**Krystal:** [00:00:00] On today's episode we will be chatting with Jenn Jett Barrett Jenn is a dreamer a doer and a champion of risk-takers She spends her life unleashing women and men To co-labor for the kingdom by finding clarity confidence and freedom She does this through the Well summit which exists to cultivate environments and experiences for women who sit in the tension of feeling too [00:01:00] much and not enough She lives in Northwest Arkansas and is married to her best friend I know that you will appreciate Jenn's story As she shares struggles and joys she has experienced over the years Jen would say that her journey has been a story that she would have never chosen for herself but it is one that she would never trade her Faith has been tested time and time again and proves the incredible power of the resurrection and the freedom that comes through it Join us for our conversation with Jenn Jett Barrett

Hey everybody And welcome back to the daily grace podcast This is Krystal and I am joined by my lovely co-host Shelby Hey Shelby

**Shelby:** Hello everyone Super glad to be back with you today

**Krystal:** And today we are joined by Jenn Jett Barrett Jenn thanks so much for joining us on the podcast

**Jenn:** It's such an honor to be here

**Shelby:** Jenn we're So excited to have you on the podcast You have a story that I think a lot of our listeners are going to resonate with and we're wondering if you can start [00:02:00] us off by just telling us a little bit about yourself

**Jenn:** Yeah we were just talking and comparing notes on where each of us are from before this show started I live in Northwest Arkansas I was born here lived in most of my life in Texas but I'm back now And I live here with my husband and he is a middle school educator I joke that his 16 years in middle school education have kept him very patient with me but we live here We love life here It is beautiful up here I run a ministry called the Well summit and it's for women who sit in the tension of feeling too much and not enough And I think most of us women if not all the time find ourselves in seasons feeling that tension And so we just have a deep deep heart and passion to minister to them and help them find freedom

**Krystal:** That's awesome Well I actually first heard about your story You were speaking at a conference I want to say it was 2017 And you know as I've been following you on Instagram it seems like now you're in a much different [00:03:00] place than you were when I first heard you speak So could you just tell us a little bit about story

**Jenn:** Yeah So I think back Right About that time I was going through massive transition I had been married For 15 years at that point to right before then and was walking through divorce at that time my husband had left for the third time in 15 years and I truly had a peace that third time I remember There are those moments in your life where you can visually go back and you can remember exactly where you were where you were sitting what was in the room And I I was sitting in my living room when he had asked for a divorce the third time and the Lord just downloaded Exodus 14:14 I will fight for you You need only be still And it had been 15 years of persevering and fighting for my marriage and I just felt like the Lord gave me a release in that moment And so at that time you probably heard me I was recalling that story [00:04:00] and really in the middle of it I think so many times we hear the story on the other side of healing And I think I was really in the middle of Experiencing the Lord in very profound ways that truly in the middle of healing And so I was walking through Divorce at that time And really looking forward to what he had next And honestly I tell this part of my story is that I sat in this tension of grieving what God never intended God never intends for marriages to end his heart is always for ministry of reconciliation and that's never his intention And so I sat in this tension of grieving what God never intended and yet feeling hope and freedom through healing And it was a weird dichotomy to try to process in a moment those two things And yet [00:05:00] just a deep desire to pursue healing at that time

**Shelby:** Yeah So I'm so thankful that you're here to tell your story And I'm thankful that you're willing to share about divorce because I think sometimes in the Christian community it's not talked about very much but it is very much a reality So just for a moment I know you talked about that tension but what was it really like to try to wrestle through I know that God doesn't like divorce yet Here I am walking through it what was that really like for you trying to figure that out

