

# the Daily Bliss

Hi ,

First, I wanted to say that I hope you have a wonderful holiday! The holidays probably look a lot different for most everyone this year due to the pandemic. This year has been filled with a lot of unexpected surprises that none of us could have predicted. As we reflect back on this year, it's easy to get lost in all the negatives of this year. Maybe you have a relative whom lost their job or lost their battle to COVID. Or maybe you simply feel alone because you aren't able to safely see friends and family. Everyone has experienced the side effects of COVID one way or another. It's okay to step back and know that this year was heavy. However, as we near the end of 2020, I want you to know that there is hope and a future full of joy waiting for you! It's actually one of God's promises! "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). Take heart and do not lose sight of the hope God abundantly and

freely provides.

I'm currently reading the Book of Daniel and was reminded of the abundance of hope Daniel had in the Lord. When Darius became king of the Chaldeans, Daniel received a high position and was more distinguished than the administrators because of his extraordinary spirit. The administrators tried to find charge against Daniel regarding the kingdom. When they found no corruption in Daniel, they went to king Darius to convince him to enforce an edict that for thirty days, anyone who petitions any god or man, except for him (Darius), would be thrown into the lions' den. During this time, Daniel continued to be entirely faithful to the one true King, God, even though he knew his life could be at risk for not following the edict. Daniel wasn't afraid because he put his hope in the Lord. Daniel was soon discovered to be worshipping God and was thrown into the lions' den. The king mocked Daniel for believing that God would save him. However, the next day, the king went back to the lions' den and found Daniel to be unharmed because he trusted in the Lord! The men who had maliciously accused Daniel were later thrown into the lions' den, being crushed by the lions before they even reached the bottom. After this, King Darius wrote to every people living on the earth to declare the goodness of God! "He rescues and delivers; he performs signs and wonders in the

heavens and on the earth, for he has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions” (Daniel 6:27). My friends, faith and hope in the Lord can move mountains!

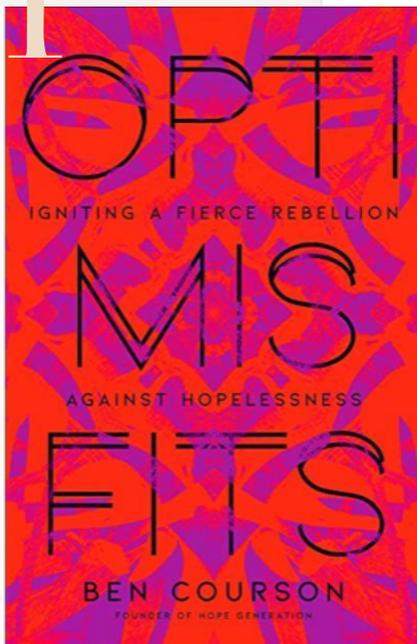
Right now, you may be feeling as if your once beautiful garden has withered into a deserted field. The winds and waters may have eroded the rich soil, leaving bare land, but **DO NOT GIVE UP!** Lift your head and begin the good work God has called you to do. Take little seeds of goodness and plant them in the dirt, even though they may be your last seed of joy. The seed is buried under the soil and you cannot see it but remember that you’re going to reap a good harvest if you do not give up. “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).

Whatever is growing, whether it’s a flower or a maple tree, let it grow, and be patient. It might not sprout today or even a month from today, but know that in time, something beautiful will arise. Remember that the seed is still there, even when you can’t see it. That is what hope is. It’s fixing our eyes on the good, even when everything around us isn’t. It’s not about ignoring the tribulations we face or having a cliché “everything is perfect” mindset. It’s refusing to give up. It’s a hope that fights, even when you cannot see it. So today, I encourage you, that no matter how weak or hopeless you may feel, to hope in the Lord.

“We are pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, yet not to despair; pursued, yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

If you're looking to jump start reading new books that will provide you with some extra hope, here's two of my favorite books!

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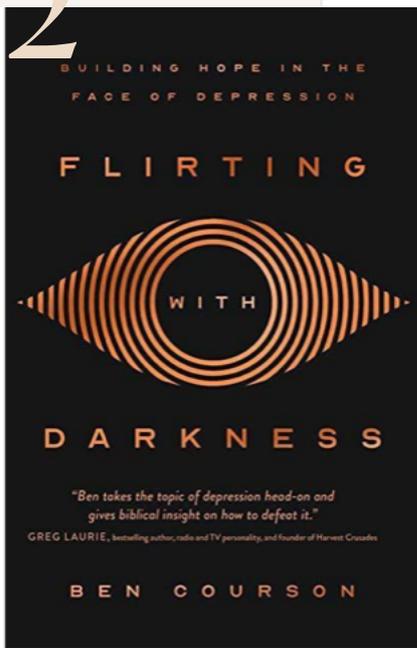


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P.S. I love receiving emails back from my subscribers! If you have any topics you want me to discuss in the first issue of 2021 let me know!

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WITH LOVE AND BLISS,

*Lindsey Smith*



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