



SAVE THE DATE

Redeeming
WORDS

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Redeeming Love by
Francine Rivers



MOSAIC
THE HEART OF
JESUS
For Women

Grace Bible Women's newsletter

AND FOR THIS I PRAYED FOR

BT Tinna Hood

When I was in my thirties with three small children, one Sunday morning I was standing in line to check our youngest daughter Kendra in at the preschool desk at church. As I waited, I noticed one of our pastor's wives was standing close by with her three children all dressed in white. Her two boys were dressed in matching sailor like jumpers and her daughter had on a pleated, embroidered white dress. I noticed she was trying to hang on to her middle child so she could clean his face while the younger son kept running back and forth to the desk and the daughter was spinning in circles, looking to see how far she could get her little white dress to twirl out.

Cont'd on page 7



Casey Layman

Hello everyone, my name is Casey Layman. I am a follower of Christ, a wife, a mom, a nurse, a friend and **most recently a foster mom!**

When I say recently I mean in the past 2 months. This is a whole new path that God is taking us

down, but this path and calling started many, many years ago. Roy and I have always had a heart for children, teens, and young adults, and we've been sharing life with them, striving to help them follow Jesus for over a decade now. Over time, and through serving, we have seen the need and felt the call to care for those with families and without families of their own. After becoming familiar with fostering it was not a question of "IF" but "**WHEN.**"

As this calling has been in our hearts we have watched several of our friends foster and even adopt. Being on the outside looking in, and seeing how hard, messy, emotional, sanctifying, and rewarding this path can be, I would say to myself "There is NO WAY I can do this!! NO WAY I can take someone into my home, love them with everything I have, and then give them back." BUT God in His grace began to change my perspective and aligned my desires with His.

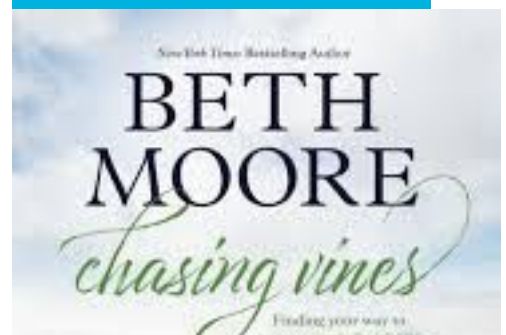
I began to see that He wants me to be obedient to His calling. To be vulnerable and love without expecting anything in return. He wants me to see the need for parents and their children to be reconciled (if possible). He wants me to have instant love for someone that is not my own, and to feel a burden on that person's life. He wants me to surrender my sense of control, and have complete dependence on Him. Through fostering, He wants to give me an opportunity to serve Him in a very unique way, and to experience an unexpected JOY that can only come from HIM.

In a very short time as a foster mom, He has taught me to actively pray out loud every day, by thanking Him for who He is, His many blessings, and asking

SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 20-21
At GBF



Tickets go on sale
Feb. 16, 2020
2 days 30.00
1 day 15.00



Next Bible study
begins Feb. 17 at
6:30 pm at 215
Preston Glen.

for God's protection and provision for our children. God is showing me that He created this child I have been given for the moment, and that He is the author of his life and His goodness and love are coming for him! But, the biggest thing God is showing me is that this has very little to do with me and everything to do with HIM!! It is NOT about what I want, envision, think should happen, or how I am going to help this little one. It is about obedience, faithfulness, trusting, patience, grace, surrender, and humility.

This quote from Foster for the Family blog by author Jamie Finn really spoke to me.

"He is a God who restores. He is a God who heals. He is a God who will make all things new. And we get to partner with Him in it. This work we do is healing. It slaves the souls of our children, sometimes even repairs the family bonds that were broken. We are ambassadors of our God in identity and in labor, and we work towards His divine design of restoration. He is a God who heals and we get to play apart in that healing. What a privilege."- Jamie Finn- Foster the Family

**...we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.
2 Corinthians 5:20**

We are ambassadors of Christ, and through fostering we can display the love of God in Christ Jesus to those children placed in our care for whatever length of time. We have the opportunity to love them with everything we have and work towards God's design of restoration within the family.

If you are interested in fostering, let me say that anyone can help! You may be able to open your home to a foster child OR pray and support those who do. Foster ministry at it's best is a community of ambassadors of Christ working side by side to accomplish His work. Over the years I have heard from my friends who foster about the importance of a supportive family and church family, and now I am experiencing this first hand and am so grateful!





Redeeming words

By
Keelie
Ferguson

THIS MONTH'S WORD IS.....**"REPENT"**

Does the word repent scare you? It did me for a long time. I think it's because I heavily associated repentance with guilt and shame. I also have thought of it as something that I'm not able to do. And perhaps, if I'm honest, something that I'm not willing to do. What comes to mind when you think of the word repent or repentance?

