

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE

HOUSE: A Move with a Purpose

MARRIAGE: The Faithful Journey of Marriage: 25 Years of Grace, Growth, and God's Plan

PARENTING: Raising Kind Kids

HEALTH: Learning to Love Me

FINANCE: : B\$BL\$CAL
G\$V\$NG

COMMUNITY: Hudson's Heart



**3**

EDITOR'S NOTES

Niccie Kliegl is CEO of Fulfill Your Legacy, the Legacy Leader Community and magazine. Also, the talk show host of *Living Within the Sweetspot*, and runs two Christian Business Building masterminds: one a 'start up' and the other is a 'done for you' program, both helping Christians elevate their work and life spiritually, abundantly, and energetically for the Kingdom. Niccie adores her husband Jeff, has three grandchildren, two daughters and fabulous son-in-law. They all love to get together and so are looking forward to the end of the month where they will all be together at the Legacy Leaders Conference.

**5**

HOUSE

Kate Janson is a burgeoning author, speaker, and life coach. She has worked in the hospitality business her whole career, from managing hotels to running an international event planning company as well as a catering business.

In addition, she has worked with women in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction for over 30 years. Kate was saved by God's grace from her own broken road of alcohol and substance addiction, so she wants to share the hope of Jesus and His forgiving grace that is needed to be healed.

**10**

MARRIAGE

Author Deena Trocino shares her journey of finding joy in life's messy challenges. With her candid, tell-it-like-it-is style, she shares struggles as a special needs mom, battling weight and self-image, navigating ups and downs of marriage, and her love for Jesus. Her unshakeable faith and determination to triumph over adversity serve as her foundation.

Founder of Specially Empowered Moms, Deena is committed to supporting moms of high-needs children through personal and spiritual growth.

Deena lives in Michigan with her husband Doug, their five children, and four grandchildren, who are the focus of her most important role as a wife and mother.

**16**

HEALTH

Carolyn lives in Hendersonville, Tennessee with her husband of 39 years, Steve. She is a mother of four and currently a grandmother of 11.

Carolyn graduated from Auburn University with a degree in Social Work and Spanish. She is an author, artist, musician, and enjoys cooking for others. She is also the inner healing coach for the Warrior Writers.

Carolyn's passion is discipling women of all ages to their fullest potential in life, love, marriage, and family. She is currently working on her debut book, which is expected to be released in the fall of 2025.

**21**

FINANCES

Charli Caraway is a writer, speaker, leader, life coach, and change agent. Affectionately known as Dr. Charli, she loves to keep it real with humor in leadership and ministry. She currently serves as the Executive Director for Active-Faith (Active-Faith.org), and is the CEO of Rapha Alliance, LLC.

Dr. Charli's passion is incorporating the Word of God into everyday life. She is a modern-day Jael, ready to stand for God's people against the enemy, helping others live a fulfilled life through scripture and faith. She believes in empowering people in their own journey.

**28**

PARENTING

Carrie Hurley is an author, speaker, and coach dedicated to helping Christian mamas overcome overwhelm, navigate the negative and redeem the courageous life that God calls each of us to live. Part of that redemption is equipping mamas to train up the next generations so that our ceiling can be their floor.

Carrie is a homeschooling mama to four fabulous kiddos as well as a veteran of the public school, children's ministry, and the mission field. Music has always been an integral part of her life, and she is thrilled to be able to use music to get God's Word into the DNA of believers!

**33**

COMMUNITY

Caron lives in Florida with her husband of 10 years, Joe. Together, they have four children and three grandchildren. While she enjoyed working in mammography for 30 years, today, her passion is discipleship-focused. She ministers to women of all ages to seek their fullest potential in Christ by stepping out of their past and into the destiny God created for their lives. She is writing her debut book to help others find freedom in Christ through her testimony. Her book is expected to be released in 2025.

She loves spending time with her husband and family, prayer-walking her community, praying for others in prayer tents, street evangelism, and leading small groups.

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

NICCIE KLIEGL, FULFILL YOUR LEGACY

October has arrived, bringing with it the crispness of fall and a vibrant change in the air. The leaves are turning shades of gold and red, and with each gust of wind, they toss about on the ground, reminding us of the beauty in every season of life.

I love the fall; it always reminds me of how the changing of seasons mirror our own lives. Just as nature sheds its old to make way for new growth, we too are invited to let go of what no longer serves us and embrace the greatness that God has waiting for us. Fall has always been a time of reflection for me—a season to pause, let go of the old, and prepare for His blessed days ahead.

For those of you who are new to *As for Me and My House*, welcome! This magazine serves as a faith-filled companion to guide and inspire as we build our God-partnered homes and legacies. Each month, our contributors—who are parents, Christian entrepreneurs, mentors, and faith-filled leaders—share their wisdom and experiences as they seek to live out their faith in every area of life.

This magazine is inspired by my second book in the *Legacy Series*, *Embracing the Loving Legacy*. Exactly as the book expands on how we live out a God-partnered life within our homes, *As for Me and My House* touches on six key areas: house, marriage, health, finances, parenting, and community. Each of these areas is a reflection of the work God is doing within us, and through this magazine we share the ways in which His presence transforms not only us but also our families and the world around us.

As we enjoy this fall season, may we be reminded to embrace the changes and prepare our hearts for the new harvest God is bringing into our lives. Whether you're starting new routines, experiencing growth in your family or work, or simply reflecting on the blessings of this season, know that God is with you, guiding your steps as you build your lasting legacy.

I hope this month's issue brings you encouragement, practical insights, and spiritual inspiration as you continue to LIVE | LOVE | LEARN | LEAD on your God-partnered journey. Enjoy the wonderful contributions from our fellow Legacy Leaders, and may this season be filled with blessings for you and your home.

Niccie Kliegl



KATE JANSON

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE

GOD'S GRACE ALIVE IN A LIFE

A MOVE WITH A PURPOSE

**"FOR GOD IS WORKING IN YOU, GIVING YOU THE DESIRE AND
THE POWER TO DO WHAT PLEASES HIM,"
(PHILIPPIANS 2:13 NLT).**

Have you ever had God ask you to do something that you're not equipped for and for which you don't have the resources to accomplish His task? When we say YES to God's purpose for our "season" He arranges the details perfectly, and then our whole world changes on a dime.

This was how He orchestrated a season of mine.

Through a series of circumstances that cannot be explained in any way other than "God's divine orchestration" the decision to leave our beautiful dream home in California to Franklin, Tennessee was simply based on a "knowing" that God wanted to move our family.

"DO NOT CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND. THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TEST AND APPROVE WHAT GOD'S WILL IS—HIS GOOD, PLEASING AND PERFECT WILL," (ROMANS 12:2 NIV).

It felt like a snap and we were moved.

During and after COVID 19, there was an exodus from California, so the housing market for Franklin, Tennessee was incredibly HOT in 2021/2022. The houses were snatched up as soon as they hit the MLS. It got to the point that realtors would do a walk-through via Facebook or Zoom. It was insane!

I looked at three houses with my realtor online and had to make a decision based on what I saw. I prayed, "God, you know the house you have for me and my family, and you already have orchestrated the details. Which one?" Then, I chose!

