

# COME AND SEE

John 1:39

PROVIDED BY THRIVE LADIES MINISTRY  
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, KANNAPOLIS, NC

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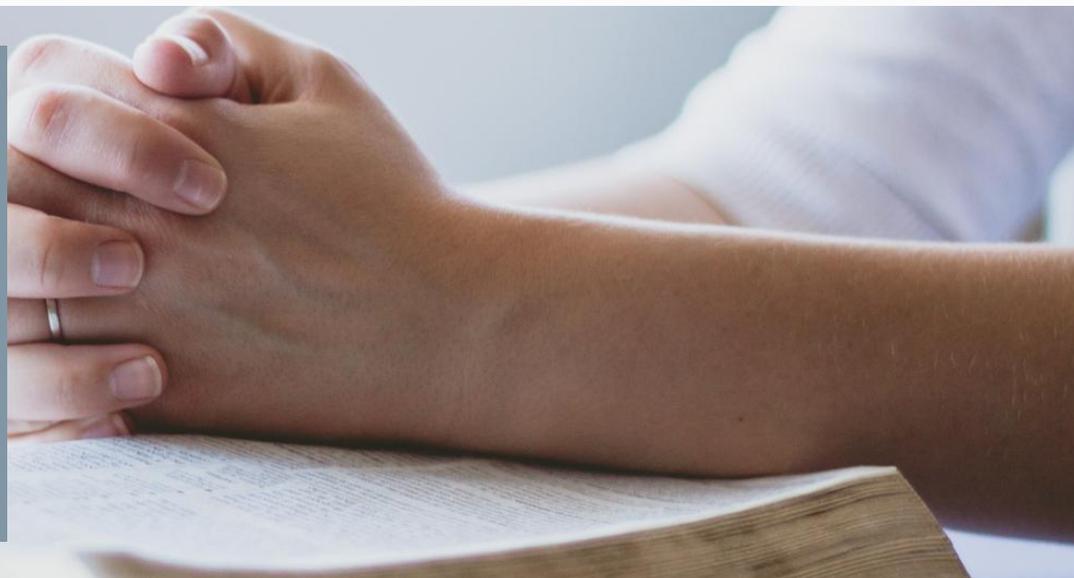
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## I SEE YOU

BY REBECCA SCOTT-FIELDEN

Hey, Sister...I see you.

I see your tears hiding behind your smile,  
or as you quickly blink them away.

I see you struggling to keep it together.

I see you in that hard place; that place of  
disappointment, pain, illness, exhaustion,  
grief.

I see you in that place of brokenness,  
anxiety, loneliness, disillusionment,  
weariness.

I see you in that place of shame, feelings  
of failure, fear in an uncertain future,  
regret.

I see you measuring your life against your  
own expectations or to the expectations  
of others.

I see you shrink away from relationships  
and community because you fear

someone will see you, judge or criticize  
you...reject you.

I see you pretending.

I see you comparing your mess to the  
picture of perfection you see in others.

I see you because I see my reflection in  
you.

That other sister you are comparing  
yourself to? Well, she may just be in a  
different season right now, or is well  
versed with living in that hard place,  
many times over; or perhaps she's faking  
it too. Most of us have "stuff" buried in  
the depths of our soul that we are afraid  
to talk about...afraid our imperfections  
will be seen.

The truth is, we're all a mess and that's  
why we all so desperately need Jesus.  
Living for Christ doesn't mean our lives  
will be free from trials and sorrow. On the  
contrary, He tells us that in this world, all  
of us will have problems, challenges and  
suffering (John 16:33). None of us are  
exempt.

We're getting it wrong when we think  
we have to fake it because we are not  
experiencing joy in our trials (James 1:2).

We, as Christians, often have a hard  
time with this and measure our faith by  
how "joyful" our appearance is, so we  
quickly dismiss or hide our pain; that  
somehow our pained emotions makes  
us less spiritual in the eyes of other  
Christians.

In fact, God calls us into our pain and  
suffering and sits here with us, carrying  
us, growing us, shaping us. He is  
intimately familiar with all of our pain.

Even Jesus wept. He was despised and  
rejected--a man of sorrows, acquainted  
with deepest grief (Isaiah 53:3).

He didn't ignore his grief, or hide from  
it. He leaned into it; and He wants us to  
lean into Him.

He knows everything about you, what  
you are going through, cares about  
every last detail...and loves you still. He  
keeps track of all of your sorrows and

Continued...

has collected your tears in a bottle. He has recorded each one in His book (Psalm 56:8).