**Jenn:** Yeah I always when I tell this part of my story my desire to steward is to always preface it by saying this is not God's intention his intention is for reconciliation and I always I want to hold it responsibly because I don't ever want to give women or anyone an excuse or kind of a pass to just get divorced because my story ended up the way it did And I have found healing I want to be careful not to use the word fear [00:06:00] but it is on my mind always this responsibility to steward it well And so I always say that there is no formula for when to get divorced or how long do I stay There's no formula Apart from the holy spirit It is literally the holy spirit And the Lord is the only one that can direct Our path and our days and our decisions And so I always want to say that but there had been early on very early on in our marriage Part of our story is that that very classic raised in the church pursuing ministry vocationally and saving ourselves for marriage And so when we got married those early early days sex was very very painful for me physically and for about a year could not figure out why went to multiple doctors counseling therapists psychiatrists I mean on and off medications and just could not figure out what was wrong until a fourth [00:07:00] doctor said Hey this is a medical situation and simple surgery will fix this And at that point marriage was really hanging on by a thread I think emotionally and spiritually we did not know how to navigate that And I think there's this false perception that hey you save yourself for marriage and you do all the I'm using air quotes hard to see on a podcast you know all the right things you do that And then success will follow or flourishing will follow or abundance will follow And that wasn't the story And so I think there was a lot of disappointment There was a lot of disillusionment and so we didn't really we weren't really equipped to handle that well And so it really Became a huge burden on our marriage And so it was really hanging on by a thread by the time I had surgery And through that process of surgery there ended up being some infidelity and for the next that was at about a year and a half into marriage And I think the sad thing is is we never healed from that there [00:08:00] was a lot of staying and praying and you know fighting for and working on And there was just we never saw healing inside of that And you know trust is always a hard thing to restore and I knew that it was possible And I think there were seasons in the healing inside 15 years where I went through A season of just truly believing God can redeem and restore this I still believe that and then there was a season of gosh my heart breaks because I know there's got to be the weight of shame and anger and you know on my husband's part and just a heart breaking for that in that burden And then there's this shame And you mentioned it Shelby the inside Christian marriages of like This wasn't supposed to happen This wasn't supposed to be our story And so there was a long season of isolation that was built by shame carrying shame and my own life shame in our marriage that it was so broken and it was not healing And the easiest thing to do is to isolate when you [00:09:00] isolate you start building You are the only one who's walked through this there's that lie right That the enemy wants you to truly believe that you were the only one This is isolated to you No one understands And so we had really isolated ourselves And I would say to anyone going through a hard marriage do not isolate You have got to bring community and people into that And that was one thing that I will always say make sure you do not do is isolate And so yeah a lot of that shame from being a Christian both of us were believers both grew up in the church His dad was a pastor you know we had started our marriage in vocational ministry And so yeah tons of shame attached to that and isolation and depression and so that went on for a very long time And I would say again catching up to you know year 15 when he chose to leave a third time I did feel that release I had [00:10:00] felt like the Lord had said I've got you now I've got you on the other side of this and I want to be so clear There was never physical abuse in my marriage And I say to any woman who if that is part of your marriage story you have got to get out and get to safety and so I always want to be so clear on that That's you know a non-negotiable if physical abuse is in is in your story so yeah I'm glad you bring that up because I think that that's the thing that keeps us isolated is the shame piece

**Shelby:** Yeah I think you brought up something really important too that is like if I've done the right things in the right way then therefore my marriage will be blessed And I think my husband and I also believed that and I've shared in a previous episode of how he battled a pornography addiction early in our marriage And that really was a huge struggle you know for us And so I found myself In a somewhat similar place of like Hey we we did everything right yet We're so broken And I think we discounted the fact that even though God is good like we're still sinful people on both [00:11:00] sides of marriage you know And so um definitely took a lot of work and counseling and all that um for us to heal And I've shared that story previously But obviously you're sharing about like 15 years just this really long period of some like hard things and some difficult things and I'm wondering can you give us just a glimpse of during that really difficult time What evidence of God's grace did you see while things were really really hard

**Jenn:** Yeah it's interesting Because going back to mentioning you know how we were raised in the church I do feel like inside my faith background Into early adulthood It was a lot of duty based relationship with Jesus Right It's you know what you do for God how you do it how consistent you do it again going back to we had done all these things right And so when I went through so much when I was so isolated inside Marriage and [00:12:00] inside community And again that was some of that was on me Right It was just me and God me and Jesus And there was a season of not going to church which growing up in the church you're like this is so wrong you know I'm not going to church but there was a season where going to church felt hurtful to my husband at the time And so it was just me and Jesus and my Bible in my living room or in my closet And and I think that was such a sweet time because the Lord started showing me and revealing to me what a relationship was like with him apart from what I did And I think that was probably the greatest gift I received during that really really hard season was truly what a relationship deep intimate soul connecting relationship was with Jesus apart from anything I did any place I went anywhere I served and for him to show his faithfulness to me [00:13:00] despite you know my performance Was a game-changer for me it was it was life-changing it was faith changing It was shaping for me so that was probably the greatest gift and the thing I learned in that really long hard season

