

THE WAY GOD WALKS WITH US

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EPISODE 4:

How God Sees our Learning Part 3: God Works All Things for His Good Pleasure

"It is God working in us for His good pleasure. He never gets tired of working in us. Therefore, we should never get tired of Him working on us. The whole process of sanctification is a huge delight for Him and needs to become a joyful part of our fellowship." - GRAHAM COOKE

If you're feeling overwhelmed in your process of development, your life may have become a long list of all you need to change, piled into the same space. You were never meant to live in the Work Space 24/7!

This is why we're not fans of "52 Life-Changing Messages a Year." In that culture, people leave each week learning one more thing they lack that they need to work on. The internal pile of self-improvement spirituality projects invades every aspect of their lives, creating distress, discouragement and condemnation.

God has three specific and varied ways that He delights in being with us:

- + Your **Living Space** is a present/past place in Jesus where you celebrate each other, your past victories, and relax in His completed work of the cross.
- + Your **Work Space** with the Father is where He is presently crafting your image to become more like His. The Father presents you with His focus. You don't hand Him yours!
- + Your **Storage Space** is for everything God is **not** working on. The Holy Spirit holds the keys and stands guard against shame, judgement and condemnation. When the Father is ready for something new in the Work Space, the Holy Spirit brings it to Him.

Craftsmanship takes time, which is one more way that **Slow Learning is Great Learning**. Your life is a masterpiece to God that He delights in creating beautifully and skillfully with you (Ephesians 2:10.) He wants *His* joy to become *your* joy in that process!

ACTIVATION 1: SORTING YOUR SPACES

1. *Make a list:*

Before you listened to this episode, what are the areas of spiritual development that you have (or feel you should have) been working on in the past few months. Make a list.

2. *Rejoice and give thanks.*

If you're realizing that your spaces are rather jumbled, remember to see God with a huge grin on His face. He is *delighted* to sort through these with you! So, before you do anything else, engage in a time of worship and thanksgiving for the good plans God has for you.

Listen to Episode 1 again to remind yourself just how beloved and accepted you are.

Pray with God in anticipation:

Jesus,

*You are my champion, my redeemer and my Friend..
You in me and I in you, rejoicing over who I am and am becoming!
With You, every day is a Day of Grace that we relax in together.*

Thank you for the transformation I've seen in my _____ (think of one or more areas of victory you've experienced and name them.)

Father,

*You are the Author and Finisher of who you created me to be in Christ.
You are the initiator of every good work in me.
I am safe in Your hands because You are a caring, Master Craftsman.
I look forward to discovering Your good plans for me in our Work Space.*

Holy Spirit,

*You are the guardian of my Storage Space.
When You look around it, Your eyes see only shining possibilities.
You know what everything in here can become in the Father's hands.*

You hold the Keys of the Kingdom, keeping shame and condemnation out and preventing the enemy from getting in. Only You and the Father decide what leaves this space.

*Because of Your delight in me, I delight in you.
Because You have loved me first, I love you in return.
As Jesus was in this world, so I am and am becoming in you.
I choose to be as delighted about that as You have always been.*

You can use these Crafted Prayers as they are, adapt them or write your own. Do whatever seems best to you and the Holy Spirit!

Maybe you want to write Jesus a "thank you" note about your past victories? Be as creative and innovative as you like!

But, wait until you have a tangible sense of God's delight in who you are and who you are becoming before moving into the sorting process.

3. Do an initial sort of your spaces.

For each item on that list, explore with the Holy Spirit:
Does this belong in my Living Space, Work Space or Storage Space?

Jot down a few notes for each as to what you *think* is in each.

4. Explore your new spaces:

For Living Space items, consider these questions:

- + How is Jesus celebrating your relationship with Him and development in that area?
- + What victories or breakthroughs have you seen in the past?
 - Was it a final breakthrough or a partial release?
 - Did you keep what you learned?
 - Is there more that God wants to give you from a previous, partial breakthrough? If so, ask Him if it needs to move into the Work Space or Storage Space.

For your Work Space item (there is usually only one):

- + Describe how God initiated this focus for this time.
- + What promises is He making to you about who He will be for you and who you get to become?
- + What Truth is He delighted to see become your everyday reality?
- + What do you think some of His good plans for you are?
- + Is there anything else you realize you need to move to your Storage Space?

For your Storage Space:

- + It is important to renew your mind and heart in the delight that the Holy Spirit has in guarding your Storage Space from condemnation, guilt and shame. There are no problems stored here, only possibilities.
- + Are there any old mindsets or perceptions that He is sweeping out?
- + What are the possibilities He is looking forward to you discovering?

In the coming days, weeks or months, you may want to re-sort things. Go ahead! This is a way of living and being with God from here forward, not a project to be completed once and for all.

As you gain greater clarity, you can align and re-align your Living, Work, and Storage Spaces anytime you that seems good to you and the Holy Spirit.

Keep it living, light and joyful!

Graham and Allison