Surrender every hurt and hardship to Him, and trust Him to do miraculous things. This season isn't wasted. He can take your brokenness and turn it all for good (Romans 8:28-31).

The hard place you are in right now can strengthen you and lead to great purpose. You are being stretched in endurance, faith, and trust beyond anything you

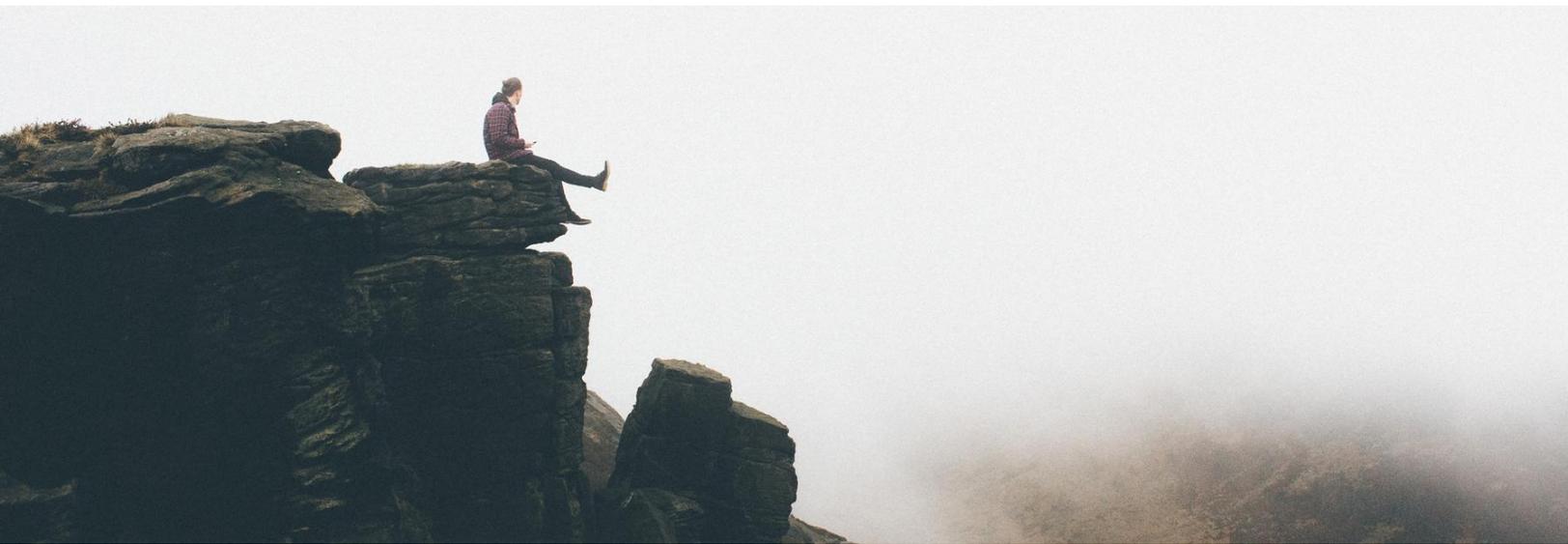
imagined; moving you toward your destiny that God has called you to; perfecting you (James 1:2-4). And when we trust Jesus, He will give us joy in our trials, peace in our confusion, and hope in our circumstances (James 1:2-4).

I see you, sweet Sister.

You don't need to "fake it til you make it". We are in this race together, but we are not in a competition. So, let's get real with one another, because we are called to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2).

Stop defining yourself through the lens with which you compare yourself to others or through the lens you imagine others see you and see yourself how God sees you.

I see you and more importantly, so does He. You are not alone. For the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6).



## Not the Spirit of Fear

BY JULIA POPE

**God hath not given us the Spirit of fear:** We know God says He is always with us. We cannot escape His love (John 3:16). "If God be for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31). He tells us not to be anxious for anything. We know He is in control and our responsibility is to trust Him. We can trust Him because He holds this world in His hands.

**But of power:** Acts 1:8 says we shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon us. The word, 'power', is the word we get "dynamite" from. We receive the Holy Spirit when we become a Christian. We have this power to be His witness and to do the things He calls us to do...if it is teacher, preacher, or any of His other spiritual gifts.

**And of love:** When we become Christians, God puts His love in our heart. The first fruit of the Spirit is love. We cannot love people right without God's *agape* love in our heart. We can even love our enemies and those who do us wrong if we have God's love in our heart. God is love!

