

Faith and Heart Podcast: Episode 007 Transcript - Don't Turn Back

04/20/2022

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

Hi, friend. I'm coming to you from the midst of a busy transition season of life. For the past several months, I've enjoyed a slower pace of living. It was a privilege to enjoy rich silence and stillness, soaking in the Lord's presence and learning to hear Him speak on a more intimate level. I can't stress how thankful I've been for that opportunity to strip everything away and enjoy life solely focused on His presence.

Like nature's seasons, our seasons of life shift and I'm smack dab in the middle of one of those shifts right now. New work opportunities have been a blessing, especially as it affords me the opportunity to use my writing in a professional setting. But while I've been thankful, I'm also holding space for the natural anxieties and stress of navigating transition. My schedule has been full these past two weeks, and it's been interesting readjusting my slow-paced style of living to one that's more robust and fast-paced.

At first, I felt guilty for acknowledging the good changes happening in my life caused a level of discomfort. I don't know about you, but I have a difficult time admitting I can't handle the changing of seasons with complete grace. It's more a stumbling around, knowing the Father will grasp my hand and lead me onward despite my weakness and clumsiness. I may move forward

with a few stubbing of toes on coffee tables or knocking over of lamps, but I'll move forward by God's grace regardless.

I've even caught myself thinking about what it would be like to turn back and live within the previous season just a little while longer. And it was in that moment God took a hold of me and planted my feet solidly where I was with the words, "Don't turn back." Don't turn back. Moving forward can be terrifying because it often calls you to step outside your comfort zone and be stretched by newness. But there's no turning back, no looking over the shoulder to reminisce on the room before. God wants our eyes on Him, keeping our focus upward as we rely on His great strength to be made perfect in our weakness.

You're not alone in stumbling through transitions and dealing with the fear of what's next. I understand deeply; I'm walking through it right now. And I'm right there with you in needing the reminder that God has a plan. He understands our worries, our anxieties, and He's not asking us to shove it all under the rug. But He is asking if we'll look to Him, laying everything at His feet, including our shortcomings, and saying we trust Him no matter what. I don't have all the answers about what these changes in my life will bring, and you may not either. Thankfully, we don't have to have all the answers to know God's guidance is unfailing and trustworthy. His process of forming us into who we're created to be is an adventure, one we often won't have answers for until the curtain is drawn on our life.

But we can always find certainty and security in our Father. May we be strengthened by His promise of provision and plant our feet where we are. It's not time to turn back, it's time to keep our eyes on Him and let our steps be guided by His hand.

READING

[MUSIC PLAYS]

I have a short quote for you today from Rainer Maria Rilke from the book, Letters to a Young Poet. It popped up on my Instagram feed just as I was reflecting on unanswered questions, having to stare down plenty of my own. I hope it encourages you as it did me.

"I want to beg you, as much as I can, dear sir, to be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves like locked rooms and like books that are written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer."

OUTRO

Thank you so much for being here. I'm incredibly grateful to have you in this space. If these words resonated with you, it would mean the world if you left a rating or review wherever you're listening. Thank you so much for tuning in, and I will talk to you soon.

[MUSIC FADES]

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