



WOMEN WHO PRIZE
BEING FOUND IN CHRIST

Don't Settle for Black & White

By: Haleigh Bush

Have you ever felt like you are looking at life through black and white lenses? For me personally, it's like I can see what is there, but I am not able to fully live in the moment and soak in moments of life happening around me.

Towards the end of 2018, I began to realize I was living a very black and white life. **Things were not bad, but things were not great.** I struggled to identify a favorite song or movie, and it was hard to point out the best part of my day; I didn't have sadness or happiness – I was just going through the motions. As I became aware of the impartial life I was living, I began to wonder and question why I was okay living such a lukewarm life.

I realized I was allowing the enemy to blind my heart to the fruitful life God promised and **steal pieces of my identity right from underneath me.** I was believing the lies of the enemy: *this is just how life is and the way it would always be.* That was the lie. But I found the truth:

John 10:10 (NLT) *The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*

This verse tells us that Jesus WANTS us to have a rich and satisfying life.

I became painfully aware that **I needed to ask the Holy Spirit to open my eyes to the areas of my life that were dead and in need of revival.**

As I started identifying areas of my life that were not stirring up passion and fulfillment, I had to honestly ask myself if my job, where I serve at the church, how I spent my weekends, or if my friends were part of the calling God has planned for me. **I knew it was important to seek guidance to better understanding the call God has placed on my life and how to continue to nurture the new areas of my life.**

A significant turning point during this season was an opportunity I received to meet with a Strengths Coach that helped walk me through a strengths finder assessment and provided great insight into understanding and using my strengths to their fullest potential and be a stronger Christian. Through that experience, I was able to identify my top strength as consistency, responsibility, developer, discipline, and relator. **I was able to give names to my actions and own them as gifts rather than burdens.**

For the first time in many years, **I was able to look at my life and see the beautiful details of who God created ME to be.** The strengths finder assessment states that only 1 in 33 million people have the exact same top five in the same specific order. I was able to find peace in the fact that I am what most call "Type A," because for once in my life I was able to see myself the way God saw me, uniquely me.

As revival was taking place in my life, the black and white glasses slowly started to fade, and I was able to see my life beginning to produce fruit and bring bold, vibrant color back. **I was able to see the details and see life for what it really is – beautiful, exciting, passionate, and fulfilling.**

During this season I had three big takeaways:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit anything, anytime, anywhere.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT) *Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your heart and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

2. Bold faith is required to achieve what we long for.

Hebrews 11:1 (TPT) *Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen.*

3. Continue to grow deeper with God.

John 15:5-8 (MSG) *I am the Vine; you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't*

produce a thing. Anyone who separated from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on a bonfire.

We are called to live rich and satisfying lives, but this can only be accomplished through our relationship with the heavenly Father. When we call out to God to reveal areas of our lives that are not bearing fruit, we can trust that the Holy Spirit will reveal them and give us direction. **We must not forget how much God loves us and how deeply he wants to see our lives lived in a bold, rich, and satisfying life.**

conversation starters

1. Would you describe the current season you are in as a colorful, bold and vibrant one or is it more black and white?
2. How do you think understanding your God-given strengths would help you live a more rich and satisfying life?
3. How would you describe your top 5 strengths? You don't have to use "Strengths Finder" terminology, simply 5 words that describe areas God has gifted you in. (Organization, Creativity, Focus, Encouragement, etc.)
4. What areas of your life need revival? What can you do to spark that revival?
5. Haleigh mentioned three take-aways she received as she moved from black and white to color. Which of those three areas (Holy Spirit dependent, boldness, or growing deeper with God) resonate with you?

his heart work

STUDY

Dig deeper into John 10:10. Do a word study on rich and satisfying. Seek to understand exactly what Jesus meant when he said it was His purpose to give you a life like that. Read different commentaries, look up the Greek words and their meanings, read the verse in different translations and ask the Holy Spirit what He is saying to you.

ACT

Set up a Strengths Finder Assessment with New Song's own Colie Hanson. Colie is a certified Strengths Coach. If you want to understand the way you are wired better and learn to really play to the strengths God has given you, don't wait around- e-mail her and allow her to help you become the most passionate version of yourself ever.

Email: colie.hanson@newsongpeople.com

prayer needs

Write down the prayer requests of your group members, and pray fervently for them! Let your group members know when you are praying for them, if you have any scriptures or encouraging words for them, etc.