



JULY LETTER OF ENCOURAGEMENT

“A Gentle & Quiet Spirit”

Dearest Sisters in Christ,

Anyone who knows me well also knows that weakness plays a pretty significant role in my life. Oftentimes I struggle to remember that feelings do not always reflect reality. Christ is a redeemer and because of that He takes our lack and creates His gain. But the temptation is for complacency. To only see the weakness and want to give up. To feel helpless when we most certainly are not without help.

Do you ever feel helpless to living a life according to how you feel? Irritated? Angry? Overwhelmed? Lazy?

A pretty simple but enormously helpful practice my husband has recently been leading our family in has been confession of sin, asking the Lord for help, and restoring fellowship. There has been something so helpful about doing this out loud and within our family. It's both a reminder of my weakness and God's strength.

His readiness to forgive, restore, and make new. He is our help. Also a reminder that we are to image Him in this with one another.

“Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, 2 to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become

heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone."

Titus 3:1-8

As women in the church, it is important for us to remember: "who am I subject to?" And what does it mean to be obedient and live in submission? How can I be ready to do whatever is good?

Thankfully God's Word is sufficient and gives us a good direction right here in this passage. Starting with the words that we speak and our primary relationships. We are to be peaceable, considerate, and gentle. Just before this chapter he says that ***"older women are to teach the younger women good things. To be: discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands."....***

"So that the Word of God may not be blasphemed." Titus 2:3-5

It turns out the posture in which we live out our primary relationships matters greatly for the kingdom. The stakes are pretty high. The way in which we interact with those who are over us and under us speaks volumes about who is our ultimate authority. Are we humbly submitting ourselves to those in authority over us as Christ submitted Himself to the Father? Are we loving our children or those in our care with the same love our merciful and tender Father loves us?

"For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another"

If you're like me this verse may make you stop and say "once?!" Because these things can still show up in a moment. This remembrance should produce humility for the redeemed, but not shame.

Because... ***"according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us ABUNDANTLY".***

We are given abundant power to walk in obedience, not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. That the words that were once foolish may be wise, the heart that was rebellious towards God and our husbands may be submissive and obedient, that instead of being deceived as Eve was we would be able to call out lies with the truth of God's word.

Rather than being given to our passions and lusts that we would be wholly given to service for the glory of God. Instead of looking on others lives with envious hearts we would be ready to rejoice with those who rejoice, and that our hearts would overflow with the same love we've been shown.

This is the life of good works that Paul calls faithful women to live. It is a life that does not blaspheme the word of God, but rather proclaims it.

We need to remember that we are not women without help. Because we are justified by His grace we have become heirs to the hope of eternal life and that life begins now in our walking in obedience by His Spirit and His strength.

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