

Recently I saw a t-shirt that I just love. It was a plain brown shirt that simply said, "I'm Jesus' favorite." Doesn't that say it all? This is how each one of us should feel in our relationship with Him. Of course we don't always feel this way, and even wonder if He's even hearing our prayers. I'm absolutely sure we are the ones that move...not Him. But some days, I know He is smiling down on me. There are days when I'm sure I have His approval, just as I am sure there are days when I don't.

Growing up, even with all the woes I have lived through, I always believed there was something special about me. I knew I was going to be different, and do something extraordinary one day. Does everyone have this feeling? I was talking with a friend once, and she said, "Oh, we all feel that way." How can we feel special, when everyone believes they are special? Doesn't that remove 'special' from the equation? If we're all special, then we're really all the same, even ordinary, right?

Now that my brain has exploded from overthinking this, I am still certain that God has great plans for me. He has great plans for each of us, but it is up to us to determine and be obedient to what those plans are. I knew my home life as an adult would be different from when I was growing up, and thank God, it most definitely is. I knew when I married, it wouldn't always be easy, but I was determined it would last. We made it through thirty-two years, but as we all know, things change. I knew early on that when I had my own children, they would know they were loved and they would know I 'have their back', so to speak. We've had our quarrels, ups and downs, but I can say at this very moment that I have a good relationship with all three of my kids. That's a blessing I wasn't sure would ever come.

I have dreamed of visiting far-away places, and I have seen many. I have envisioned meeting certain people whom I truly admire, and I have met them. I have set my sights on accomplishing things I had been told I never would be able to, and I have succeeded. Please know I am not boasting about myself in any way. On the contrary, I am praising my Lord and Savior for His limitless blessings in my life. I am also praising Him for the hard times and lessons He has placed before me. And there have been many. Oh, I praise Him, again and again.

Perhaps seeking out and realizing God's plan for us is what makes us special. Yes, I believe that may be it. So many people go through this life always wondering, "Why?" They work hard at whatever they are doing, not realizing that what they're doing has nothing to do with what God had planned for their life. They are virtually spinning their wheels, wondering why they are so exhausted at the end of the day. We are special when we realize that we need to stop talking and just 'be still and listen'. God tells us not to worry about tomorrow, yet we do. I know I am guilty of this, more often than I care to admit.

I also believe the biggest mistake any one of us can make, is to assume this life is ours at all. Many times in God's Word, our lives are described as a 'vapor', here today, gone tomorrow. The very thing that makes us extraordinary, is realizing we are the 'created' and not the Creator. We need to allow God to do His work in us. I know it isn't easy to look around and wonder why God gave certain gifts to one, and not the other. Consider others who are greatly afflicted with sickness or those who are disabled, looking at you and me in the same way we are envying the 'gifted' ones.

He has a plan for each of us, and that is what makes us special to Him. We are to know Him and learn His ways, so we can know His plan for us. This is what makes us truly special. I'm so glad I'm Jesus' favorite. I hope you are too.