**And of a sound mind:** Have you ever known a person who loves God and was always a witness for Him and then they got old, developed dementia or Alzheimers? Yet God says they shall have a sound mind. That always bothered me until I heard a message by Dr. Mike Bagwell, who said that this use of "sound" was the only place in the Bible to mean..."Changed"!

When we become Christians, we have a changed mind. We had the mind of the world; selfish and prideful, but now we have the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16).

I want to encourage you today, my friends. God has not given us the Spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. He has the coronavirus under His control. We just need to trust Him.

*For God hath not given us the Spirit of fear; but of power and of love, and of a sound mind.*

*2 Timothy 1:7*

## Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

3 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

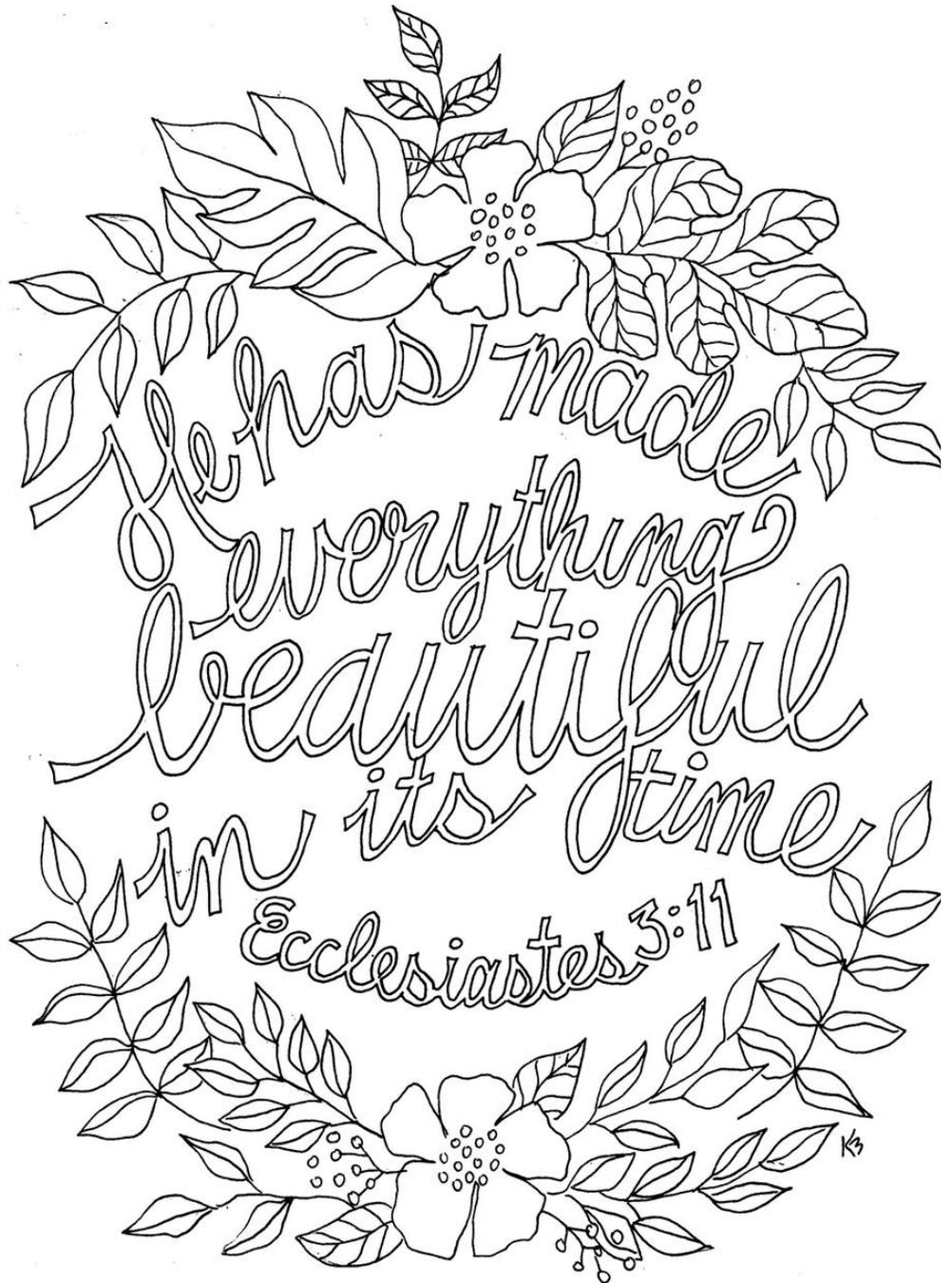
4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.





