

Well, it happened.

## I turned fifty.

*And I love it.*

But it didn't come without a little hiccup along the way...

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A week before March 20, my husband informed me that he had a **surprise** planned for the day of my birthday. I kindly responded with a half-smile and nod, along with a cordial 'thank you.'

As I went through my day though, I noticed I was getting easily irritated. In fact, I was feeling more and more frustrated. I asked the Lord what was wrong, and His Spirit revealed that I was bugged by the pending, mysterious, *unknown-to-me* 'birthday **surprise**.'

I responded in agreement with God, blurting out to Him,

*"I don't want to be **surprised**. I want to decide what to do on my 50th. How can I plan if I don't know what to plan for? What if it's something I don't like?"*

And then it became clear:

I wanted to be *in control*.

I wanted *to know*.

Yikes. I felt terrible. My sweetie had obviously put time and energy and love and selflessness into thinking all about me, and I was not only ungrateful, but also unhappy!

Once again, I was reminded of Eve in Genesis 3. She too wanted to be *in control*. She wanted *to know*. Despite what the Lord and her husband had instructed.

*Any ladies out there relate?*

There's someone else who wants **control** and wants **to know**- it's the very **snake** who tempted Eve. Satan himself fell from heaven because of his desire to **be omniscient-- to know all**, like the Most High God. (Isaiah 14:14)

Finding it **repulsive** to be in any form of agreement with the devil, I immediately **fell down** before the Lord, confessed to Him **the sins of 'control' and 'the need to know,' admitted my lack of trust in Him**, and asked Him to forgive me.

For the millionth time, **sweet Jesus forgave me** and cleansed me from all that yucky unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9-10) ***The sin in my heart had stolen my joy all day!*** (John 10:10) And then, as He always does when sin is removed, the Heavenly Father 'made room in my heart for the truth.' (John 8:36-37)

As I chose to

**trust the Lord** and to

**trust the husband He chose for me,**

I got excited. About being **surprised!**

I was at total peace. About **not knowing** it all!

**Yes, I actually delighted in not knowing the surprise.**

## I was free!

I felt like a kid who was promised a trip to the candy store.  
All expenses paid, all travel arrangements done.

*My birthday **surprise** turned out to be awesome:  
It was a ticket for indoor flying!*

*Check out the instructions they gave me as I stepped into the wind tunnel:*

1. **Look up.**
2. **Raise your hands.**
3. **Fall into the wind.**



*The instructor clearly stated:  
if you do not **keep looking up**,  
and if you do not **keep your arms raised**,  
you will literally sink-- you'll  
**fall down and not be lifted up.***

That afternoon, I **stepped into nothingness**  
and was **upheld by the wind.**

I don't want to think about how messy things could have gotten- and how hurt my dear husband could have been- if I'd exerted onto him a **fearful need for control**, or a **manipulative 'need to know.'** I'd also have missed out on an amazing blessing and a thrilling experience.

## **CHALLENGE:**

Is there a situation or an area of your life that you're trying to **control** or **manipulate**? It's usually a sign of **fear** and a **lack of trust in God**. Yes, He's called us to be good stewards and take responsibility of our time, talents, resources, children, and marriage-- *but only under His lordship*.

**Look up** to Him,  
**raise your hands** in absolute abandon and worship,  
**then fall** into the Presence of His Holy Spirit,  
**trusting Him** to uphold you.

At first it may seem like **falling into nothingness**, but  
God's faithfulness is **bigger**.

*“Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The everlasting God, the LORD,  
The Creator of the ends of the earth,  
Neither faints nor is weary.  
His understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the weak,  
And to those who have no might He increases strength.  
Even the youths shall faint and be weary,  
And the young men shall utterly fall,  
But those who wait on the LORD  
Shall renew their strength;  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
They shall run and not be weary,  
They shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:28-31*

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