

January 13, 2021

I think every young girl wants to be a princess, and I was no exception. Unfortunately, I was, or felt like, the ugly stepsister. In my youth, I was painfully thin with a metabolism that prevented me from gaining weight. Nicknames like "toothpick" and "zipper" or "stick" only confirmed my insecurities.

Now, as an adult, I know the truth. I AM a princess! A princess of the King of Kings, and my weight has no bearing on my position.

Psalm 8:4-5 states, "What is man that you are mindful of him. You have made him a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor."

Yep, I have been crowned by God.

As a princess, I have a place, a "kingdom" if you will, that I belong. Hebrews 2:11-13 tells me that I belong to a family, and Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers. (or sisters!) A princess with no people is no princess at all.

I have a princess purpose. "God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and birds of the air and over every living creature that moves along the ground."

Genesis 1:28.

My royal duties involve caring and managing this beautiful earth. Using the abilities that my Father, the King, gave me, I am well equipped for my responsibilities.

I am a princess with a promise. I have a future to anticipate. Because the earth, at this present time, is not eternal, the King has also given me an inheritance that will not fade away.

2 Timothy 2:12 reads, "If we endure, we will also reign with him." and Romans 8:17, "Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and coheirs with Christ."

I have things to do now, but I also know there is more to come. Jesus told Pilate that his kingdom was not of this world and Luke 1:33, tells me that his kingdom will have no end!

So... I am a princess of the Most High King. I have a place, a purpose, and a promise. My insecurities are unfounded. When my enemy comes against me, I will straighten my crown, stand tall... and call my Dad... THE KING!!!

January 6, 2021

This past week we witnessed the beauty of creation. January 1st brought a coating of ice making trees, clothesline poles and roads look like glass. The next day produced snow creating a winter wonderland of "powdered sugar" coated everything. Covering the landscape with white really cleans up the place... even my neglected weedy garden looked incredible, and the weight of the snow made the trees look as if they were bowing down in worship. As if that wasn't enough, a fog rolled in creating a cloud-like atmosphere of perfect gray. It was mesmerizing.

Only our LORD, our God of creation, could do something so magnificent.

Isaiah 1:18 reads, "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD. Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they will be like wool."

Our Lord is in the beauty business. He takes our weedy garden lives, covers them with the snow of his grace through Christ, and we become incredible!

How cool is that?

I encourage you this year to look upon creation with eyes of appreciation. Look upon our salvation with deep gratitude. Bow down in worship just like a snow laden tree and pray you will be mesmerized by our Lord.

December 31, 2020

Lamentations 3:22-23 reads, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

This is the time of year when we are surrounded by "new". Last week we all opened gifts of new items, and this week we celebrate the new year. I like "new". New items from loved ones who want to give me gifts. A new year with a clean calendar and a time for fresh starts. "New" brings a feeling of hope and refreshment and even excitement.

Unfortunately, in a short time, the newness is gone. The gifts can break or be forgotten, and our hopes for a better year are soon derailed. Perhaps, that is why we gravitate to something new. It is so temporary and therefore almost magical.

We serve a God who can do something new... every. single. day. His compassion and love for us never wears out, never breaks, and is never forgotten. He never needs to make a resolution to reset his faithfulness to us. In a way, it is rather magical, but most assuredly...amazing.

I encourage you this week to meditate on the truth of God's "newness" abilities. Ponder what "new" means to you and why it is so appealing and then apply it to your spiritual life. I am confident God will amaze you with his "newness", and your spirit will soar right into the new year!

December 23, 2020

I was thinking about the birth of Jesus and what that meant for prayer. Truthfully, I had never thought about connecting the two before. I suppose my focus had been on angels, a young mother, a baby, shepherds, stars and wise men... and each one of those could be focused upon for a lifetime. But a baby in a manger and prayer?

In the Old Testament, after the fall, mankind had limited access to God. Scripture records individuals of faith who God approached for various reasons, but the only person that had direct access to God was Moses. Think about that for a moment. Out of thousands upon thousands of people that the Lord created, only one could be in His presence and have a conversation! As a mother, I would be so distraught if only one of my children could talk to me.

