

EXTOL



06

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2020

"Extol Means to lift up"

This on-line magazine is created in an effort to encourage all women in all walks of life. We have gathered women in this edition from various stages of life who have a message in this season.

I hope you will enjoy the features and share with your friends.

Sharon Wilson

Extol Women

Digital Magazine



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Good! Good! Father!

MICHAELA STOVALL, 4TH GRADE TEACHER, LOVER OF JESUS CHRIST, CHARLOTTE NC



Hearing the song "Good Good Father" recorded by Housefires reminds me of a sweet time in my life. I remember hearing this song for the first time and weeping. It had felt as if something had awoken inside of me. Like it had never occurred to me that God is perfect.

As I reflected on the impact of that song in my life in 2014. I realized that it was not a revelation to me that God was perfect. It was a revelation that his perfection had a direct connection to me because I am his daughter. That was groundbreaking, because I am far from perfect.

I remember during this time in my life I was just starting my first year of college, and was struggling with being away from my family. I felt lonely and unsure. Somehow asserting, "You're a good good father, that's who you are, and I'm loved by you, that's who I am" made all of those anxious feeling not seem so loud. It gave me identity in this world, an imperfect person who is loved by a perfect God.

God's goodness has that kind of power, its overwhelming. Whether it is manifested in a big gesture or a comforting feeling in a time of need. His goodness knows no barrier and is always intentional.

I always find solace in Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for the good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose". It reminds me that I am among the ones who love God, and my identity in him tells me that he loves me. His perfect love for me means that all things work perfectly together, in his will, and for his glory. If lifts the worry of my future because I know he has already written a perfect end.



Elder Sheila Stanley, Raleigh, NC

I am a wife, mother, student and lover of the Word of God. I am passionately in love with Jesus and His Church. I am a member of Legacy Center Church where my husband and I serve as Elders. I enjoy traveling, entertaining, gardening, and writing for Jesus. My daily prayer is that souls are saved and discipled into the fullness of God according to Ephesians 3:19.



A Good Father: The Tale of Two Sons|The Parable of the Lost Son

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

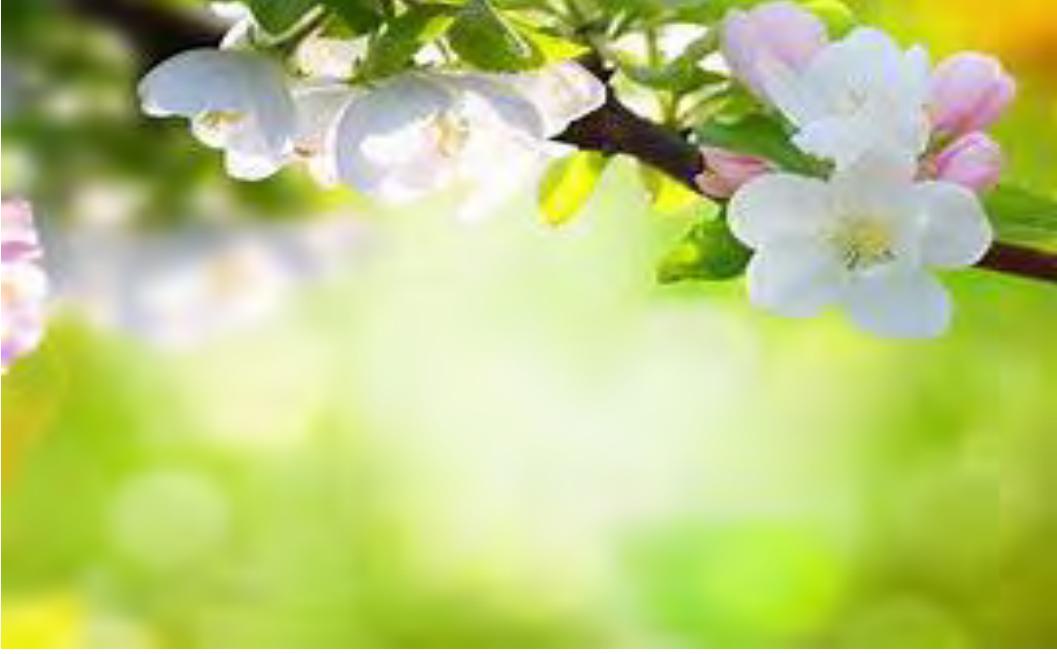
25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

31 "My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' (Luke 15:11-32)

This is one of my favorite stories because it illustrates a good father's steadfast and enduring love for his children. We often focus on the prodigal, but this is actually the tale of two sons. Many of us have either been one or the other at some point in our lives. In this parable, the younger son wanted his freedom and requests his inheritance to go out and see the world and feed his carnal desires. Given the customs of that day, his request was selfish and dishonorable as it meant he was unwilling to wait for father's death to receive his portion of his inheritance. I'm sure his father was heartbroken, yet he still conceded and granted his son's wish. During Jesus' time, these scenarios typically were resolved by banishment. Have you ever known anyone who walked away from the safety and security of a loving environment only to make poor choices that landed them in a far worse condition than they could ever have imagined?

