encourage. Thank you so much for sharing.

O Me of Little Faith...{Teaser Tuesday} (2011-12-06 05:40)

Circumstances can draw us to God, but they can also pull us away from him. Ask any widow



or widower. Ask anyone devastated by tragedy. pg. 132-133 [1]

Teaser Tuesdays is a weekly bookish meme, hosted by MizB of Should Be Reading. Anyone can play along! Just do the following:

Grab your current read

Open to a random page

Share two (2) “teaser” sentences from somewhere on that page

BE CAREFUL NOT TO INCLUDE SPOILERS! (make sure that what you share doesn’t give too much away! You don’t want to ruin the book for others!)

Share the title and author, too, so that other TT participants can add the book to their TBR Lists if they like your teasers!

What are you currently reading?

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/-VfRVgNhkqDM/Tt3_FUKZ77I/AAAAAAAArY/pn7uMJzkFx0/s1600-h/Little%252520Faith%25255B3%25255D.jpg

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-12-06 07:15:03)

I don’t even know why, but I am going through the Book of Jeremiah in December. When everything in Jeremiah told him to pack it up and go home because no one would give one hoot about what he had to say, he chose to obey God and speak (but only what God told him).

Brenda Kay Ledford (2011-12-06 14:24:54)

Wanda,

I just found your blog and I love it. The words are so uplifting. I’m so glad to find another Christian.

I am reading from the book of Job now. I was in the dentist’s office this morning and was blessed by the words from Job where a cut down tree will spring forth with life again. Those are powerful words for the hard times we are all facing now.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-12-06 17:29:49)

I also found the words uplifting. Thanks for sharing Wanda, Yvonne.

Alida (2011-12-06 17:44:30)

I am reading book called Christmas is not your birthday. Very good read!

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-12-06 18:53:36)

I am only reading blogs...lately. I should read more but??

Wanda (2011-12-07 07:53:08)

Bluebutterfly, I too found Jeremiah’s determination inspiring when I read through that book of the Bible. I’m currently reading in Hosea and his commitment inspires me as well.

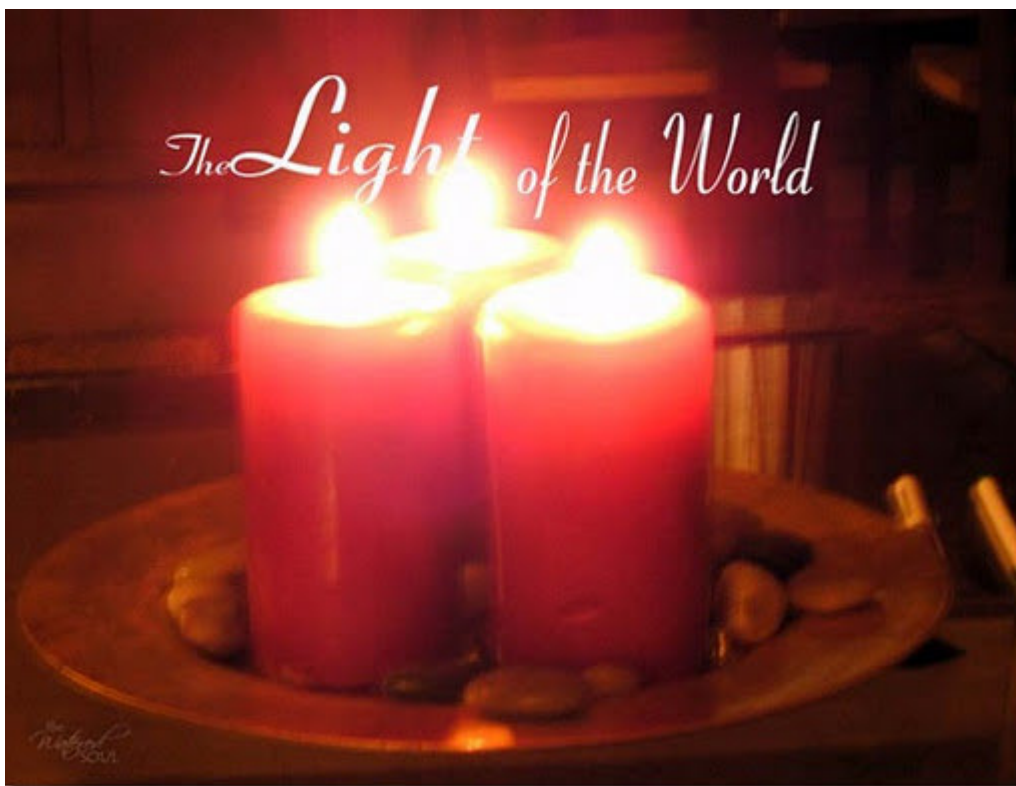
Hi Brenda, glad to have you stop over for a visit. That is a powerful statement from Job. It reminds me that with God all hope is never lost. Even when things appear dead, God has the ability to resurrect it.

Yvonne, always a pleasure to have drop by my friend.

Alida, I have seen that book mentioned elsewhere. I’d love to hear how you like the book.

I understand Kim. My reading time varies depending upon what’s going on in my life. Recently I took the time to finish up some books I had started some time ago.

Light of the World (2011-12-07 06:38)



[1]

Jesus said to the people, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

John 8:12 NLT

1. <http://lh6.ggpht.com/-1bucG1hDHPM/Tt9eKXy505I/AAAAAAAAAro/CdhH3yT2488/s512/Light%252520of%252520the%252520World%25255B4%25255D.jpg?imgmax=800>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-12-07 06:58:11)

I'm following the Light. In Him there is no darkness. He is my Light and my Salvation.
Have a joyful day, Wanda!

Wanda (2011-12-07 07:53:42)

Thank you Bluebutterfly. May your light shine brightly today my friend.

Tracy (2011-12-07 08:25:14)

Beautiful Wanda - I read something in Renee Swope's book yesterday about you only see a shadow when you turn away from the light,so.... turn back to the light. God bless

Tracy

Karen (2011-12-07 08:50:18)

Beautiful picture for these precious words from our Lord...I am very thankful for that blessed Light!

Renee (2011-12-07 09:48:56)

Love this visual, Wanda! So beautiful . . .

Lisa (2011-12-07 10:55:12)

Wanda, my husband and I were just talking about 1 John 2 and I pointed out how that ties to John 8 - and you posted that very scripture. :) Love it!

BARBIE (2011-12-07 11:15:16)

May your day be filled with the light of God. May His face shine upon you.

You won my giveaway from last week! Send me your mailing info and I'll get the book right out to you!

Peggy (2011-12-07 12:36:23)

Thank you Wanda for shining His Light! Beautiful candles and I really like how the NLT puts this beautiful verse! Thankful for His Light in the darkness of this world! Follow after this Light always! May He continue to Light your world and mine!

Chelle (2011-12-07 12:57:00)

Amen!

