

"I Don't Know" "I Ain't Got It"

So many times through life we want to throw up our hands and exclaim in a loud voice, from the bottom of our lungs "**I DON'T KNOW!!!**" or "**I AINT GOT IT**" to all the requests, questions, and demands that have seemingly become synonymous with being human. Being...human. Human being. We are ALL human beings yet sometimes we lose sight of the fact that we are humans BEING. Too many times we focus on the human we're becoming versus the humans we're being. There's a disconnect. We're constantly walking through the gauntlet of "should" and "ought" and "need to" and a universe full of "why?"

Walk with me for a moment. Take a deep breath and really look at these exclamations. How many of them exist in your every waking moment? If ever we get to the place where we want to scream, that's an indicator that we've been carrying too much. We've stretched our capacity beyond what's optimally functional. Simply put, we're doing too much. We're doing too much and often being told we're not doing enough. It's maddening.

Even as I type this right now tears are welling up in my eyes and streaming down my cheeks because this assignment is far bigger than I am. It's bigger than me. I am acutely aware that **I aint got it** and **I don't know** how to do this. YET, I know Who does. He called me to this. I weep because I know this devotional doesn't belong to me, it's His. He accesses us through us (hands and feet) while we're **being human**.

You still with me? Let's walk a little further. Let's go a little deeper. We're living in a world that is so overwhelmingly full of tragedy, trauma, dysfunction, and excruciating pain. We live every single day with unaddressed and unhealed trauma. We've become so very accustomed to dysfunction that, though we long for peace and stillness enough to simply enjoy a beautiful moment, we wince at the idea of what we have to quite or shut down or disregard in order to force a still and peaceful moment. Can we be honest? Worry has become the obligation. The requirement. The measure of responsibly living. The measure of gauging whether or not you care enough. Worry shuts down the "whys" and propels us towards the actions that will shut down the "shoulds" the "oughts" and the "need tos".

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Worry makes us feel responsible. Feeling responsible makes us feel necessary. Feeling necessary makes us feel important. Feeling important makes us feel validated and affirmed. Abandoning worry, however, has become a tool for judgement and condemnation. When we abandon worry (Matthew 6:25-34) we feel irresponsible, foolish, and inadequate. These feelings lead to deeper emotions of unimportance, invalidated, unaffirmed, and disregardable. Feelings all leading to beliefs of **being** invisible and unnecessary. When we feel unnecessary we feel unimportant. When we feel unimportant we feel invisible. When we feel invisible we feel like we can just slip away and stop **being**.

Still with me? We're almost there. Hold tight a little longer. There's hope coming soon. Before we get to hope where true peace and joy and true release are, we MUST traverse through what we're ignoring. We've been made desensitized and blinded by innumerable distractions all clamoring for

priority in your mind and in your heart. Wars and rumors of wars. Perpetual traumas, globally and at home in our most intimate spaces. Tragedies happening every single moment of every single day and each tragedy demands our attention and demands our compassionate action. We're being made to feel irresponsible and cold-hearted if we don't worry and do something about the worry. Please don't misunderstand me. I feel ALL of these things, and it's because I gave my heart and mind to the cries of this world that I began to lose my mind and my heart became so very overwhelmed that I began to despair for my very life. It began to make more sense and seemed the more peaceful journey would be the one where I ceased **being** in this realm. I began to long for the peace I knew would exist for me in heaven. It began to make more sense to expedite my arrival in heaven and depart from this earthly existence which incessantly and perpetually and speedily getting worse and worse. Like a locomotive going at full speed with no brakes. Despair was actually the distraction. There IS evil in this world. There ARE questions that have no good answer. What I've learned in my journey with Jesus Christ is that despair IS actually the distraction. Satan and his mignions WANT you to be in a state of despair. It is in despair that you can then consider your life as unimportant and a hindrance. It's a trick!

Here's where it starts to get good. Let's look towards the light, now. There's always light at the end of the tunnel. If you don't see light, keep going!!

So, through this despair I was rescued. I gave my life to God and chose to believe and received Jesus Christ as my Lord and my Savior when I was a young girl. However, even though saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), I still was **being human** here on this earth. It wasn't until decades later that I began to understand that I had familiarity with God. I had encounters with Him as a supernatural Being Who Loved me, but I didn't even have any maturity in understanding what Love actually was and was all about. I operated from a place of naieve and innocent ignorance which expressed itself arrogantly against what I presumed God to obligated to regarding to my **human** demand for comfort.

Eventually and repeatedly I fell into the trap of despair. When I became so tired of the cycles and systems of life I cried out to God from a different place other than righteous indignation. I reached a point in my life where I no longer wanted to die, I wanted answers. I began to require of God response to why there was so much pain and destruction, so much dysfunction, so much property for the wicked and those who were called by His name were perpetually destitute and struggling. What was the benefit of choosing Him as Savior and Lord? As in Job 38:1-3, when God demanded Job stand before Him and answer Him, I took the role of God and demanded He answer me. What's beautiful about this moment, however, is the amount of trust and intimacy it took for me to know I could go to Him with ALL of my emotions. I could go to Him in the bitterness of my heart and throw my fists and bellow as loud as my lungs could muster "God where are You and what's going on?? Why aren't you fixing this?" "I know You care and I know You Love but it doesn't feel like it and it doesn't look like it." Then I screamed out "WHERE IS THE POWER?" I was demanding He answer me. Then my questions changed. I calmed down and began to cry. "If I have You in me as the Holy Spirit. If I memorize and rehearse Your Living Word, then where is the power?" "Why can I not access what You say I have?" That's when I arrived at this awareness.

