



Inspirations
(January 15, 2014)

WHAT IF ...?

Psalms 90:12 (NKJV): So teach *us* to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Since we've been studying the armor, actually even before we started, I have been in this place of vulnerability that doesn't always feel good. Yet, there's a part of me that knows it is good, because ultimately, God is at work seeking to produce fruit in my life off the seeds of His Word that He has planted in my heart.

A couple of days ago was one of those days when hurt feelings abounded, and I found myself in a place where I have not been in ages: in my closet boohooing my heart out! As I sat there allowing my tears to cleanse my soul, the Holy Spirit began to speak to me about the condition of my heart regarding my current vision and in relationship to the parable of the sower and the seed. Even before I went in the closet, I knew I was definitely having a thorny ground moment! However, while I was in the closet, the Holy Spirit began speaking to me, helping me break up the fallow ground of my heart, so it will be good ground for the seeds of God's Word.

But, oh how I was hurting! A deep, soul-wrenching hurt I am truly no longer accustomed to! Yet, in the midst of my pain, I knew there was a purpose. The deep hurt I felt was like of beacon of light shining into my heart and revealing every exposed area where the devil's fiery arrows were hitting their target! Let's just say, the Holy Spirit was helping me see where I still have areas of pride that affect my relationship with Him and my relationship with others. So, I cried. I cried until I felt a sense of peace come upon me. Then, I left my closet and went about my day. Periodically, the tears would return, and I would let them flow, because I knew they were washing my soul clean!

The next day, I woke up feeling much better, mostly because I chose to move beyond the pain to focus on my vision and my purpose in life. My decision to move forward was confirmed when I checked Facebook. It was if God had people post just the right messages that would highlight the purpose of my being in the closet. My hurt, my pain, my trials are not just about me, nor just about what I want. They are about God and what He wants to do IN me and THROUGH me. Granted, it's not like I don't know that, but sometimes, in the midst of a trial, that message is easy to forget. That day, I was reminded of just how easy! I guess that's why this "poem" of sorts began stirring in my heart yesterday:

What If ?

What if salvation is about more than getting into Heaven, but how we live on earth?

What if the condition of my heart is more important to God than the condition of my circumstances?

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What if my trials really are blessings in disguise to reveal growth areas in my walk with Christ?

What if I have allowed society and self to make salvation all about what I can get?

What if salvation is more about what I can give?

What if God is in Heaven wishing He had my heart rather than my words devoid of action?

What if God wants me to seek His face and heart rather than constantly seek His hand?

What if salvation is a lifelong journey and not a one-time experience?

What if salvation is not just about getting into Heaven, but how I live on earth?

What if?

Those are a lot of “what ifs” for each of us to ponder as we take a moment to self-reflect on our personal salvation and the fruit it is producing in our lives. As we self-reflect, I pray we will truly number our days that we might gain a heart of wisdom. May we not take one day, one moment for granted, because it may be our final moment, our final choice, our final opportunity to represent Jesus and His redemptive work in our lives!

Father, may every soul that reads this newsletter be touched by the depth of Your love for us—so much so that Your love will draw each of us into a place of intimacy that is beyond anything we have ever experienced before. Father, may we each repent for dead works and go on to maturity in our thoughts, speech, and actions that we may bring glory, honor, and praise to Your name. In Jesus’ name. Amen!

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