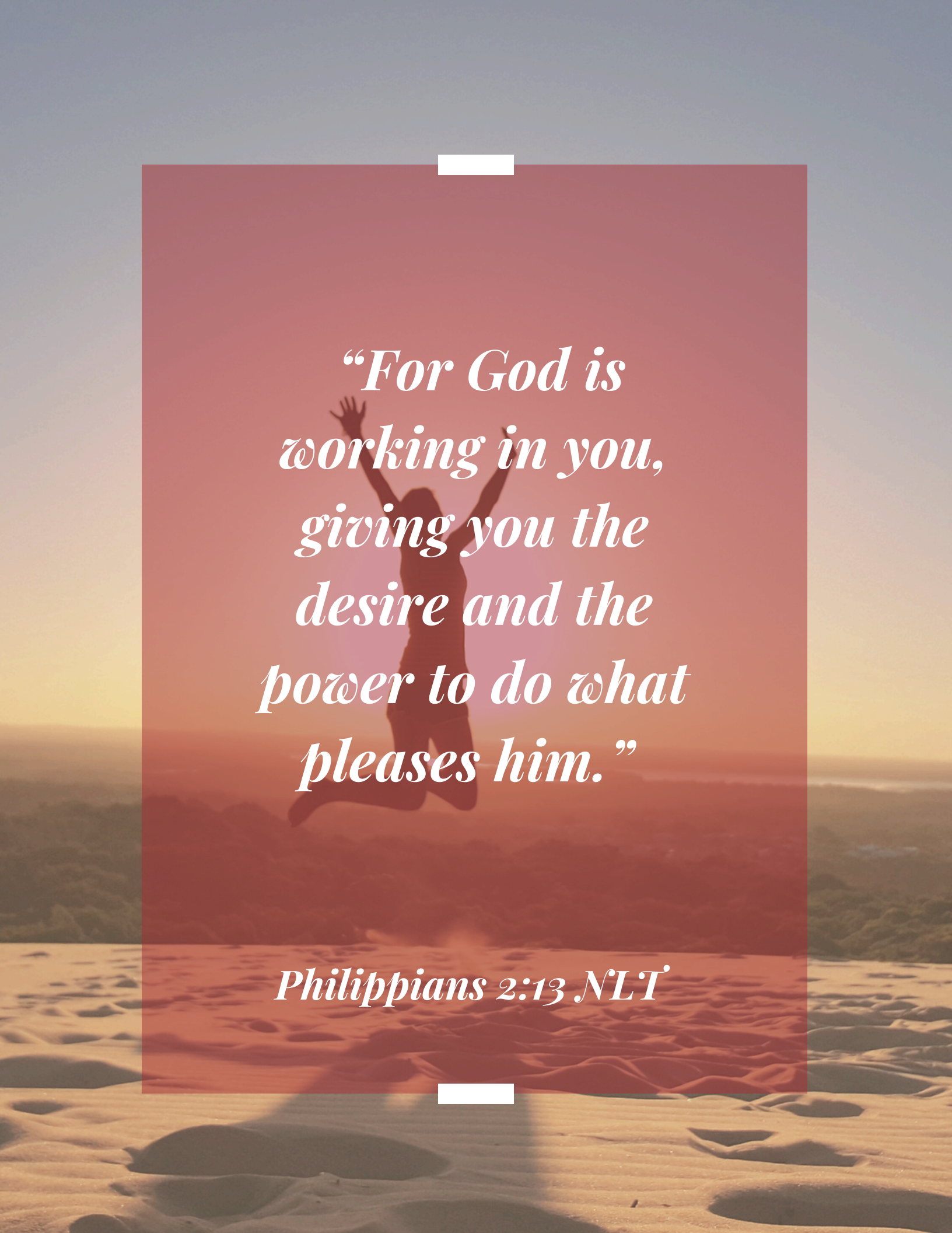
"CALL TO ME AND I WILL ANSWER YOU AND TELL YOU GREAT AND UNSEARCHABLE THINGS YOU DO NOT KNOW," (JEREMIAH 33:3 NIV).

In January 2022, we owned a house in Franklin, Tennessee without ever having seen it in person. And yet, I had a peace that surpassed all understanding about the unconventional unfolding of this move, a level of confidence that only comes from a relationship built on trust—years of trust met with loving outcomes that only God could bless me with.

When I arrived to physically walk through our "new" home, I was mortified! The previous owner was moving out and it was in shambles. I cried out to God (internally), "This CAN'T be the house I bought." The appliances and fixtures were old and outdated, and it was so dirty.

I had a moment when I thought, "God, did I make a mistake?" I took a big, deep breath and remembered—this is God's move, He will bring beauty from the ashes, as He did with my life. I knew I didn't need to worry about the details.



A person is captured in mid-air, jumping joyfully in a vast desert landscape. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light illuminating the sand dunes and the sky. A semi-transparent red rectangular overlay covers the central portion of the image, serving as a background for the text. The text is written in a white, elegant script font. The overall mood is one of freedom, joy, and spiritual fulfillment.

*“For God is
working in you,
giving you the
desire and the
power to do what
pleases him.”*

Philippians 2:13 NLT



**"FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER ARE
YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, DECLARES THE LORD,"
(ISAIAH 55:8 NIV).**

Within less than 24 hours, He renovated my home with beautiful fixtures and top-of-the-line appliances. HOW? My gracious cousin was renovating her new home at the exact same time, and gave us fixtures and appliances that she was replacing in her new home. Only God can! Within hours I went from feeling like I had made the biggest mistake of my life to God's assurance filling me with joy and hope.

**HE GIVES "BEAUTY FOR ASHES, THE OIL OF JOY FOR MOURNING,
THE GARMENT OF PRAISE FOR THE SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS,"
(ISAIAH 61:3 NKJV).**

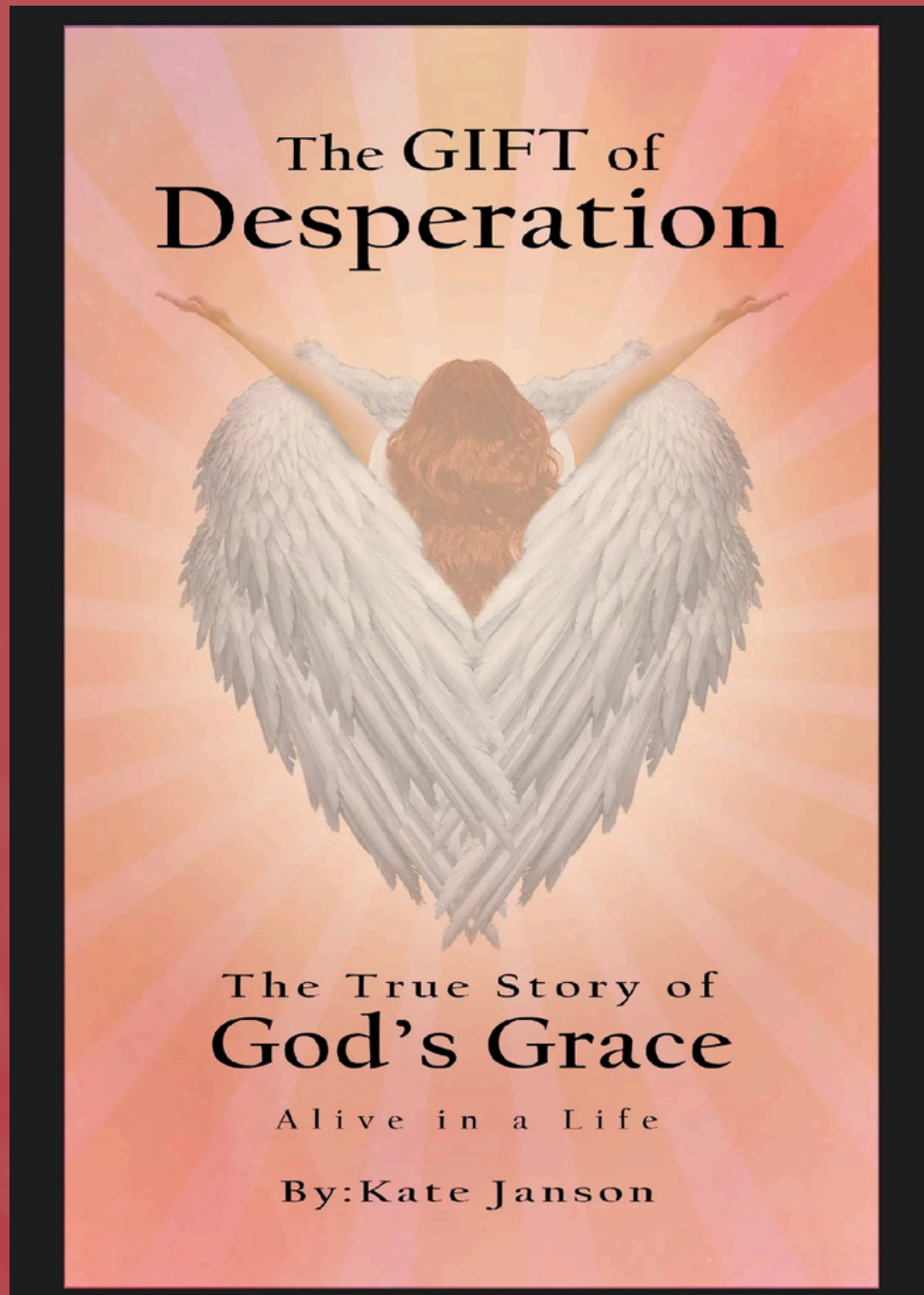
When God has a purpose He gives you everything you need, even what you had no idea you needed; it flows effortlessly. Within a week of moving into our new home, our amazing neighbors arranged a potluck to welcome us. As we were all getting acquainted, I met an adorable little blonde, brimming over with enthusiasm and an inner light that was indescribable. She started telling me about the book she had written titled *Don't Mess with This Momma*, describing her heroic and miraculous journey with God, storming Ethiopia to rescue their adopted daughter.

