

Faith and Heart Podcast: Episode 008 Transcript - Birthday Reflections

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INTRO

[MUSIC PLAYS]

Hi, there. My name is Madison Aichele, and I'm a writer with a passion for sharing honest and encouraging reflections about God's character. This podcast is for the woman courageously choosing faith and heart in a world driven by sight and success. The woman who wants to live with an awareness of God's kind and steady hand moving through what seems ordinary, making it extraordinary. The woman who wants to experience the unhurried peace of trusting God's plan, abandoning the race toward the "next big thing" and, instead, choosing to settle into the God thing. Get cozy if you can, lay your burdens down, even if it's just for a moment.

Welcome to Faith and Heart.

[MUSIC FADES OUT]

MAIN

My birthday is tomorrow. It's a time of year that always beckons me toward deep reflection as I bear witness to what happened in that particular year of life. This birthday is no different. More than ever, I've felt the good Lord's light and love stretch deep into the soil of my heart. This past year was one of believing, leaving, letting go, stepping in, and sowing in faith while I wait for fruitfulness.

If I viewed my life path as something that's supposed to be linear, a straight line drawn in pencil on the blank pages of my days, then I'd tell you I totally missed the mark this past year. I left the stability of a 9-5 at a promising startup to follow the Lord's call to walk in complete faith. In many ways, it felt like the line's path I'd been drawing circled back around to the beginning but taking steps backward was what the Lord said would move me forward. It feels counterintuitive, but I think faith often is. It's the assurance of things unseen, and I couldn't see where this new line's path would take me. I still can't see the full picture, but I've grown to deeply trust the faithfulness of God and His provision.

This past year was, in many ways, a beginning. It was the beginning of the journey that led me to create this podcast. And it established my belief that life is meant to be lived in accordance with His will, not the world's. He doesn't always ask us to step forward as we'd often like.

Sometimes choosing faith and heart means following His guidance even when it's pointing us in the opposite direction we'd expect it to. It's trusting that forward momentum in our eyes isn't always the fruitful path, and taking steps backward doesn't equate to giving up meaningful progress. We won't always be asked to navigate life linearly, but faith gives us hope that God's process is perfect and we can trust where He leads.

I'm more convinced than ever there's no mark to miss. We've been fed a message that forward is the only way to go, but it has to be forward as the world knows it. We have to check off the list of things that qualify us as worthy and successful. But when we strip away our accomplishments, the titles, possessions, and money – who are we? I don't think I knew when I stepped away from what I took great pride in. It was a gift and privilege to literally strip those things away and remember Whose I am. I don't think that's an experience limited to big leaps of faith. I think we always have the opportunity to step back and look at our life through the lens of faith and gain a Kingdom perspective.

Material success and progress aren't the sums of who we are. Our lives and their impact can't be measured by anyone but God. When we remember how the Father views success and significance, we'll start to view our lives differently. It won't be centered around the milestones we've reached, the trophies we've garnered, or the platforms we stand on. It'll be about the seeds we've sown in faith and trusted God would grow. We don't always see the roots of our choices, but we can trust that He always does. Choosing faith and heart in a world driven by sight and success is the decision to follow Him, be grounded in obedience, and remember that what we see is such a small fraction of the good work God is doing in our lives.

As someone who has been stretched and challenged by my own personal mission statement throughout the past year, I want to encourage you that God can be trusted. Not just with what we see, but with what we can't see. And where He calls us, He'll provide for us. You may not see the harvest from stewarding seeds just yet, but that doesn't mean your trusting effort has been fruitless. And what feels like taking steps back instead of forward may just be what God will use to enrich the soil of your life.

READING

[MUSIC PLAYS]

Before I go, I wanted to take a moment to share a message I felt the Lord speaking over this season of life. It didn't feel like it was just for me, so I offer it to you in faith, fully believing this promise is for you, too.

“This year is a season of sowing seeds, watching them grow, and experiencing the sweetness of tangible fruit. But that won't be the most important marker of success. What will truly fuel the sweetness of this year is the overpowering presence of God which will be evident and unmistakable in the fruition of promises and desires tucked away in the hidden places of the

heart. What's been planted in faith will burst forth from the soil of our lives as a testament to the goodness of the Father, who is a steadfast provider. Nothing that abides in Him will be fruitless. May we continue to bravely sow the seeds He's given us, being good stewards of opportunity and resource. This is the year we'll see a harvest beyond our wildest dreams."

OUTRO

Thank you so much for being here and being part of my own faith journey. Your presence in this space is truly an honor. I'm prayerfully wishing you a season of fruitfulness, friend. Talk to you soon.

[MUSIC FADES]