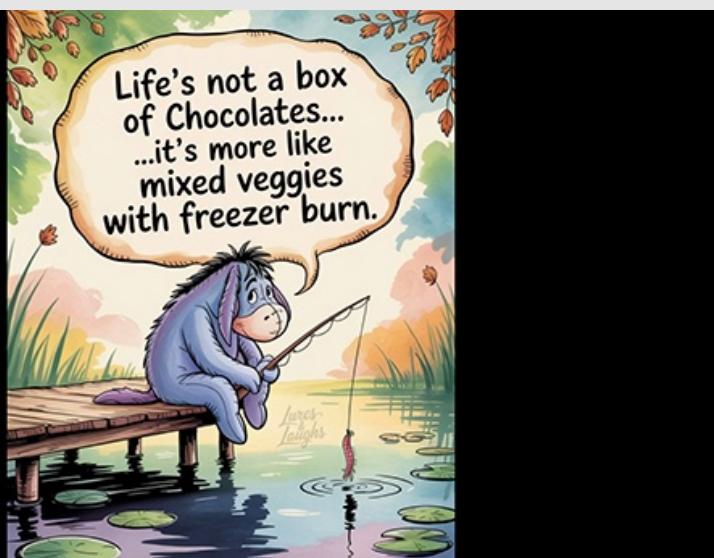


¹AS A DEER PANTS FOR FLOWING STREAMS, SO PANTS MY SOUL FOR YOU, O GOD. ²MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR GOD, FOR THE LIVING GOD. WHEN SHALL I COME AND APPEAR BEFORE GOD? ³MY TEARS HAVE BEEN MY FOOD DAY AND NIGHT, WHILE THEY SAY TO ME ALL THE DAY LONG, "WHERE IS YOUR GOD?" ⁴THESE THINGS I REMEMBER, AS I POUR OUT MY SOUL: HOW I WOULD GO WITH THE THRONG AND LEAD THEM IN PROCESSION TO THE HOUSE OF GOD WITH GLAD SHOUTS AND SONGS OF PRAISE, A MULTITUDE KEEPING FESTIVAL. ⁵WHY ARE YOU CAST DOWN, O MY SOUL, AND WHY ARE YOU IN TURMOIL WITHIN ME? HOPE IN GOD; FOR I SHALL AGAIN PRAISE HIM, MY SALVATION ⁶AND MY GOD. MY SOUL IS CAST DOWN WITHIN ME;

.001.tiff

THEREFORE I REMEMBER YOU FROM THE LAND OF JORDAN AND OF HERMON, FROM MOUNT MIZAR. ⁷DEEP CALLS TO DEEP AT THE ROAR OF YOUR WATERFALLS; ALL YOUR BREAKERS AND YOUR WAVES HAVE GONE OVER ME. ⁸BY DAY THE LORD COMMANDS HIS STEADFAST LOVE, AND AT NIGHT HIS SONG IS WITH ME, A PRAYER TO THE GOD OF MY LIFE. ⁹I SAY TO GOD, MY ROCK: "WHY HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ME? WHY DO I GO MOURNING BECAUSE OF THE OPPRESSION OF THE ENEMY?" ¹⁰AS WITH A DEADLY WOUND IN MY BONES, MY ADVERSARIES TAUNT ME, WHILE THEY SAY TO ME ALL THE DAY LONG, "WHERE IS YOUR GOD?" ¹¹WHY ARE YOU CAST DOWN, O MY SOUL, AND WHY ARE YOU IN TURMOIL WITHIN ME? HOPE IN GOD; FOR I SHALL AGAIN PRAISE HIM, MY SALVATION AND MY GOD. —PSALM 42