**Krystal:** One thing that I love that you mentioned is just like encouraging women not to isolate because that is what the enemy uses Whenever we are struggling with shame or suffering is just to isolate because like you said like we believe the lie that no one understands And you touched on this a little bit but tell us a little bit about how community played a role in your story coming out of that difficult season and just going into a season of healing and processing your pain Uh what did that look like for you

**Jenn:** Well you know I think going back to the isolation piece and I and I look back on how on discipleship you know my discipleship journey growing up in the church and I'm really passionate about this now because it was missing in my discipleship journey but this deep [00:14:00] understanding of grief and lament and suffering we're not discipled Early in our faith on how to navigate that how to lament how to grieve how to suffer Well no one disciples us in that and I'm really passionate about discipling in a healthy theology a right theology of suffering grief and lament And so I think if we had that Early in our faith journeys we would not be so shocked and surprised that it exists and that it's there And so a majority of that that marriage time was so lonely And then I remember it was about three years before my marriage ended I remember two things one I decided with the Lord I said if this is going to be the rest of my life if this is my lot and it's just going to be hard which for some of us it really that is God's it's sitting in a hard marriage sometimes it doesn't we don't get a red bow at the end And I knew I was like if this [00:15:00] is what I'm going to walk through till the end I want to be as healthy and whole as I can if this is going to end one day I want to be as healthy and whole as I can And so I set off on a journey to really pursue Wholeness healing and health in myself And then the second thing I sought out to do I remember being in the car with a friend and we didn't spend a lot of time together but she said Hey I always think to reach out to you but I always just assume that you're busy And I realized I had put up this image as a protection that I was busy I became a workaholic I became really busy I filled my life with things and I think that that was a self protection mechanism that if I stay busy And kind of isolate myself I don't have to be vulnerable Nobody has to see inside Nobody has to see the hard And I realized that was really convicting for me And things [00:16:00] shifted for me in that And I was like you know what if I want friends and community I'm going to have to make a change And so As cheesy as it sounded I undecided my word for the year that year was going to be friendship I couldn't find a better you know flashier word than friendship but I was like I'm going to start pursuing people I'm going to go first I'm going to invite people in if this is really what I desire which was community I'm going to go first And so that set me off on a course Those two things in tandem me pursuing wholeness and health For me not waiting on anyone else And me pursuing community not waiting for anyone else and things completely shifted I started making myself available to people I started going first inviting in and really truly being vulnerable And that was at about the same time I launched the Well summit and it's real sweet to go back and look at the step of obedience and pursuing the next right thing God had asked me to do Opened up [00:17:00] this beautiful world of community for me And now I look at my community I'm like it is an abundant gift that God has Just kindly given me but it wasn't always that way And I always want to say that people can look at my life now and see oh you know such a beautiful community of friends but it wasn't always that way I had to go first I had to be vulnerable and um community one of my old pastor's said hope flourishes in community And I think when we open ourselves up to that it really does provide a foundation of hope that can keep us going in the darkest times And so I had sweet friends come alongside and they didn't you know one things I was grateful for And I would say this to women in hard marriages if that's or even hard seasons Be careful who you surround yourself with and listen to their language Nobody was telling me you know to flee or get out They were holding space for where I was and for what God was doing in me They weren't trying to [00:18:00] project on me They weren't trying to be the holy spirit for me They were truly holding space for room for the Lord to speak And then supporting me in where I was

**Shelby:** I love that I think no matter what season of life we're in like women we just tend to isolate Like we kind of like the feeling of being self-sufficient right Of being able to handle things all on our own So can I just ask like when you started being vulnerable when you started letting people in intentionally was that hard Were you scared Like how did you kind of overcome that fear of beginning to build relationships where you had previously built walls

