



A Newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry

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455 South Church Street
Winston Salem, NC 27101

www.OnWingsLikeADove.com

Office Hours:
Tuesday-Thursday
10 am-2 pm

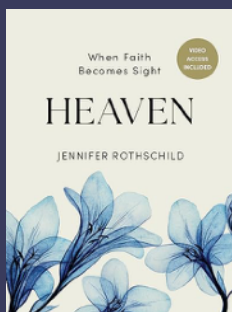
or by appointment 336-829-5060
sandra@onwingslikeadove.com

Ladies Bible Study

Each Tuesday
At On Wings Office
From 12:30-2:00

We are studying
Heaven-
When Faith Becomes Sight
by Jennifer Rothschild

Led by Kay Eyler



Come Join Us!



Are You at A Crisis of Belief

**“Without faith it is impossible to please God,
because anyone who comes to Him must believe
that HE exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”
Hebrews 11:6**

Last week I realized I was at a crisis of belief, so I pulled out my workbook "Experiencing God" by Henry Blackaby and reviewed the subject again. "A crisis of belief is not a calamity in your life but a turning point where you must make a decision. You must decide what you truly believe about God. The way you respond at this turning point will determine whether you will continue to go your own way and miss what He has purposed for your life. This is not a one-time experience. It is a regular occurrence. The way you live your life is a testimony of what you believe about God." So, do I believe God will do what He says He will do? Do I believe what I've said so many times over the years, "When God calls you, He will provide your needs." Do I believe He is faithful and will remain faithful never leaving or forsaking me?

Or will I believe the whisper of the enemy who keeps telling me lies with the intention of causing me to doubt. Sometimes I lift up a prayer saying, "Lord help my unbelief." Then I remind myself of God's faithfulness over the nineteen years On Wings has existed. We have never gone without resources even when He has led us to extend our outreach in ways I never dreamed we would.

When an offender in the prison asked for that first Bible, and we made the decision to honor each request, we have sent in over 18,000 Bibles. If you had told me, we would be able to financially provide those Bibles I would never have believed it. God actually impressed on us to begin that opportunity and it brought us to a crisis of belief ten years ago and we have seen Him provide all we needed to continue to provide Bibles to prisoners.

When we began offering our Ladies Retreat, we had five in attendance and now we take between 25-30 women each year for a time of encouragement, spiritual growth and belief that there is hope in their future. I hear frequently from our mothers that they would not have gotten through their struggle with their prodigal without the support of the On Wings family. We know we can get through everything with God's strength and His guidance through His Word. We wouldn't be able to do any of these things without our donors, volunteers, mentors, Board members, or prayer partners. They each have a part in what God is accomplishing in lives, and it certainly makes a difference. Choose to trust that God will do what He says He will do.

~Sandra



Prayer Thoughts

A BEAUTIFUL ENDING

The emperor of China had a problem. Something was destroying his mulberry trees. So he did what any brilliant man does when faced with a problem he can't handle: he turned it over to his wife!

When Empress Ce Ling Shee looked at the trees, she noticed a moth laying eggs on the mulberry leaves, eggs that of course hatched into caterpillars. After a few days, each caterpillar spun a thread that it wrapped itself in, forming a cocoon. The empress plucked one of the cocoons from the leaves and dropped it in hot water. Slowly, the delicate and beautiful thread began to unwind. It was a half mile long when the empress stretched it out and measured it! Then it occurred to her: perhaps this thread could be woven into cloth.

And that was the moment the silk trade was born. An empire of extraordinary beauty and wealth began with an emperor's garden disaster!1

Sometimes it's difficult to envision a positive outcome when we're in the middle of a mess. We look out onto the garden of our lives, find it in ruins, and feel helpless. We don't even know where to begin to make things right. How could the emperor have ever imagined — and how could we imagine — that unfathomable beauty and blessing could rise out of the thing that seemed to be his destruction?

But making beautiful endings out of impossible situations is God's specialty. He never wastes a single trial. He transforms it all for our good and His glory. Read these words from 1 Peter 1:

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith — of greater worth than gold... may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. — 1 Peter 1:6-7

If we keep following the light of God's presence through this dark and difficult world, we will see God turn around our impossible messes! That's His promise! Nothing can stop the amazing redemptive power of our God.

So come

Bring it all to the Weaver of beautiful endings... The worst heartbreak... The most difficult failures... The most painful days.

The Enemy may throw every weapon he has at you, but he is not the one who gets to write the end of your story.

It's amazing what God will do with a broken life if you give Him all the pieces.

Taken from
5 Minutes with Jesus:
Quiet Time for Your Soul by Sheila Walsh



PRESS ON!

On a quiet morning as I sipped my coffee, I watched my dog as she spotted a squirrel outside. Her body tensed, her breathing became deeper.

She was totally focused on that squirrel. I called to her, reminded her that there was a window separating her from it and tried to distract her. She remained tense and focused on that squirrel.

Watching her made me think of things on which I focus, and how easy it is for me to dwell on the things of life that cause me to worry, fear, regret and to be angry. I often am so focused on these that my sleep is affected, interactions with others may suffer, I feel anxious or depressed and can become bitter or despondent.

As I watched my dog's fixation on the squirrel, it was so easy for me to evaluate the futility of that situation. She was inside, the squirrel was outside. She was not going to be able to chase the squirrel, no matter how long she looked at it. What her mind was perceiving could not be changed by what she was doing. She was reacting to something she could not change and which, in reality, had little effect on her life.

So often I find myself looking back, wishing I had done something differently, said something better. I get fixated on what I perceive to be unfair or unkind. I grow in anger or regret. And I totally miss the good things God is doing in my life as I focus on the past.