Cathy (2011-12-07 13:21:02)

That is gorgeous, Dear. Thanks for your sweet visit. Blessings

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-12-07 14:42:10)

Thank you Wanda for a most uplifting post.

Yvonne.

Alida (2011-12-07 16:41:24)

I love this!!

Denise (2011-12-07 17:36:56)

Amen, we all should forever follow the Light.

Sarah (Nikki) (2011-12-08 06:47:42)

there seems to be so much more darkness in the world....I love this verse

BARBIE (2011-12-09 00:40:15)

So thankful for the light that He brings!

Just Be Real (2011-12-09 04:22:42)

Great post Wanda. Your words explain it so clearly. Blessings.

Denise (2011-12-09 04:28:29)

This is a promised light that will never go out because of His faithful love and grace! A beautiful verse and picture Wanda. :)

Blessings and hugs,

Denise

Color (2011-12-09 06:49)



[1]

In a world filled with darkness. He sent a light to shine.

The world doused in crimson. Yet only his red blood could make us white again.

He created the many colors of the universe but yet through colorless eyes He sees us all.

He welcomes each of us with loving arms and mounds of grace and mercy.

No longer do we have to hide behind the stains of red sin, the blue of depression, or the green of envy.

There is a cleanser for every color that tries to shield us from His light.

This post is being linked to [2]5-Minute Friday, where you simply write for 5 minutes without worrying if it's right or not.

1. http://lh4.ggpht.com/-oh9e_1mU360/TuID3tbrzBI/AAAAAAAAAr4/FaRAJc0cgGU/s1600-h/rainbCN%25255B6%25255D.jpg
2. <http://thegypsymama.com/2011/12/five-minute-friday-color/>

Taylor Sawyer (2011-12-09 07:13:40)

Beautifully written! Thank you God for sending Him to save us!

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-12-09 07:31:39)

I like the fact that He sees us all...He sent a light to shine!

Thank God

Carolyn Counterman (2011-12-09 07:50:01)

Visiting from the Gypsy Mama.

What a beautiful post. I'm very thankful for the Light that was sent into the world. Grateful that there is no stain of any color that is too much for Him to cleanse.

Thanks for sharing!

Joanne Sher (2011-12-09 08:29:53)

Just beautiful, Wanda. THANK you.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-12-09 09:30:39)

Very thankful for His light.

Leovi (2011-12-09 10:57:30)
I love the colors of life. Greetings.

Janelle (2011-12-09 11:30:00)
A beautifully written post!

Beck Gambill (2011-12-09 13:57:18)
Great post! I hadn't thought of color in relation to faith before this prompt before. Really powerful!

Alex J. Cavanaugh (2011-12-09 15:41:19)
Amen! I don't think you could've written more beautiful words.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-12-09 17:22:32)
Really inspiring Wanda,
Yvonne.

Alida (2011-12-09 19:14:42)
How beautiful! Amen and amen!

susanwalkergirl (2011-12-09 19:38:40)
You beautifully captured the colors of our Lord. Praise Him!

Tracy (2011-12-09 23:46:35)
Wanda - wow, I love how you say His light lit the world up in colour.
Great post
God bless
Tracy

BARBIE (2011-12-10 01:38:34)
Beautiful post! He radiates, shining brightly, displaying His colors everywhere.

lioneagle (2011-12-10 11:23:15)
Hi Karen -
Thank you for this colorful message.
It speaks volumes. Glory to GOD.

Carolyn Counterman (2011-12-11 16:44:13)
Wanda, I posted some photos of my hot pink tree if you want to come see. <http://whoivealwaysbeen.blogspot.com/2011/12/five-minute-friday-color.html>

Marijo (Mary Jo) Phelps (2011-12-11 20:45:20)
Your thought processes in this one are jaw dropping. I love the visual with the colors too - bring on Jesus and His light!!!

The B.I.B.L.E. the Book for Me (2011-12-10 14:09)

Growing up in church the Bible has been a part of my life since my very beginning. I remember "read your Bible" was often retorted by my mom for any boredom expressed by me or my siblings. Needless to say as

kids that was the last thing on our minds. Even after accepting Christ as my personal savior, the Bible was often not my book of choice. Much of it seemed to make little sense to me and I couldn't understand how to incorporate into my daily life. But thankfully that has changed.

As an attendee of an Pentecostal church, the KJV was the translation of choice we read. Over the years, I have added several other translations of the Bible to my library. I find that at different times in my life, I read more from certain translations. Currently I have been reading a lot from the New Living Translation and I love how the Message translate some passages. Each of them add deeper insight into a passage of scripture. While KJV will always be good starting point for me, I appreciate the opportunity to read verses in different translations. That's why I was pleased to have the opportunity to be a part of the Common



English Bible (CEB), Thank You-Come Again –I Promise blog tour. [1]

Over the next several weeks, I will be exploring more of the Common English Bible and sharing passages of scripture with you. As a part of the tour, my readers have the opportunity to win a copy of the soft-cover edition each week. For more information about the Common English Bible visit their website at [2]<http://www.commonenglishbible.com>

To win simply fill out the form below or leave a comment. Winner will be selected Friday, December 16th.

Disclosure: As a participate in the blog tour I was given a complimentary copy of the Deco Tone edition of the Common English Bible. Any views or opinions expressed are my own.

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1. <http://CommonEnglishBible.com/CEB/blogtour>
2. <http://www.commonenglishbible.com/>
3. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/embeddedform?formkey=dGJ0ME9pVj1ub3d0QXhhYzNzSzhNd1E6MQ>

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-12-11 07:25:04)

I was raised the same....with KJV Bible in a Pentecostal Church
Like your post

Sharon (2011-12-11 18:17:00)

I remember that song from Sunday School.
The B-I-B-L-E. Yes, that's the book for me.

I am like you, Wanda - over the years, especially in the last few years, I have grown to LOVE my Bible. It has become my friend. I also enjoy the NLT - it reads to me like a story.

God speaks powerfully to me through His Word. I'll be interested in checking out this translation that I'm not familiar with. Thanks for sharing.

GOD BLESS!

Carole in the UK (2011-12-11 18:20:30)

I loved your post Wanda, it made me chuckle, as I remember when we were bored as children, my Mum would also retort to us, "Read your Bible!"

I read several versions. NLT is the one I read, as my study Bible. I have a tiny NIV for my handbag, which I carry around with me. However the KJV is my favourite, as that is the one I was brought up with and I always like to read the Psalms in that version.

I often thank God for the fact that I have access to so many Bibles and I am able to read them freely without any persecution.

I look forward to your post on the CEB, as my Pastor has started to use this Bible too.

Have a blessed and fruitful week for the kingdom, Wanda

Sally (2011-12-11 19:22:02)

Hello, I came by your blog following a link on pintrest through Rags by Sock Monkey. I haven't looked at the CEB so I threw my name into the drawing. I love the KJV for it's poetic sound but I prefer the NIV for personal study. Thank you for the opportunity to win a CEB. Blessings.