**Jenn:** Well I love that you mentioned we love to be self-sufficient and that was one of the first things the Lord convicted me of was my idol of self-sufficiency I loved being needed in other places in my life So there was this idea that like my work made me feel needed and valued And so that's where I found [00:19:00] so much worth And The Lord kindly convicted me that that had become an idol And so as I started confessing and repenting of that idol of self-sufficiency and finding my worth and value and being needed it opened me up to room to start being vulnerable And yes it is always scary And I'm going to say this Not everyone is going to be safe and you find that out the hard way when people aren't safe And so we have to be willing And you said this about two sinners in a marriage Well there are two sinners in friendship and a relationship and so we have to be willing to navigate that with a heart of grace and forgiveness and discernment because we might get hurt we will get hurt Let's be honest We will get hurt as we move into relationships of vulnerability And we have to discern when it's ready to kind of set boundaries in that or where it's we need to lean in and have those [00:20:00] hard conversations and say Hey this hurts this doesn't feel safe Are you willing to pursue a relationship that is safe So it's not always going to be easy and it is going to come with I mean I'm still two years ago I walked through deep deep betrayal and that was after years of building healthy friendships with people And so you get in your mind again if you do the right things you won't get hurt And I mean the betrayal knocked me completely down and it has taken a couple of years to find healing in that And so yes it's awesome To be vulnerable and to pursue community because that is God's design But inside of that we are sinful and there will be hurt

**Shelby:** Hmm Yeah I feel like that's such good encouragement And often as women we just need to see someone else do it first and say Hey it's been messy It's been hard but it's been so worth it And so I really appreciate your encouragement there I also wonder if you have some encouragement because I know that we'll have women listening in right now who are [00:21:00] either struggling greatly in their marriage or maybe they are currently going through or have recently gone through a divorce Do you have some encouragement to offer these women

**Jenn:** yeah I would offer two pieces because those are two situations And for the women who are in really hard marriages get yourself into counseling If your spouse is not willing to go with you And I would argue couples counseling and individual counseling at the same time are really important because what you what I want for you is to not live in fear And typically you're either afraid of what life will be like to stay or you are afraid of what life will be like If it ends And so my my hope and prayer for you in a really hard marriage is that you are free from fear And that comes with having a deep trusting intimate relationship with Jesus who you you really can trust that no matter what [00:22:00] He is there and will walk with you And so I think that that individual counseling so that you become strong and confident and fearless to endure a hard marriage and discern what is next I think that's so important And to have counsel inside of that with you Make sure you're not isolated You're in community with people who are not going to bash your spouse or talk negatively but we'll stand in the gap with you and pray for your marriage and pray for your spouse and do not move until the Lord says move so those would be the things I'd say to her And then those who are on the other side of divorce Oh gosh my heart So it goes out to those women who feel like they are damaged goods They feel like they are forever broken and there is no hope for healing And that is just all a lie one of the stories I tell is when [00:23:00] on the other side of my divorce And I am remarried That is part of my story And I know that's not always everybody's story but God has given me this amazing incredible man And that's part of my story And I remember when we were the early days of engagement and I was shopping for a wedding dress and it was I was going out that day and I remember feeling so much shame around Buying a wedding dress again you know my mom had been married before my dad for short amount of time And when she married my dad her mom told her that she couldn't wear a white dress And so my mom because that's her story right She asked me the same question when I was shopping for mine And so there was some shame in shopping for a dress again And I remember praying to the Lord I was like God I want to find every piece of scripture where you talk about being made new because I know that's the God that you are And so I went through you know turn to the back looked up the word new and just started reading [00:24:00] every passage And I camped out on Isaiah 62 and I read it every day for two weeks And it talks about being given a new name You'll be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow And as you read down it says but you will be called Hephzibah and your land Beulah And so I went and I was like what are what are those names mean And Hephzibah means my delight is in her and Beulah means to marry to claim as his wife And it keeps going talking about A bride groom rejoicing over his bride And that is how the the Lord will rejoice over you And so I kept reading this and it was just beautiful restoration of being called a new name And I remembered a passage I had read in revelation about how we are clothed in white linens of righteousness And it just made me connect the dots between this idea of being clothed In white linens that is in our [00:25:00] salvation that is how Jesus sees us And yet I was attaching so much shame in being clothed in white you know in this marriage and the Lord in his kindness just showed me it's almost like he pulled back the curtain on more of the gospel than I had ever seen in my 40 years of walking with him And It was this picture of no God is the one that clothed us in righteousness and white linens It is not our works It is not our failures it is not our sin It is him that does that And so it just reframed even Buying a white wedding dress and wearing that in my wedding and just realizing that Christ is coming for his bride the broken messy church And he has clothed us in all our messiness in all our brokenness He has clothed us And that was just the kindness of the Lord helping me see the gospel in a whole different way [00:26:00]