The younger son left his father's home to pursue his personal freedom and space and went on a spending spree in all the wrong places. I'm sure he was trying to get as far away from his family as he could to



Tonya Lane, Chemist, Business owner,
Intercessor, Lover of Jesus

Father God, we love you and we thank you for who you are. We magnify you and acknowledge your goodness in our lives. You are forever faithful and forever for us. We honor you God, there is no one like you. For you are the omnipotent one, the omniscience one, and the omnipresent one. Even in the midst of the Corona Virus pandemic, you are God. We seek your face Father, and ask that you forgive us for our sins as we come boldly before you, seeking your power against this virus and restoration of this land. We command every assignment of the enemy attached to this virus, to be torn down now in the name of Jesus Christ! We send confusion to the enemies camp now, and demand that he and his cohorts be scattered by fire. We bind fear, and loose peace. We bind anxiousness, and loose rest. We bind sadness, and loose joy! Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue us all the days of our lives including this time we are in! You are the God of time, and to you we commit this time to trust you and seek your face because you are with us! Thank you God for eradicating this virus and upholding us by your victorious right hand. We count it as done Lord! We bless you, we honor you, in the mighty name of Jesus Christ! Amen!

establish his independence and prove he could take care of himself. As the story unfolds, he did not steward his inheritance well and when a famine hit the land, he fell on very hard times. He found himself homeless, hungry and humiliated. He had to beg for work and hired himself out to feed pigs. Being a Jew, pigs were considered unclean animals so he's also now in violation of Jewish laws and even thinking about eating pig food...this can't possibly get any worse for him! Thankfully, he comes to himself, realizes who he is (a "son") and affectionately recalls his father's house, all the food there, and how even the servants are eating well with food to give away. They are living in the overflow in his father's house! He then musters up courage coupled with humility and decides he is heading home to his father's house!

Question: During this pandemic, are you feeding someone the gospel of peace?

His father sees his prodigal son heading home and lovingly and compassionately runs towards him! His father, much like our Heavenly father, did not care about tradition that dictated that wealthy dignified men did not run. Only servants and slaves ran during those times. His father was motivated by love and joy because his son, who was lost, was alive, recovered and home! The prodigal thought he was not worthy to be called a son but his father's response was to lavish more love on him and ensure that he was given the finest robe, shoes, and the family ring. He was fully restored and celebrated with a feast!

Question: The next time someone is restored, will you celebrate them with a handshake or a meal?

His older brother was angry and felt that his younger brother did not deserve to be restored. His father had to lovingly and gently address him and explain that "you are always with me and everything I have is yours. We have to celebrate; your brother was dead and is now alive."

Question: Do you withhold forgiveness based on an offense?

During this season, we must remember that God delights in mercy (Micah 7:18) and that He will always leave the ninety-nine to go after the one. (Luke 15:3-7). The older son showed a lack of compassion and lost sight of what was most important: his father's forgiveness and his brother's restoration. God wants us to see a son or daughter's bright future not their offense or failures. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). He is calling us to a ministry of reconciliation: reconcile man to God.

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (II Corinthians 5:17-18)

EXTOL MINISTRIES
**EMERGENCY FOOD/SUPPLY
GIVEAWAY AND PRAYER**



March 21 12:00 - 2:00
214 Hawkins Ave. Sanford, NC 27330

What's Happening?




Curly Chemistry
Tonya S. Lane
Cosmetic Chemist
Simple Natural Hair Care
Advice-Tutorials-Results



www.CurlyChemistry.com

Is it your Special Day?
Jadore's Birthdays!
A FREE service from Extol Ministries



Free Service for children in transitional housing in Lee and Moore Counties



HE SHALL BE LIKE A TREE PLANTED... PSALMS 1:3 IS MY HEART'S DESIRE!
CHECKOUT MY MONTHLY BLOG FOUND ON THE BLOG SECTION OF
WWW.EXTOLMINISTRIES.ORG
by Sharon Wilson March 2020

Sistah's COVID-19 Corner

1. Steward this time wisely - saith the Lord!
2. Continue to cultivate authentic relationships.
3. Remain Joyful, Great things are ahead!

4. FAMILY!
5. PRAY, STUDY and FAST
6. WRITE!
7. PLAN with God!
8. Build with God!

2 Chronicles 7:14

14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

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