



Season 1, Bonus Episode “Don’t Panic!”

It’s Thursday, January 16th. The new year has launched, the 2020 ship is pulling away from the pier... and you’re still packing your dang bags. You feel panic setting in because you don’t have Christmas put away yet. You don’t have a 2020 calendar yet. You don’t have a 2020 plan yet. Your word-for-the-year seems to be “hurry”, and the theme of your 2020 life thus far is, “I’m already behind!” For the love! You can’t see the “forest” of 2020 for all the cotton-pickin’ 2019 “trees” still blocking your way!

Is that you? Well, you’re not alone, friend. I can so relate. And I’m here to tell you- DON’T PANIC! It’s ok. God’s got you and God’s already got this year under His control. Listen to this... “But the land that you are going over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water by the rain from heaven, a land that the Lord your God cares for. The eyes of the Lord your God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year” (Deuteronomy 11:11-12).

God will set the #PACE for you... HE HAS ALREADY SEEN TO YOUR WHOLE YEAR...AND WILL WATCH OVER YOU, CONSTANTLY AND CAREFULLY FROM THE START TO THE FINISH OF THIS YEAR.

AND... HE WILL HELP YOU ALL THE WAY!

Here’s the comforting and encouraging welcome God gave me as I opened my bible on January 1st, already feeling so far behind... Isaiah 41:10, 13-14.

¹⁰ fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, **I will help you,**
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
¹³ For I, the Lord your God,
hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you, “Fear not,
I am the one who helps you.”

14 Fear not, you worm Jacob,
you men of Israel!
I am the one who helps you, declares the Lord;
your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

Listen to it in the amplified version...

“I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you; yes, I will hold you up and retain you with My [victorious] right hand of rightness and justice...For I the Lord your God hold your right hand; I am the Lord, Who says to you, Fear not; I will help you! Fear not...I will help you, says the Lord; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 41:10, 13, 14).

There it is- right there in the God-breathed, living-and-active, authoritative and inerrant, very Words of YOUR GOD... 3 times: “I WILL HELP YOU!” And He will. You do your part, do your best, be obedient and trust God no matter what... and God will do His part to help you.



This next year is made up of 365 days... we’ve got 349 remaining. Every and every one of the days ahead is a beautiful gift. How you open and use that gift makes all the difference in living a beautiful life. Do you want to know a secret? It’s the secret to living a beautiful life. Not a perfect life, or a great life, or even a happy life- but a beautiful one. A beautiful life is attractive and so is the woman who lives beautifully. Her secret? She lives life in her breathing room. We talked about this in Episode 4 of Season 1... The breathing room is the intentional space we choose to make in our daily life, the time we take and the place we create to devote time with Jesus in his word...

Even more so, the breathing room is also a pace; it’s the pace at which you intentionally set your life according to the boundaries of your unique nature in order to beautifully live the life you’ve been given.

I want to live a beautiful life this year, a delightful life that I truly enjoy- even on days when life is not going as well as I’d hoped? Don’t you? I’ve found direction and inspiration in these words from Psalm 16:6: “The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed I have a beautiful inheritance.”

Pace makes all the difference in a rushed and hurried life, and a beautiful life, well lived.

We don't have to be in a rush in order to be ready for the things God has planned for us.

Let me say it another way—

We live in a hurry-up, instant everything world. But we don't have to live a hurry-up, instant everything life.

Jesus lived in the same world we live in. There were distractions and voices and noises calling and wooing right and left. But He set a pace for himself and he lived fully, purposefully, and effectively at that pace. And that's the pace he sets for us and desires to LIVE THROUGH US. He will not be rushed or pushed or forced. His recipe for readying ourselves for spiritual success, purpose, and fruitfulness is still the same- yesterday, today, and tomorrow:

- Be still
- Follow me
- Take my yoke
- Get some rest
- Do only what the Father tells you to do
- And wait.

Resetting your pace requires the exercising and practicing of the P O W E R that is already in you- if you are in Christ. That's the power of his Holy Spirit inside you- the very same power that enabled Jesus to endure this hard and brutal and distracting world was the same power that enabled him to rise up from the dead and break out of that dark tomb. And THAT, my friend, is the very same POWER that is in YOU!

POWER- not to do many big and loud things at a break-neck pace. But POWER to run YOUR race with perseverance and endurance (Hebrews 12:1).

- ✨POWER to be still (Psalm 46:10).
- ✨POWER to know your God better (Ephesians 1:17).
- ✨POWER to live at the pace that Jesus sets (Matthew 11:28-30).
- ✨POWER to take time (Mark 6:31).
- ✨POWER to live intentionally and bear much fruit (Matthew 28:18-20; John 15:7-8, 16).
- ✨POWER to live in a posture of patience...waiting on God, waiting to hear His voice, and waiting on His timing (Psalm 27:14; Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 37:7-9; Habakkuk 2:3).

This world has us thinking that faster is better, and that if we don't rush we will never be ready. Not so with God. If you're in a rush, you'll miss out on being ready for what He has for you. God is not in a rush just because you are.

So, kick that panic to the curb! **Reset** your pace by exercising the **POWER** of Christ in you! **Relax** into this year with God's help, under His loving and watchful eye. He always does what He says He will do, and He's already told you that He will help you. That's His promise to you. Believe Him. Take some time to just... be. Be with Him. Let Him set your pace for this new year. Run **YOUR RACE** at **YOUR PACE** and don't try to keep up with everyone else. **#FOLLOW** the Good Shepherd and He will lead you, not chase you. He will set your pace- a pace that enables you to **#FLOURISH**; to be what He created you to be, and to do what He purposes for you to do in this new year.

OK, that's that for that. And don't forget that you are greatly and dearly loved by The King!

xo P