The truth is that repentance is actually a beautiful thing and something we ought not be afraid of. Let's look at three common misconceptions about this word.

MISCONCEPTION #1

Repentance is a change in my behavior(s).

True, repentance will result in changed behavior but that is not primarily what it is. Here, John Piper explains that repentance is an inward change rather than outward:

“...the meaning of the Greek word behind the English ‘repent’

refers to the mind and its thoughts and perceptions and dispositions and purposes. The first part (meta) is a prefix that regularly means movement or change. So the basic meaning of repent is to experience a change of the mind's perceptions and dispositions and purposes.

The way we perceive the world around us, our circumstances, even God--all change in repentance. We begin to see God in everything, we are positioned toward him and His purposes become our purposes. We no longer rely on our own perceptions, logic or desires to rule our life. As we turn from all of those things and look to God and His Word for direction, our minds are renewed to see him as beautiful and worthy of our praise and devotion. It is only at this point that we begin to see a change in behavior. However, the change is not brought about from our own effort to "be good," but rather is the fruit of repentance (Matt. 3:8).

MISCONCEPTION #2

Repentance is an event that happens once in a lifetime.

Martin Luther put it this way when he nailed his Ninety-Five Theses on the church door in Wittenberg about 500 years ago, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said 'Repent,' he intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance."

Right on, Martin. For the follower of Christ, repentance is the posture of our lives, not an event. It is daily seeking to weed out the prevailing sin in our lives, through the power of Christ. We will never be completely free of sin until we are face to face with Christ. In the meantime we must rely on His sacrifice again and again and again...to face sin, confess it and turn from it. This is the daily work of repentance (yes, it's work!)--to believe and apply the Gospel every single day of our lives.

MISCONCEPTION #3

Jesus demands repentance and it's up to me to make it happen.

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Jesus demands repentance and itâ€™s up to me to make it happen.

The Lord never requires something of us that He will not empower us to do. As Jesus began his earthly ministry, the first words we hear Him say are â€œRepent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.â€ ([Matthew 4:17](#)) Because of this we know that repentance is of the utmost importance. The urgency is definitely there, but there is also grace. The â€œkingdom of heaven at handâ€ refers to Jesus Christ. We are commanded to repent, but we are also given the means by which to do it--Jesus himself. In his coming, death and resurrection, everything we need in order to obey this command has been provided (2 Peter 1:3).

Not only does the Lord give us himself, He gives us other believers to help encourage and spur us along. (Hebrew 10:24-25) Many times we are blind to our own sin and need people that love us (and love God more than us) to help us see the truth about our own hearts. This is perhaps the scariest thing of all about repentance--we must let people in. And yet, even in this matter we need not fear. In Jesus, we have full acceptance. With this knowledge as our anchor, we must allow other believers to come close enough to see the ugly parts of us. We must also be willing to go to those places with others, as well. Repentance is a family thing.Â

I will conclude with a passage from Acts 5, verses 30-32.

The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.

Repentance is a gift, not a burden. Jesusâ€™ blood purchased the opportunity for us to repent and live life in a way that glorifies God and is good for us. Letâ€™s take hold of this beautiful treasure, together.

Repent!



CONT'D FROM PG1

**“AND FOR THIS
I PRAYED FOR!”**

BY Tinna Hood

Meanwhile her husband was busy greeting and visiting with people coming into the children's area with his back turned to us. She looked up and noticed me watching her and said with a sweet Georgia drawl "When I get all these people raised, I'm going to sit down and write a book and the title of it is going to be 'And for this I prayed for!'". We Both burst out laughing and her husband just smiled at us. The memory of her laughter and quick wit has served me well many times over the years. Laughter can save a marriage and give a mom who dare brings her children out in all white clothing the courage to handle this scene.

As we approach Valentines day with the expectation of love, flowers, pink and red candy hearts, hoping for some kind words written in a beautiful card, I want to take a moment for a gentle reminder. As we celebrate love or loved ones it can be one of the most difficult times of year. For some it will bring up things that lie beyond keeping three children dressed in white clean and obedient.

A challenge many women face is fighting off the isolation enemy which can bring about the feeling that they are not loved as they always dreamed. Despite that she has been surrounded by a loving husband, children, friends, associates, this isolation enemy can rob her of the joy she could have. Many women who are married can feel lonely. Even women with children can feel alone and isolated.