The tears wouldn't stop flowing as I told her about the Lord's prompting to write my own story of *God's Grace Alive in a Life*. My new neighbor, Missy, invited me to her writing intensive, Warrior Writers, that was starting on the Monday and just like that, God blessed me with a coach, a community, and the ability to create His book for Kingdom impact. God moved me (and our family) to this street, at this time, to meet a person who lived "down the street" who would be able to teach me how to write "His" story of God's grace alive in my life.

If God asks you to move, be it down the street or across the country, will you say YES? Will you trust Him to take care of every detail in the big and small details of your life? My experience in life has shown me that when I TRUST HIM, He unfolds the plans under grace, in perfect and easy ways.



The theme throughout Kate's story? If Jesus can fully forgive Kate, giving her newness of life and purpose and beauty for ashes, He can forgive anyone.



LAUNCH DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2024

FACEBOOK LIVE

PUBLICIST: MARK WORTON

615-473-4229



DEENA

TROCINO

AS FOR ME AND MY MARRIAGE



[CONTACT DEENA](#)

THE FAITHFUL JOURNEY OF MARRIAGE: 25 YEARS OF GRACE, GROWTH, AND GOD'S PLAN

My husband, Doug, and I celebrated twenty-five years of marriage in August of this year. If we had time, I would invite you to sit with me over coffee and share some of the amazing, crazy, unpredictable, beautiful, and even painful stories Doug and I have shared. But this is not about what we've gone through together. This is from one wife's perspective on how God radically transformed her into the woman and wife she is today, using the treacherous terrain of marriage to do it.

Twenty-five years of marriage is a long road. Little did I know that this journey would test me, mold me, and bring me to my knees more times than I could count. But through it all, one truth has remained constant: God has been at the center, using every struggle, every triumph, and every quiet moment to shape me into the woman and wife I am today.

WHY GIVING UP ISN'T AN OPTION

Marriage is hard. Anyone who tells you otherwise needs to check their pulse. Bringing two imperfect people together with their own opinions, backgrounds, experiences, and even childhood trauma is a recipe for unpredictable challenges.

It's not all bad—not even close. Doug and I have so many amazing memories, but I'm not going to lie and tell you there haven't been moments when giving up seemed like the easier option—moments when the hurt felt too deep, the misunderstanding too great, or the distance too wide. I can't even count the tears, sleepless nights, and days when I felt like I was failing at everything. In those moments, I had a choice: give up or press in closer to God. Each time, I chose to lean on Him, and it was in those darkest hours that He showed me the power of perseverance.

God uses marriage to reveal the areas in our hearts that don't reflect Him. Through all the ups and downs, it was the emotional and spiritual storms that were far more challenging. God used my marriage to reveal my weaknesses, selfishness, and fears. I was so focused on my own pain that I couldn't see the hardness of my own heart.

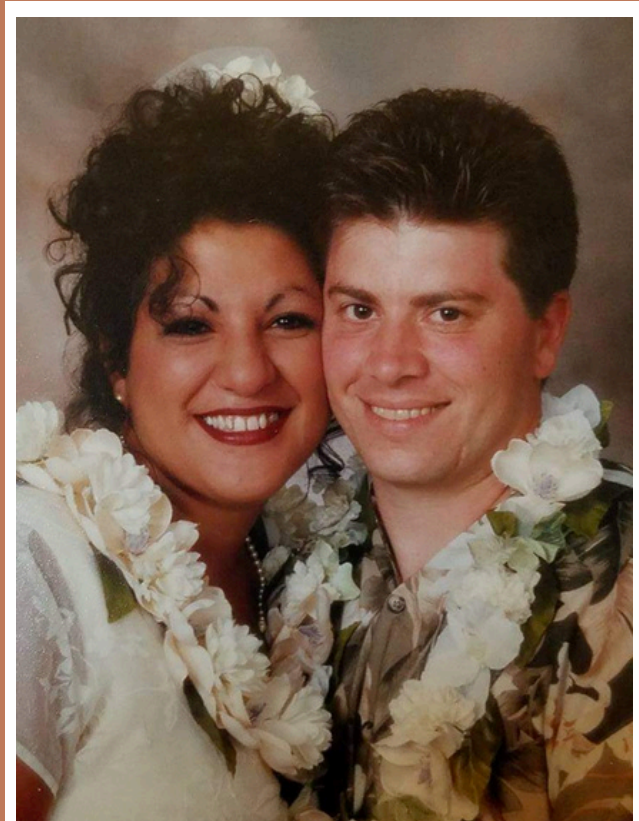
God used every hardship in my marriage to reveal more of Himself to me—through pain, sickness, financial hardships, business failures, floods, fires, grief, and the unbelievable challenges of raising five children, one of whom has special needs. All of it has been a tool for my growth.

But God never let go. He used all of it to strengthen me. He taught me that the hard times are when we grow the most. Our faith is tested and refined when we are at the end of ourselves. That's when God's grace begins.

THE REAL PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

When Doug and I got married, I thought it would be all about love, partnership, and compatibility. Boy, was I wrong. Marriage isn't about finding the perfect person; it's about choosing to love an imperfect person and allowing God to do the rest. It's not about our spouse. It's about growth. It's about becoming the person God wants you to be.

It turns out, the key to a healthy marriage isn't about finding the "perfect" person; it's about learning to lean on the Perfect One.



*“A wife of noble character
who can find?
She is worth far
more than rubies.
Her husband has full
confidence in her
and lacks nothing
of value.
She brings him good,
not harm,
all the days of her life.”*

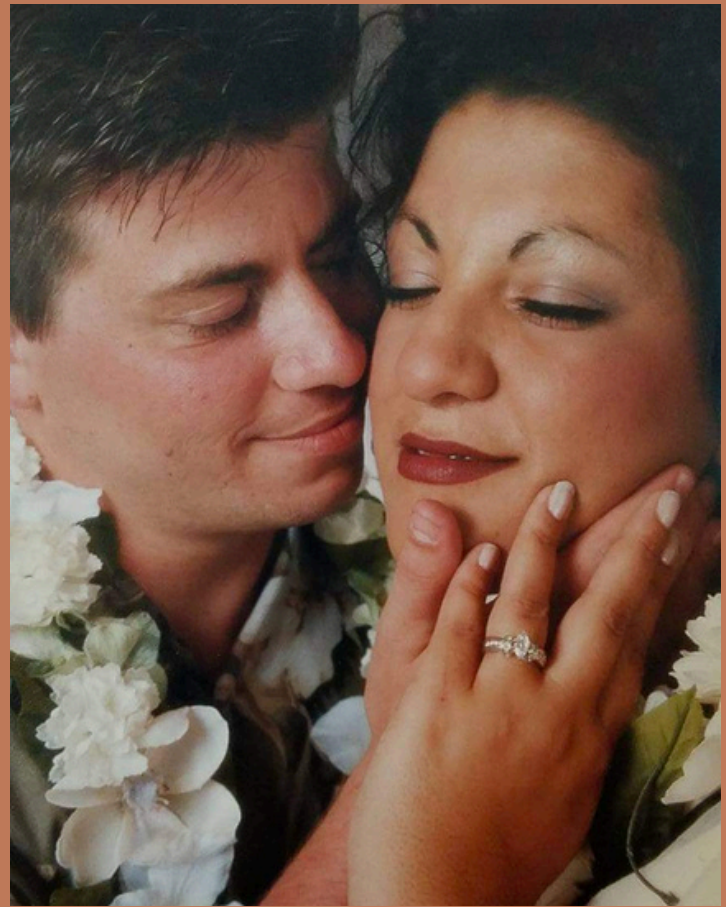
Proverbs 31:10-22 NIV

LETTING GO OF MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS

For many years, I placed expectations on Doug he was never meant to carry. I expected him to validate my emotions, make me happy, and fulfill all my needs. It's no wonder I was often disappointed. These were never meant to be his burdens to bear.

God didn't design marriage for us to find our complete fulfillment in our spouses. That's His job, and His alone. Marriage was designed for us to depend on God to meet our needs, and through Him, to meet the needs of our spouse.

Until I discovered my own identity in Christ—who I was as His beloved daughter—I could never truly love and care for my husband the way I was called to. My marriage improved when I stopped expecting Doug to be God and started allowing God to work through me to meet his needs. It was a powerful shift that changed everything. Letting Doug off the hook from my unrealistic expectation to complete me it allowed me to see him through God's eyes. I began to love him more deeply—through God's heart. I realized Doug was just like me: flawed, imperfect, and doing the best he could.