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-12-12 08:39:15)

I love, love, love my Bible. I was encouraged to read it myself since I was a tiny tot and my love relationship with the word began. This blog also had all those childhood Sunday School and VBS songs playing in my head.

Bernadine (2011-12-12 19:04:33)

Hi Wanda, I grew up using the KJV Bible also. Most of the scriptures I've memorized over the years are from that version. When I'm studying I refer to other versions but if I'm just spending time reading the word it's still KJV:)

Just Be Real (2011-12-13 04:47:00)

I remember this as well Wanda. Thank you for sharing. Blessings.

LeAnn ~ My Day In The Making (2011-12-14 13:32:40)

I have never heard of this translation. I'll check it out!

Get Your Aim Right (2011-12-12 00:30)

Have you ever played darts before? I am not sure why, but that was never a game played at my house. The closest thing I've done to playing darts is trying to pop a balloon with a dart at a carnival game. And sad to say, I was not very good at it. Although I clearly saw what my intended target was, I never was able to direct the dart properly. Several times I came close but close doesn't count.



[1] Just like those darts, I have had my faith shot in the wrong direction many times. On occasions my faith has been entrusted in my own abilities, knowledge, or wisdom. At other times my faith was carelessly put on other people or quite frankly my actions revealed that my real trust was in things. Now of course that was not always instantly visible to me. But it was true. My faith was cast every where except where it needed to be. From time to time it does us all good to evaluate our faith.

Reflecting on Sunday's message, I'm determined to properly focus my faith this week, which requires proper aim. To aim, I need the following:

- A-awareness: I need to be aware of all the many places in which its possible to place my faith.
- I-information: I need to get knowledge about the who or what I have chosen to place my faith. Is it a trustworthy source? Foremost we have to be aware of the truth that each of us have faith. Romans 12:3b, Instead be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. (Common English Bible)
- M-move: If your faith has been misplaced move it to the proper place. Having faith requires coordinat- ing action. James 2:17-18 says, In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity. Someone might claim, " You have faith and I have action. " But how can I see your faith apart from your actions? Instead, I'll show you my faith by putting it into practice in faithful action. (Common English Bible)

Is your faith aimed correctly? If not, there is no time like the present to readjust it. [2]



For opportunity to win a copy of the Common English Bible complete the form below.

Photo Credit: [3]Morguefile

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1. <http://lh5.ggpht.com/-oWhc65pkKvc/TuVko23MTEI/AAAAAAAAAsc/knrrH7R19Ps/s1600-h/shoot2%25255B5%25255D.jpg>
2. <http://michellederusha.com/>
3. <http://morguefile.com/archive/display/233426>
4. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/embeddedform?formkey=dGJ0ME9pVjlub3d0QXhhYzNzSzhNdIE6MQ>

Crystal Mary (2011-12-12 00:38:41)

I have a strong faith in God and nothing can waver it. Thank you for what you wrote today,,I was healed of a heart problem, so now I get joy out of telling everyone.
xxx

Farming On Faith (2011-12-12 02:15:27)

What a great devotion I too will use your sermon this week.
Mine was on longsuffering still pondering on it!

God is good enjoyed my visit!

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-12-12 02:56:29)

A most devoted post Wanda, pleasure to read.

Yvonne.

Betty Alark (2011-12-12 07:29:16)

You have a very beautiful blog, Wanda!

I'm sure I'll return!!

Have a blessed day!!

May you be blessed with a heart to keep writing and sharing!!

Jen (2011-12-12 07:39:44)

What a simple, fabulous way to remember some very key points about faith!

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-12-12 08:31:05)

Wow, Wanda. So on target. Whether it's a slingshot, a dart or a sword, aimlessness is dangerous in battle...in life.

It's time to readjust and focus.

Jennifer @ GettingDownWithJesus.com (2011-12-12 09:09:07)

I am in constant need of readjustment. Thanks be to God, He guides these steps. Great is His faithfulness.

Nice to "meet" you. I'm your newest follower. :)

Joanne Sher (2011-12-12 09:11:14)

This is a great reminder, Wanda! I tend to aim incorrectly as well. Will definitely be using these steps!

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-12-12 10:16:49)

I never played darts at home either?? Yes our faith darts go awry sometimes

Lisa (2011-12-12 10:33:33)

We must be careful where we AIM our faith - great encouragement, Wanda!

Many blessings!

joan (2011-12-12 14:24:57)

Love this post.

Just what I needed today. I am convicted indeed.

Denise (2011-12-12 17:55:39)

Nice post.

Michelle DeRusha@Graceful (2011-12-12 20:37:37)

Wanda, I am so grateful you linked up at Graceful this week! It's truly wonderful to meet you here, and I am so glad to have read this post tonight. You speak right to my heart (and I love your concrete AIM method for keeping on track).

Ella (2011-12-12 21:09:49)

Wonderful post! I need to work on my aim Thank you for the reminder

Arlee Bird (2011-12-13 00:33:52)

We often had dart boards in our house when I was a teenager and on. And there were holes in the wall all around where the dart boards were placed. There was a lot of bad aiming going on.

Of late my aim has been wavering. I frequently get distracted by worldly concerns and my faith gets shaken.

Lee

Linda Hoyer talks about adoption and writing memoirs on

[1]Wrote By Rote

1. <http://wrotebyrote.blogspot.com/>

Alida (2011-12-13 00:36:39)

Love the acronym...easy to remember and yet, powerful!

Denise (2011-12-13 04:19:04)

Great analogy Wanda; we have a dart board in the house for the kids and I will remember your post whenever the darts come out! :) A nice reminder to keep our aim focused and on track.

Blessings and hugs,

Denise

Amydeanne (2011-12-13 19:21:50)

love the acronym!

Kimberly (2011-12-13 23:21:10)

What a great reminder. Thank you!

Nungari M. (2011-12-14 08:23:47)

"so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power: I Cor 2:5...

I liked this, very profound, thanks for sharing....a good reminder.

It Takes the Stinky Stuff (2011-12-14 06:45)



[1]

And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'" (ESV) Luke 13:6-9

Jesus gives a parable about a fig tree in which an owner had been expecting fruit from it for three years. Exacerbated by the lack of fruit after all this time, he orders the vine to be destroyed. As I read several translations of this passage, I was reminded that it often takes the manure of life to produce real growth in us. As long as we reside in places of familiar comfort to us, we just exist. Producing little for the kingdom. We pray little, confess little, give little, study little, focus little, aim for little. But when trouble hit, it has a way of stirring up our prayer lives, driving us to fasting, compelling us to study, and it realigns our focus on things that truly matter in our lives.

Each of us have been allotted a time here on the earth. And how are we making use of our time? Are we just using up the ground? I don't want to be guilty of fruitlessness. I don't want God to grow weary of me just sitting around doing nothing. However, we should be cautious about busyness. Busy schedules are not an adequate measuring stick for fruitfulness.

The vinedresser requested more time in order to do two things.

