

Just Like Dominoes, Just Like God.

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Our family took a long-overdue vacation earlier this month. Not only did we spend quality time with family in California, but we also paused the road trip through 7 states to enjoy some sights along the way: Grand Canyon, Painted Desert, caverns, ancient cliff dwellings and pueblo ruins, abandoned towns, and other unique encounters on Route 66.

*In the midst of all the activity,
God's presence was evident.*

There was one evening as we came upon a small town in New Mexico. It was dinner time, so I searched online for a restaurant as we drove into the area. When we arrived at the one we'd chosen, it was 7:05 pm...but they'd closed at 7:00 pm. Ugh. So, we drove around the corner and found another diner. It was obviously the only one open for miles, as the line was long and the wait even longer. Robin and Zach sat down, and I decided to kill time at the gift shop.

I found a postcard for Zach's collection and approached the cash register. As I looked down at the counter's edge, I saw a little paper with a Scripture on it (picture above). I read the verse and hid it in my heart, thankful for the previous customer whom I assumed left it there to share. *With me.*

It was a timely reminder of God's peace:
*"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be
afraid." John 14:27*

After I paid, I saw that Robin and Zach had been seated, so I joined them at the table.

Moments later, my phone gave a text notification. I don't usually grab my phone while dining, but before I knew it, I was reading the following text from a friend in Illinois:

*"I have told you these things
so that in Me you may have peace."
John 16:33*

She'd sent that message out of the blue, later saying, "I felt God made me text you that verse." She also added that she had read the verse I'd seen at the cash register and almost sent that one to me but was led to share the other one. *I'm so glad!* The two together not only complement each other but also provided for a fuller, more personal message the Holy Spirit wanted to speak that night.

But there's more.

Before our food arrived at the table, I knew Jesus was moving me to witness of Him to the young people working at the register. I excused myself and walked right up to them, sharing the **series of events** that led up to the two Scriptures. It was so cool. By the time we were all done talking, several other servers had joined to listen.

Do you know what one of them did? He said, "My mom needs to hear that!" and immediately texted the Scriptures to her.

Do you realize the **situations** God arranged and all the things He accomplished through those **steps**?

Life **experiences** can be just like dominoes, can't they?
One **incident affects** another which affects another.

Follow each step:

The restaurant we originally chose had to be closed in order for us to get to the other one.

There had to be a long line in order for me to consider popping into that gift shop.

I had to find a postcard in order to pay at that cash register.

Someone had to leave that verse there for me to see!

It keeps going:

My friend had to obey the prompting from God to send that text and in that very timing.

I had to actually read the text when I did...then walk forward in the courage from the Holy Spirit to share Jesus with the hosts and wait staff.

The young man had to hear the verse in order to share it with his mother.

His mother had to read that Scripture in order for...

We have no idea where the dominoes fell from that point, but I have a feeling they kept going.

CHALLENGE

It seems every **step** of our lives can be **likened** to another domino, being a consequence of an earlier **action**, while also affecting future **events**.

I realize this is no new concept. Most of us have compared life's activity to dominoes. In fact, the term "domino effect" was first introduced politically in 1954 by President Eisenhower, who used it to express grave concern about the spread of communism between countries. (Hmmm, interesting.) But back to the purpose of this writing:

*While my family's traveling experience
reveals a "happy domino fall,"
I am aware that many of our
"dominoes" in life are not pleasant.
So much in life doesn't make sense at the moment.
Dominoes can knock us down with surprise,
provoking fear and confusion.
Others can be downright tragic and heartbreaking.
Where do you find yourself today?
In the midst of desired dominoes or unwanted ones?*

If you don't like your dominoes, may I speak the same verses to you that the Lord put in my face that night at the restaurant?

Do not let your heart be troubled.
Do not be afraid.
Jesus gives you His **peace**.

Whether we're facing the little inconvenience of a long waiting line or the life-changing intensity of personal trauma, *all of His **peace** is available to all of us.*

When the Lord whispered the title for this writing to me, I was filled with curiosity about the etymology of the word *domino*.

You're going to love this.

The full history of the word is fun to examine, and you're free to do so with a simple internet search. The root of the word *domino*, though, is the Latin word *Dominus*, which has the following meanings:

landlord,
boss,
master,
owner,
the Lord,
Yahweh,
Jehovah.

Isn't that incredible?

We may not understand why certain dominoes appear in our lives, but we can be sure that our **Master** -- Jesus, **the Lord**, **Yahweh**, **Jehovah** -- is working out all the details. He is the **boss**, and He **owns** it all.

He may take us to point A then get us to B, and we'll settle there a while, comfortable and pleased. Suddenly we'll be yanked to point C, and nothing makes sense. By the time we reach point G or K though, we can look back and see the Lord's good hand in it all.

Isn't it **just like God** to use all those dominoes to work His will in our lives and the lives of others? When we look at things from His perspective, we may even find ourselves **liking** the dominoes. And **liking** the way God works, too.

Dear people, the Lord's got you. Keep surrendering all those dominoes to Him.

*"A man's heart plans his way,
but the Lord directs his steps."
Proverbs 19:6*

Have you listened yet to the June women's brunch message, "A Word in Season: Food for Thought"? The link is [here](#). May you be blessed with God's yummy stuff for your spirit and soul!

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