



Empty Spaces

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Eternally Speaking Now

A dear friend my age recently had surgery. Progressive, high-risk cancer had been discovered, and within days, she had an emergency hysterectomy. Everything happened rapidly, and none of it was expected.

As we prayed together on the phone the other night, I was startled by the reality that a section of her **body** was now **gone**.
Removed. Forever **taken away**.

Deep compassion stirred within me, and I found myself requesting,

“Jesus, **fill** that **open spot** inside her with...*more of You*.
Yes, **replace** that **emptiness** with a fresh, unique,
personal **overflow** of *Your Presence*.”

Suddenly we both knew that the Holy Spirit had done something powerful. He'd **invaded** our phone call with a timely and precious truth: *God fills our empty spaces*. Not just the **deficit** of the human spirit for salvation, but also the **hollow expanse** of the heart, mind, will, emotions, and yes, I believe, even the **body**. He can **inhabit** all our **voids**.

If Jesus is your Lord, then your **body** is God's **temple**, where His Spirit **resides**. You get to meet with Him, talk with Him, and be with Him at any time and place. You have the privilege and honor to welcome His **Presence** to **satisfy** every **area** of your soul, *including your physical parts*. What a profound reality to experience.

*"Or do you not know that your **body** is the **temple** of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?" I Corinthians 6:19*

Years before I was married, I experienced a **terrible time of trouble and suffering**, during which I was left with **unresolved** pain and **loss**. I longed to find something-- *anything in my own strength*-- to **replace** the **ache, loneliness, and gnawing black hole** within. Thankfully (and despite myself), the Lord held me back from running to the things of this world for **relief** and instead gave me a holy determination to **wait** on *Him* to be the One to "**fill** my **blanks**."

Here is a poem I wrote at that time:

*I will stay empty,
I will stay waiting,
Until You fill me, fill me with You.
I will stay empty,*

*I will stay waiting,
Until You fill me, fill me with You.
It may be soon...but then it may not.
I will stay empty,
I will stay waiting,
Until You fill me, fill me with You.*

Years have passed, and I've learned this process takes time. Some of life's **barren areas** are **satisfied** right away, some take longer, and others are still in the process of a gradual **re-filling** today.

I guess you could say that life is riddled with multiple **empty spots**, presenting the **choice** to either run ahead of God and stuff the **holes** with quick-fixes or wait on Him and trust in His ways and plans.

I can report from personal experience that His ways are always best.

*"You will show me the path of life;
in **Your presence** is fullness of **joy**;
at Your right hand are **pleasures** forevermore."
Psalm 16:11*

CHALLENGE

What is your **empty space**?

A **lost** job or missed opportunity?

An **empty** nest?

Emotional wounds that are **void** of pure love?

A loved one who left behind a **gap** that won't go away?

Have you had surgery to **remove** a gland, organ, or other body part?

What if we ask Jesus to **permeate** that **desolate area** with His **Presence**? I don't know what the specific result will be—it will look different for each of us—but *I do know that it will be **good**.*

*"The Lord is **good** to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works." Psalm 145:9*

Dear people, let's not grab for the nearest "filler" to **numb the pain, replace the loss, calm the fear, or comfort the anxiety.** Instead, let's **usher the Presence of the Lord** into that **emptiness.**
*Claim the **loss** for His purposes.*

How?

Fall at the feet of Jesus and talk with Him.

Share your heart with Him.

Pour everything out at His feet.

Trust Him with all your **unknowns, concerns, and doubts.**

Welcome Him into every **closet, corner, and crevice.**

That is what my friend did.

Here is what she said when I asked permission to share her story:

*"This has all been such a shock and whirlwind, but one thing I know for sure is that I want God's name to be glorified. It is only because of the power of prayer, God's mercy and grace, and the **presence of the Holy Spirit**, that I have been able to move through each step of this journey. **God's presence** has been with me at each step. Not that I haven't had my moments of fear, but **God has been there.**"*

Now *that's* what it's like for the **Presence of God** to **fill** our **empty spaces.**

*"...know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be **filled** with all the **fullness** of God." Ephesians 3:19*

Check out this new worship song. It's my latest favorite! The Lord led me to it after writing this, and it fits the theme perfectly. It's beautiful.

"Fresh Wind" Worship Song