1. Dig
2. Dung

Digging requires effort and it cuts into something that was hard or solidified and breaks into smaller parts. It separates things. For God to dig us out of those familiar places we've settled is uncomfortable. It's irritating. Dung (manure) stinks. Who wants to endure being broken and being surrounded by smelling situations? Don't be disheartened if you find yourself encircled by dung during these days. Don't even become discombobulated by the un-comfortableness of the things being broken down or detached from you. It all has purpose—growth.

Don't miss the Common English Bible giveaway [2]here.

Joining [3]Word-Filled Wednesday and [4]Winsome Wednesday.

1. <http://lh4.ggpht.com/-eui0-NBq6SE/TuiaV2Go6KI/AAAAAAAAAss/IkYc1FLHuF4/s1600-h/Dung-Luke%25252013-6%25255B3%25255D.png>
2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/12/get-your-aim-right.html>
3. <http://internetcafedevotions.com/>
4. <http://mydailywalkinhisgrace.blogspot.com/>

Cozy in Texas (2011-12-14 06:47:58)

Good post. We expect things to be done when we want it but God's timing is perfect.

Ann

JBR (2011-12-14 07:01:40)

Trusting God to act is hard. Especially when we have been waiting on our terms, a long time. Blessing

Mary B (2011-12-14 07:07:31)

Wanda...thank you...for visiting my blog, but mostly for these wonderful and true words about the stinky stuff. So true and I love the way you wrote about it.

Mary

Lisa (2011-12-14 07:39:18)

Wanda, you nailed it! Thanks for the perfectly timed reminder! I am surrounded by dung and now you gave me a brand new perspective!

Thanks,

Lisa

www.moreto.be.com

Felecia (2011-12-14 07:41:19)

I am often discombobulated but now I know that God is working on me! Thanks for the visual! Love it.
Blessings,
Felecia

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-12-14 07:43:03)

An excellent example of it takes time.....not when we expect things to happen.
Yvonne.

Kaye Swain - SandwichINK for the Sandwich Generation (2011-12-14 07:56:22)

:) What a fun and truth-full devotion for this Advent & Christmas Word-Filled Wednesday! You gave me a good chuckle but at the same time, isn't this the truth! And the best part of it all is that, no matter what you are surrounded by - or how smelly it may be - God is right there with us, holding us close, leading the way. Thanks for a lovely and fragrant blessing today. :)

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-12-14 08:40:33)

Lord Jesus...Wanda, I'm laughing and I'm crying. I'm out of words (you'll see why when you read my blog), but I've got some digging to do for sure.

Pam (2011-12-14 09:35:28)

Food for thought for sure, Wanda. I have found it very true in my life that times of spiritual growth are often associated with events that were uncomfortable and sometimes that downright stunk!

Blessings!

Pam

2 Encourage

Lisa (2011-12-14 09:45:46)

This is really good, Wanda! Growth takes hard work - pruning and fertilizing. But I want to grow closer to God. Many blessings!

abbie (2011-12-14 13:12:48)

I remember a preacher saying that the Vinedresser is never closed to the vine than when He's pruning it. OUCH!

LeAnn ~ My Day In The Making (2011-12-14 13:29:41)

Indeed, it is all so true! Thanks for stopping by my place earlier, it was a blessing to visit yours.

Kandi (2011-12-14 15:39:38)

Wanda,

So glad you stopped by my place so I could find yours because I needed to read these words today, I have done some extensive digging in my life although it is hard we know that in the end it will produce fruit.

Blessing to you Wanda.

Denise (2011-12-14 16:45:55)

Great post.

Rhapsody B. (2011-12-15 00:25:31)

Blessings....

hmmmmm, enlightening and thought provoking.\
stay blessed\

Rhapsody

<http://twitter.com/rhapsodyphoenix>

Alida (2011-12-15 00:41:49)

What a great post. I am not a fan of digging or of spreading manure but I see the value in both. Our growth in Him is so much important than our comfort.

Blue Cotton Memory (2011-12-15 12:11:07)

So life stinking can be really good? My teens stinking up life a bit is really good for me? With a house full of boys - and teens - this not only hit my funny bone - but it sure hit the deep down truth. Teen challenges have put my faith to work, brought me closer to the Father, and taught me more about the power of faith than I ever thought possible! My stinky house loves your post!

Tracy (2011-12-15 13:44:39)

Hi Wanda - all those horrible things we go through are fertilizer? Now that so makes sense why its not enjoyable growing fruit! Great post Wanda and thanks for linking up, I love seeing you there

God bless

Tracy :)

Reformed rebel (2011-12-15 22:28:58)

Wow...never thought of growth in these terms. Love your post!

Blessings...Chelle

Rhoda (2011-12-16 01:16:42)

That's a really interesting thought, and very true that the things which help us grow are usually not that pleasant! Thanks for your visit to my blog.

Sarah (Nikki) (2011-12-17 08:05:38)

great post... great visual. Thanks Wanda

LisaShaw (2011-12-18 03:15:54)

Powerful Wanda!

"As I read several translations of this passage, I was reminded that it often takes the manure of life to produce real growth in us."

CEB Bible Giveaway Winner (2011-12-16 06:23)

Congratulations to Lisa Phelps on winning a copy of the Common English Bible giveaway. Winner was selected via random.org. The giveaway is a part of the Thank You-Come Again-I Promise Blog Tour. To find other blogs participating in the tour visit [1]here.

1. <http://www.commonenglishbible.com/Connect/BlogTour/tabid/407/Default.aspx>

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-12-16 16:30:56)

Congrats to the winner. Well done.

Yvonne.

Lisa (2011-12-16 19:25:17)
Thanks, Wanda! :)

BARBIE (2011-12-17 01:49:23)
Congratulations Lisa!

LisaShaw (2011-12-18 03:14:11)
Hey Wanda,
I have missed my visits with you. Congratulations to the winner! Looks like it was a great give-away!
I pray a blessed Christmas and New Year for you sister!
Much love!

Treasured Thoughts (2011-12-19 06:05)

Today I'm joining Joanne for [1]Monday Manna, which is designed to get together and get to know God's Word. Today's verse is Luke 2:19.

Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. (CEB)

I can't imagine being selected for such a gigantic task as Mary. Even after receiving divine notification about her miraculous pregnancy and the child she would birth, to receive confirmation from others had to be encouraging.

At times I have found myself saying that I'm like Mary pondering things in my heart. I have had God-whispered that were far to grand for my feeble mind to comprehend fully but I chose to store them away for later. And sometimes years later, I have heard a word spoken across a pulpit, directly to me, or read something that triggered my memory of the promises spoken sometime ago.

I think it does us all well to commit those things we've heard into our minds and to really reflect on them. In today's information overload, it can be rather easy to read or hear something and just move on to the next thing. But what happens when we just move onto the next bit of information without cementing it into our hearts? We lose ground during the normal see nothing days. Having God's Word stored up gives us strength to continue on when faced with the challenges of life. What things are you treasuring in your heart and mind?