The theme of the Women's Retreat last month was "Press On". We spent the weekend looking at Paul, who had converted from a Jewish condemner of Christ-followers to become a Christ-follower himself. His past identity followed him, even though his words and actions demonstrated the genuineness of his conversion. The disciples were slow to invite him in. Friends came along beside him, then abandoned him. Then a "thorn" given him by God persisted despite his repeated prayers to remove it. Paul pressed on. He knew what God wanted him to do, and he diligently worked to accomplish it. Our verse for the weekend was Philippians 3:14 – "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ."

The verse immediately before it (3:13) caught my attention: "One thing I do, forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead." Forgetting what is behind: the shame, the disappointments, the failures, the accusations, the pain. Forgetting the lies that have been told me, or that I tell myself. Letting go of those things that so easily entangle us (Hebrews 12:1) and keep us from enjoying a peaceful and growing relationship with God and with others. Let go of the past; press on toward what is ahead.

My coffee is finished. The draw of the squirrel has passed. My dog lies on her bed contentedly chewing a bone. Instead of focusing on what she cannot have, she is content with what she does have.

May God's goodness and faithfulness fill us with similar contentment, as we press on in Christ.

Words cannot express



the experiences we had at our Ladies Retreat where 28 women attended. God put the weekend together from start to finish from the choice of the speaker, the worship leader, the logo designed by Karen Hutchins, the rocks provided by Wayne VonSeggan, the music, the attendees, the weather, just so many things you knew came from the Lord.

Paula Williams encouraged us to "Press On" as she shared the ways in her life that she had learned to "Press On" in spite of her circumstances. She directed us to the Rock as the goal or centerpiece of



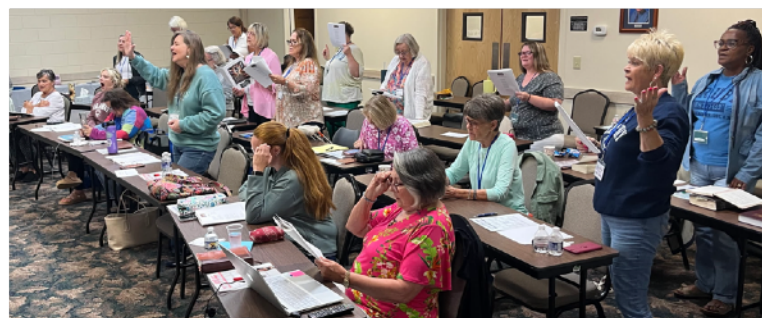
our lives. She gave us a visual of a runner putting her foot on the rock at the starting point of the race and propelling from a set position. This involves being in a crouched position with the feet firmly planted against the blocks, ready to explode forward on the signal. God is our Rock!

Our logo is a reminder of what it looks like to 'Press On'. The passage is, *"I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us"* Phillipians 3:14.

I believe each lady was challenged to "press on" toward their high calling in Christ in powerful ways. Our Ladies all came with some struggle or painful situation. It is our prayer they left with new tools to help them continue running the race they have been called to. Sometimes we have to throw off the weight that so easily besets us in order to have the strength to keep on keeping on. Jesus is wanting us to put our weight on Him and to allow others to help us get to the finish line.

At our afternoon session with Lisa Hathaway, many realized when someone shared their own pain or struggle, it resonated with them and they came together to share as well as they

realized they were not alone. That is what community looks like as we come together with people who know our pain. It is never our wish to isolate ourselves.





*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where
the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty
(emancipation from bondage, true freedom).*

2 Corinthians 3:17 Amplified Bible

From the 1930s through the 1970s, my grandfather was a pastor of a small church in Pennsylvania. He was well-known and loved by the community. He taught many children in the summer at Vacation Bible Schools. Maybe you remember attending one of these in your community as a child. He had developed a lot of visual aids to teach children and adults the Gospel. One that I still have from his collection is a coconut with five colored ribbons rolled up inside. Each ribbon has a word printed on it, and each ribbon represents the five primary words of the Bible verse, John 3:16. “For God so loved the world, that He gave his one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him, will not perish but have everlasting life.” The Gospel, in a nutshell, is another version of the “wordless book.” Perhaps you have seen one. A small booklet with five colored pages. No words. The colors represent the truth of the Gospel. Kids and adults loved to help Grandpa tell the story of the Gospel in a nutshell with five colored ribbons.

The first ribbon we pull out of the nutshell is gold. It represents heaven, a place God has prepared for those who believe in His Son Jesus. But something prevents us from being with God.

There is the black ribbon, which represents sin. Sin prevents us from being with the Lord. But God provided a way by sending His Son to die on the cross for us.

The red ribbon shows this —the blood of Christ. Jesus received the punishment for our sins. He gave up his life for us because he loved us.

Then, there is the white ribbon, which represents the forgiveness of sin and a clean heart. We get a clean heart when we admit that we are a sinner, believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, turn from our sins, and accept Jesus into our life.

When this happens, we now have received eternal life, the green ribbon. This ribbon represents a new life, a new chance, and the forgiveness of sin. A fresh start!

Have you recognized sin in your life? The Bible teaches us that we are all sinners. And this sin condition is what prevents us from having a relationship with a holy God. But God loves you. And he has prepared a way to restore your broken relationship with him. He gave up his perfect Son as a sacrifice for our sins. If you believe in Jesus and trust in Him for your salvation, God gives you eternal life, the forgiveness of all of your sins, and peace to live in this world. Right there where you are today, imagine pulling out each ribbon and reflecting on the simplicity of the Gospel in a nutshell. Surrender your heart to Jesus.

Written by Kent Oviatt

*For God so loved the world, that He gave his one and only Son,
that whosoever believes in Him, will not perish but have everlasting life.
John 3:16*