



NOTES

1. C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: Touchstone, 1996), 153.
2. Paul David Tripp, *New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014), July 23.
3. This quote has been traced to Ellen Cantarow, “No Kids,” in the *Village Voice* (1985) and used in a slightly different form by Elizabeth Stone, who credits Cantarow with its origin (Tom Krazit, “The Backstory of Steve Jobs’ Quote about Parenthood,” GigaOm, October 11, 2011, <https://gigaom.com/2011/10/11/419-the-long-backstory-of-steve-jobs-quote-about-parenthood/>).
4. Nancy Guthrie, *The One Year Praying through the Bible for Your Kids* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2016), xii.
5. Facing bouts of infertility for several years, I often struggled with taking too many pregnancy tests. I finally confided in my husband. He understood. Then he proposed a plan: we purchased four tests each month and kept them in the bathroom

closet where we both could see them. I took a test every Friday morning whether I felt like I may be pregnant or not. This gave me some healthy accountability as well as peace of mind that a test was coming. Ryan knew when I needed extra care as I grappled with the negative results. If you can relate to this part of my story, please know I included it specifically for you. My heart goes out to you and I understand.

6. I'm grateful to Pastor Benjamin Lee for permission to use these three statements, borrowed from his sermon "Mercy Reigns" on Habakkuk 3:1–16, August 9, 2020.
7. *The Valley of Vision* (Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1975), 75.
8. "Malcolm Gladwell: Talking to Strangers," *Oprah's Super Soul Conversations*, Omny.fm, September 18, 2019, <https://omny.fm/shows/oprah-s-supersoul-conversations/malcolm-gladwell-talking-to-strangers>.
9. John Owen, *The Works of John Owen, Vol. 3: The Holy Spirit* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1996), 108–9.
10. *The Valley of Vision*, 25.
11. Alistair Begg, "Justice and Love," Truth For Life, April 14, 2006, <https://www.truthforlife.org/resources/sermon/justice-and-love/>. (The italicized phrases in this section come from this sermon.)
12. Called the Serenity Prayer, these lines are often attributed to Protestant theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, but its origin is, in fact, unknown.
13. Corrie ten Boom, *Jesus Is Victor* (Grand Rapids: Revell, 1984).
14. John Piper, "How Do You Define Joy?," *Desiring God*, July 15, 2016, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-do-you-define-joy>.

15. Heather Holleman, *Seated with Christ: Living Freely in a Culture of Comparison* (Chicago: Moody, 2015), 128.
16. Elisabeth Elliot, *Passion and Purity: Learning to Bring Your Love Life under Christ's Control* (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1984), 89.
17. Quote from American writer Henry James, <https://quoteinvestigator.com/2018/09/21/kind/>.
18. This quote has been attributed to Thomas à Kempis, a Roman Catholic monk who lived around 1380–1471 and is well known for his classic work *The Imitation of Christ*.
19. Sally Clarkson, *Own Your Life: Living with Deep Intention, Bold Faith, and Generous Love* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2014), 50.
20. “Remembering Vonette Bright, Day 2,” *Revive Our Hearts* podcast, February 2, 2016, <https://www.reviveourhearts.com/podcast/revive-our-hearts/remembering-vonette-bright-day-2/>.
21. “Remembering Vonette Bright, Day 3,” *Revive Our Hearts* podcast, February 3, 2016, <https://www.reviveourhearts.com/podcast/revive-our-hearts/remembering-vonette-bright-day-3/>.



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