

A NEW REBIRTH

By: Jessica Stover

I have had a lot on my heart this week. As I pondered all the things that happened this week, the Lord gave me insight and understanding about it all.

I have been extremely tired. It reminded me how I felt the when I was pregnant; but, I knew this was certainly not the case.

Every morning when I go into work, I always pick up my Daily Devotional book to get my energy boost and everything I read hit the nail right on the head.

By the time Wednesday night rolled around, I did not feel well at all. Thursday, I did not go into work because I felt so bad. My devotional this day was a real eye opener. It stated, "some reorganization is required for you to live at optimum health and benefit. I will show you what you can do to eliminate things that waste your time, your resources and your energy; but, you must be willing to put forth the effort to make the changes that will be beneficial in the long run." The Lord said, "your well-being is important to me." (That goes for all of us, our Father cares for all of us in this same manner.) The scripture verse reference for this devotional was III John 1:1 and 2 — Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in ALL things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. After reading this verse, I immediately said "Lord, I thank you! I am open to your word and the reorganization that needs to be done within me, my family and household."

As I went to bed that night I prayed, "Lord, I close the door on any and all things that tries to steal my joy, my peace and my energy. I vow to make each day a new day. A new day in your Word and works. I thank you for your Word that we have to read, trust and rely on. What do people do that can't or don't call upon you?" I vowed that night, Friday would be a "new" day and that no one speaking doubt or negativity would come through my office. On Friday, I read my daily devotional, "Regardless of the chaos, I would have you walk in perfect peace as you stay present with Me. This is a "new" day (I was so amazed the devotional was written with the exact word I had said the night before -- Friday would be a "new" day.) and you can make it a good day if you will walk in faith and embrace my power to accomplish all that I have set before you at this time." The Lord said, "stay focused in spiritual reality and give NO PLACE TO THE WORKS OF DARKNESS."

A light bulb came on. That (darkness) was what was trying to steal my joy, my peace and my energy. The scripture verse for this day's devotional was Psalms 91:5 and 6. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night; nor of the arrow that flies by day nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

I said, "Lord, you are so amazing, I am sorry I did not recognize this sooner. Each week we have been discussing Psalms 91; and, here is where I had fallen short. I had failed to see the part that it was the pestilence trying to disrupt me.

Now, comes the big revelation the Lord had been paving the way for me the past couple of days, The Lord spoke to me and said the word "rebirth." I said, "Lord, what do you mean by "rebirth?" He said, "remember when you had your daughter, you were birthing a new life. At the same time, I was doing a 'rebirth' in you." It was like a ton of bricks had just hit me. I said, "Lord, it's all coming to light. It's sad it took me almost 5 years to understand this; but, you were placing me in the path of a new rebirth, a new way of seeing, and doing things through You and not by me trying to do it myself. As I got to thinking about all that I had gone through it was beginning to come clear. Before we had Ava (my daughter), we knew I was going in for a scheduled delivery. Everyone, knew this in advance; yet my family chose to go on vacation. I thought I had already dealt with this; but the Lord revealed I truly had not.

What He revealed next would make me come to terms with this so I could totally forgive. He pointed out to me that what I thought I needed was the support and comfort of my family and He was preparing me for understanding. He wanted me to realize what I really needed was the comfort of my Heavenly Father. He was going to provide this love through my husband, my best friend, and my father and mother-in-law. They were showing me that it did not matter what the situation was, I could still feel the presence of God when I called upon Him as we stood in agreement. It was during this time I learned I could call upon Him; even if, I had not felt His presence and I would see Him work like I had never seen before.

God's hand is not short; therefore, we must learn to put all our faith in Him. The Lord had placed the very ones I needed in my life at this special place and time, I just did not realize it.

With rebirth comes labor. After 14 hours in labor, from the epidural to the emergency C-section God's faith prevailed and He kept me/us safe. The doctors and nurses that were in contact with us that day witnessed the outpouring of prayer and the power of prayer. The devil tried to harm our newborn baby; but, guess what -- God's Word prevailed. Nothing is too big or small for our God. There was a serious issue with Ava's blood, the A/B incompatibility and the jaundice. We reminded the Lord that we had already spoken blessings over this new life. The quick action of the nurse caught the serious problem. Guess who came to transport Ava to the NICU -- Angel Transport.

I cried so hard. I felt like my heart had been totally ripped out. However, I knew she was in God's hands. Again, I knew tomorrow would be a "new" day. I would not let anything stand in the way of getting to my baby. The next hurdle was to make sure Ava's little body responded to the injection to fix the blood issue and jaundice. We learned she would have to remain in the

hospital for several days. I couldn't bare leaving her and it was going to be a really long drive for us to drive back and forth every day.

We learned that truly everything that touches us, touches our Heavenly Father. Before we even knew to ask Him to fix this situation He was already working on our behalf. A lady that works at United Community Bank in Gainesville was going to be on vacation that week with her family and she let us use her house. Not only did she allow us to use her house, she loaded us up with a basket full of goodies and food. The Lord was showing us His works through His people. God is so good!!!

I began to reminisce about all we had been through, I could see how the Lord was rebirthing me. The Lord then said, "remember my Word about directing your path." That brought me to the scripture in Proverbs 3:5 and 6 — Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths. I now understand what He meant by rebirthing. He had taken me down a path to where I would learn to lean on Him and trust Him. He sets our paths and He will help us prosper. He wants everyone to prosper. He has given us all the ability and the power to prosper. However, prosperity begins with understanding our role. We are stewards of God. Our lives, talents and living in a world of unparalleled opportunity are all of gifts from God. By meditating on His Word we realize He has already given us the ability to prosper and He will give us insight and revelation into becoming prosperous.

The Lord doesn't bless what we are not doing. Every day God will lead us into what we need to do. He will instruct us how to accomplish the visions, dreams and goals He has birthed within each of us. Every day we should look with expectation for His direction. If we are not where we need to be, then, we should stop and have a heart to heart conversation with Jesus. Figure out where our life needs reorganization. We can't try to justify why one person gets this and someone else gets that; but, Lord I'm getting nothing. The Lord wants us all to live in abundance. What is stealing our joy? Do we need a "rebirth" and a new, fresh anointing inside us? Get your mind off your troubles, seek the Lord first and let your mind be renewed by His Word. Troublesome things are all around us; but, we can turn every adverse circumstance into a blessing with our trust and faith in God. Faith without works is dead. Confess God's Word and you will see those difficult situations turn completely around. We have to make our faith active by doing what He says.