## Stay by the Stuff

BY MELANIE ELLIOTT

In 1 Samuel 30, we find David and six hundred warriors had returned home to Ziklag only to find the Amalekites had burned down their town, captured their families, and stolen their property.

David prayed and asked God if he should pursue the enemy. Upon God's direction, David and the six hundred warriors began their pursuit. However, two hundred of the men were so weak, they were unable to travel the entire distance.

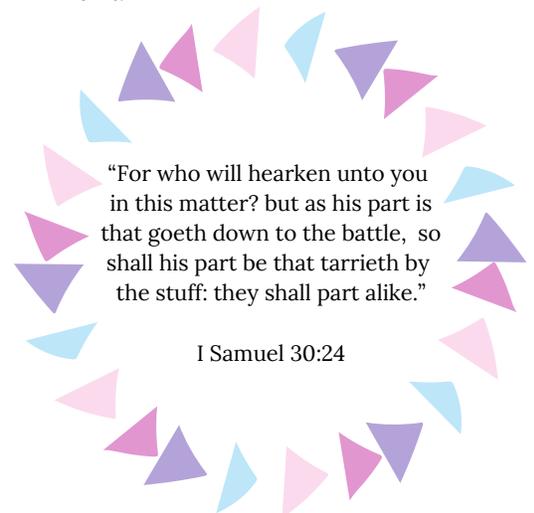
David left them behind to "tarry by the stuff" – or to stay by the supplies. David and his army continued in pursuit of the enemy. They defeated the Amalekites and were able to recover everything that had been stolen and more.

When David and the four hundred men returned from battle, David saluted the two hundred men that stayed behind and split the spoil with them....much to the dismay of the other four hundred men.

You see, even though they were too tired to carry on in battle – they "tarry by the stuff". They did what they could. They guarded the heavy supplies. The lighter load allowed the troops to travel faster and defeat the Amalekites.

Are you weary from life's demands? Are you too tired to go to battle? Sometimes all we can do is "tarry by the stuff" until we recover our strength. God knows our weaknesses and our heart's desire.

Rest in His promises! Isaiah 40:31 tell us, "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."



"For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike."

I Samuel 30:24



## From the Pastor's wife...

BY LAURA JANE HUNTER

### **Love thy neighbor**

In light of the recent activity that has, and is, going on around us, I have found that I've asked myself a lot if I truly do follow God's commandment of loving my neighbor.

Do I love the lady in the grocery store who rolls her eyes at me because I'm not walking the right way down the aisle? Do I love the man who cuts me off in traffic? Do I love the teenage girl who grabs the last pack of toilet paper from the shelf right under my nose? Do I love the delivery guy who lost my Amazon package? I could go on and on and on.

It really has been eye opening, when examining the love I show toward my neighbors. The most convicting part is that God doesn't just suggest it in His word, He commands it.

In Luke 10:27, Jesus tells us "...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all

thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." In this passage, as Jesus was saying this to those around Him, one posed the question, "who is my neighbor?" Jesus then explained this by using the parable of the good Samaritan. We all know this parable. Was the Jewish man a brother or friend of the Samaritan man? Would the Jews and Samaritans have hung out together? Of course not...it was unthinkable for these two groups of people to associate with each other, much less help like the Samaritan man did.

So, when I read this, pray about it, and meditate on it, I have to ask myself if I do show love to those around me that I don't spend time with on a normal basis. Do I show love to my "neighbor" I pass on the street, even if I don't know his/her name? Am I loving like Jesus when I go shopping, when I'm on vacation, and even when I'm at work?

He also said in John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." How will others see Jesus unless I demonstrate love toward them?

As I have spent time praying and meditating on this commandment, I've caught myself saying, "she was not very nice to me either!" or "well I've never been intentionally mean to anyone." Then, a still small voice whispers in my ear, "But have you intentionally shown love toward them?"

I pray that in our communities, towns, states, and nation, we as Christians, assess our love for our neighbors. I pray that we show love because He first loved us. I pray we show love so others will see Him. Finally, I pray that we make loving our neighbors intentional...not just today but every day!



**WATERMELON + FETA SALAD**

Best summer salad ever!