**Krystal:** I appreciate even how you've been sharing your story And you know like you said with marriage if we do X Y and Z we get this outcome And I think we can be tempted to even look at our own stories and think well God's picture of redemption will look like this It will look like the marriage being restored and maybe it's not maybe it's something else And so I love that You're able to see God's redemptive hand all throughout your story and that you're able to lean into what his picture of redemption looks like for you and not what the world's looks like or even maybe within the church And so I appreciate just hearing how you've seen God's hand all throughout your story even in the hard seasons So as you're thinking about your story and as you've kind of mentioned camp well and the Well summit how has your own story of redemption informed your ministry to others

**Jenn:** Yeah And love that you bring that up about redemption because I have a lot of people say oh I hope God redeems my story Like he redeemed yours And I always say [00:27:00] he has redeemed your story no matter what happens tomorrow or next in your life or in your story our stories our lives were redeemed on that cross and out of that grave like that is our story of redemption I think a lot of times we're just waiting for a different one And we've already got one to live out of and through and in And so I'm grateful that you touched on that and through the Well summit I think what's crazy is five weeks after my husband left for the third time I was hosting my very first camp well and camp well is a retreat that we host twice a year in Colorado And we've now hosted I think we're about to host our 12th one in October which is crazy to me but you plan these things a year in advance So a year before the very first came well had no idea This is where my life was going to be when I landed that first day And I remember kind of debating here I've gathered these 30 women Most of them I did not know at all [00:28:00] They had entrusted me with their lives for four days And I remember this going back and forth with the Lord thinking how much of my story do I share And I stood on that first day And for just one minute I shared where I was in my story that five weeks before my husband had left and here I was standing before 30 women wondering if I was qualified to be there if I had the capacity to lead what would they think Did I deserve to be there Should I be I mean all those things run through your mind And I saw something shift in that room and I've had people tell me that first day they were like I felt so insecure in that room Women saying this coming and feeling so insecure you know we all struggle with negative comparison right And then looking around assuming everyone's got their life together And several people said It wasn't until you shared that you didn't have seemingly [00:29:00] your life together that they felt this wall come down and we talked earlier about vulnerability vulnerability breeds vulnerability When we lead first out of that God uses that to usher in vulnerability and something changed in the room that day And honestly something changed in our whole ministry that day I saw a deep need To pull back the curtain to lead authentically and vulnerability and to talk about my own journey of restoration with the Lord and seeing myself the way he saw me you know because one of the things I had to choose to believe that day was that God is who he says he is His word is what it says it is And I am who he says I am Now the third one is the hardest a lot of times That I am who he says I am And that is the core of actually everything that the Well Summit has been built on since then is just this fight to believe that I am who God says I am no matter my [00:30:00] story my past my strongholds I am who he says I am and that is righteous And beautiful and I'm worthy to be loved And so I think they needed to see someone with the most broken story stand up and just be obedient inside of that

**Shelby:** Hmm I love that So often I feel like Christians we run around trying to pretend like we're not sinners and that we've never been affected by sin yet That is the whole of our story is that we are sinners and we have been affected by sin and we do need a savior And so I feel like just breaking down that that facade and just say Hey it's okay if you've messed up like all the more that just points to your savior and points Jesus

**Jenn:** And I think that facade keeps perpetuating the cycle of isolation and shame It just keeps it in this constant motion When we don't create safe spaces for [00:31:00] women for men for all of us as believers to show up as we are cause the longer we Try to perform and strive to be more than God ever intended or somebody else or perfect Then we keep perpetuating the narrative That that's exactly how we should be as believers And that's not why Christ died for us and so I it has been convicting for me that like am I living In a way that Christ's death was in vain am I living that I don't need him because I'm perfect and good and holy all the time is that what I'm doing in my life of striving to be something that I'm not

**Shelby:** Yeah I think that's a word for all of us That's like deeply encouraging even to me at this moment I really love that Okay So you've mentioned like the Well summit and camp Well a couple of times can you tell us just like what are these things And What led you to start them