CEB is the [2]Common English Bible, which is a new translation of the Bible designed for easy reading and built on common ground. For an opportunity to win soft cover copy of the CEB Bible, complete the form below. Winner will be announced Thursday, December 22.

IFRAME: [3]https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/embeddedform?formkey=dDhSUE_41VU1zcTJRReDFD-WGduS1VZS1E6MQ Loading...

1. <http://www.joanneshar.com/2011/12/pondering.html>
2. <http://commonenglishbible.com/>
3. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/embeddedform?formkey=dDhSUE41VU1zcTJRReDFD-WGduS1VZS1E6MQ>

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-12-19 08:58:28)

A timely word, Wanda. I was speaking to a friend of my, who loves journaling, reading and words as much as I do, and we talked about the importance of stopping everything to just take in God's word and let it be written on our hearts. It's one thing to hear something or even write it down, but it is quite another to have it embedded in our hearts forever.

Joanne Sher (2011-12-19 14:08:02)

"But what happens when we just move onto the next bit of information without cementing it into our hearts?"
Exactly! And I'm guilty of NOT doing it. Wonderful thoughts, especially for now.

Kandi (2011-12-19 18:45:02)

This post really spoke to me today God has been speaking something into my heart that is just too big for me to wrap my mind around and I don't know what to do with, so I have just been storing it away for later. I think perhaps it is time for me to do something.

Blessings to you.

Denise (2011-12-19 19:18:04)

Such a nice word.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-12-20 02:42:31)

A wonderful post to read Wanda.

Have a good day.

Yvonne.

Wanda (2011-12-20 06:02:01)

Oh so true Bluebutterfly. It's the meditating that helps embed things into our mind.

Joanne, I thin we all have been guilty of that. I find that it's the wrong things that I have chosen to cement in my mind.

Kandi, bless you. Stay attentive to His voice and He'll lead you to the steps you need to take.

Thank you Denise and Yvonne.

lori (2011-12-20 18:05:09)

I LOVE pondering this verse and I imagine that it was because of the Word that Mary knew that led her to the ultimate peace...she had it cemented on her heart before that angel arrived...oh the lessons we glean from Mary! This is one I'd never really thought long and hard on...love this!!

Merry Christmas Wanda!!

lori

Lady Of Virtue (2011-12-21 10:19:56)

Hi Wanda- wanted to bless you today with the Versatile Blogging Award! Please visit Ladies Of Virtue to receive it.
Merry Christmas.

Sharon (2011-12-21 15:37:33)

Powerful post, Wanda.

I've been treasuring many things in my heart and mind this season. For one thing, I have been really delving into the humanity of Jesus - what it really looked like, and felt like, to Him. It makes me appreciate him ever more.

And I am also experiencing an overwhelming sense of God's love for me. What a difference that is making in my life.

Like Mary, there are many things I am pondering in my heart...

Merry CHRISTmas, Wanda - and may GOD BLESS!

Denise (2011-12-22 04:40:26)

Hi Wanda,

It's so important that we commit to total obedience, immerse ourselves in it and apply it to our lives, because the only way to find peace and rest for our souls is to walk on God's path and do it His way. :)

Blessings for a joyful Christmas and a New Year of health and happiness!

Denise

Favor Is Not Without Cost (2011-12-22 07:45)

Like many this time of year, I have been reflecting upon the story of Jesus' birth. On Mary in particular. From Biblical accounts there was nothing special about this young girl in particular. Yet God singled her out for the greatest assignment—to birth the Savior of the world. On an ordinary day to an ordinary virgin girl, an extraordinary visitor arrived and interrupted the ordinariness of her life. Luke 1: 28 states the angel had the following greeting for Mary,

“Hail thou art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.”

Baker's Evangelical Dictionary defines favor as gaining approval, acceptance, or special benefits or blessings. I like Merriam-Webster's definition as well, defines favor as friendly regard shown toward another especially by a superior. Some how this ordinary virgin girl had gained approval, acceptance or friendly regard by her ultimate superior, God. I am amazed at her response to such favor. With only one spoken question, she faithfully accepts the will of God.

To be favored for such an assignment sounds fascinating but I wonder did Mary fully understand the magnitude of her yes to favor. The favor that she didn't even ask for positioned her for threats. The favor of God threatened her:

- Relationships: Because of what she was carrying, Joseph was preparing to walk away from their engagement.
- Reputation: The Bible does not go into detail but I can just imagine that the towns people had plenty to say about this young unmarried girl becoming pregnant. Can't you just hear their whispers and see those funny glances? If Joseph doubted Mary's purity how much more would the neighbors.
- Plans: Before the favor showed up, she and Joseph already had things set in motion for their future marriage. But the impending birth threaten to bring her planned future to a halt.

As I meditate upon these three areas, I am reminded that Mary was not the only to face such assaults. Joseph had the favor of God but it lead to strained relationship with his own family members. So much so that they sold him into slavery. Of course, the favor followed him there as well. His run-in with Potiphar's wife threatened his reputation. And I can just imagine that as he sat in the pit and the prison that his vision of his life looked as if it would never come into fruition.

To be favored is a blessing but it is not void of cost.

Today's post is from the archives but it still rings true. I'm reflecting a lot on Mary's story. Wishing you & yours a Merry Christmas!

This weeks winner of the Common English Bible is Lori!

Joanne Sher (2011-12-22 08:23:03)

Oh, Wanda. So glad you reposted. I', pretty sure this one came before I was following you. Can't believe I wouldn't remember it.

Thank you.

Alida (2011-12-22 11:56:33)

Thank you for the repost...I missed it the first time around! We talked about Mary yesterday in Bible study.
joy and blessings to you,
Alida

Jessica (2011-12-22 14:50:56)

This is SO good and very true! I think that sometimes we can see favor for only the "blessing" side of it and not the sacrifices that you mentioned that may (but really inevitably) come with it.
Blessings to you, Wanda and have a very Merry Christmas :)
Jessica

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-12-22 16:32:22)

Yes, Lord....counting the cost.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-12-22 16:44:05)

A wonderful re-post Wanda.
Yvonne.

Ella (2011-12-23 22:54:24)

Yes, so true, thank you Wanda for
sharing your view!
Happy Holidays to you n' yours!

Peggy (2012-01-01 22:01:23)

Blessings Wanda and a blessed and happy New Year to you... I'm so glad that you chose to repost this one and it caught my eye as I was choosing which post to visit and comment on... because after listening 3 times to a pastor share on FAVOR since NYE... I decided to do my WFW on FAVOR of GOD and here you are highlighting or reflecting last weekend on this very topic with some excellent points and insights! So beautifully written and so very, very true! FAVOR is not without a cost... and you have given two great examples: Mary/Joseph and the OT Joseph! I should have read this last weekend and linked it to my WFW too! What a blessing you are! Thank you for your visit and sweet wish! Now I'm curious about the more recent posts as well. May God's favor not come at such a high cost but bring blessings to you and those around you! May we grow in wisdom and stature as Jesus did. May whatever we GO through; GROW us through, so we BREAK through to be more like Him! Thanks Wanda, for blessing my EVE.
Peggy

Wanda (2012-01-02 07:26:28)

Thank you for such wonderful well wishes. Love this line...may whatever we GO through, GROW us through, so we BREAK through to be more like Him. I'm going to add that to my quote collection.

