

A word of Hope for His Bride: March, 2023

This is an encouraging word for this season in an areas that many have been working through since last fall coming into 2023. Many left 2022 with a sense of being “heartsick” or “lovesick.” For some it was circumstantial and for others, life was actually “good” but you couldn’t shake this feeling of being “heartsick.” You may have wondered if you were depressed because the things that use to bring you joy almost seemed to drain you and were no longer fulfilling. You may have felt blank, hopeless, stuck, tired and maybe even sick. Hope deferred makes the heart sick... (Prov 13:12). You thought the holidays would move things, then the new year, but you couldn’t shake the cloud of disappointment, hurt, exhaustion, hopelessness. God’s voice seemed quiet and you may have wondered if you disappointed God or missed something. But you didn’t!

That feeling of being “heartsick” was because **the Lord was bringing us to a place of longing for HIM.** **“Oh God you are my God, earnestly I seek you: my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land...” Psalm 63:1 “As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs for you.” Psalm 42:1**

He is bringing us to a place of longing for Him and intimacy where nothing else satisfies more than Him! It is/was a Psalm 23 season where He wants to restore our souls. We often think of Psalm 23 as a scripture that may be read at funerals. But Psalm 23 is full of life, promise and blessing! The Lord is restoring us. As a body of Christ, in unity, declare that God is doing a **New Thing** in us and that the sun is coming up over our darkness. Our Jubilee is coming, and we will see so many “Suddenlies.”

Where are you in this passage of Psalm 23?

“The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not be in want” (He provides). **“He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters HE RESTORES MY SOUL and guides me along right paths for His name.”** We are in a season of restoration, renewal of souls, and personal revival. Where the breath of God will come and fill your lungs and the oil of joy will flow over you in a fresh and new way that is not based on circumstances but on the joy of knowing and being with your shepherd.

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. Your rod and staff they comfort me” Do not fear. He goes before us and behind us. He is the good shepherd. The rod and staff represent His authority and protection. He fights off the wolves and brings us to a place of protection and rest. He is for you! Praise the Lord!

“You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil and my cup overflows.” Isn’t that just like Jesus?! In the middle of your war, He brings you to the table to sit with Him. He feeds you delicious foods, anoints you and fills you. While you sit and rest and enjoy the Lord, He anoints you and fills you. Your cup is not empty or even half full. It is overflowing! As we sit and look into His eyes that our like fire, He is restoring and bringing us to a new place of intimacy with Him.

This is not a time “striving.” You are enjoying Him and He is enjoying you. During this time of deep communion with the Lord, in His MERCY, he may be lovingly dealing with issues of the heart. It is a purifying and laying bare. This is personal revival. Don’t let the enemy twist this. God’s voice brings conviction and draws you closer to His heart. The enemies voice brings condemnation and makes you want to run from the table. The Holy Spirit reveals in order to purify and make new.

Because this is a time of restoring intimacy, be on guard your heart against attacks on your relationships. You may have had to deal with things like jealousy and comparison and doubting God’s goodness in your own life. You wonder why there is so much tension and emotion in areas that there never used to be.

This is an attack on intimacy and a way to distract us from what God is doing in YOU! PRAY! Ask God to move you from this place and do not dwell here. If you feel tension in relationships, recognize that this, PRAY, forgive, and even ask for forgiveness if needed. But don't dwell in this place. Turn your eyes back to the eyes of Jesus and let him comfort and restore you.

“Surely goodness and love (mercy) will follow me all the days of my life. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”

GOODNESS.

He has goodness in store for you! He is a good father and he longs to pour out His goodness and prosperity. I am talking about prospering in the sphere and boundaries that God has given you. He is restoring what the locusts have eaten (Joel 2:25) and he is giving us back the spoils of war. (1 Samuel 30:17-20). I declare beauty for ashes, oil of joy instead of mourning, life for death, praise instead of a faint spirit. You have been tested and tried and refined like silver.... You went through fire and water and God is bringing you to place of abundance. (Psalm 66: 10-12).

Waiting is hard! But the Lord is asking us to **trust him** and to come into a place of supernatural joy and peace IN THE WAITING. He is asking us to **worship Him BEFORE the breakthrough**. You are in a birthing room wondering when this labor is going to be over. But the birthing process creates that joy that a mother has after she has gone through labor and is holding that baby in her arms. Such joy! We are in a divine pause where we GET to say, “I TRUST YOU!” It's that moment BEFORE the breakthrough that we GET to say “I LOVE YOU.”

Prayer: Lord thank you for restoring my soul. Thank you for the blood of Jesus that covers all of my sin. I am forgiven and free. Thank you that amidst difficult things you remind me that you are fighting for me and that you love me. You are working all things out for my good and I choose to worship you even as I wait for restoration and breakthrough in areas of my life. You are worthy of all my praise. I declare your goodness, breakthrough, and abundance in my life, in my family, in my relationships, in my workplace, in my health, and in every area that you have given me authority. I am not a victim but I am a son/daughter of the most high God and I am seated with you in heavenly places. You are my provider and protector. You go before me and behind me and I am not alone. You are sitting with me, and you are restoring every area that the enemy has robbed me of my inheritance. And even before I see the glimmer of sun, I stand with my heart surrendered to you and say that You, O, Lord, are worthy of ALL of my praise. You are my perfect heavenly father. You created me for a purpose. Nothing can steal my hope in you. I LOVE YOU and I TRUST YOU. Amen.