- 4 cups Arugula or spring mix
- 1 English cucumber
- 2 cups Watermelon
- Balsamic glaze
- Fresh ground pepper
- 1/2 cup Feta cheese

**WATERMELON LEMONADE**

Refreshing sweet twist on a classic!

- 5c watermelon juice, (pureed watermelon)
- 1 1/4c fresh lemon juice
- 3/4c sugar or sugar substitute
- 12c lemonade
- 6c water

**KEY LIME PIE DIP**

- 1-frozen key lime pie-thawed
- 1-small box of instant lemon pudding
- 1c of cold milk
- 8 oz. of thawed whipped topping
- Your choice of dippers: graham crackers, shortbread cookies or pretzels
- Lime (optional for zest and garnish)

Thaw pie about 10 minutes.  
 Whisk together milk and pudding mix.  
 Allow pudding mixture to set 1-2 minutes.  
 Fold in thawed whipped topping.  
 Mix just until combined.  
 Cut two slices (1/4) of the pie into bite sized pieces.  
 Gently fold the pieces of pie into the dip.  
 Spoon dip into serving bowl & garnish.  
 Enjoy!

## Notes and Journaling

- Know the season you are in and embrace change (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).  
Live in whatever season God has appointed to you with confidence and purpose.
- Approach every time and season in your life as appointed by God and trust Him with it. If He purposed it, He can be trusted with it (Ecclesiastes 3:11).
- **READ** Ecclesiastes 3:1-11.
- **WRITE or DRAW** your thoughts: What season of your life are you in? Are you embracing it, avoiding it? Are you trusting God with it?

## Upcoming Events

(Dates subject to change)

\*FALL FEST- OCT 24

\*FESTIVAL OF TABLES - NOV 14

\*TOY SHARE - TBA

## thrive! Book Club

LINEAGE OF GRACE  
BY: FRANCINE RIVERS

FIRST MEETING:  
SATURDAY, AUG 15 @ 10:00 AM  
THE HOLY GRIND COFFEE SHOP  
CHINA GROVE, NC

\*IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, CONTACT:  
REBECCA FIELDEN 704-680-2613.  
BOOKS WILL BE PROVIDED

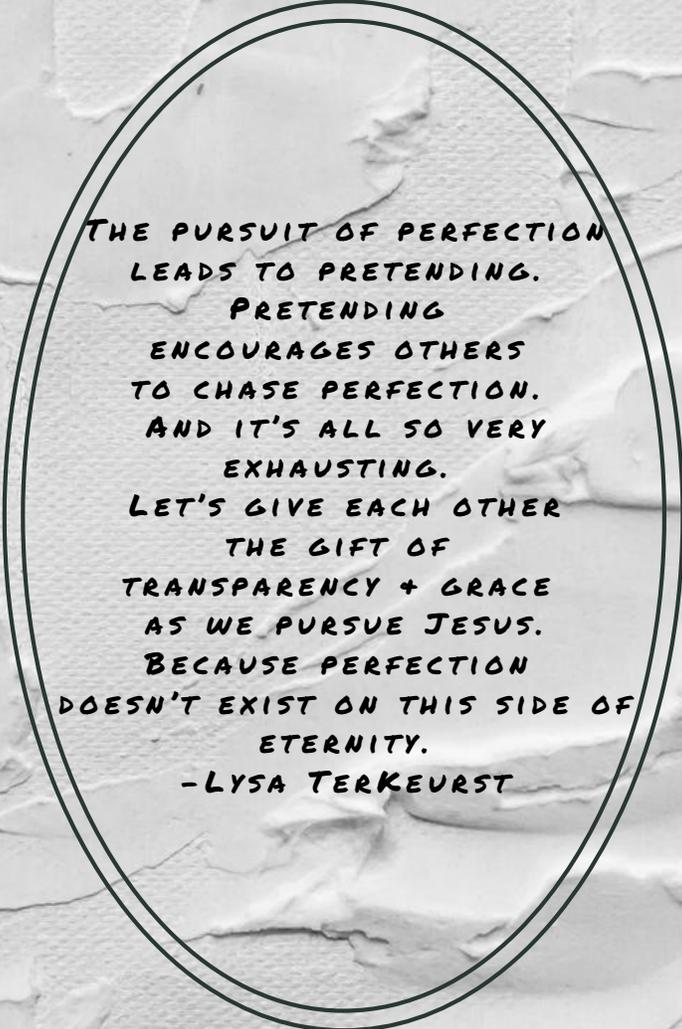
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