

WAKING UP TO YOUR “RIGHT NOW”

**YOUR MOMENTS ARE IMPORTANT,
NO MATTER WHERE OR HOW THEY ARE.**

BY JENNIFER CROCE

DAY 1

**WHERE
ARE
YOU?**

**“THEN THE LORD GOD CALLED TO THE
MAN, “WHERE ARE YOU?” - GENESIS 3:9**

We can find ourselves in many places, but when it comes to acknowledging the presence of God, we can tend to run away from it. Sometimes we run because we're afraid, other times we run because we're insecure. There are many things we can attribute to allowing ourselves to "hide" from Him. What we really need to ask ourselves is what are we really hiding from? Are we truly hiding from God or are we hiding from everything we've built up inside us because we don't want to see it fall apart.

We can attribute our fear to God but in reality we're afraid of seeing our pride fall right before our very own eyes. Yes, there are those that have other experiences. There are times when someone that doesn't really know God will come to place of fear and deal with their issues differently. However, in this scripture we're referring to Adam. Someone that walked and talked with God. Someone that knew God's voice so distinctly and clearly. It was evident, that Adam was His. So as a Christian, when the Lord calls to us and says "Where are you?". Why is He calling us and what do we do?

PRAYER: *Father, I pray that I find my path toward you. I may stumble and fall short at times but I know I can get back up to walk in your ways. Help me to hear your voice and answer the call. That I may find you in the midst of a chaotic world. In Jesus Name, Amen!*

DAY 2

**WHO
ARE
YOU?**

**“WHO ARE YOU?” THEY DEMANDED.
JESUS REPLIED, “THE ONE I HAVE
ALWAYS CLAIMED TO BE.”
- JOHN 8:25 NLT**

Who is “they” and why did “they” question Jesus? You would think these were people that didn’t know God. Reading only this scripture in the Bible, you may be thinking, oh this is someone that isn’t familiar with God or have a relationship with Him. As you read John 8 you find out that those that are questioning Jesus were the Pharisees. These were the guys that are the religious crew. They were the head honchos of the pack. These guys studied the law of Moses and abided by it to the T’s. They crossed their T’s and dotted their i’s. You couldn’t get past them when it came to religious statutes.

However, religion could only take them so far. They had repeatedly questioned Jesus because He didn’t fit the form of their theological ideology. They reasoned that this wasn’t the son of God because this man sat with sinners and promised them a better life. This man healed the sick, delivered the oppressed, performed miracles and went against the norm of religiosity. What’s happening is they were trying to persecute Jesus for what he was doing and throw him in jail to eventually crucify Him. He wasn’t fitting inside their box and they couldn’t handle how Jesus would make them think outside of their own. He made them question their entire lives and instead of being in relationship with God, these men were in relationship with their religion.

So then, are we in this for a true relationship with God or another routine and check off list of religion statutes? The question is not “Who are you?” But rather... “Who are we?”

Prayer: *Dear God, it’s me, yeah you know, the one that gets distracted with the cares of this world and needs to talk to you more than I do right now. I need more of you in my life. I don’t want to just know you, I want you to be in relationship with you. I want to hear when you call so that I may answer. Father, help me to not just abide by your Word but walk in the Word as well. Let me be your hands and feet as I grow closer to you. I don’t want to just live the Word, I want to be the Word. Help me so that I can help others find you in relationship and not just in another Sunday service.*

DAY 3

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

**“WHEN ELIJAH HEARD IT, HE WRAPPED
HIS FACE IN HIS CLOAK AND WENT OUT
AND STOOD AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE
CAVE. AND A VOICE SAID, “WHAT ARE
YOU DOING HERE, ELIJAH?”**

- 1 KINGS 19:13

How easy it is to hide in the midst of trouble, trial, or hardship. You know that saying; “I just want to crawl/hide under a rock”, sometimes life will make you feel that way. Hardships and emotions pour out endlessly from what you are facing and sometimes you just want to crawl under a rock. Elijah pretty much did this. He ran until he couldn’t run anymore from his problem, in a nutshell Jezebel had threatened to kill him because his God outdid hers. Elijah had just had the most amazing God filled miraculous experience and then, a death threat came his way and he ran. He didn’t just run though, he desired to die. He told God that was it, he was done, he had nothing left in him. So Elijah goes into a cave and is dealing with his own depression.

You see, if the devil can’t hurt you one way he’s going to try to get you in another way and he’s annoying as heck! That’s why the Word of God in Ephesians 6:10-18 tells us to put on the full armor of God daily. It gives us specific direction on what to put on spiritually so we can be prepared and fight the frustrating battles the devil tries to rage against us. Ephesians 6:12 “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” That’s pretty clear that people are not the problem, the spiritual evil and darkness is the true problem. What lies beneath in ones spirit is the root of all that is truly going on. Prayer and fasting are an ultimate source of strength and victory. If we can’t truly believe and be assured that God is going to come through in prayer and fasting then we might as well run till we can’t run anymore and hide ourselves in a cave of despair.