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"BROKENNESS IS NOT SOMETHING WE SIGN UP FOR. IT'S NOT THE ELECTIVE WE CHOOSE TO GET AN EASY GRADE. BUT IT IS A NECESSITY IF WE ARE TO BE USEFUL TO THE MASTER. LIKE IT OR NOT, WHEN WE ARE BROKEN WE ARE MADE WHOLE. WHEN WE ARE WEAK, HE IS STRONG. IN THE DARKEST HOUR HE SHINES THE BRIGHTEST. IN THE PIT WE FIND THE BOTTOM IS SOLID GROUND." —MICHAEL CATT

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"NOTHING YOU EXPERIENCE IS EVER WASTED. THOUGH IT MAY BE HARD TO SEE IT RIGHT NOW, THE PAIN IN YOUR LIFE CAN BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHIFT YOUR GAZE TO THE FATHER. AS MUCH AS THE SUFFERING CAUSES YOUR HEART TO ACHE, WHEN YOUR EYES ARE SET ON HIM, YOU'LL SEE THAT GOD'S MERCY IS CARRYING YOU THROUGH EVERY SINGLE DAY."

—JENNIFER ROTHSCHILD

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THE SOUL'S DEEPEST THIRST IS FOR GOD HIMSELF, WHO HAS MADE US SO THAT WE CAN NEVER BE SATISFIED WITHOUT HIM. —F. F. BRUCE

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I. DESPERATION CULTIVATES A THIRST FOR GOD

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"THERE WAS ONCE WITHIN MAN A TRUE HAPPINESS, OF WHICH THERE NOW REMAINS TO HIM ONLY AN EMPTY TRACE WHICH HE VAINLY TRIES TO FILL OUT OF HIS ENVIRONMENT. YET ALL THESE EFFORTS ARE INADEQUATE, BECAUSE THE INFINITE ABYSS CAN ONLY BE FILLED BY AN INFINITE AND IMMUTABLE OBJECT, THAT IS, BY GOD HIMSELF."

—BLAISE PASCAL

.008.tif

¹³JESUS SAID TO HER,
“EVERYONE WHO DRINKS
OF THIS WATER WILL BE
THIRSTY AGAIN,
¹⁴BUT WHOEVER DRINKS
OF THE WATER THAT I WILL
GIVE HIM WILL NEVER BE
THIRSTY AGAIN. THE WATER
THAT I WILL GIVE HIM WILL
BECOME IN HIM A SPRING
OF WATER WELLING UP
TO ETERNAL LIFE.”
—JOHN 4:13-14

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...”SINCE OUR SOULS ARE NOT ALWAYS WELL,
EACH MUST ALL FIGHT FOR A SATISFIED SOUL.”
—DANNY AKIN

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2. DESPERATION INVITES US TO FIGHT FOR FOCUS

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“... AS I POUR OUT MY SOUL ...”
—PSALM 42:4

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**“TALK TO SELF, RATHER THAN LET
OUR CIRCUMSTANCES DO THE TALKING.”**
—MARTYN LLOYD JONES

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**WHAT IS FASTING? “BIBLICALLY, FASTING IS THE ACT OF
ABSTAINING FROM FOOD AND/OR DRINK FOR A CERTAIN
PERIOD OF TIME TO GIVE ATTENTION, TO RECEIVE
DIRECTION, OR TO DEEPEN AFFECTION FOR THE THINGS
OF GOD... CONSTANT PROPAGANDA FED US TODAY
CONVINCES US THAT IF WE DO NOT HAVE THREE LARGE
MEALS EACH DAY, WITH SEVERAL SNACKS IN BETWEEN,
WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF STARVATION. THIS COUPLED
WITH THE POPULAR BELIEF THAT IT IS A POSITIVE
VIRTUE TO SATISFY EVERY HUMAN APPETITE, HAS MADE
FASTING SEEM OBSOLETE.” —RICHARD FOSTER**