REFLECTING BACK

As I reflect on these twenty-five years, I'm filled with gratitude—not because everything has been perfect (far from it), but because God has used every imperfect moment to shape me. I've learned that love isn't only a feeling; it's a choice. It's choosing to stand by each other when the floodwaters rise, choosing to hold on when the fire comes, and choosing to press into God when everything around you may feel like it's falling apart.

Marriage is a journey of faith. It's a daily decision to let go of your own expectations, trust God's plan, and let Him work through you. It's about becoming more like Christ—learning to love sacrificially, forgive endlessly, and persevere relentlessly. And in that process, God reveals His glory, not only to us but through us.

Through every season of marriage, I've seen how God used it to refine me, mold me into His likeness, and reveal His glory. And while I'm far from perfect, I'm confident I'm exactly where God wants me to be—growing, learning, and leaning into His grace.



THE BEST GIFT I COULD GIVE

The best gift I gave Doug for twenty-five years of marriage wasn't wrapped in a bow or a grand gesture. It was a healed wife—a wife who finally realized her husband doesn't need to be perfect because we serve a God who is. A wife who let go of unrealistic expectations and learned to rely on God. A wife who stopped trying to make her husband responsible for her joy and happiness and let God fulfill her.

The best gift you can give your spouse is to pursue your own healing and to trust that God is writing a story of redemption, love, and grace through you both.

STAYING THE COURSE

If I could give any encouragement to those walking through the storms of marriage, it would be this: don't give up. I know it's tempting when things get tough, but the growth, the beauty, and the transformation happen when we stay the course. God never wastes a single moment of our pain, and He uses our marriages to draw us closer to Him in ways we never could have imagined.

Press in closer to God. Let Him refine you, heal you, and work through the messiness of your marriage. You'll be amazed at the beauty He creates when you allow Him to transform you. Your story, like mine, is still being written, and it will be the most spectacular testimony of His love, grace, and faithfulness.



SPECIALLY Empowered MOMS

 **SPECIALLY Empowered MOMS**

[Stand And Fight Like A Girl](#)

[About Us](#)

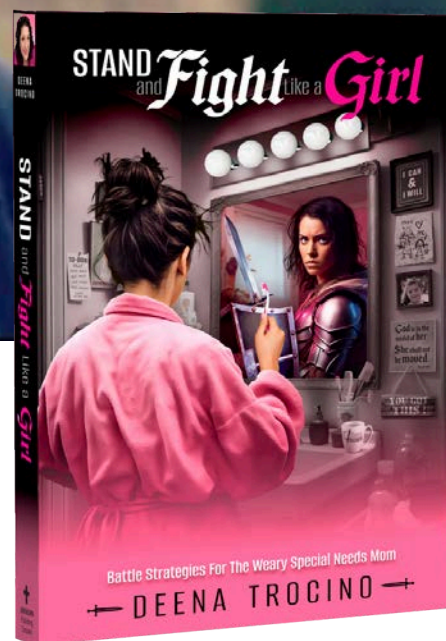
[Deena](#)

[Survey](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Contact Us](#)

SPECIAL NEEDS MOMS
LIVING LIFE
Powerfully
TOGETHER



Stay Connected with Deena





CAROLYN

SEARCY

AS FOR ME AND MY HEALTH
[Contact Carolyn](#)

LEARNING TO LOVE ME

Most of us deal with some type of issue that has haunted us our whole lives. Mine was my weight. Around the age of seven, I began to put on excess weight that caused a lot of taunting and teasing from other kids. If you have ever walked in my shoes, then you know that unkind words can be painful. To make it even worse, my family also continually made comments about my weight.

They also helped teach me the lie that my worth and value was based on what I looked like. I was not taught that I was loved because I was God's beloved child.

"I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY
MADE; YOUR WORKS ARE WONDERFUL, I KNOW THAT FULL WELL."

(PSALM 139:14, NIV)

RESTRICTING HAS THE OPPOSITE EFFECT

Desserts were not allowed in my home, so when I had the chance to be in a friend's home and their mother would make cookies or cakes, I always ate them like I was a starving child from a third world country. Isn't it funny that when you try to control someone, their response will often be the opposite of the limits you have put on them?

The pounds continued to be put on throughout my junior and senior high school years. I was often left out of the "in groups" because of how I looked.



HEALTH


Even more so with the guys. They had nothing to do with me. My self-image was in the pits.

It wasn't only about eating unhealthy foods; there was also never any emphasis put on exercise in our family.

Finally at the end of my junior year, I had some success with dieting and lost 40 pounds within a couple of months. But I wasn't satisfied with that. I continued to believe the lie that I needed to lose more weight even though, in all actuality, I was a good weight for my height.

So, I stopped eating! I had hit a plateau in the dieting game and simply couldn't lose anymore. My grandmother had promised to take me on a trip to Europe when I was a senior in high school, so the motivation to lose more weight was before me. I wanted to be paper thin. After all, wouldn't I feel loved and love my skinny-self more?

I began to starve myself. It was not unusual to find me passed out on a hot Florida football field during band practice due to lack of nutrition.

A person is seen from behind, playing a blue and white keyboard on a patterned rug. The scene is softly blurred, with a warm, orange-toned semi-transparent rectangle overlaid in the center, containing white text. The text is a quote from Psalm 139:14, NIV.

*“I praise you
because I am
fearfully and
wonderfully
made;
Your works
are
wonderful, I
know that full
well.”*

(Psalm 139:14, NIV)

BULIMIA ALSO BECAME ONE OF MY M.OS.

Bulimia also became one of my M.Os. In my mind, I was becoming thin and that's all I cared about. Once I was thin, I would be loved and beautiful, I thought.

It was in this season that I walked through my living room and my dad for the first time in my entire life commented about how good I looked. Little did he know that most days I ate very little and I would regularly purge what I had eaten. But I was thin! Side note: the guys started noticing me.

This lifestyle continued on into college until . . .



I was desperate for relief from this nightmare in my head. I asked one of my college pastors to pray with me about my dilemma. He told me that those who really mattered in my life would love me for being me. He told me they would love me no matter what I looked like. Our whole conversation along with his prayer really began to help me put my weight issues into the right perspective.

But my battle with weight was not yet completely over. Periodically, the all too familiar voice would torment my mind that I was fat and ugly. The lies urging me to purge had to be dealt with. I knew to silence them with the reminder that those who loved me, loved me for me, not for what I looked like. Thankfully, the Father blessed me with an incredible husband who never spoke about my weight. He simply loved me, period!

PERIODICALLY, THE ALL TOO FAMILIAR VOICE WOULD TORMENT MY MIND THAT I WAS FAT AND UGLY.

Surprisingly, gaining weight with the pregnancies of four children did not trigger me like I thought it would. I knew the children I carried needed me to be healthy. I needed to eat so they could grow.

Fast forward 15 years to six months after the birth of our fourth and last child, when our eldest son said out of the blue, with all the innocence of an eight-year-old, "Hey mom, are you going to have another baby?"

The dreaded subject was right in front of me AGAIN! By this time, my husband had been trying to encourage me to start exercising. I had a choice to make. I could be pitiful or I could be powerful. But I knew I couldn't be both. My thinking began to change. I realized that being healthy was much more important than being skinny.



Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for loving me. Please forgive me for believing the lie that my worth and value is based on anything other than your love for me as your child. I come out of agreement with that lie, in Jesus' Name. Please also forgive me for comparing myself to others in any way.

I choose this day to love myself. Body, please forgive me if I have hated you in any way or had negative thoughts about you. Body, today I bless you and I choose to love you. I also forgive those who have said unkind words to me concerning how I look. I choose this day to be more concerned about being healthy because my body is your dwelling place, Father. Thank you for my body. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

That day was the first day of the rest of my life. Since that day, I have exercised faithfully for 30 years. I try to eat healthily and rarely do I eat after 6 pm in the evenings. I watch how many sweets I consume and try to limit them only to weekends. One of my daughters is a PA and this morning commented to me that I looked so much younger than her 63-year-old patients whom she sees daily.

I have also learned to come out of agreement with the lie that my worth and value is in how I look. I know my heavenly Father loves me just the way I am, and I am totally okay with that. I love me and that is all that matters.

How about you? Do you love yourself and the body our heavenly Father has blessed you with? Do you struggle with your weight and how others may judge you? I want to share a prayer with you that will help you with this challenging issue.