**Jenn:** Yeah So the Well summit [00:32:00] is kind of the the umbrella ministry And underneath that we do different things and our kind of our flagship anchor experience is camp Well we host it twice a year It's a six month almost like sole care discipleship experience So three months is online content And then you arrive in person for four days and then you go back home and do three more months of content It's for 42 women at a time So it's pretty small it's not this big event It's very small and intimate We have table leaders So it's deep soul care discussion on Walking through unpacking What's holding us back from fully experiencing the freedom and abundance that Christ died to give So what lies fears shame sin grief and lament Like what are those things holding us back from abundance And then we repack what's true about who God is and who he says that we are So we look at our unique design not in a way that's self promoting but in a way that celebrates how God made [00:33:00] Shelby and Krystal and Jenn because I would argue one of our biggest hurdles as women And I think men struggle with it too is negative comparison And so why would we spend our time Comparing ourselves negatively when God intentionally And it tells us in scripture he intentionally made us different And so we should be so busy being faithfully obedient in this unique road he's asked us to travel that we don't have time to look around but yet we're usually doing that And then we look at what it looks like to walk out in obedience inside community So what is shelby's next right Step and Krystal's next right step What is that assignment God has uniquely for you where your strengths and your motivations and your wiring intersect specifically for your life And we talk a lot about doing that in community and what it looks like to have healthy community And so it's kind of like this field guide not a one-stop shop for healing and fixing but a [00:34:00] rhythm of tools that we can take with us on our journey with Jesus because it is a journey we will not see full restoration this side of heaven But I do believe he's called us to partner with him on restoration in our own lives and restoration of others as we disciple So like I said we have camp well we've launched this year an experience called launch Well and it's for women who specifically feel called to the business world So starting their own business or non-profit we launched a Camp Well version for girls 18 to 24 and it's called scout So we'll be doing that again in January And it's the same curriculum we do at camp Well I had this thought what if I had these tools when I was 20 How would my life be different And I think it would be so different Not that we become free from hard things but we are again discipled on how to lament and navigate the brokenness and suffering of this world

**Krystal:** Yeah It's been my dream for a few years to come to camp Well it's going to happen one day It's going to like the timing's going to [00:35:00] work out but I just I love what y'all do and it feels like a unique experience that we don't really it doesn't really exist anywhere else I love that you have this focus on what has God said about us What does scripture say about that And then how do we live that out So we can have an abundant life that we can flourish in the way that God made us

**Jenn:** Yeah It's you have to come And I always tell him I hear that like oh I want to come someday And I'm like God knows the exact time because what what's so interesting is every single camp Well it's different because it's based on the women that are there the season of life they're in and so every time is unique So he has a very specific time for you to be there One of my biggest dream that came out of this last camp Well cause we talk a lot about like what dream has God birthing in you And for me I just see so many opportunities to create more experiences and events that bring restoration and wholeness to people That's really just my deep desires to cultivate And my big crazy dream is what would it look like to have our [00:36:00] own space here in Northwest Arkansas where we can monthly Create these environments and experiences because I am seeing so much revival happening in the hearts of individual people at camp Well and they're taking that revival back home whether it's to their church their communities their families I'm watching families and generations completely changed because women are finding freedom a lot for the first time they've been walking with Jesus For years and decades and they believed in the gospel that saves but they haven't believed in the gospel that transforms daily so that's my big kind of crazy dream right now I like what would it look like to have space right here in Northwest Arkansas where we can really do this on an unlimited basis

**Krystal:** That's amazing I will be praying That happens

**Jenn:** Thank you If anyone's listening and wants to pray in this right in this moment we we welcome Cause it's so crazy and insane and grandiose and it's one of those impossible God-sized dreams So There are nights I get so overwhelmed I'm like what am I [00:37:00] doing This is so impossible I'm going to go back to what was easy

**Krystal:** But did you feel like that when you started the Well summit did you go in with that same kind of overwhelm

**Jenn:** Of course of course my friend was like don't you remember You felt this way I was like yeah but that feels so easy now was like I forgotten that that that was hard This feels so crazy hard impossible and so it is the it's the stepping out in obedience I keep looking for the breadcrumbs and he keeps putting them out And so it is literally a next right step daily Just keep moving

