

Victorious Parenting

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Do you ever feel like your life as a mother is far worse than what you can endure? Do you look around at the lives of other women and feel cheated in comparison? When we have been pushed to extremes of heartache, physical pain, weariness, or grief, we have many questions for God:

- God, why did You allow this? What did I do to deserve this?
- How can I possibly get through *tomorrow*? Yet alone next week or next year?
- When will this end? When will God save me from this situation?
- Why does everyone else have it easier?
- Where will I find enough strength?
- Will I ever truly be happy again?

Once upon a time, I had a perfect future mapped out for my family. My husband and I traveled the world, made great money, and had started a beautiful family with a sweet healthy girl. Then our dreams changed forever. I gave birth to premature twins girls: one soon went home to Heaven, the other stayed with us. But she had multiple disabilities and health issues. Devastated by grief and paralyzed by fear, I didn't expect to experience the same strength and happiness ever again.

BUT GOD...opened a door to more love, peace, and joy than I have ever experienced.

When our surviving baby was one-year old, I asked God to help me love my life and love her. I asked Him to help me find joy in motherhood again. He did! He showed me how to walk in contentment *within* my circumstances and discover deep wells of strength and joy.

How do we find Victory in the Parenting Journey? And Resources

1. First, I had to change my inner monologue. Instead of repeating statements such as "I am too tired." "How will we survive this?" I proclaimed Biblical truth and joy such as *God has given me great things!* (Roman 8:28) *The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want.* (Psalm 23) I didn't allow negative thoughts or lies about my situation control my heart and head.
2. I stopped comparing myself to others. (Titus 3:3) *My life is special and God-given* (Psalm 16:5-6). Looking at my life through the lenses of social media or cultural expectations is both toxic and destructive. I now believe and proclaim that God is doing great things through me and my family. I have excitement and enthusiasm for the life we have, even with its difficulties.
3. I learned to rest in God's provision. I read *Your Best Life in Jesus' Easy Yoke* by Bill Gaultiere and was thrilled to discover peace and strength is available as we learn to trust God. *We do not need to worry about tomorrow.* (Matthew 6:34)
4. Every day, I constantly cultivate an enduring relationship with God and as I learn to live in His presence. The daily devotional *Every Day in His Presence* by Charles Stanley helped me gain understanding of God's goodness as I developed my habit of walking in His grace.

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