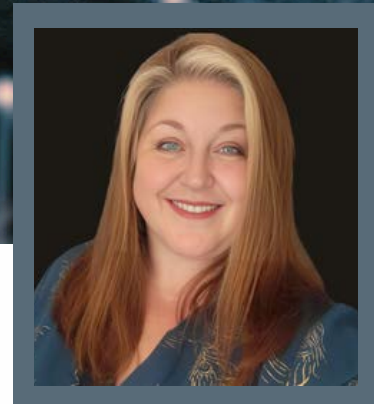
CHECK
IT OUT



DR. CHARLI CARAWAY

AS FOR ME AND MY FINANCES

[CONTACT DR. CHARLI](#)



B\$BL\$CAL G\$V\$NG

We work so hard, we play hard, and we fill our days with numerous tasks that consume every minute. But are we working smart . . . or just hard?

Do you get discouraged with your finances? Is there more month than money? Does it seem like you live in a black hole that sucks all your money management efforts dry? Can't seem to get ahead?

You're not alone.

Christians have access to many philosophies on giving. Some churches teach about giving, but many church leaders have been forced to teach watered-down sermons on stewardship because the body of Christ is offended when it's brought up from the pulpit.

Giving of your finances is the number one way for God to bless all of your work, saving, budgeting, and financial growth. However, we often fail to receive the blessings that giving brings because we don't have a clear understanding of all the forms of biblical giving.

God is a God of order. He gives us instructions on how to manage and live every facet of our lives, including our finances. In fact, money is the only topic in the Bible in which God challenges us to TEST HIM!

The Bible actually discusses four kinds of financial giving. TITHE, FIRST FRUITS, OFFERING, and SEED. The curse of poverty is overtaking the Church because the Church is not exercising their giving power. It's time to cancel the curse.

TITHING

Tithing is the most well-known (or well-despised) form of giving. This is because it is often the only truly "biblical" giving that is taught from the pulpit, and people get offended. CHRISTIANS NEED TO QUIT THINKING THE TITHE SUPPORTS OR FUNDS THE CHURCH. This is stinkin' thinkin'! The purpose of the tithe is obedience. It is to be given to the storehouse (the church or another body that supports God's people).

Yes, the tithe may pay the church overhead, but it can do so many other things. It can fund community programs, support missionaries, or fund disaster relief.

The point is, it's God's money to use in His house and for His people how He sees fit. He doesn't need us to weigh in and vote or make a judgement call on what He does with His money. He wants to see one thing from us in the tithe: OBEDIENCE.



In a capitalist society, we consistently consider the ROI (Return on Investment). The return for tithing is continued protection and prosperity. In Malachi 3:10-11, God promises to open up heaven, pour out abundant blessings, and defend tithers against the enemy's attempts to steal our blessings. Tithing is a regular opportunity for us to see how God miraculously makes 90% of our income cover 100% of our needs!

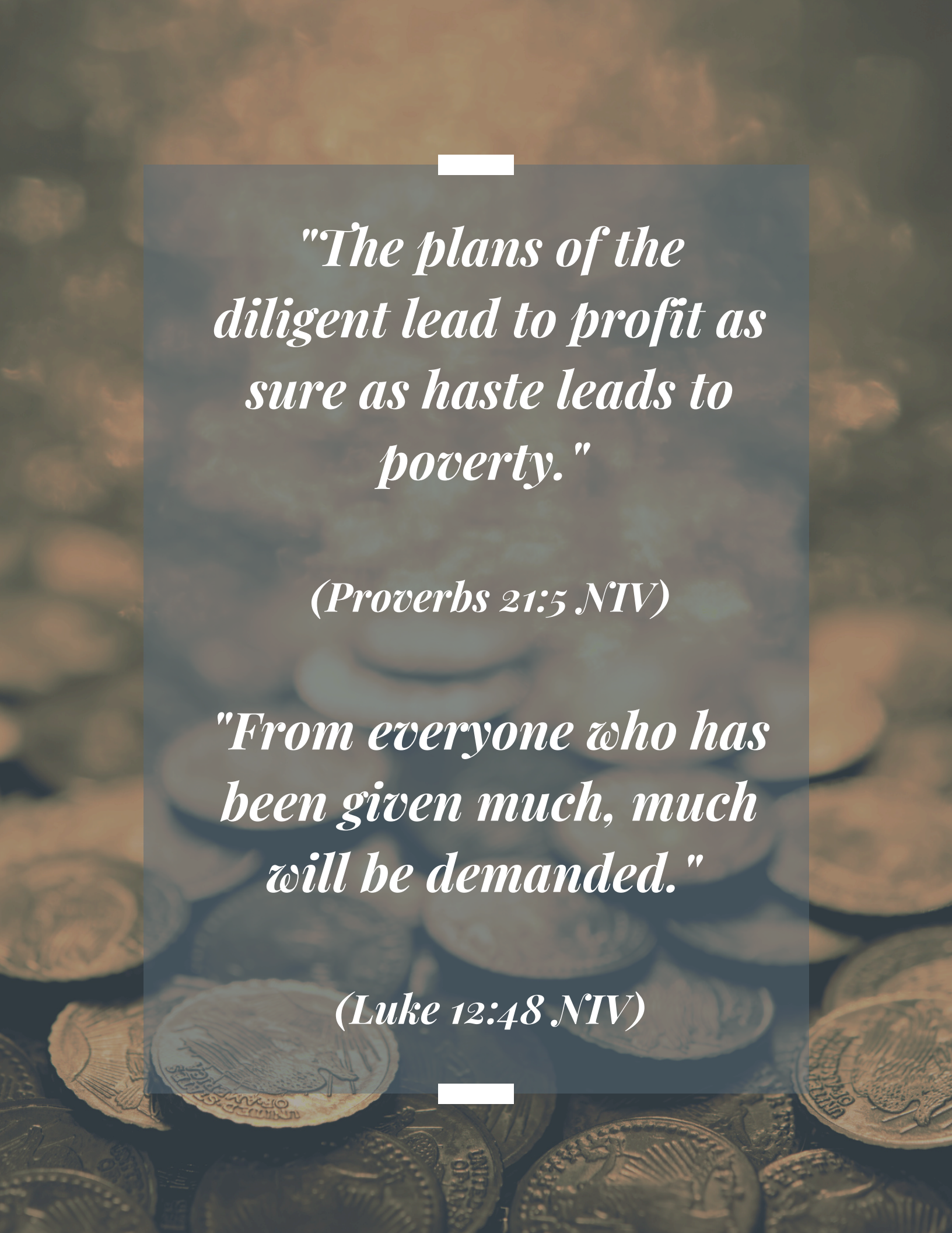
FIRST FRUITS

First Fruits are often confused with tithing because tithing is considered the 'first' portion of 100%. However, the purpose of first fruits is to show thanksgiving. We give the first part of our "harvest" because we want to show God gratitude. It can be vegetables from your garden. It can be the first part of your new raise at work. It could be the first part of your bonus this quarter. First fruits are not to be confused with giving a tithe on the entire harvest. First fruits are given once (each time there's an INCREASE). The tithe, as discussed above, is given regularly on the whole.

Sometimes relating to stewardship scriptures is difficult because they were written from an agrarian perspective. However, we can easily translate that to the 21st century.

If you were a sheep farmer in the Bible, your first fruits would have been the first sheep born in your flock. However, your tithe would have been 10 sheep if your flock bore 100 lambs in a season.



The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of numerous US coins, including pennies, nickels, and dimes, scattered across the surface. The lighting is warm, creating a golden-brown hue over the metallic surfaces of the coins.

*"The plans of the
diligent lead to profit as
sure as haste leads to
poverty."*

(Proverbs 21:5 NIV)

*"From everyone who has
been given much, much
will be demanded."*

(Luke 12:48 NIV)

Today, your first fruits would be the \$500 increase on your recent pay raise. Give the first \$500 increase and the increase, thereafter, will be part of the whole from which you tithe. But the first time you get it—give it all.

The most unique part about first fruits, and the greatest difference between first fruits and the tithe, is the recipient. The first fruits were given to the priest. It was one of God's ways of rewarding those diligently teaching and guiding His people. In the 21st century, this could be any person who invests in your spiritual growth.

OFFERING (ALMS)

Offering (alms) is often the kind of giving people like because it's a "feel good" gift. Why? The purpose of the offering is compassion. It shows hurting and needful people the love and compassion of God. Offering allows us to be messengers of hope.

The offering is a private transaction involving God, you, and the receiver. God has no desire to embarrass the receiver. Confidentiality is key. The offering is over and above the tithe.

God promises that the offering we give to the needy will be returned to us in full.

**"HE WHO HAS PITY ON THE POOR LENDS TO THE LORD, AND HE [GOD]
WILL PAY BACK WHAT HE HAS GIVEN,"
(PROVERBS 19:17 NKJV).**

It doesn't matter how many times you give, or how generous you are. You can't out-give God!

SEED

Seed is a form of giving that is an act of faith. That's right . . . the entire purpose of seed is faith.