Merry Christmas (2011-12-24 21:53)

Wishing each of you a very Merry Christmas
that is filled with love, peace, joy & the presence of Christ!

Denise (2011-12-24 22:53:58)
Merry Christmas my friend.

welcome to my world of poetry (2011-12-25 00:52:21)
Happy Christmas Wanda
Yvonne.

Living Water (2011-12-25 07:16:20)
A Blessed and Merry Christmas to you and yours!

Arlee Bird (2011-12-25 21:01:13)
I'm wishing you the same and also a very abundant year to come.
Lee
[1]Wrote By Rote
Lee

1. <http://wrotebyrote.blogspot.com/>
Judy (2011-12-26 17:27:05)
Merry Christmas to you Wanda!
Blessings,
Judy

? soraya ? (2011-12-26 20:32:09)
thank you for sharing...happy holidays...blessings soraya

Denise (2011-12-27 05:29:15)
Hi Wanda,
I hope your Christmas was blessed and that you feel His powerful love and grace just as strong every minute of every day!
I enjoyed reading "Just a Matter of Moments"; I think we were on the same thought pattern when writing our posts!
:)
Blessings for a safe, happy, and healthy New Year,
Denise

11 Favorite Posts in 2011 (2011-12-27 09:26)

The year is quickly coming to a close. As with most years, I find myself looking back in preparation for launching forward. This year I have decided to revisit the pages of my archives to reread my own writings. It's interesting to see my life written on pages. Evidence of my struggles throughout the year are splattered across the pages of my blog. Below are a few of my favorite pieces from the year. They are listed in no particular order.

1. [1]Headed Out But – Genesis 11:31-32 served as the backdrop for this piece. The verbs: headed, stopped, settled, lived, & died in this passage of scripture had me reexamining places that I started out in faith but some how settled else where.
2. [2]Still I Sing – a poem inspired by the song of the birds.
3. [3]I Am – lets us know that whatever I am I can bring to God.
4. [4]Choosing to See Chariots – through a daily devotional in Streams in the Desert a light bulb

moment occurred that showed me I can choose to see test and trials as chariots transporting me from places of immaturity to maturity, weakness to strength, indifference to compassion, lameness to mobility rather than boulders crushing me.

5. [5]But What About the Brook – cautioned me not to move ahead of God’s timing. Had Elijah not waiting until the brook dried up, he quite possible would have missed God’s instruction of going to the widow woman. Here I had to admit I’m often trying to figure out the next steps along the path rather than just trusting that the Master will direct my footsteps.

6. [6]Mission Complete – challenged me not to stop too early. I Samuel 15 left me wondering how many times have I, have you, have we called a mission complete prematurely.

7. [7]Everybody Needs a Stripper in Their Life – “Our strippers may not be people but perhaps they are situations like failed marriages, physical/sexual abuse, rejection or disappointments. Regardless of the form the stripper comes in, it’s purpose is the same to render you void of hope, dreams, faith, and identity.”

8. [8]Embracing Farewell – discussed the value in saying goodbye. “It is the farewells of life that makes room for new hellos.”

9. [9]Beyond – a quick post about looking beyond my limits

10. [10]The Road Back to Judah – Naomi served as the catalyst to help me see how God often orchestrates episodes of loss to get us back to places of praise, hope and love.

11. [11]Did The Den Do You In – encouraged me to identify my own lions in life.

Do you ever go back and re-read your own writing? Share a link to one of your own favorite posts from your blog.

1. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/01/headed-out-but.html>
2. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/03/still-i-sing.html>
3. <http://wateredsoul.com/2011/03/i-am/>
4. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/04/choosing-to-see-chariots.html>
5. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/07/but-what-about-brook.html>
6. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/05/mission-complete.html>
7. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/08/everybody-needs-stripper-in-their-life.html>
8. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/10/embracing-farewell.html>
9. <http://wateredsoul.com/2011/10/beyond-2/>
10. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/11/road-back-to-judah.html>
11. <http://wateredsoul.blogspot.com/2011/11/did-den-do-you-in.html>

Pam (2011-12-27 18:34:20)

Wanda, I think my favorite, out of the 11 favorites you picked, is number 8 "Embracing Farewell". As a United Methodist pastor's wife, I have moved a lot. Farewells ARE difficult, BUT the hellos are always such a blessing and, like you said, opportunities for growth.

Blessings to you!

Pam

2 Encourage

susanwalkergirl (2011-12-27 22:42:11)

Dear Wanda,

Since I recently discovered your blog, I look forward to reading what you've learned from the Lord this year. What I love about your blog is that the Lord is exalted.

Blessings in Christ...Susan

Denise (2011-12-28 00:34:00)

I enjoy your blog.

Prime Aque (2011-12-28 08:55:55)

I am a new follower and reader of this nice blog of yours my friend, I am sure I will be back again if I got the time and I will not miss any of those 11 list of post :)

BLUEBUTTERFLY (2011-12-28 09:38:58)

Wanda, I have certainly enjoyed your blog. There is always some question that I need to address after reading it. Yes, I do go back and read my blog also. I let go of many things and people this year and lost a few who I loved dearly, so two of my blogs dealing love and goodbye are still very much in my mind.

What If God Simply Tolerated You? (<http://swordofgoliath.blogspot.com/2011/02/what-if-god-simply-tolerated-you.html>)

and

"Goodbye Girl" (<http://swordofgoliath.blogspot.com/search?q=goodbye+girl>)

Kim @ Stuff could... (2011-12-28 17:31:15)

I like the title of a stripper :) but you always have meaningful posts. How can you pick 11?

BARBIE (2011-12-29 00:29:41)

I love #2, Still I sing! Really touched me. Thanks for sharing.

Wanda (2011-12-29 09:10:35)

Pam I have had to struggle with saying goodbye a lot this year. But I'm grateful for the opportunity He entrusted me with.

Susan thank you! Your visits and comments are refreshing.

Denise thanks always a pleasure to have you visit.

Bluebutterfly it's amazing that on quite a few occasions this year, we have written on similar topics. I remember your post about if God only tolerated us. The other one I'll have to re-read. You always have such good food for thought.

Thanks**Kim**! I chose those because they really stood out to me due to where I was at the time in my life.

Barbie, I'm no poet but amazingly God gave me those words as I fellowshiped with Him during my morning walk.

Bernadine (2011-12-29 17:45:05)

Hello Wanda,

It's great that you post a list that I could revisit some of your posts I missed.

I love, The Road Back to Judah. It reminded me of a time in my life when God had to lead me back to that place of praise.

Wanda (2011-12-30 17:19:26)

Hi Bernadine, I can recall my own times of God slowing getting me back to praise.

