

Change

3/12/2022

If you don't adjust well to change, I imagine you're feeling very uncomfortable considering all that is happening around us in our neighborhoods, cities, country, and the world. Change most certainly is inevitable, and with craziness going on around us, all I can say is "Wow!"

If you live in middle Tennessee, never has change been more evident than in our weather. Yesterday I woke to a sunny drive in to work, we hit a high temperature around 70 degrees. By the time I was driving home from work, it started to rain, then it turned to slush as I watched the temperature gauge in my car steadily go down. I think it was around 37 degrees the last time I looked. It started snowing hard right before I pulled into my garage, and now this Saturday morning, I'm looking out my window to see a winter wonderland. It's a common saying here that "If you stay in Tennessee long enough, you're likely to see all four seasons in one day." It is a fact.

I know the news and images from war, supply shortages, and ever-rising gas prices are disheartening. I don't ever watch the news. I catch headlines now and then, but I refuse to allow myself to get sucked into that realm of negativity. I can create an atmosphere of gloom and doom all by myself if I want to, but the fact is that I can't afford to do that. As many of us are, concern over what the future will be like for our children and grandchildren, and if we're blessed with a longer life, even our great-grandchildren are first and foremost on our minds.

I can remember holding my firstborn, my daughter, as we watched the news of the Oklahoma City bombing, realizing there was a full daycare inside that building. I was overcome with despair, feeling guilty for bringing this little innocent into a world that is capable of such things. I remember being at home folding laundry with my toddler underfoot, who is now twenty-three, as we watched airplanes purposely crashing into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. Does anyone remember the anthrax scare that came after that? If you remember that time firsthand, I know you understand the state of mind I was in. It was surreal.

Well, here we are again. The war between Russia and Ukraine is absolutely awful. But what concerns me more is the possibility of China coming to the aide of Russia. I was very careful to use the word 'concern' over the words 'scares me' or 'I'm afraid of'. As a Christian, I know God has this. He always has. He knew this was coming, and he already knows the outcome. Not one moment of worry will change that fact. He knew President Biden would be in office at this time, and he knows the fate of our country. Just as he knew Rome would become one of the greatest powers of our history, he knew it was going to fall. And so, it goes. Change is coming.

Will one moment of worry change any of these things? Can you, as a single person, change the outcome of what is inevitable by worrying about it? Of course not. We all need to think of the most important thing that we can do, and I believe that is preparing ourselves and our loved ones for eternity. I know that I know that God is watching and waiting. I think I will write a blog soon, solely on the ways God has shown himself to me. I can't tell you how many times, just in the last year, where he has answered specific prayers or has guided me in my decisions. And just like change, HE is coming, too.

Tell your family members, your friends, your neighbors, that God loves them. He wants to have a personal relationship with all of us. There is nothing like it. I am proud and humbled that I have placed my life in his capable hands. No matter what. I feel a natural sense of wanting to

protect my loved ones and will do all I can, as long as I am able. But I am not afraid, because I am not alone. God has given me, us, a job to do. Change is coming, so it's time to get busy.

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:20-21)

Finally, there is one personal testimony I want to share with you. If you have followed my story, you know I recently divorced and I'm raising my grandsons, virtually alone. I have been carrying a lot of anger and animosity toward my ex-husband for a very long time. I know what scriptures say about these things, but it isn't the easiest feat to end a marriage of thirty-one years without a little fall-out. But as always, God is faithful to see me through the tough spots.

Earlier this week, I dropped the boys off to stay with their great grandparents, my ex-husband's parents, for a few days during spring break. I don't know if it was a result of seeing my ex-in-laws, but I do know it was a God thing. I realized as the week progressed that I was no longer mad at my ex-husband. All the anger, the resentment, gone. Don't get me wrong... I will never forget the hurt, but anger no longer has a hold over me. I am free, and I am doing just fine. God is my refuge and my strength. Always.