It is the only form of giving that is multiplied—30, 60, and even 100 times (Mark 4:8)! It's like holy investing. It's like a secret weapon. How? Sowing seed is the number one way to overcome debt and poverty.

There are three things you should know about sowing seed:

- Always sow in fertile ground.
- Always water with praise and expectation.
- Always set aside more seed from your harvest so you can keep sowing.

The Bible instructs us to give generously and joyfully.

**"REMEMBER THIS: WHOEVER SOWS SPARINGLY WILL ALSO REAP SPARINGLY, AND WHOEVER SOWS GENEROUSLY WILL ALSO REAP GENEROUSLY. EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPELSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER,"
(2 CORINTHIANS 9:6–7 NKJV).**

Give as God instructs and you will receive as God promises.

**"AND GOD IS ABLE TO BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS AT ALL TIMES, HAVING ALL THAT YOU NEED, YOU WILL ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD WORK,"
(2 CORINTHIANS 9:8 NKJV).**



CAUTIONS

Sometimes compassion or desperation causes giving to get out of alignment. Don't assume the church has plenty and give your tithe to someone who you believe has a great need. This does not follow the guidelines set up by God. Don't pool your tithe and offering together and make a big seed to sow. Sowing seed without paying tithe is like putting your money in a shredder. God can't honor giving done outside of biblical guidelines. It is unwise to sow a seed into the needy. It's not wrong to give to them, but it is not fertile ground in which to sow.

Brass tacks: give as God instructs, receive as God promises. Scripture says you will be blessed ABUNDANTLY in ALL things at ALL times. And, that you will have ALL that you need!

If you would like to study this deeper, you can find a link to *The Truth about Biblical Giving* at <https://active-faith.org/active-faith-online-studies>. Use Code: G\$V\$NG

BIBLICAL GIVING

	Amount	Purpose	Recipient	Return
Tithe	10%	Obedience	The Church	Achieves 100% with only 90% *Protects from economic crisis
First Fruits	First Portion (not specific)	Thanksgiving	The Priest (Pastor or Bible teacher)	Continued future increase
Alms/ Offering	Anything above the tithe	Compassion	Those in Need	100%
Seed	Any amount money, time, resources)	Act of Faith	Fertile Soil; the righteous	Reward of multiplication: 30, 60, or 100





ACTIVE FAITH

TAKE BACK TERRITORY, EXPEL EVIL & HEAL THE SOUL
THROUGH SPIRITUAL GROWTH

TRAINING PEOPLE TO ACTIVATE THEIR FAITH



The Truth About Biblical Giving

This 6-session seminar centers on the concept of biblical giving, exploring its relevance and implications, emphasizing that blessings are tied to obedience rather than the return on investment.

It also touches on the broader application of Old Testament principles in modern life, suggesting that tithing's principles of stewardship and obedience are as pertinent today as they were historically.

Use Code: GIVING

To receive a \$5 discount

Course Trailer

Click to Sign Up



The Ties That Bind

Dr. Charli invites you on a journey to understand soul ties, exploring how they affect our relationships and well-being. While soul ties can be healthy, unresolved or unhealthy ones can cause emotional and spiritual tension.

Through this 6-part series, you'll learn how to identify, break unhealthy ties, and maintain healthy relationships in alignment with God's purpose.

They form without our knowledge. They connect us without our understanding. We can no longer ignore the ties that bind. From the very beginning of the Bible, God talks about our soul. After years of teaching about the soul, Dr. Charli introduced, explained, and simplified the concept of soul ties.

Course Trailer

Click to Sign Up



Soul Wound

In the 6-part training you will experience Inner healing focused on healing wounds of the soul, grounded in the word of God.

Many Christians do not understand why they behave, react, and emotionally respond to people and events the way they do.

Many Christians do not realize the SOUL is the key to many failures and, when healed, many joyful SUCCESSES.

This training addresses the source of all these things -- wounds on the soul.

"Remember, a soul wound is a hurt or emotional state which alters the identity or understanding of the original fullness or wholeness in which we were created by God to be, live, and operate in."

- Dr. Charli Caraway (The Wounded Warrior)

Course Trailer

Click to Sign Up

CARRIE HURLEY

AS FOR ME AND MY PARENTING
CARRIE'S WEBSITE



RAISING KIND KIDS

4 SIMPLE STRATEGIES (STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSES' MOUTHS)

I am a mother of four children. They are currently 16, 15, 13, and 8 (almost 9, she says).

There is no doubt in my mind that God has a sense of humor because He has given me teenagers when I am in the midst of perimenopause.

Can you relate?

Hormones and emotions can run high at my house, but there is one overarching rule: "BE KIND."

"INSTEAD BE KIND TO EACH OTHER, TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, JUST AS GOD THROUGH CHRIST HAS FORGIVEN YOU,"
(EPHESIANS 4:32 NLT)

I sang this in my head as I typed it—it's a simple verse song I wrote to memorize the verse and it's part of [The Verse Thing](#). [Here's a link to get that song so you can easily learn it, too!](#)

Snark happens, but you don't have to be mean about it.

I am so thankful my parents were never mean in their speech to my sisters and me. They demonstrated respect and kindness—even when they were upset. I recognize this was a great blessing.

If you haven't come from that kind of background, know that God is a God of redemption, and He will take the hard things of your past and use them for your good and for His glory.



When pondering this topic, I asked my kiddos what I have done, said, demonstrated, etc., that has helped them to be kind to one another, and here is what they had to say about it:

1 “When I am not kind, you give me a do-over so that I can practice doing it kindly.” (ACE, 8 . . . almost 9)

2 “You encourage us to treat others the way that we want to be treated and help us to see the situation from the other person’s perspective.” (EJ, 13)

3 “How you interact with Dad and with us. You are an example of speaking kindly even when you are frustrated or angry. But in those small times you have snapped, you come back and apologize, and it always is sincere.” (AB, 15)

4 “The Kindness Shirt. You didn’t have to use it for very long because I didn’t want to do it ever again!” (The Kindness Shirt is a large shirt that both children wear

together. They each get an armhole for one of their arms, and they must do everything together for a specified amount of time. NOTE: My son (W, 16), also commented that this requires parental supervision!

WHAT DOES A DO-OVER LOOK LIKE?

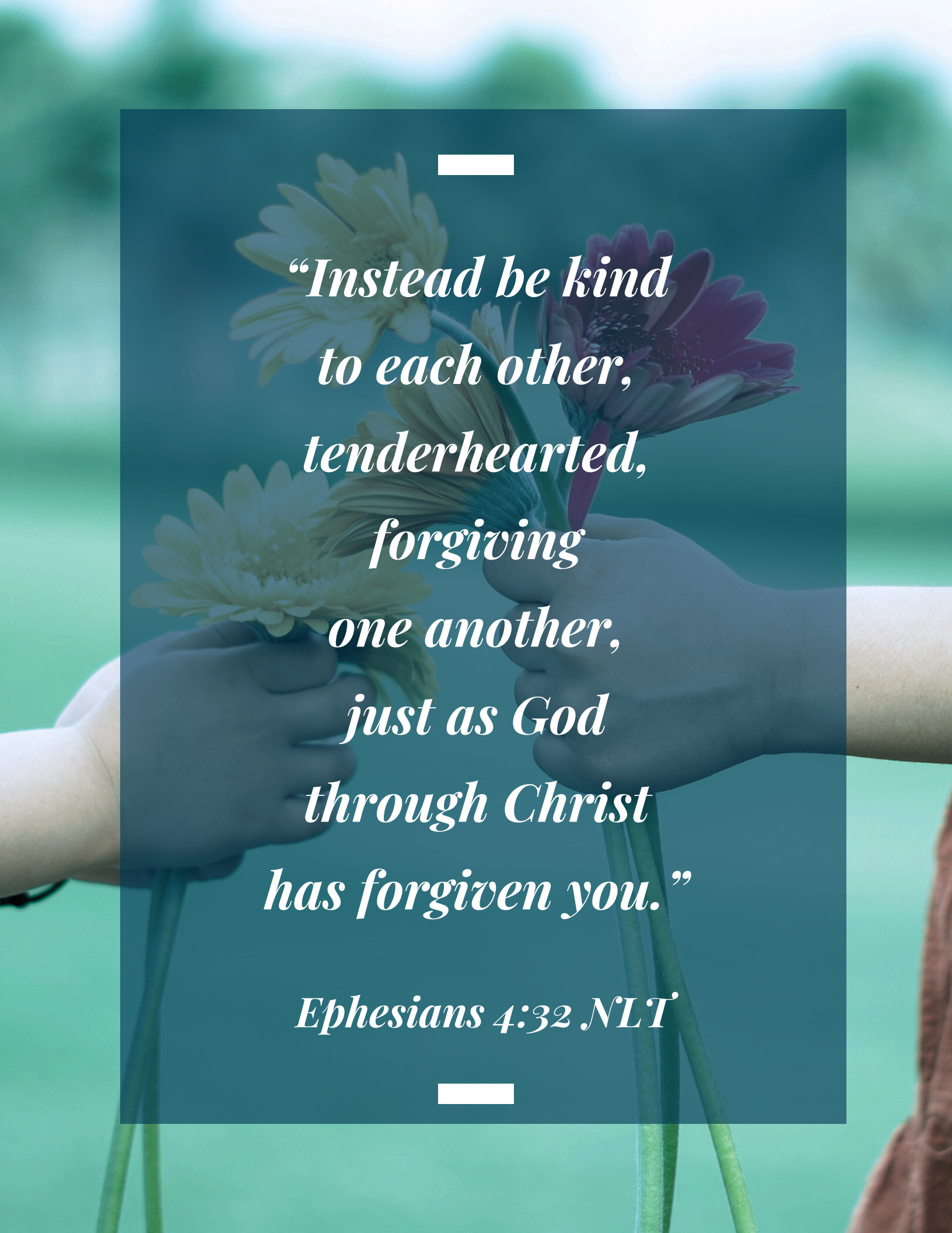
We all mess up, right? And God is the best parent, right? What does He do? He gives us choices and opportunities to make things right. That’s what I seek to do with my kiddos.

