



**"THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD
NEVER CEASES;
HIS MERCIES NEVER COME TO AN END;
THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING;
GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS."**

Lamentations 3:22-23

"Maybe we just should have
turned on the lights!" -Chad



It's funny how a little bit of light can change the entire appearance of something.

We are selling our house. Yep. Next to the beautiful trees in front of our driveway is a For Sale sign. No, we are not moving out of town. (Boy, I wish I could say we were moving to Arizona.) However, right now, it seems Gillette is the best place to live! I love the Arizona heat and their amazing spas, but I am so happy to call Gillette my home at this current moment with EVERYTHING that is happening!

I'm not lying when I tell you the second the house went on the market, everyone I knew messaged me asking the same thing: "Why are you moving? Your house is

beautiful!" I read this over and over again. It actually only made things worse. You never know 100% if a decision is a good one or not. Is this the right decision? We prayed on this for weeks actually. It was not an easy thing to decide. Our house is beautiful. We love our home. "Are we making the right decision?" I asked Chad. "Yes we are honey." Was the short and simple - Chad- like-response I heard, EVERY TIME I asked. (I asked a few times.) It's like when people compliment you on a shirt. Well guess what, when deciding what to wear, I'll pick the one that people complimented the most on. Duh! Therefore when I heard "Your house is beautiful." It should have been a good thing. Instead it caused me to doubt our decision even more. THEN came Travis!!! Ashley, who is Travis? Well, Travis, is the photographer that took those amazing photos of our house to put on Social Media. Travis CAUSED PAIN AND DISCONTENT to me for days on end! (Man, he took great pictures.) *note to self: write Travis a Thank You card AND THEN Travis had the audacity to say "Sorry. I'm done taking pictures. I'm just playing around. The sunset is beautiful. Ha. Why would you leave this?" Those are fighting words Travis! I'm not the best at making decisions. Do not ask me where I want to eat!!! So I didn't need everyone coming at me like "You're an idiot for moving. Your new house is going to suck." Ok, no one said that! But I am cracking up writing it!

Chad and I walked into our house that night. Just him and I. Similar to the first time we ever walked into the house. Our house looked stunning. Everything looked different. So pretty. Before we had left, Chad turned on all the lights. You know the fancy lights that you never turn on. The porch lights, the under the kitchen cabinet lights, the lights inside the entertainment center. We were both in awe of our house. The same exact house we have lived in for five years. The same house we come home to every single night. "Maybe all we needed to do was turn on the lights!" (He was saying this meaning, then we wouldn't have looked for another house.) As soon as Chad said that, it hit me. Perspective. It was all how you look at things, how you see things. When you shine light on things, they look different. You see them differently.

Waiting has been a fun pastime I have been doing lately. Waiting to see if our house sells. Waiting to see when we will move into our new house. Waiting to hear if I got the kindergarten job or not. You all know I took the year off of teaching. If I were being honest, when I loaded up ALL my books, I thought I was done teaching. Except for that little, tiny voice in my head that said "Unless a kindergarten job opened up. I think I want to try teaching kindergarten one day." Knock knock. Who's there? Coronavirus. Do you remember that thing, before all the other crazy things followed. Well, Coronavirus caused every student and parent to hold school in their kitchen. In front of an ipad or a laptop. During this very confusing, not fun, stressful, scary time, there were many many blessings. I got to teach again. I got to read picture books to kids again. We created projects and I created fun math lessons. I. Created. Man, I missed that. Theeeen, a kindergarten job opens up. I knew right

there in Albertsons, in the bread aisle, that I was applying. I didn't have to discuss it with anyone. I was so excited. I actually didn't have any reservations. God led me to this. God put this stirring in my heart to teach again. Then He blessed me with not just any classroom position but a Kindergarten one. The one I had wanted! Well, yay. I got an interview. Cue the waiting. Tuesday morning, I didn't have to wait anymore. I got the call that I did not get the job.

I had a weird, weird feeling I wasn't going to get it. Minutes before I got the call, I said to God, "why do I feel like I'm not going to get this?" Literally two minutes later, I got the phone call that confirmed this. A wise friend said to me, "Maybe God was preparing your heart for the news." I believe that. But what I just didn't understand was why would God cause this stirring inside me? Why would God bring me here just to close this door? I get I may not have been what they were looking for. I 100% believe that it wasn't His will for me. But why bring me here for me to not get the job? Everything seemed right. I was so excited at just the thought of being back in the classroom. Set up a room, get dressed for a job every day, read, teach writing, play math games, get hugs from the cutest human beings, have a team, be creative...so many things.

Perspective. Yes, I was sad for a bit. Very confused. But I knew I couldn't sit in that too long. It wasn't meant to be. "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 I had to shed light on this dark, yucky, crappy thing I was dealing with. Much like the lights in our house, but this light was the light of God. His truth and His promises. It's funny how a little bit of light can change the entire appearance of something. Maybe the stirring He put in my heart was to remind me how much I love and miss teaching. Right now? I can only hope and pray that He lets me in on His plan. :) I do know it will be great. I know it will be perfect. I know He only wants to bless me and protect me.

In this time of uncertainty, I know what is certain. I will wake up and pray. Chad will bring me a coffee. I will read my devotionals with the downstairs door open so I can hear the birds. I also know that the bible is where I find peace, joy, confidence and truth! His promises really are the ONLY firm foundation because it's the only truth I can rely on. It never changes. His word is the light in the darkness. This light allows me to see things differently. I see God. I feel God. I hear God. I see Him in the pure joy of four kids jumping on a trampoline on the sunniest day. I feel Him when I am at dinner with friends and I'm laughing after just finding out I did not get the job I thought God hand picked for me. I hear God in the lyrics of not just any song, but the PERFECT song that plays the morning after. His steadfast love and presence will be with me every morning to come. And I will meet Him there.

Girl, read your bible!

Maybe you just have to turn on the lights!

Love,
Ashley Eischeid

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- John 8:12 -

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

- Psalm 119:105 -



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