

“Barren, But Blessed”

Hope for Mothers in Waiting

By Kimberly Webb

It's Sunday morning, and it's Mother's Day. As we enter the sanctuary of the church, I am reminded of how much I dread this holiday. All the mothers of the church are asked to stand up and receive applause for all their valiant efforts in caring for their children. I'm happy for them, but I'm sad for me. I want to stand up with the rest of the mothers and have my husband look at me with admiration and appreciation. He would think of all the things I do to love, protect and take care of his well-balanced children. That's not the case for me; I have to remain seated year after year. Mothers all over the sanctuary receive corsages or roses, as I sit with nothing in my hand. There is no corsage, no rose and no baby. There's nothing to show that I have even tried to become a mother. I thought about boycotting this day, but I knew my husband would never go for it. I remember thinking one year, "I had a miscarriage, does that count? Can I at least stand up and be acknowledged for that." Don't get me wrong, I'm happy to honor mothers because I believe they have a tough job and are oftentimes not appreciated enough. But I just can't get past the hurt of not being a mother myself. I want a baby more than anything. And even when I try not to think about it, others wish me well by saying, "Maybe it will happen for you next year." They think they are helping me, but of course, they only hurt me more.

The story above was actually taken from my personal journal several years ago. By the time I wrote this entry, I was moving toward a deep anger with God. I was so tired of the waiting game and not knowing what was going on with my life. I needed answers, and I needed them now!

I had recently completed my fourth surgery in two years, and I still had nothing to show for it. I was upset, but I couldn't do anything except continue to wait on God. I felt awful. I was frustrated and disgusted.

Something inside me told me to pick up my Bible and start reminding myself of the promises of God. I went back to God, asked for His forgiveness, read His word and prayed. *Hebrews 13:5-6 states, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you, so that we confidently say, The Lord is my Helper, I will not be afraid.* Growing up in a strong Bible church, I knew that God always has a reason for everything He does. I began to search my mind, my heart and my soul for what God was trying to show me through this trial. After much time

reading God's word, praying and meditating, God gave me a revelation in three areas: peace, faith and contentment. God was using these three areas to teach me the purpose behind my trial of infertility. He revealed how He wanted to *break me, build me and bless me*.

God used the area of peace to break me. I had no peace in my life. My mind was consumed with the idea that I was not a mother. Because of this feeling of misery, nothing made me happy. I was out of peace with myself, my body, my husband and with my God. Life was no longer sweet for me; all I could see was what I didn't have. Until one day, God revealed to me that real peace did not involve whether or not I gave birth to a child. Real peace only involves God. Focusing on Him and realizing that He and He alone can provide the kind of peace that sustains you during your waiting period. Understanding the storm of hurt and anger that raged within me could only be calmed by His peace. I didn't have to continue to function in turmoil, disarray and uncertainty because God had given me a gift. He gave me peace. Ephesians 2:14 states, "*For He Himself is our peace...*" John 14:27 states, "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled nor let it be fearful.*" I stopped focusing on what I didn't have and started focusing on what I did have. I had peace.

As I grew in His peace, God began to build me with His faith. Hebrews 11:1, states "*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, but the evidence of things not seen.*" This means, even when you cannot see your blessing on the horizon – you know it's coming, so you wait with the assurance that it may show up any moment. Someone once said, that faith is acting like God is telling the truth. I began to feed my spirit with faithful words from God and faithful thoughts from heaven which led me to walking a faithful walk with God.

While God was building me, ***He began to bless me*** by giving me contentment. To have contentment means we must be satisfied with our current situation regardless of the external circumstances we are facing. You might be thinking to yourself, "But how do I get there? My feelings are in direct contradiction with contentment." Philippians 4:11 states that we must be "*... content in whatever circumstances I am in...*" I arrived at contentment by exchanging my will for His will. I realized that God could bless my womb, but if He chose not to, I would love Him anyway. In my prayer time, God revealed a story from the Bible where Abraham took Isaac up to a mountain to sacrifice him. God spoke to me, and asked if I would be willing to sacrifice my womb for Him. My response was "yes." Only at this point did I realize that I was truly

content in whatever state I was in. So whether God blessed my womb, or whether He chose for me to adopt a child, I was content with His decision.

My journey through infertility caused me to grow exponentially in God and brought me to this place of contentment. It was at this place where God did the miraculous and allowed my womb to be filled with the blessing of my now 3 year old daughter.

I don't know when God is going to answer your prayers, or what He is trying to show you through your journey of infertility, but I have written a book that will challenge you to focus your attention on why God is using this trial. I hope this book will be a real blessing to you as it elevates your faith in Jesus Christ and prepares you for the blessing of your baby. My book, *"The Making of A Joyful Mother: A Spiritual Journey for Women Experiencing Infertility"* is available at www.barnersandnoblesonline.com or www.amazon.com.

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For more information about Kimberly Webb, go to www.kimberlywebb.org, or purchase Kimberly's new book, *The Making of a Joyful Mother: A Spiritual Journey for Women Experiencing Infertility*, at www.iuniverse.com. For booking information email Kim at kwebb@kimberlywebb.org or call her at (469) 767-2436