A Do-Over is great because you pause the kids immediately after you hear them being unkind (or someone shares it with you), and you let them know that’s not speaking kindly, and they get to do it again in a kind manner. Understand they may not know what that looks like. If this is the case, after a few moments ask if they would like some help and coach them through the process.

This takes intentionality and, while it can be started at any age, starting young makes life so much easier. It’s so simple and can be used across the board when training up children.

For example, ACE got super snarky when she was working with EJ unloading the dishwasher. EJ asked about something, and ACE replied in the nastiest tone, “I ALREADY DID IT, EJ,” and rolled her eyes.



The background image shows two hands, one from the left and one from the right, holding several flowers. The flowers are in shades of light green and purple. The hands are positioned as if they are about to pass the flowers to each other. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent teal overlay. In the center of the overlay, there is a quote in a white, italicized serif font. Above and below the quote are short white horizontal lines.

*“Instead be kind
to each other,
tenderhearted,
forgiving
one another,
just as God
through Christ
has forgiven you.”*

Ephesians 4:32 NLT

DO-OVER:

THIS TAKES INTENTIONALITY AND, WHILE IT CAN BE STARTED AT ANY AGE, STARTING YOUNG MAKES LIFE SO MUCH EASIER. IT'S SO SIMPLE AND CAN BE USED ACROSS THE BOARD WHEN TRAINING UP CHILDREN.

My immediate response: "Ma'am, that is NOT how we speak to one another in our family. Try again."

ACE: "EJ, I'm sorry I was mean. Will you please forgive me? I already did it."

This is after years of training, so don't expect it to happen the first time . . . or even the 51st time, but it becomes a way of life.

The Kindness Shirt (also known as the "Get Along Shirt") worked wonders for my older two. They did not, in any way shape or form, want to have to be that close together and be forced to work together to accomplish whatever they were doing. It was a great and hilarious deterrent for them.

Strategies Two and Three are rooted in YOU.

You do what you know, and if you were raised with parents who spoke harshly or unkindly, those wounds may still live in you and influence the way you speak to your children.

So how does that change? By consciously chasing Inner Healing, Renewing Your Mind, & Embracing Your Identity, three core components of the Rise Up Sisterhood.

Do you need guidance in YOUR Do-Over?

Do you want to change things for the next generation?

Do you want a leg up before you even start your family?

You need to invest in your family and your legacy and join me in the [Rise Up Sisterhood: Stage One](#). This three week intensive workshop (October 27-November 17) is designed to help you:

- Go from Crabby to Kind
- Next Level your Mama Game
- Change Your Generational Influence
- Embrace Your Place as a Daughter of the King

To learn more and sign up, [visit me here](#).

Questions? You can email me here: carrie@carriehurley.com

Remember, you are not alone. We are in this together!

Love to you, Sweet Sister,
Carrie

RISE UP:

Stage 1

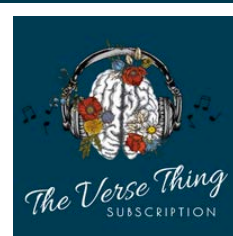
- Go from Crabby to Kind
- Next Level Your Mama Game
- Change Your Generational Influence
- Private Soul Care Session

BONUS: 1 Month of *The Verse Thing*

CHECK IT OUT



Use Coupon Code RUS1MR for \$50 off



Hi! I'm *Carrie!*

I am an author, life & mindset coach, and speaker dedicated to elevating Christian women to rise into their **power, privilege and place** as **Daughters of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords...**to redeem the courageous life that God has called them to.

For over three decades, fear and toxic thinking were my constant companions. I had no confidence in my voice in my personal life, and I was held captive by my emotions.

But God.

Now I walk in confidence, no longer bound to fear and toxic thinking or held hostage by "those" emotions.

And I deeply desire to guide you into the same victory!

- 📖 **Christian Mamas** - I see how you are desperate for victory in everyday life, but you haven't yet figured out how to love yourself as Jesus does let alone how to rest in His grace.
- 📖 **Moms of Daughters** - I understand you want more for your daughter...but you can't imagine it for yourself! You crave victory in your own healing and fiercely want your daughters to get healing and purpose in their teens and 20s instead of struggling through life til they're where you are now.
- 📖 **Sisters** - Know that if you are stuck in the loop of negative self-talk, lacking confidence in your voice, feeling like you're a victim of your own emotions and the circumstances of life, you're in the right place.
- 📖 **Mature Women** - I know you want to overcome overwhelm, be victorious in your identity in Christ, and build a legacy of Jesus-loving world-changers. It's time for you to Rise Up & Roar in the power, privilege, and place that is yours as a Daughter of the King of Kings!

GET TO KNOW ME

*Rise up into your Power, Privilege & Place as a Daughter of the King of Kings.
RISE UP & ROAR!*

CARON

CARROLL

AS FOR ME AND MY COMMUNITY



CONTACT CARON

HUDSON'S HEART

A child's response to loving a homeless person truly shows a compassionate heart. I spent the day with my oldest grandchild, Hudson, in October of last year, for his eighth birthday. We had just left a sporting goods store, where I'd bought him a pair of boots for deer camp and a camouflage jacket. We were so excited about spending the day together and our planned adventures.

On our way to the grocery store, I drove across the street and passed a homeless man standing on the side

of the road. My heart breaks for the homeless, but it was my grandson who took notice of the desolate man.

"Nan, we need to give the homeless man some money for food, he said passionately."

Leaving the grocery store, I gave Hudson some money. As we drove towards the man, I recommended he roll his window down and tell him, "God bless you."

"OK, Nan", he said with a cute grin.



We approached the man, and Hudson handed him the money. He said, “God bless you,” and I began to pull away, telling Hudson that it’s the heart of God to have compassion for the poor. There is a scripture, Matthew 25:40, that says,

“WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME.”

