

A Word From the Publisher

Now that the holiday busy times are over it's time to settle back down to our 'normal' routines. Sad to say, many don't have a normal. I joke numerous times about being 'normal' when I realize sometimes I don't know what normal is. During our Christmas break, I got sick. Thank you Jesus, for me, I haven't been sick in quite some time. I really feel like Jesus has a way with me when He gently asks me to slow down but...I don't heed His advice. Eventually, He just shuts me down to slow me down. This time, I was down. I didn't feel well enough to hardly get out of bed much less go anywhere or do anything. It certainly gave me lots of time to rest and reflect on lots of things in my life.

I am really a procrastinator and I hate that about myself. My job is demanding, but I feel like I have ample time to do the things that are necessary to do. It's at that time, that my selfish side moves in and says, "We don't have to do this right now. There's plenty of time." I'm so thankful to have a loving heavenly Father that gives me mercy and grace. When I am sick I start to think about how bad I am. It's also those times that God once again intervenes and places someone in my path that is much worse off than I.

I have about four devotionals that I like to read through. One of those 'down' days, I got up, fixed me a cup of coffee, got my Bible and all my books and journal. God is amazing! As I opened the first one and begin to read the verse was, "*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.*" Matthew 5:14. Some light I am, I thought. I can't even hold my head up. We are to shine the light of

Christ's love by gestures of kindness and a welcoming spirit. Okay Lord... you're right, I'm just feeling a little down. Moving on to the next devotional, the first sentence was, "Do you ever have the blues?" Oh wow! God does have a sense of humor. As I read the verse, God just takes over, "*My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*" Phillipians 4:19. Thank you Jesus for always supplying just what I need when I need it! The devotion ended with a thought, "No burden is too heavy for God's almighty arms." Amen and amen.

I certainly don't want to portray myself as the perfect Christian...as I'm far from that. There was only one perfect one and His name is Jesus. I must say the days I was infirmed was truly a blessing from God. As I continue to grow in grace I know that I will still have 'down' days. That's normal and that's okay but I will not dwell on those days. I'm so thankful for my life and the life God is building in me. I only strive to be the person God wants me to be. Part of that is being more organized and prepared with my work and my schedules. Taking advantage of those 'special' opportunities when they are presented as we do not know what tomorrow will bring.

As my new planner has on the front, "*For I know the Plans...*" Jeremiah 29:11. Pretty sure the Lord had something to do with me finding just that one for me! As I will follow His plans for my life!

Have a blessed week!

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