**Shelby:** Let me ask this question really quick because I feel like I probably have a lot of women listening to our podcast who are dreamers who maybe feel like God has given them big dreams like this So one question that we get a lot from people is how and you might be the great person to answer This is how do you know when you have a big dream If it's something you want or if it's something God has given you to persue

**Jenn:** Such a good question I had that exact question probably eight years ago and wrestled a ton with it and it made me write [00:38:00] this devotional I think it was it's been like seven years but it's called 31 days of prayer for the dreamer and doer And it was because of that So I was like I don't want to move unless this is a God dream It could be a good opportunity but is it a God opportunity And I desperately longed to know that And so the very first thing I would say is you've got to pray You have got to spend time praying And I think a lot of times We rush through the prayer season with dreaming because we think we're wasting time or if we don't move an act right now God's going to move on without us And that's not God's economy And so I think our posture of surrender is through prayer And so I would say pray first discernment is huge So listening to the holy spirit And then I think addressing and this is why we do a lot of lies fear and shame work because a lot of that work is standing in the way of us taking the next right step in that dream We think [00:39:00] it's something else but it's really a lot of confession or surrender or lament I've seen this time and time again in the course of even four days women find freedom on the other side of those things or or begin to work through those and the Lord they can hear the Lord speaking because they're not Clouded by the fear and the lies And then I would say take the next right step One of the biggest hurdles I see in dreaming is it has to be perfect to begin And so the phrase I say all the time is go ugly early So what would that next right step look like Is it having a conversation with someone Is it Testing out if it's a product make a prototype get it into the hands of people See if people love it and want to use it start small Or do you want to teach Do you want to teach God's word Well then get five girls in your living room and teach God's word You know we so often wait so long because we have this ideal of what it should look like when God's [00:40:00] asking us to steward right where we're at And if I had had this dream to have my own space six years ago I never would have started but I just started I joke that I started In a hotel ballroom with no windows we could have been anywhere I didn't even notice on the site visit that there were no windows but that was my go ugly Early story is just start small and steward what you have right now The disciples stewarded they fought it And in mark 6 the story about feeding the 5,000 God was like here take these fish and a little bit of fish and a little bit of bread and go And they're like this isn't enough they were tripping up on their own lack of their own They didn't have the energy they didn't have the capacity They had just been grieving the death of John the Baptist They had all these excuses and God's just go with what I've given you because it's more about who Jesus is in us and less about what we have And that's what he always wants to show us [00:41:00]

**Krystal:** That's so good Oh I just feel like I'm being so encouraged I'm like feeling inspired Cause I just do I feel like we wait for permission a lot of times like we need someone to come like for instance teaching the Bible I need someone to come Tell me to go do it I need someone to give me that permission when it's like God goes before us Like we just need to be patient We need to be faithful to what he's given us And like you said just be good stewards of the things that he's already doing and giving us at this moment And so you touched on this a little bit but there's there's a phrase that you'll say at the Well Summit it's obedience over outcome which I love So how have you seen that play out in the lives of women that have come to camp Well but then also in your own life

**Jenn:** Yeah it has become my life mantra and it is so anchored in that first camp Well that I was like I'm just going to show up This is the obedient thing to do I know that I know that that I know that that I know that this is obedient and it could either be a big disaster Or it could be I always thought it was like camp [00:42:00] Well we'll be one and done And then I'll move on to the next thing And so much of my life has been that next right Step of obedience Sometimes the outcome of our obedience is success Sometimes it's failure sometimes it's a long season of waiting And so I think we've got to reframe obedience I think we have a lot of expectations on obedience that our obedience is going to Bring about good happy joyful fruit you know like I'm being obedient therefore it's that formula model Right but God values our obedience so much our faithful obedience to say yes to him when we don't know the outcome the outcome is for him to decide But yet Our movement and actions and response to God we oftentimes calculate or try to control the outcome in So we wait until we know something will be successful or will flourish [00:43:00] before we're willing to step out And that is just not that's not how he works and that's not what he desires from us He really desires for us to just deeply trust him with our whole life And so I've seen it happen time and time again I know the next right step I have no idea what's going to happen on the other side but he does and I know he's going to be on the other side I think a lot of our fear is like if I don't control this what if what if God doesn't show up on the other side of it Well we know that he's there and we know that he's present So it is that idea that God calls us to obedience and the outcome is for him to decide what he wants to look like