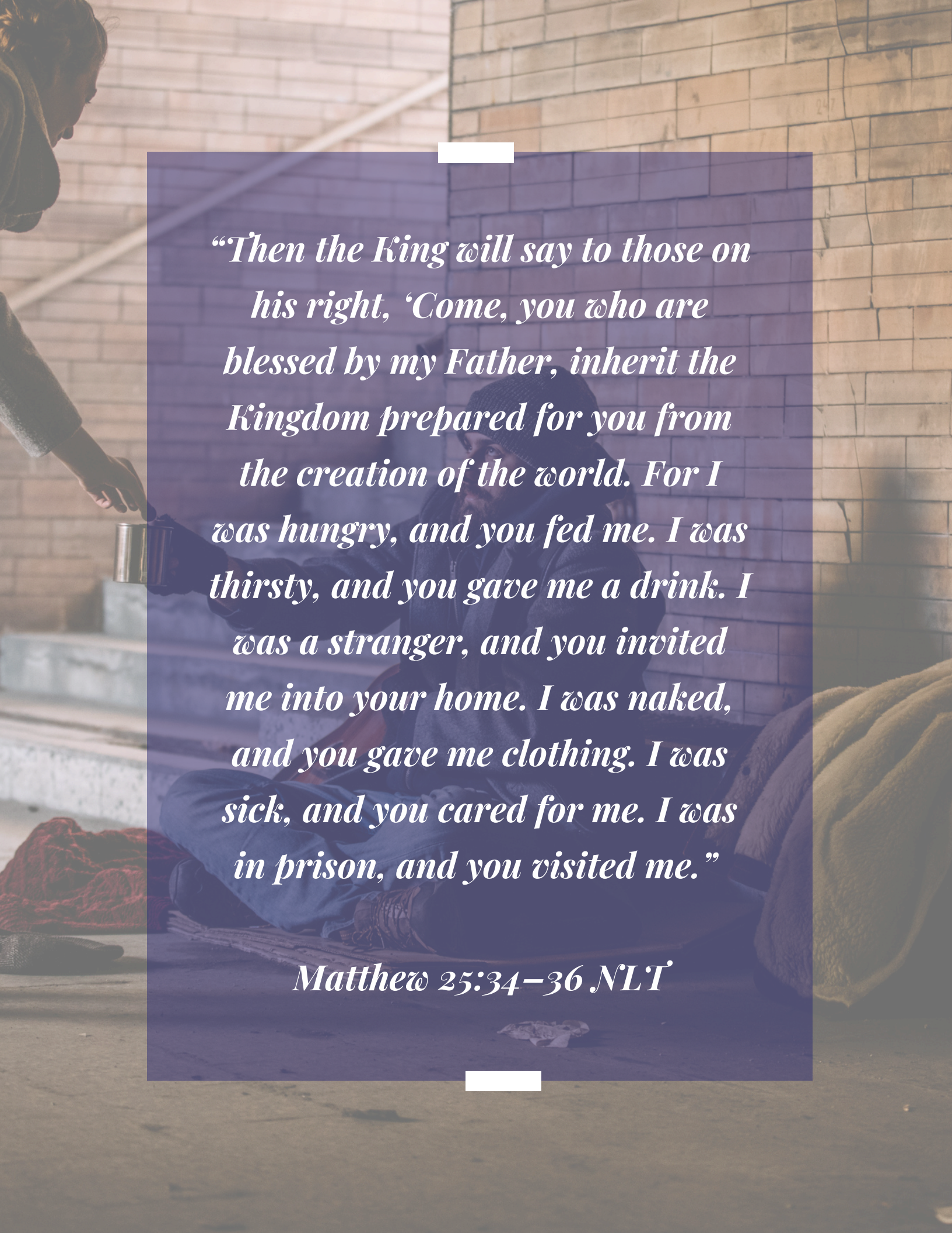
I suddenly had a déjà vu moment of my son Matthew, Hudson’s daddy, spotting a homeless man one night and saying those exact words to me when he was nine years old. Matthew’s words made me emotional because I saw his mercy and compassion for another human being.

He saw that poor man had nothing and no one as he sat in solitude on a bench. I knew that night Matthew’s heart connected with God’s heart to consider the needs of another. I was so touched by his words and desire to give the man what we could.

When referring to the homeless, I have often heard comments like, “They probably have more money than you do.” Well, they might, and they might not, but one day, when my kids were little, I looked into the eyes of a familiar homeless man in our community, and I saw Jesus.

We had stopped at a red light while running errands, and he was standing there in his usual spot. I happened to have cash, which was rare. So I rolled the window down on the passenger side for my daughter, Shelby, to give him the money.



A photograph of a homeless man sitting on the ground, wearing a dark jacket and a beanie. He is holding a metal cup. A person's arm is visible on the left, pouring liquid from another metal cup into his. The background is a brick wall. A semi-transparent purple box with white text is overlaid on the image.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’”

Matthew 25:34–36 NLT

As he leaned toward the car to receive the gift, my eyes locked with his, and I felt like I was giving it to Jesus. I will never forget the deep blue color and the softly piercing look that came from the soul of his eyes. I knew then that what he did with the money was not the point. It's what it taught my kids: to have compassion for the poor, the lonely, the broken, and to be a giver because it touches another heart, and Jesus told us to.

Later that day, Hudson saw another homeless man and said, "Nan, there's another homeless man we need to give money to."

At that point in our day, our time was closing in, and we had to pick up my other two grandchildren. I told Hudson he had a good eye for detecting those in need, but turning around was out of the question.

I explained to him that it's not possible to feed everyone and that we do what we can. And that's okay. Many people after us will pass them, too, and someone will come through for them—God will see to it.

We, as Christians, are called to help those who have less than we do. Here are a few ideas you can do with your family or other believers to help those less fortunate than you.

1. GOODIE BAGS

Premade goody bags are fun for the kids, and they love to share them. Include water, toiletries, protein bars, fruit roll-ups, socks, and/or hats and gloves.

2. RESOURCES

Look for the resources available in your area and create a card with information and numbers. Include in the bags the names of shelters, soup kitchens, suicide hotlines, and church organizations that have ministries for the homeless when they are ready for help. Print several and keep them in your car together with your gifts to them.

3. GROCERY GIFT CARDS

While I gave cash in this story, it is better to give gift cards. Giving \$5-\$10 cards to grocery stores and local restaurants or coffee shops still provides an opportunity to put something in their stomach.

4. VOLUNTEER

Volunteer to serve as a family at the local homeless shelters and kitchens.

5. LISTEN TO STORIES

If you have contact with a group of people, look for opportunities to listen to their stories and pray with

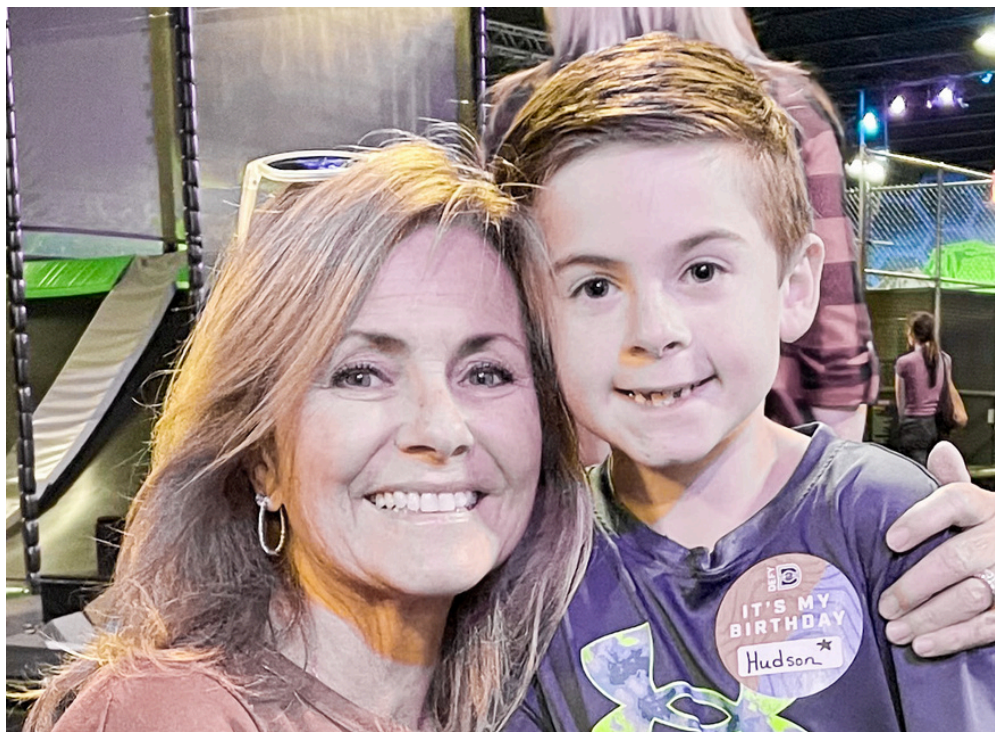
them. Ask them if they have made Jesus their Savior and Lord. If not, share the gospel with them. You may be the only person from whom they hear about Jesus.

I thought about a short story I heard once. Are you familiar with the starfish story? One day, a young child was walking along the beach after a raging storm that washed up thousands of starfish. The boy began throwing them back into the ocean one by one when a man approached and asked, "What are you doing?"

"Throwing the starfish back into the ocean," the boy replied. "If I don't throw them back, they will die."

The man condemned his efforts by saying, "Son, don't you realize how many thousands of starfish you will have to throw back? You can't make a difference."

Bending down, the boy picked up another starfish and threw it back into the water. "I made a difference for that one," he said with a smile.





SWEET SPOT

SWEET SPOT

NEED A LIFE OR WORK TRANSFORMATION?

Join us for Bible in a Year

BIBLE
IN A
YEAR



BE TRANSFORMED BY THE
RENEWING OF YOUR MIND

ROMANS 12:2