

Women in the Church Newsletter

Transformed to pursue the glory of God in our daily lives

-Becoming What We Behold-

QUARANTINE DAYS!!



Doug & Diane Anderson enjoying the sunshine :)



Pat Guthrie enjoying Jesus!



**Missionary
Focus**

**Dennis & Judy "B"
MNA,
Philadelphia**

**Kiersten
Hutchinson-
TEAM, Zimbabwe**

**Greenville
Presbyterian
Theological
Seminary**

**George & Martha
Mixon-
SERGE, Kenya**



**Transformed by
Susan Hunt**

Chapter 6: Sarah's Sanctification

We read in this chapter that "*Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness.*" Genesis 15:6. What in the world does that verse have to do with Sarah's Sanctification?! Well, it was almost 24 years between the first time God promised an heir to this couple and when Sarah actually got pregnant! Talk about trusting in God's promises...

WAITING is hard, but oh so SANCTIFYING.

We see in this chapter that Sarah wasn't perfect. She messed up and followed her flesh at times, but she also learned the unfailing love of our gracious God.

We are all waiting for something: COVID19 to be over, a huge family gathering, movie theaters to open up, our kids to graduate, our loved ones to come to faith, Heaven...

While we wait, what are we beholding? What are we trusting in?

Or better yet, Who are you beholding and Who are you trusting?



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Testimony Corner: Meagan Pratt

To be honest, I've dreaded the day when Monica might ask that I share my testimony in the WIC newsletter. I knew that I would, of course, say yes if asked because who can say no to Monica??? I don't share well. I'm a listener by nature and putting my struggle out there does not come easily to me. But here we are, Monica inevitably asked, and I complied. ☺

I recently read a quote, which I can't find again, that resonated with me. It said something to the effect that *Christians are afraid to share our struggle because it reveals our weakness*. So here I am sharing the messiness of my struggle, revealing my weakness with the prayer that it might be used for some kind of good.

The one year anniversary of my Uncle Joe's death is coming up in May. Joe collapsed on a Blacksburg sidewalk in February 2018. At first it was thought to be a stroke, but further scans and tests revealed that he had a brain tumor...an aggressive, merciless brain tumor. It seemed impossible. Joe was larger than life. Vibrant, energetic, outgoing, and faithful. A born storyteller, harbinger of fun, friend to all. His family and friends watched as he underwent treatment, fought, and eventually lost his battle in May 2019. It was hard. Messy. Heartbreaking.

Prior to Joe's diagnosis our family had been through a series of other trials. Mom's benign, but damaging, tumor on her spinal cord, dad's multiple bovine accidents, and my Aunt Karen's long battle with disease, to name a few. Following those hard years, Joe's diagnosis was like a punch in the gut. And the rest of life didn't stop as Joe fought the tumor. Other family members died, dear friends tragically lost loved ones, and my students (I'm a high school counselor) experienced trauma after trauma. I was angry, heartbroken, and overwhelmed by the weight of it. I felt guilty for feeling lost and angry. I knew that God works for the good of His people even in suffering, but I didn't feel it. I knew without a shadow of a doubt that Joe loved God and wholeheartedly believed and relied upon His message of grace and salvation, but it didn't bring much comfort.

Last summer my cousin, Hannah, directed me to a book about pain and suffering and the concept of hopeful lament. Some of the weight and guilt was lifted from my shoulders as I read. It seemed acceptable to acknowledge the awfulness of the darkness as I was reminded of God's grace and presence in life's sorrow.

I'm still being crafted in my brokenness, but in the rawness of grief I can thankfully see growth. Hope flickers that this experience, paired with others, is producing a steadfastness that will prepare me for the next trial and equip me to better serve others in their time of grief. I crave and pray for the strength to walk through impending waters with grace and composure while leaning on the comfort of His truth, mercy, grace, and His gift of community.

Psalm 34:18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned and the flame shall not consume you.

James 1:2-3 Count it all joy my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

The book mentioned above is titled, Embodied Hope by Kelly M. Kapic and is available in the DVPC library. ©