**Shelby:** Hmm you know I'm just going to share a personal story of taking that step without knowing the outcome It was I think the end of 2019 And I was really feeling like God was saying Hey I want you to step out in speaking and teaching and writing more And I was a stay at home mom of three young kids a lot of kids And I just [00:44:00] thought that's impossible Like I don't I don't have any spare moments There's no possible way I can do this And my fear was that to do it It was going to take time away from my family And so I was actually even at an event and they kind of just had a time of prayer and worship And I really just went up to the front to just surrender and say Lord if you've called me to this I trust you that you'll take care of my kids and my family And so I was up in the front just kneeling and praying and y'all can see that I'm starting to cry on here but I still have no idea who this was but a woman came up behind me And just begin to pray over me She did not know me I was not there with anyone I knew and she just had she had no idea I had told her and she just began to pray for my children And it was like God saying I have got your kids even more than you do You know And so now I look at my life today So many years later three years later and I have this amazing job where I'm doing what I love to write and speak yet I work from home and I still get to put my daughter down for her nap every day And so it's like I could have not dreamed this [00:45:00] if I wanted to yet God in his sovereignty saw it from the beginning but it took me just stepping out in the beginning Now Krystal's crying to y'all And so my encouragement to anyone listening who just says no it's too hard for me Or you're asking too much for me is to just take those tiny steps a little bit at a time and trust what God can do

**Jenn:** you talked about your fear and there is a surrender inside our fear to say God this is what I'm afraid of Like this is my fear And I I really believe and I your this is your story that in that surrender in that confession of fear God was like I love your kids more than you even do if I'm asking you to be obedient the implications of your obedience that's on him And he has shown himself and proven himself So faithful inside your obedience I think that's just a sweet story of that

**Shelby:** Yeah And there surely have been plenty of hard moments too Y'all can't hear my daughter [00:46:00] struggling with our babysitter who just started today downstairs So there's certainly plenty of hard moments too but God's grace has been abundant in the midst of it Well Krystal do you want to wrap up with our last question

**Krystal:** Yeah thanks for sharing that story Shelby so we have a question that we ask every guest that comes on the podcast And what we say here at the daily grace co is the gospel changes everything So Jenn what has the gospel changed for you

**Jenn:** Jesus has changed the gospel for me in that it was only something that was my assurance of salvation you know for the majority of my faith journey with the Lord it was a moment of salvation It was my security it was my insurance policy to spend eternity with him in the last few years the gospel the truth of the gospel Has transformed me It has healed me It has changed me It has kindly convicted me It has brought freedom and healing and that was a part of the gospel I don't think [00:47:00] anyone discipled me into understanding when I was younger that it wasn't just something that saves that it is something that transforms and it transforms daily And That has radically changed my life in the last probably five six years And it has motivated me to see I see evangelism in a different way so much of evangelism has been a lot about sharing the gospel with someone for the first time And hoping that they accept Jesus as their Lord and savior And yes that is a form of evangelism but seeing evangelism as preaching a gospel that transforms every day And I used to always think I was like I'm not good at evangelism And now I'm like oh my gosh I can't shut up about the gospel that transforms And so that's probably the impact I would say the greatest impact of the gospel on my life [00:48:00] In most recent years I've known Jesus since I was nine but it was definitely more of a salvation gospel than a transforming gospel

**Shelby:** I mean you just touched on what is the heart and soul of our company daily grace that we're transformed by the gospel each and every day And so man that message resonates deeply with us for sure Well So much for joining us today Jenn this was deeply encouraging I'm not sure I've been as close to tears in a podcast interview before as in this one um I feel like this was timely for Krystal and I and I know it will be for everyone who's listening in as well

**Jenn:** Well thank you guys It's been a sweet time

**Krystal:** thank you all for joining us today on the daily grace podcast don't forget to subscribe to our weekly newsletter to receive free resources related to the podcast straight to your inbox You can click on the link in the show notes to subscribe

**Shelby:** Until then come join us as we continue this conversation over on Instagram at daily grace podcast but we'll see [00:49:00] y'all next

**Jenn:** time

**Krystal:** Bye