Even then, God is so merciful and loving. He asks Elijah a simple question, already knowing the answer, yet listens to his child. He says, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” As simple as that and Elijah answers him truthfully. Elijah doesn’t make an excuse, he tells God the truth and God tells him now go about the business I have for you. God doesn’t smite him or tell him that he is now unfit or unqualified for the position of which God had him in. Instead, he tells him to go on, get up, get out, and get moving!

So I ask you today, what are you doing here? Get on, get up, get out and get moving!

Prayer: *God, at times life can get overwhelming. Sometimes it gets the best of me and makes me feel like I'm inadequate. I see victories and experience life changing moments, yet I end up running and hiding. Get me out of the cycle of running and hiding. I don't want to be here anymore, I want to be about your business and not my own. Don't let my emotions get the best of me that I stop halfway. Thank you for your mercy and loving kindness in my life. I am not unqualified or inadequate! I will get on, get up, get out and get moving! Amen!*

A photograph of a person standing on a rocky ledge in a narrow canyon. The person is silhouetted against a bright light source, possibly the sun, which creates a strong glow and casts long shadows. The canyon walls are dark and rugged, with visible rock textures. The overall mood is contemplative and dramatic.

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?

How easy it
is to hide
in the midst
of trouble,
trial, or
hardship.

DAY 4

**YESTERDAY,
TOMORROW,
OR RIGHT NOW?**

**“DON'T PUT IT OFF; DO IT NOW! DON'T
REST UNTIL YOU DO.” - PROVERBS 6:4**

It's time to pull from within and drink the refreshing water every morning that God gives us so freely. We have His Word in our hands whether it be via the Bible, a computer, or a cell phone. There is no excuse not to refill our spirit every morning and work at filling others with the living water that is God. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt said: "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift." What a great nugget of wisdom she shared with us.

We need to renew our thoughts into a path of goodness and greatness! What are you doing right now? Are you walking in circles in your history? Are you anxiously waiting for what may or may not be tomorrow? Or are you doing your best with what you have and where you are at right now? Really think about what is going on in your mind. We tend to believe that we are present when we might actually not be. We could be thinking of something else that already happened or is going to happen and not even be focusing on what is going on in our "right now". Many times we get caught up in our thoughts and we don't realize how we are reacting to them.

God has asked you to do a thing and you are sitting on it! You don't get motivation from waiting without preparing. So many times we hear God tell us to go ahead with a project or situation and we ask for a sign when he's already given us the green light. We wait and wait for the sign but really we're just lacking discipline to do it.

"He will die for lack of discipline and instruction, and in the greatness of His folly He will go astray and be lost."

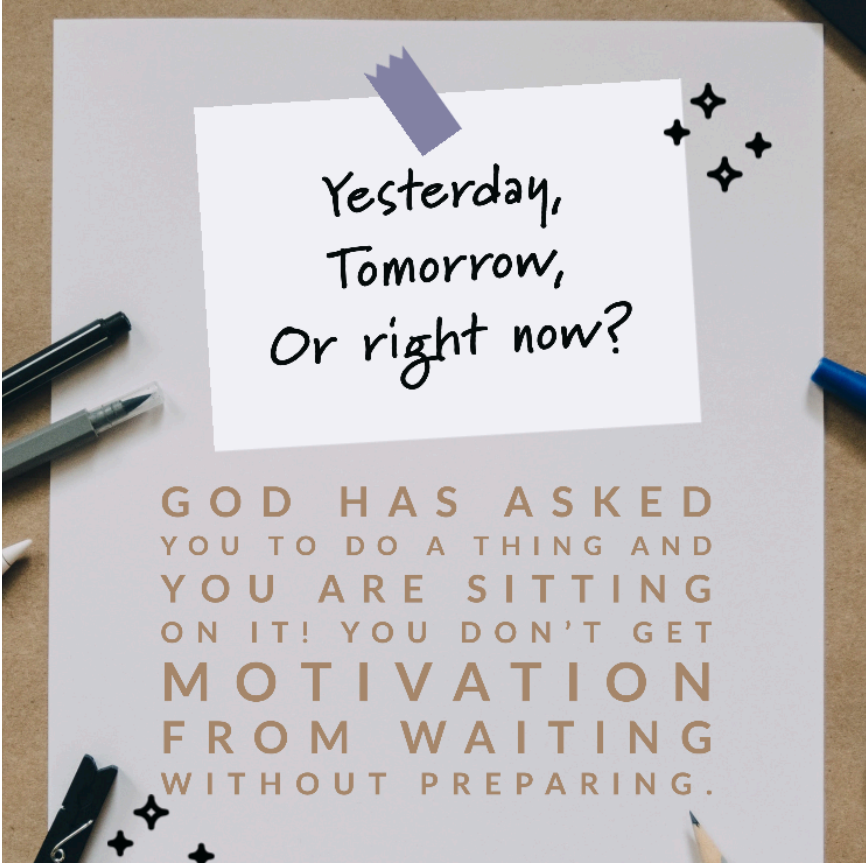
— Proverbs 5:22

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Let's not let our purpose die because of our lack of discipline over ourselves. We can lose a good thing just because we keep putting it off. We can not allow ourselves to wallow in rest, we need to do it now! Has God asked you to start a business? Create a devotional or blog? Pursue a new career?

