



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

Don't Take Your Eyes Off The Lord.

My mom and I rarely got along. I think we owned a wing at our local mental hospital. We were there all the time with my mom. She was hooked on Valium. I had low self-esteem because my mom would always tell me that I embarrassed her. My sister was beautiful. One time, she chased me around the house with a knife. One day after I finished High School, my dad told me to pack my bags because he was taking me to a Christian College for my protection while mom was in the hospital. I never planned to go to college and did not know about the place he was taking me.

After attending a Christian college, I woke up to a cruel world with people hating people, foul language, Godlessness. I was like a deer in the headlights. I was at a point where I didn't know who I was. I started to change. I didn't drink, do drugs, or sleep around. But mom thought I was doing it all.

I met my future husband at work. After another couple years, we started dating and got engaged. The church my parents served in for 50 years told me that I was not permitted to have a wedding with him because he had broken his previous marriage vows. I was heartbroken. I had planned for years where every candle and flower would be placed. What was supposed to be such a wonderful time was full of such sadness and grief. Maybe those were red flags. I didn't let God choose. I felt desperate. I just wanted that happy life, family, and a home encompassed with love. I took my eyes off the Lord and married him anyway.

He turned out to be an abusive husband both physically and emotionally. Some days I felt like I sold my soul to the devil. At year four of marriage, I caught him having multiple affairs with both males and females. The details would make anyone physically ill. Eight years later, I tried to take my life, but God hit me with "Are you going to let this man raise your son?" I then cried out to God to keep me alive for my son's sake. The man who pledged his love to me sat there and watched me swallowing a bottle of pills and didn't even try to stop me. He was a sick puppy! For my safety I had to divorce.

I was bitter for quite a while after the divorce. For years, I blamed my Ex for everything. He was horrible. Bitterness put a wedge between God and me. Some Sunday mornings, my friends in the choir would stand on each side of me and help me to stand when my knees would buckle. I finally realized the anger was going to kill me. It was part of God's plan to take the mess I made and create something beautiful from it.

I am now retired and living alone with several health issues. I am not able to get out of the house. My son and a caseworker help me with my basic needs. I have come to realize that God never let me down, even though I was not worthy of His protection. Even if I'm a broken vessel, God can still use me. I am now enjoying God's peace, joy, and love and enjoy sharing it with others.

You may know someone who is having a rough life because of self-image, loneliness, problems, hardships, loss, physical issues, or bad decisions. Please reach out to him or her and show them Jesus love. If it is you, please reach out to Jesus. I wasted so much of my life when I took my eyes off the Lord.

By a friend of Charles L Stambaugh

"I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken."


Psalms 16:7-8



"Keep your eyes upon Jesus. Look full into His wonderful face.

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim.

In the light of His glory and grace."

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