



JLH Women's Mentoring Saturday Devotions *May 5th 2018*

Experiencing A Joyous Journey

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Two years ago, my daughter had a miscarriage at 22 weeks due to many complicated issues. I've witnessed and mentored many mothers who lost a child during pregnancy. Although it was painful hearing from others' experiences, it's even more painful when it happens close to home. As I held my daughter's hands all I could say was, "Do not be angry with the Lord but Give him Thanks. No matter what, Give Him Thanks!" My daughter began to weep heavily. As she looked across the room at her deceased child lying on the table, she said "I love you Jesus and I am **not** mad at you. Thank you," and she began to speak in tongues right there in the hospital bed. I began weeping, saying, "Thank you Lord. Give her double for her troubles," and I also began to speak in tongues with her. ***1Thessalonians 5:18 In EVERYTHING give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***

Last September, my daughter called and told me she was pregnant with twins. I was silent as God brought back to my remembrance when I prayed, "Lord, give her double for her troubles." I should have said a double portion of the anointing, but he knew the plans he had for her. One day at her doctor's visit, the doctor explained she would have to abort one of the twins due to complications and her baby would not survive. Immediately my daughter declared God is a HEALER and she would not abort her baby! The doctor was upset with her choice, stating the baby would have difficulties. The Lord sent her another doctor to perform a cerclage because the twins were trying to come at 10 weeks. We had many praying for her to go past 34 weeks, a safe delivery, and the babies' health and strength. She had a dream two months before she delivered. As fear began to grip her, the Lord gave her peace and she did not doubt the Lord would keep his promise. On April 14th, she delivered twin girls, 5lbs 7ozs and 4lbs 7ozs, at 34 weeks. The Lord told me to call them Joyous and Journey. ***1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: BUT rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's suffering, that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.***

We should not give up hope and become ungrateful because we face life's challenges. The Lord explains that we will go through life experiencing difficulties. Regardless of our skin color, age, or financial state, if you're born in the parts of the world beginning with the letters A- Z, you will have challenges. How you go through those challenges will be a choice. Do we face life complaining about everything that is going wrong in our lives or do we count it all joy? I'm not saying it's not difficult at times, but know who can give you peace in the midst of your storms: no one but Jesus! Don't just rejoice in material things but rejoice in all things. When you have and have not, in the good and the bad, it all works together for the good. ***Romans 8:28***

When Job lost everything including his children, he declared God was in control. ***Job 1:21 And he said, "Naked he came from his mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." (KNJV)*** When King David lost his child, he got up and worshipped the Lord. ***2 Samuel 12:20 Then David got up from the ground. After he washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshipped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.***

The Lord blessed King David with another son and the Lord called the child Jedidiah, meaning "Beloved of the LORD." Ladies, I must say we serve a GREAT and MERCIFUL God and life's challenges come sometimes from our own mistakes, but Jesus forgives us of our sins daily. ***Lamentations 3:22-23 Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.***

My daughter had the opportunity to take home Joyous while Journey had difficulty breathing and required surgery four days after delivery. Today Journey is doing great and will be home with mom, dad, her sister, and brother soon. Last night I held Journey in my arms for the first time and sang "Jesus Loves Me", and to see a smile on her little face made me believe she knew because He got her through this journey. When the doctors say No, Jesus says Yes! The nurse was rejoicing with us and took pictures, a moment of witnessing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who deserves ALL THE GLORY! If you know someone who may be going through a trial, let us pray and encourage them. God is able. Amen. Love you, and God Bless.

Psalm 127:3 Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him.