Wanda (2011-12-30 17:24:15)
test comment

Wanda (2011-12-30 17:26:07)
testing

Wanda (2011-12-30 17:28:22)
testing

Alex J. Cavanaugh (2011-12-30 18:48:28)

I usually don't go back and read my old posts, but the recent Deja vu Blogfest forced me to go back and select one. It was posted again on December 16 and I have to say it's rather funny.

yvonne lewis (2011-12-31 03:06:24)

I did the Dej a vue recently and whilst looking for a poem I was reading really old post , I thought did I REALLY write that.? Happy New Year Wanda. Yvonne

Standing on the Crux of Eve (2011-12-30 23:30)



[1] Here we are nearing the eve of a new year. Every since a few days before Christmas eve, the word eve has been lodged in my forethoughts. As I thought on Christmas eve, I couldn't help but wonder if any one could sense something different in the atmosphere. One day the world was still in the waiting stage, and the next day the wait was over—the Messiah had arrived.

Many people will gather at parties or perhaps church services watching and waiting on New Year's eve. Waiting to see the old depart and welcome the new. The word eve is defined as the evening or day preceding a special day or the period immediately preceding a certain event. Our calendars help us to easily see the eve of Christmas and New Year's. But there are some eves that can't be easily identified by a calendar. Eves happen all around us and throughout our lives.

God does not need a specific date to give us an eve. My mind goes back to such individuals as Saul. One day he was headed out prepared to assassinate Christians not knowing he was on the eve of his deliverance and start to ministry. On an ordinary day of tending sheep, David was on the eve of being anointed King. Happily preparing for marriage, Mary had no idea she was on the eve of an unexpected pregnancy. Zachariah a faithful servant of God, while doing what was customary for priest, was on the eve of having his prayer answered.

During this time of year, it's customary to have our thoughts filled with ideas for new endeavors or old endeavors that plan to tackle with new fervor. But much of the steam for these projects dies out during mid-year. However, I'm encouraged as I am reminded that I'm not limited to a eve on certain times of the year. With God things are subject to change at any time.

Like most people, there are different things I'm trying in this upcoming year. One of which you might have noticed. I have moved my blog to WordPress (hope I didn't lose any of you in the process of my switch). And I certainly wish you well any new undertakings but do not lose heart if going into the new year some things remain the same. Your opportunity for an eve is not limited to December 31st.

Wishing you a Happy & Prosperous New Year!

1. http://wateredsoul.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/fireworks1_f.jpg

Joanne Sher (2011-12-31 10:02:35)

What fabulous thoughts, Wanda! And I love the new look :) There are SO many "eves" that we know nothing about until after they happen. Will be pondering this for a while.

Alex J. Cavanaugh (2011-12-31 10:13:38)

What an incredible reminder that we often don't see what God has planned for us! Wishing you a Happy New Year and a blessed 2012.

Pam (2011-12-31 10:55:59)

This is an amazing post, Wanda. I love it! Shared it with my husband. It is just the kind of writing that his mind likes to turn over and over and look at from all angles. Happy New Year, my friend! Pam

Sharon (2011-12-31 19:06:52)

Wanda, love the new look of your blog!! And no, you didn't lose me! This was a great post, Wanda. I just absolutely loved it. There are many unresolved issues on my plate this New Year's Eve - and I've truthfully been a little discouraged by it all - thinking that I'm entering a new year with "old stuff." I love your take on God's ability to give us *Eves* any time. That gives me such encouragement, such hope. Wishing you a very HAPPY NEW YEAR! I will look forward to sharing our journeys in 2012! GOD BLESS!

yvonne lewis (2012-01-01 04:10:04)

Wonderful write and read. Happy New Year Wanda. Yvonne.

Wanda (2012-01-01 18:54:00)

Thanks Joanne! You're right most eves are discovered in hindsight.

Wanda (2012-01-01 18:55:07)

Happy New Year Alex. Wishing you a year full glory of God.

Wanda (2012-01-01 18:56:10)

How nice of you to share it with your husband Pam. My mind has definitely been pondering on eve. Happy New Year to you!

Wanda (2012-01-01 18:57:24)

Thank you Sharon. That's the good part about our God. He is not confined to specific calendar days. He works outside of the constraints of time. All the best to you in this new year Sharon.

Wanda (2012-01-01 18:58:00)

Thanks Yvonne. Hope you have a wonderful New Year!

A Brand New Beginning, Now What? | wateredsoul.com (2012-01-03 06:23:10)

[...] has me contemplating how to make the most of our beginnings. As I pointed out in my post titled, On the Crux of Eve, we are not limited to new beginnings just in January. But whenever we have the opportunity to [...]

Chapter 3

2012

3.1 January

A-Z Scripture Memory Challenge (2012-01-02 07:14)



[1]

January is the time of year, when many resolve to do new things and essentially to become a better person. As I jumped around the blogosphere, I discovered an interesting challenge being hosted by Cindy at [2]She Sparkles.

Participants are invited to memorize 26 verses in ABC style throughout the year. The challenge began on yesterday with the A-verse.

As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15b

A brand new verse is posted every other week. The challenge runs from January 1 to December 17. For more information or to join the challenge hop on over to [3]She Sparkles.

1. <http://www.cindybultema.blogspot.com/2011/12/scripture-memory-2012-come-join-us-part.html>
2. <http://cindybultema.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://cindybultema.blogspot.com/>

Wanda (2012-01-02 18:43:40)

Hi Jessica, Happy New Year to you. Thanks for the compliment. I finally decided to jump into Wordpress.

Wanda (2012-01-02 18:42:38)

I think it's a great way to store God's Word in our hearts.

Jessica (2012-01-02 17:50:28)

What a wonderful idea, Wanda! I will definitely be joining in on this one :) Blessings! And Happy New Year! Jessica (PS: LOVE the new site layout, and congratulations on your own domain name!)

Tyrea (2012-01-02 18:16:42)

Sounds like an awesome challenge, I'm going to go check it out!

Wanda (2012-01-02 19:04:46)

It's a really neat idea.

Wanda (2012-01-02 19:05:22)

Thanks Yvonne. Happy New Year to you as well.

Wanda (2012-01-02 19:10:17)

Yeah I discovered it via Carol's blog but I think it's a great way to start off the new year.

Wanda (2012-01-02 19:10:57)

Thanks Kim!

alisa hope (2012-01-02 20:33:32)

What an amazing idea! I love being encouraged to deepen my faith by writing His Word on my heart! Thanks for sharing this faith challenge!

Ella (2012-01-02 23:24:32)

What a clever idea Happy New Year Wanda Wishing you a wonder filled year

Denise (2012-01-03 03:59:37)

Happy New Year Wanda! What a wonderful idea going into the New Year; I have a whole list of verses to catch up on and memorize; it get's harder as my mind gets older-ha! Many joyful blessings to you during this faith challenge! Denise

kandi (2012-01-02 07:36:31)

Wanda, Hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I have been playing catch up with some blogs this morning that I missed reading over Christmas. I love and have been inspired by the general theme of things being written about, to go deeper with God. I think I may have to join in on this challenge and I look forward to reading the scriptures you will posting. Blessings.