Disciple others? Play an instrument? Start a workout? Eat better? Read a book? Open the Bible? Whatever it may be, it's worth it!

Prayer: *Dear God, help me to do what you have asked me to do, right now. Let me live in my “right now” and not yesterday or tomorrow. Yesterday is done and tomorrow has yet to begun, so I’m acknowledging that my “right now” matters the most. Father I do not want to lack discipline and instruction, I don’t desire to go astray or be lost. Guide me and lead me in the path I should be taking with you. Help me to obey and trust that you are leading me in the right direction. I believe and receive all that you have for me! Amen!*



Yesterday,
Tomorrow,
Or right now?

GOD HAS ASKED
YOU TO DO A THING AND
YOU ARE SITTING
ON IT! YOU DON'T GET
MOTIVATION
FROM WAITING
WITHOUT PREPARING.

DAY 5

EMBRACE YOUR “RIGHT NOW”

**“BUT THAT’S NO LIFE FOR YOU. YOU
LEARNED CHRIST! MY ASSUMPTION IS
THAT YOU HAVE PAID CAREFUL
ATTENTION TO HIM, BEEN WELL
INSTRUCTED IN THE TRUTH PRECISELY
AS WE HAVE IT IN JESUS. SINCE, THEN,
WE DO NOT HAVE THE EXCUSE OF
IGNORANCE, EVERYTHING—AND I DO
MEAN EVERYTHING—CONNECTED WITH**

**THAT OLD WAY OF LIFE HAS TO GO. IT'S
ROTTEN THROUGH AND THROUGH. GET
RID OF IT! AND THEN TAKE ON AN
ENTIRELY NEW WAY OF LIFE—A GOD-
FASHIONED LIFE, A LIFE RENEWED FROM
THE INSIDE AND WORKING ITSELF INTO
YOUR CONDUCT AS GOD ACCURATELY
REPRODUCES HIS CHARACTER IN YOU.”
EPHESIANS 4:20-24 MSG**

It's so much easier said than done isn't it? We know exactly that we need to walk in a new way of life but it's so much easier to live in comfort. The comfort of the old brings us a false sense of security. We get tricked into thinking that the old life was a better way of life because we don't realize the necessity of the newness we need for our own development. Do we really need to develop though? What is wrong with the familiar? Nothing is wrong with familiarity, the problem is when we allow ourselves to get stuck in it and stunt our personal growth.

Here is a list of some practical ways to start living in your "right now":

- Forgive your yesterday and move forward (*It's okay that you made mistakes in life, it's all apart of the seasoning of life. If you can acknowledge that you have a past and God doesn't care about it today, nothing will be impossible with Him*)
- Pray and fast to help renew your mind (*Releases tension, connects you to God, keeps you in peace and grace, brings unspeakable joy*)
- - Read God's Word as it will reveal more to you about yourself than you thought (*It's truth and light. It's not always pretty. It helps to heal your inner being and strengthens you*) - Exercise (*I know, I hate this one too but I started an exercise routine again and it has helped immensely*)
- - Listen to good worship music and groove to it. (*Enjoy it, dance to it, sing to it, cry with it, praise with it, get lost in it*)
- - Eat good (*Another blah one but it does help to keep you balanced*)
- - Be Grateful, Humble and Content in all things! (*This is self explanatory yet when practiced will be bring great life peace to you*)

Prayer: *Father, Thank you for allowing me to live another day. Many have not seen another sunrise or sunset and you have given me that opportunity today. That I may live in my right now and put away all the rotten old life that once was. Thank you for a God fashioned, renewed life that is producing character in me. I know that I am walking in truth with you and I will not look back, I will only remember and be grateful I'm not who I use to be. I'm blessed to have things I can work on right now so that I may continue to walk in all the good you have for me and the peace that surpasses all understanding! Amen!*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jennifer Croce was born and raised in Southern California, the state of plenty from quiet deserts, to vibrant beaches and majestic mountains. Jen considers God and family to be most important to her. She helps her parents, Jacob and Diane Rodriguez, whom are Pastor's in their local church (Adonai Worship Ministries) and has sang with her two older sisters, Jacqueline and Jessica since she was 3 years old.

Jen has been married for 15 years to her Navy Veteran husband Chris, whom is an Associate Pastor at AWM and an ICU Nurse. She loves singing and spending time with her buddy and only child, Gwyneth. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree from University of Phoenix in Information Technology

- Visual Communication and studied Computer Science at San Diego State University. While at San Diego State University she was apart of the Scholars Without Borders Honor Society. Jen believes in life long learning, and continues to pursue educational goals. She enjoys writing and encouraging others through her blog and social media sites. Her hobbies include: Reading, writing, music, volunteering, traveling, humor, tea, web design, and tech.

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