God had a plan to fix that! He sent a baby to open the lines of communication. Ephesians 3:12 states, "In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence." Did you catch that? WE may approach God! We don't have to wait for God to talk to us.

I challenge you to think about the blessed baby and prayer. The Father desperately wanted to give us the freedom to come and talk to him. It is such a gift of love... found in the tenderness of a sweet baby.

December 17, 2020

The way God goes about accomplishing his plan, and the way I would do it very seldom, if ever, look the same. Sometimes, I don't even think much of the plan!! The birth of Jesus and the surrounding events make me scratch my head and think to myself, "Really? What are you thinking, God?"

Luke 2:4-7 tells us about Joseph and Mary leaving Nazareth and travelling to Bethlehem for a census. That journey would have been approximately 80 miles. In verse 4, scripture reads, "So Joseph went up". This is an important phrase because it tells us that this would have been hill country... not a flat, pleasant stroll through the countryside. Mary must have been in the later stages of her pregnancy because the child is born after their arrival in Bethlehem. Also, there is no mention that Mary rode on a donkey...she probably walked. The city had so many people arriving to register that no accommodations were available... only a stable.

Ok, God... let me get this straight. Your son, the Savior of the world and the King of Kings, is going to be conceived under questionable human circumstances. The earthly father and hugely pregnant mother are going to walk uphill for 80 miles and when they get there, Joseph hasn't made any room reservations. They stay in a barn. Mary is away from her mom or maybe even sisters, and she is gonna have her first baby with only Joseph as her "doctor"... in some straw... right... this is a GREAT plan!!

Lord, did you forget what the angel said to Mary? "Greetings, you who are highly favored. The Lord is with you." (Luke 1: 28) Is this how you treat those who are "highly favored"?

If I take a step back and look at the whole plan of salvation and all the prophecies that were fulfilled in Christ, I understand it a little better. Certain events and circumstances had to occur in a specific order and location to confirm to mankind that this child was indeed the Son of God.

The plans of God are seldom easy, and often contrary to human thinking... but they are so worth it!

The Lord drops the mic... and I am amazed and speechless.

Covid-19 Prayer Suggestions

Joshua 1:9 "...Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

1. Heavenly Father, thank You for being the God who hears, and cares, for us. *1 John 5:14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*
2. Thank You, Jesus, for the promise of peace that is not like the world's. *John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*
3. Our hope is in You, Lord, for You are faithful.
4. You are our refuge, our place of safety. *Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*
5. We acknowledge that You have complete control over this situation. *Psalm 47:8 God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.*
6. We acknowledge that we need You, not only for physical healing, but also spiritual healing.
7. We ask for forgiveness when we give in to fear, not putting our complete trust in You. *Luke 12:22-23 Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes."*
8. We ask you to heal those who are ill and suffering.
9. Comfort those who have lost loved ones.
10. Watch over all health professionals as they provide care for others. Keep them protected.
11. Provide strength and safety to USPS, FedEx, UPS and other company employees and truck drivers as they deliver needed goods to local stores and our homes.
12. Keep lines of communication open so we may stay in touch with our family and friends, and that we may be kept informed. We ask that the media will report with integrity and honesty.
13. Help us to remember the vulnerable, the elderly, those with health issues, the homeless and the poor. Please watch over them.
14. We lift up our economy and people facing financial difficulties. May we offer "a cup of water" in Your name, Jesus.
15. Give wisdom to our governmental leaders. Help them to make decisions based on wisdom and truth - not politics or selfish ambition.

16. We ask that you stop this disease. Enable scientists to develop a cure. *Psalm 91:5-6 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.*
17. Guide our church leaders as they make decisions concerning Your people. Keep their families safe.
18. Use this situation to proclaim the Good News and bring Revival to this nation, and world. *Exodus 14:13 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."*
19. May we glorify You in our actions and speech.

Additional Scriptures:

Psalm 59:16 But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.

Psalm 103:1-5 Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits--- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.