

IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT
TEACH, SUPPORT AND
ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER
IN OUR PERSONAL WALK
WITH THE LORD.

GOOD NEWS



Let It Go

Rebecca Swymeler

When thinking about what to write, the tune to "Frozen" just kept whirling around my brain like the howling wind associated with the Disney movie.

"The wind is howling like this swirling storm inside
Couldn't keep it in, heaven knows I've tried
Don't let them in, don't let them see
Be the good girl you always have to be
Conceal, don't feel, don't let them know
Well, now they know."

As women, we cling to things tightly, don't we? Whether it is the emotional hurt of that high school relationship that went bad years ago, bitterness about that promotion we thought we deserved but didn't get, the ache of a failed marriage, a wayward child that you had such spiritual hopes for, or the betrayal of a friend that you thought was rock solid. We try to hide what we are feeling from not only others but most of all the Lord. "Don't let them in, don't let them see." "Conceal, don't feel, don't let them know."

As a young married woman, I was a clammer upper! (I know you guys find this statement so hard to believe, but it is true!) If my husband said something that hurt my feelings, I would bottle it up for months and then at the worst possible time explode like a volcano. I was seeking help from our former pastor one day thinking that he would take my side and tell me just how bad I was being mistreated, but instead he asked me, "Have you talked to him about how you feel?" "Well no," I said. "Then don't you think it is time to give him a chance and tell him what is bugging you and let this go?" he wisely asked. Being married now for 50 years, I can tell you that taking his sound advice has allowed me to keep short accounts not only in my marriage but to the Lord as well.

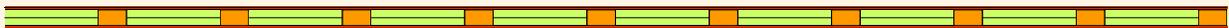
I just ran across something I had written in my journal in 1986 reminding me of this fact. Our youngest son was just beginning to go to school all day, our middle son was becoming a teenager, and our oldest was getting his first car. The future was unknown, and I couldn't control it. I needed to give it to God and let it go.

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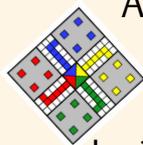
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Now fast forward to today. Each one of our boys is married with families of their own, and now have teenagers of their own who are learning to drive! (Why do I suddenly want to break out singing "The Circle of Life?" It must be a Disney kind of day!) It was a difficult thing to do as a mom to give them, and my worry, up to God. When I wrote those words, I had been reading about how Abraham in Genesis 22 was asked to do the ultimate task of "letting go" with his son Isaac. But these words, spoken from an angel sent by God, still resonate to me in verse 12: *"Do not lay a hand upon the boy,"* he said. *"Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."*

This got me to thinking about today, what am I withholding in my own spiritual life? Is it bitterness? Is it unforgiveness? Is it my own needs and wants over what God wants to do through me? Is it worry and concern over something that I physically and emotionally have no control over? Then perhaps it is time to climb that mountain once again with Abraham and lay all the unknowns, doubts, insecurities, and worries of this life on the altar. Perhaps it is time to seek God's forgiveness for not really trusting Him as I should. The great thing is, just as God provided the perfect sacrifice for Abraham to lay on the altar, He gave to me the perfect sacrifice of His Son, who tells me in I John 1:9: *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* And that, my dear sisters, is the only real way you or I can ever begin to let it go!



Women's Ministry Game Night
April 26th @ 7 p.m. at the home of
Tami Robbins, 20306 Ehle Road,
Woodburn



Invite a friend and join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. Please bring a game and snack to share. We will also be collecting items that we can use to fill blessing baskets to give to those who need encouragement. Check the Women's Kiosk for a list of ideas.





Deeply Rooted
August 16 - 17
Indianapolis, IN
Bankers Life Fieldhouse

Women of Joy 2019 Tour "Deeply Rooted" will be in Indianapolis on August 16 and 17. Speakers are Jennie Allen, Margaret Feinberg, Karen Kingsbury, and Angela Thomas Pharr. We will be ordering group tickets for any woman interested in going with other women from our church. The cost for tickets is \$99 plus lodging and meals. The ticket also includes Mercy Me in concert. The deadline to register and pay for your ticket is May 5. Please stop by the women's kiosk to reserve your spot.



Margaret Feinberg



Angela Thomas Pharr



Karen Kingsbury



Jennie Allen



Mercy Me



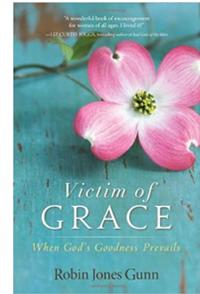
Charles Billingsley

Book Review

Emily Gruber

Victim of Grace: When God's Goodness Prevails

Robin Jones Gunn



This book highlights the very fact that God alone allows us to be victims of grace, rather than victims of our circumstances. Gunn mentions in her book "God manifests his unmerited favor in the lives of ordinary women." (p. 15) To be separated from being victims of our circumstances, we need to allow God to work in our lives. Having a personal relationship with his Son, Jesus Christ, allows Him to mold us and change us. Sometimes, life seems so much easier when we fall victim to our circumstances. Sometimes, we want others to look upon us and feel some sort of empathy to want to help us. However, true empathy comes from a deeper place than what is taking place on the surface. Sacrificial love in our hearts and souls from Jesus allows us to experience grace. "I discovered that grace is also the source of strength. By His Spirit, God empowers us to exercise the discipline and consistency necessary to live out his plans in our lives." (p. 50) Gunn highlights seasons of grace in the lives of various women throughout scripture. She makes connections to her personal life by mentioning that God works through her friends to demonstrate grace to her.

