

## Ordering your World

I love the conclusion of Solomon, whom some consider to be the wisest man to ever live. Having attained all that a man could ever strive to accomplish or experience, he says "Life without God is like striving after the wind"...but if one is to live a life of meaning, purpose and joy, (which I believe is the deepest desire of the human heart) then we must place God at the center of our life, work and activity.

Ecclesiastes 7:29 God made us plain and simple, but we have made ourselves complicated.

Our lives are filled with

"To do lists"

"Schedules"

"Deadlines"

"Activities"

"Goals, plans"

"Phone calls/conference calls"

"Noise, people, expectations..."

How in the world can we bring God into every aspect of our world and simplify our lives in the midst of such a hurried, hassled age.

How do we sit beside green pastures and still waters?

How do we find the....

Joy...Peace...Contentment...Purpose...Resolve...Order

That our hearts crave?

Regardless of circumstances

Regardless of the state of the Nation

Regardless of the price of gas, economy, things happening in our families that we have no control over

Two Christian men, theologians and authors that have impacted my life are John Piper and Chuck Swindoll. In my journey to find peace and complete joy in the midst of these hurried uncertain times...I have sought to find godly examples of men and women who desire to drink from the living waters that satisfy the soul.

Going back to Solomon's statement:

God you made us simple but we have complicated things"

I am learning some simple disciplines that have been modeled for me by people who have tasted the goodness of the Lord...who have learned the importance of "Being still and knowing that He is God"

My mentor and spiritual mother, Barbara Brown has a supernatural peace and hope that comes from being with her creator daily. Having lost a son to a terrible electrical accident at the age of 19, fighting breast and brain cancer with strength, dignity and holy surrender to her God, she has modeled for me the goodness of the Lord and the Joy that comes from simple disciples.

As I have gotten closer and closer to my sweet friend in Oregon, I have seen peace and joy beyond circumstances, in the midst of turmoil and tremendous loss as she and her precious husband walked through a time with their oldest son Jake son who struggled with and lost his battle with cancer his Sr. year of High School.

How can she have such joy, such holy resolve, such peace in the depths of her soul? How can she walk in complete trust with her God?

They have learned the deep simple truth of God's Word they have learned that the path of God-exalting joy will cost you your life. Jesus put it this way, "Whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel will save it."

They have learned to be glad in God and to do what ever they can to help others "BE GLAD IN GOD"

They have learned to be satisfied In God...to seek His face....daily, quietly, in solitude and quite...to be still and to surrender and trust God completely.

They have learned to have what Chuck Swindoll calls "Intimacy with the Almighty"

These men and women have learned simple truths and the seeds they have sowed will reap a harvest that there will not be enough barns to hold.

I began these disciplines this past year and I cannot tell you how it has affected my life. "I have tasted the goodness of the Lord" and there is no turning back.

1. Simplify....I have learned to order my private world. It has become a part of life habit and routine. My heart and soul thirst for God and He fills me there.
2. Solitude....I have learned the importance of alone time. To think and ponder God's word to me....His love for me. I have given myself permission to "Be still and know that He is God"
3. Silence....I have learned the importance of silence. To turn off the phones, TV, to get away from anything that tries to confuse, control, distract, or draw me away from my time with my creator. I have become very creative at times, car, bathroom stall, corner in an airport...a special chair and time in my home.
4. Surrender...I am learning to surrender all to Jesus. To trust Him completely. Through bible study, journaling and prayer and meditation I am learning to praise God with all f my heart and enjoy His love and presence. I give Him the basket of my heart; I drink in the living water and commit my ways to Him. I pray for and commit my requests and leave it all in His capable hands. In return He is filling me with JOY, PEACE, CONTENTMENT, HOLY RESOLVE, HOLY SURRENDER AND I AM ABLE to proclaim His goodness in the land of the living.

John Piper said something that had really touched my heart, I want to end my time with you and begin our prayer time with this statement:

"God is most glorified in me when I am most satisfied In Him."