I wanted a better life.

This couldn't be what (hu)man was created for. This toil and pain and perpetual helplessness couldn't be what brought God pleasure. This couldn't be the life Christ died for. Why would anyone want to be a Christian? Why would anyone want to give their life to Christ and life this kind of life?

Why would they choose God when WE are His representatives? We don't even like each other. We don't like other Christians. How is God exalted in the eyes of others when His children, His representatives are poor, liars, deceivers, always destitute, broken, sick, hopeless, in despair, and suicidal? How could this possibly be what brings God pleasure about our existence?

I wanted a better life. And I didn't know how to get there. I had to be willing to do things differently. I had to be willing to SEE and approach life differently. I had to change the way I saw life and change the way I understood God. (Mat 4:17)

These questions and this awareness began my journey. I now call it the beginning of the end. The beginning. I began to leave my belief systems. What began? My paradigm shifts, my soul excavation process, my heart-healing (major spiritual surgery). My journey began and I had NO IDEA what I was in for. I had no idea what was in store for me. I hadn't even taken Jesus' hand, yet. I was just intentionally sitting with Him and chatting with Him through the direct and hard questions. I wasn't open for dependency yet. In hindsight, I was desperate and only open to have heart-baring conversations with Him. I began to realize I never loved Jesus, I loved the stories about Him. I never got to know Him for himself, I got to know Him for MY self. Like a fan of a celebrity, I wanted the access and the benefits of being near Him, I didn't want to get to know Him and lay down my own life for the life He offered. The power is in the surrender.

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Over many years I learned to fall in love with God for Who He Is. I walked with Him. I talked with Him. I cried out to Him. I cried with Him. I listened to Him.

I began to realize I never knew Love like His. He pursued my heart and I let Him pursue by giving Him access to me. My thoughts. My mind. My time. My questions. All of me. Nothing hidden! NOTHING at all. No edited conversation. I allowed Him access to all of me and I availed my entire existence to Him. I simply chose to exist in my fullness. Every crack in my heart, heart reaks, anger, disappointments, shames, joys, pleasures, fears, terrors. EVERY SINGLE part of me including the unknown hidden parts that only He knew. I intentionally lived a life of transparency before Him. I often repeated these words "Abba, here's my heart, all of it. I don't want to repress, suppress, or ignore anything that I'm feeling or thinking." We talked about EVERYTHING! For me this was repentance. Repentance simply means to change direction; change the way you see and do things. In this journey He began to flood my mind with **downloads** and **hidden information**. He began to tell me the secrets His Word pours out from Genesis to Revelation. I sought. He answered. I came to Him He told me "great and mighty things, which I don't know" (Jeremiah 33:3). He began to give me **directives**; non-negotiables I'm to do every single time specific opportunities arose.

I just wanted a better life. Turns out the better life I wanted was hidden in Him. I just had to go seek it out.

So, it is now January 2025, and it seems as if the entire world is burning, drowning, starving, asphyxiating, trembling, being violated, robbed, crumbling, being bombed, invaded, and destroyed...simultaneously. While the helpless and hopeless are made even moreso by dehumanization and perpetually accepted inhumane practices.

Have you, like me, reached the moment where you want to scream "**I DON'T KNOW!**" and "**I AINT GOT IT!**" to the "shoulds" the "oughts" the "need tos" and the "whys?" Then let's remain there. Let's remain in the place of surrender.

I'll share with you what God said to me in response to my cry of "**I DON'T KNOW**" and "**I AINT GOT, LORD**". He wiped my tears by speaking these words with Purest Love, "Oh, baby. You never had to have it. I just want to take care of you."

He wants us to come to the realization that we never have to have it. We never have to have the answers, the provision, the means, or ability. He has ALL of those things. He wants to lead us to the understanding that He just wants to take care of us. Jesus died for us to rescue us from the penalties of sin. We no longer have to pay the price that was placed on us when Adam and Eve made their decisions and acted on their disobedience to God's directive. One of the victories through Jesus' death and resurrection was the conquering of death and the regaining of what we lost when we were put out of Eden. The GREATEST gift is the indwelling Holy Spirit for all who are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We are no longer slaves to sin and its power. We are now indwelt by **THE** power.

So, what now? Surrender. How? That's where the journey begins.

"I don't know." "I ain't got it." ...but I know Who does.

My personal desire for this year, what I declared to God, was that "I want to rest and relax in His Sovereignty". There are some paradigms that need to shift in order for me to begin to truly rest and relax in His Love and Sovereignty. I still need His Wisdom in regard to what it actually means to have Him as Sovereign over my life. As He increases my wisdom

I invite you to join me as I continue on my journey of perpetual surrender to God. Let's walk together with Him.

I will be publishing a number of devotionals in the attempt to put language to the seemingly inexpressible experiences of what it feels like and what it looks like to live **A Life Surrendered**.