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**“IN GIVING US THE PRIVILEGE OF FASTING
AS WELL AS PRAYING, GOD HAS ADDED A
POWERFUL WEAPON TO OUR SPIRITUAL ARMORY.
IN OUR FOLLY AND IGNORANCE THE CHURCH HAS
LARGELY LOOKED UPON IT AS OBSOLETE. SHE HAS
THROWN IT DOWN IN SOME DARK CORNER TO RUST,
AND THERE IT HAS LAIN FOR CENTURIES. AN HOUR
OF IMPENDING CRISIS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE
WORLD DEMANDS ITS RECOVERY.” —ARTHUR WALLIS**

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**3. DESPERATION ENABLES US
TO CONFESS OUR WEAKNESS**

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²BE GRACIOUS TO ME,
O LORD, FOR I AM
LANGUISHING;
HEAL ME, O LORD,
FOR MY BONES ARE
TROUBLED. ³MY SOUL
ALSO IS GREATLY
TROUBLED. BUT YOU,
O LORD—HOW LONG?
—PSALM 6:2-3

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“BY DAY THE LORD COMMANDS HIS STEADFAST LOVE,
AND AT NIGHT HIS SONG IS WITH ME,
A PRAYER TO THE GOD OF MY LIFE.” —PSALM 42:8

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BUT HE SAID TO ME,
“MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT
FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER
IS MADE PERFECT IN
WEAKNESS.” THEREFORE
I WILL BOAST ALL THE MORE
GLADLY OF MY WEAKNESSES,
SO THAT THE POWER OF
CHRIST MAY REST UPON ME.
—2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

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“GOD DOES NOT NEED
YOUR STRENGTH:
HE HAS MORE THAN ENOUGH
OF POWER OF HIS OWN.
HE ASKS YOUR WEAKNESS:
HE HAS NONE OF THAT
HIMSELF, AND HE IS
LONGING, THEREFORE,
TO TAKE YOUR WEAKNESS,
AND USE IT AS THE
INSTRUMENT IN HIS OWN
MIGHTY HAND.
WILL YOU NOT YIELD YOUR
WEAKNESS TO HIM, AND
RECEIVE HIS STRENGTH?”
—CHARLES H. SPURGEON

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4. DESPERATION TETHERS OUR HEARTS TO HOPE

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⁵WHY ARE YOU
CAST DOWN, O MY SOUL,
AND WHY ARE YOU
IN TURMOIL WITHIN ME?
HOPE IN GOD; FOR I
SHALL AGAIN PRAISE HIM,
MY SALVATION ⁶AND
MY GOD...
¹¹WHY ARE YOU
CAST DOWN, O MY SOUL,
AND WHY ARE YOU
IN TURMOIL WITHIN ME?
HOPE IN GOD; FOR I
SHALL AGAIN PRAISE HIM,
MY SALVATION AND
MY GOD. —PSALM 42:5-6a, 11

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“GOD MAKES US WAIT, FOR HE HAS THINGS TO DO
IN OUR SOULS THAT WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN.”
—ELISABETH ELLIOT

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⁴FOR WHATEVER WAS WRITTEN IN FORMER DAYS
WAS WRITTEN FOR OUR INSTRUCTION,
THAT THROUGH ENDURANCE AND THROUGH
THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE SCRIPTURES
WE MIGHT HAVE HOPE... ¹³MAY THE GOD OF HOPE
FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING,
SO THAT BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
YOU MAY ABOUND IN HOPE. —ROMANS 15:4, 13

.024.tiff

³BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST! ACCORDING TO HIS GREAT MERCY,
HE HAS CAUSED US TO BE BORN AGAIN TO A
LIVING HOPE THROUGH THE RESURRECTION
OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD,
⁴TO AN INHERITANCE THAT IS IMPERISHABLE,
UNFILED, AND UNFADING, KEPT IN HEAVEN FOR YOU,
⁵WHO BY GOD'S POWER ARE BEING GUARDED
THROUGH FAITH FOR A SALVATION
READY TO BE REVEALED IN THE LAST TIME.

—I PETER 1:3-5

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