Wanda (2012-01-02 07:42:52)

Hi Kandi, I did have enjoyable Christmas and I'm looking forward to what the year 2012 unfolds. Wishing you a new year that's overflowing with Christ's presence and full of productivity for you.

LaVonne (2012-01-02 08:15:06)

Hi Wanda! Blessings for the new year! What better way to start out than to write His words on our heart.

Wanda (2012-01-02 09:11:37)

I agree LaVonne. Starting our year off in His Word is the perfect beginning to the new year.

yvonne lewis (2012-01-02 09:27:36)

Have a wonderful New Year Wanda, a good idea with the challenge. good luck with it. Yvonne.

Alex J. Cavanaugh (2012-01-02 09:32:51)
Second time I've seen this - that's a really great Challenge!

Kim @ Stuff could.... (2012-01-02 10:01:54)
I like your new blog look....and a challenge you are good at too

Joanne Sher (2012-01-02 10:40:25)
What a great idea, Wanda! Glad you found this.

Wanda (2012-01-05 18:07:36)
Happy New Year to you Ellie

A Brand New Beginning, Now What? (2012-01-03 06:23)



[1] There is just something about the dawn of a new year that has many people embracing new possibilities. Every year we convince ourselves that some how this year will be different for us. We will leave behind the past and become the best that we can be. January is a month that has us feeling hopeful and envisioning all the good things that life may unfold throughout the year. It's a brand new beginning.

The start of 2012 and my chronological Bible reading plan has me contemplating how to make the most of our beginnings. As I pointed out in my post titled, [2]On the Crux of Eve, we are not limited to new beginnings just in January. But whenever we have the opportunity to start anew, how do we really make it count?

As I read the account of creation, I took notice of the activities that God was engaged in during the beginning of time.

When the earth was without form and void: and darkness was upon the face of the deep. The spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Genesis 1:2

When everything was a blank slate, God got busy moving. He was doing the following:

1. Creating
2. Speaking
3. Ordering

According to Genesis 1:26a, we were created in the image or likeness of God. Which has me thinking that during my beginnings I should be undertaking these same activities. I have been handed a blank slate and the question is what will I be creating during the year? Will I let my creative abilities lie dormant? What

words will I be speaking? Life or death? Will I seek to bring order into my life or will allow the chaos of the world to overwhelm me?

How do you spend the beginning of your year?

1. http://wateredsoul.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/marykbaird_P5050182.jpg

2. <http://wateredsoul.com/2011/12/standing-on-the-crux-of-eve.html>

Lorena Sims (2012-01-04 19:11:36)

A really good and thought provoking post Wanda! I really miss reading your inspiring and encouraging blog. God bless you!

Sharon (2012-01-04 14:08:53)

OK, Wanda - being totally honest, I've been letting the chaos of life overwhelm me lately. I'm not proud of that - but it's the truth. So, your words were very encouraging for me to hear today. And I was particularly challenged by your words - what will you be speaking, life or death? I have been woefully procrastinating on writing a talk that I know God is leading me to present to other women. I must choose to live above life - so I can bring words of Life to others... Thanks for the inspiration today. GOD BLESS!

Angel @ Finding The Inspiring (2012-01-03 14:29:50)

Oh, this is SO GOOD! I will be contemplating this today. How to imitate God with this new year, this new beginning He has given me. Thank you for sharing this. Blessings to you!

Tracy (2012-01-03 15:44:38)

Hi Wanda - great post to set me thinking. I want to be creative on my clean slate and I want it to be something I can look back on and see that I used the paint and brush of the Lord's word. God bless Tracy

yvonne lewis (2012-01-03 16:34:57)

I start the new year thinking what can I achieve this year, these past few years I have reached my goals, So it's back to the drawing board for 2012. Yvonne.

Alex J. Cavanaugh (2012-01-03 18:05:04)

That's really profound if you think about it - what we create will be in OUR image. So we better make it good!

susie swanson (2012-01-03 18:38:20)

Good post and a very thought provoking one.. I need to get busy .. Thank you and May God Bless you in the New Year..Susie

jackie (2012-01-03 20:03:58)

It's been awhile that we haven't shared our thoughts together. Thanks for dropping by on my blog. I am about to give birth soon. Please include me in your prayers... Please pray for a safe and normal delivery and for a very healthy baby too! Thanks once again. God bless :)

Emmah (2012-01-04 01:15:03)

I want God this year. I desire more of Him, nothing but Him...hopefully we will write on the slate together! That way God and I can create, speak and order things in my life. Happy 2012!

Nikki (Sarah) (2012-01-04 06:54:25)

what a great post. This is a fabulous way to look at the new year. Helps me to frame my own thinking about it. Thanks Wanda

Betty Alark (2012-01-04 07:21:31)

I was very inspired by your words! I have every desire to be creative- I just need to be lifted up to have the energy to do so in 2012. Hope someone will lift me up in prayer!

Joanne Sher (2012-01-04 20:41:51)

Some GREAT thoughts, Wanda. Contemplating how I'm filling MY blank slate.

JBR (2012-01-05 04:37:34)

As always came to get my soul watered. Blessings dear one.

Kim @ Stuff could.... (2012-01-05 08:10:10)

New beginnings...profound thinking here with creative thoughts

Connie Arnold (2012-01-05 16:54:35)

Great post, Wanda, encouraging and inspiring. I find January to be a hopeful month.

Wanda (2012-01-05 18:09:02)

Wishing you a beautiful and productive beginning Angel.

Wanda (2012-01-05 18:10:28)

Hi Tracy, I have been contemplating how to use the creative abilities God has given me. And you paint beautifully with your words Tracy. All the best to you.

Wanda (2012-01-05 18:13:31)

Having some specified goals helps us form our new year.

Wanda (2012-01-05 18:14:12)

Oh so true Alex!

Wanda (2012-01-05 18:18:32)

Thanks Susie. Wishing you a blessed new year.

Wanda (2012-01-05 18:19:01)

Hi Jackie, I whispered a prayer for you and your little one.

Wanda (2012-01-05 18:19:48)

Emmah, we can't ever get too much of God. Along with Him comes everything we need. Happy New Year.

Wanda (2012-01-05 18:20:26)

Nikki, I hadn't ever looked at that one but those are thing things that stood out to me as I read Genesis one.

Ella (2012-01-05 23:44:30)

Wonderful and so true My New Year was encouraging and filled with hope. How was yours? I love the look of your blog! Thanks for visiting me...I thought of you, when I wrote my poem, today. Hope this year is amazing and filled with magic! You will create this year, I look forward to hearing more about what you will make! :D

BlogBook v0.4,
L^AT_EX 2_ε & GNU/Linux.
<http://www.blogbooker.com>

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