



## don't mistake the end for the middle

It's hard to distinguish colors in the dark.

If you're fighting depression, fear, anxiety, condemnation, or any of their cohorts, remember that not everything you're thinking, feeling, and perceiving reflects reality.

Keep in mind that you're fighting darkness, which obscures colors and lines. It blurs shapes and makes bright things gloomy.

It helps to not take darkness so seriously, to keep in mind that things are lighter and freer and more hopeful than they seem.

And knowing that makes a big difference.

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

*For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.*

*And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

— *Isaiah 60:1-3*

Oh Beloved, did you forget who you are? Equipped and guided, led by a strong hand...looked after, held, watched over, affectionately favored by the King.

And I wonder if you've forgotten that you are a fighter, if the enemy has made you feel like your sword was too dangerous. So instead of wielding it better (which would hurt him) he convinced you to lay it aside entirely to be safe.

But God is not asking us to be safe or protect ourselves; He's the one who is our safety and protection. You are a bold warrior and the Kingdom needs you out there. The enemy is desperate to keep you from the fight.





God is eager to pour out more mercy and grace to you. It's what He paid for, and He wants the full reward of what He died for. So hey, Love...you would be inconsiderate not to take it.

It's the lies of the enemy again that tell you, "Nope, you've had enough, stop getting in line for this, it's someone else's turn." He's hoping we'll fall for that trick again, believing God is too small or too stingy or too limited to do and be everything He really is.

But we have to ask for more grace and mercy, because He's already made it available to us. To act like we shouldn't take it is to put our judgment above God's.

He's a good dad. He knows what we need. He wants us to ask for and receive it.

*Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

— *Romans 5:2*

When anxiety rears up, we tend to feel frantic, like we need to hurry up and do something even though we often have no idea what to do.

But God is not in a rush. That isn't to say He doesn't care, doesn't know our need, or is having fun at our expense. It means He already knows what's on the next page, and He isn't in a hurry to turn to it.

He knows how the answer is going to be revealed, and He knows exactly how stressed out you are in trying to anticipate it while you endure the unknowing.

You know why we're not good at the waiting? Because usually the answers come so fast we don't have time for anxiety. All the millions of little things that resolve themselves throughout the day (*What do we get for a gift? What should this kid's consequence be? Where will I put the broody chicken?*) are not any bigger in His eyes than the big things we're facing right now that also need answers.

We don't think to even trust Him in those everyday things, but He is just as faithful in the big things. He's showing us that we can trust Him, no matter what.





*The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.*  
— Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord knows that you've done what you could, but this situation still hasn't turned out the way you wanted, dreamed, or expected it to. He knows you worked and prayed so hard to have it turn out differently.

It's still turning out, though.

Don't mistake this as the end when it's still the middle. He's not done yet, and neither are you.

*Behold, I am doing a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*  
— Isaiah 43:19

*But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.*  
— Malachi 4:2