At some point these women have probably prayed about these relationships, and quite possibly they exhibited the same response my pastor's wife did, "And for this I prayed for?" We all want a loving relationship in our marriage. We desire for our husbands to prove to us that he is trustworthy and illustrates that we are the most important and cherished thing in his life. We want well behaved children who strive to do well. We want the best teachers, the perfect friends who "get" us, the parents and in-laws who agree with us, those who are willing to help the way we need help. Then we question ourselves - "Am I loved, am I enough?"

When we have prayed over relationships, hoping for change and we don't get the answers we desire, we can feel as though God does not hear our cry. We feel He doesn't understand, otherwise, why would He wait so long to answer. Then that little voice starts to get louder and louder: "this must be my fault, maybe I am just not good enough or they would love me more."

This reminds me of the story from John 11:11-37 where Jesus comforts Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus. This family was very close to Jesus.

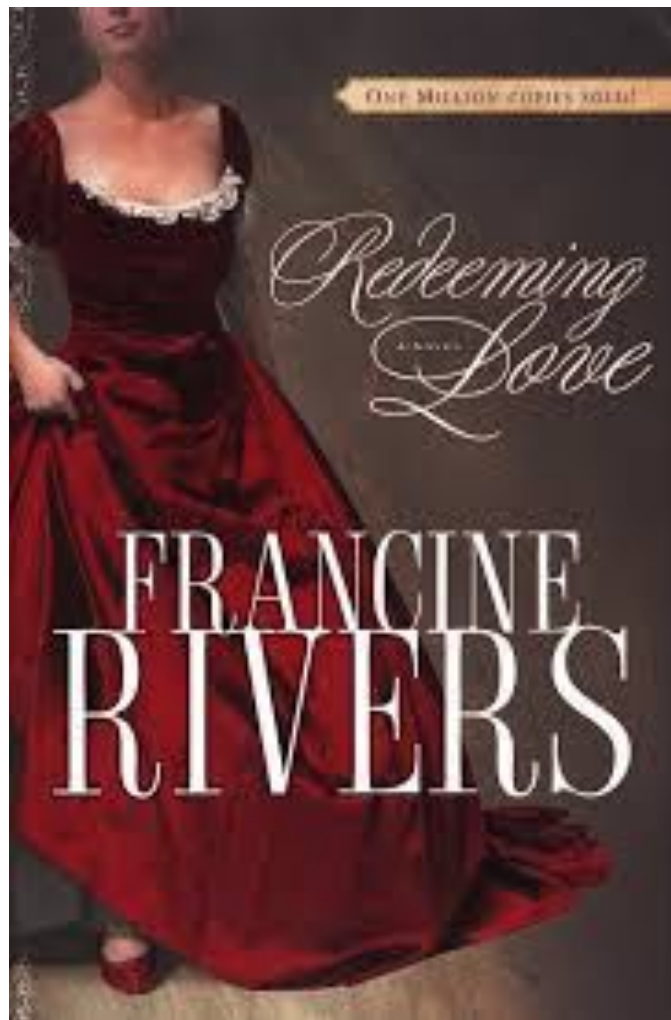
Jesus mentions several times how much he loves them. He was so close to them that when the girls sent word that their brother was sick, they did not feel the need to use Lazarus' name for they knew Jesus would recognize them. For example, verse 3 reads "Lord, the one whom you love is sick."

This passage causes us to remember the following points when the thought "AND FOR THIS I PRY AED FOR!" enters our mind. (replace Martha or Mary's name with yours)

- 1. Jesus loved Martha, Mary and their brother Lazarus v.5**
- 2. Jesus knew them personally, so much so they didn't even need to identify themselves when they sent word of their needs. v.3**
- 3. Jesus does not act on Martha and Mary's time table, he tells them he does not act immediately so that they may believe and he will be glorified. v. 14 - 15**
- 4. Jesus has a purpose when his answers come later than expected. "I am the resurrection and the life and whoever believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" v. 25 - 26**
- 5. Martha though stricken with grief was still able to go to Jesus but Mary was not. "So, Jesus called for Mary. She rose quickly and ran to him." v. 28 - 29**
- 6. "When Jesus saw Mary weeping and all who came with her weeping, he was deeply moved in Spirit and troubled.... Jesus wept." v. 33 & 35.**

This Valentine's day, let us remember the love that Jesus signifies and that he gives us this love every single day of the year. This kind of love will help us to allow for things to sometimes come slowly or perhaps not how we expected and that we would "rise up quickly" and would believe and the glory would be his!

He knows what you are praying for. He knows why we must wait. He knows our state of mind and he weeps and is deeply moved. He has written the longest love letter ever written and he gave his life so you could read it.



A love story that you will not be able to put down, you will want to read well into the night and sometimes catch your self bursting into tears.

A love story that comes from the book of **Hosea**

