Final Mix Comp

[00:00:00] **Shelby:** Welcome to daily grace We believe the Bible is true trustworthy and timeless and we want to help women like you know and love God's word The Bible shows us who God is and who he is changes everything My name is Shelby and I want to invite you to come join me and a few of my friends as we chat about the truth of God's word in our everyday lives

[00:00:39] We are so excited to bring you our spring Ask us anything episode today you all have submitted questions through our Facebook community group and also through email and Instagram And today we're gonna be answering the questions you submitted We'll talk about how to be a Christ centered friend encouragement for those who are married to unbelievers how to know if you're where God wants you to be and how to differentiate between your own thoughts and God's voice Plus we'll end this episode with some rapid fire questions Krystal and I will each answer as many questions as we can in just a few minutes I want to encourage you to also subscribe to our podcast newsletter Because the free resource this week is a list of questions that we didn't have the time to answer in this episode but we have a great resource already that we can point you to either a blog or a past podcast episode So you'll definitely want to subscribe to that newsletter and get that free resource But for now I hope you'll join us in our spring Ask us anything episode

[00:01:48] Hey everybody And welcome back to the daily grace podcast This is Shelby and I'm so excited to be here with you for another episode of daily grace where we talk about how the truth of God's where it applies to our everyday lives Today is a very special episode because it is our spring Ask us anything episode we get tons of questions year round from you guys in twice a year we take a whole episode and we devote it to answering your questions So we have lots of really great questions to answer and I'm excited to dive into those But first I have an important podcast announcement to make you know over the past few months many people have stepped in to co-host the podcast and they each have brought something unique to the table We're Thankful for the time and care that each of them put into creating gospel centered content for you But over the past few weeks you have been able to get to know and love Krystal Dixon as she has been co-hosting the podcast with me And I am thrilled to let you know that crystal will be my new permanent cohost on the daily grace podcast And that means that each week when you download our newest episode you'll hear myself and Krystal and occasionally some wonderful guests here as well Talking about how the truth of God's word impacts our daily lives You know I am really looking forward to the future of the daily grace podcast Krystal is not only gracious kind and wise but she also loves and cherishes God's word She is super sharp theologically and equally passionate about presenting the truth in love We are so glad to have her as a part of the daily grace podcast

[00:03:29] **Krystal:** Yeah I'm really looking forward to I'm excited to get to do this with you Shelby and I can honestly say the same things just right back at you And you know I was thinking back to some of our first conversations and how really bonded over listening to the same podcast at that time And so it's fun to get to like you know come back full circle and just it's the Lord's kindness that he has brought us into these roles I'm excited to see what he has in store for us and for the podcast

[00:03:54] **Shelby:** Yeah me too So many exciting things ahead Okay Well before we start our ask us anything questions Krystal would you want to share with us What is your favorite thing this week What is one thing that you are using and loving this week

[00:04:12] **Krystal:** So my favorite thing this week is a journal So the brand is 1917 it's a German brand And I just have to have a paper planner in addition to my Google calendar because I just keep track of everything with you know projects tasks events I have to have it in both places And I've tried so many planners but I just keep coming back to this one because they're really well-made and they've been around forever So you don't have to worry if they're going to be discontinued and they have different sizes different types of pages Cause I really like a dotted page cause I need a lot of space and so it just allows for a lot of flexibility and it has a table of contents which I think is so cool So you can like write out your table of contents and how you use your journal And I use it for bullet journaling as a bonus they give you labels so you can label the spine or the front So if you have like a lot of them you can just line them up and they're all labeled So that's my favorite thing this week It's the LEUSD room 1917 journal

[00:05:09] **Shelby:** wow that sounds cool I definitely went through a dotted journal phase I'm currently back to lined but I understand the love of dotted journals for sure

[00:05:19] **Krystal:** Yeah So what's your favorite thing this week Shelby

[00:05:23] **Shelby:** so my favorite thing just a forewarning I'm about to share something super mushy and romantic but this episode is going to air really close to my husband's birthday And I know that you will probably listen to it And so this week and every week he is just my favorite He is just probably the most humble and generous and kind person I know he just serves myself and our four kids day in and day out with such joy And he's my biggest supporter my best friend And I'm just so thankful I'm trying not to cry and I'm just thankful every single day that I get to be his wife So Kent I love you And you are my favorite

[00:06:06] **Krystal:** Oh that's so sweet oh love that And I'm really glad you went second Cause I don't think I could have followed up with that with my favorite thing is a journal So it was just so sweet Oh thanks for sharing that That's awesome So as we were preparing this episode I thought okay this is going to be pretty straightforward it's not gonna take much time but just as we're looking at the questions everyone submitted I mean they were all just so good and so thoughtful And so I really spent a lot of time just reflecting on these questions but Shelby I do have a question that I want us to talk about before we get into these So here at daily grace we say that the gospel changes everything So I would love to hear from you how have you seen this personally in your own life

[00:06:51] **Shelby:** Yeah so absolutely every part of who I am and what I do and what I believe has been transformed by the gospel but I was trying to pick just one maybe pivotal moment And for me I think that was maybe six or seven years ago I was a new mom and I knew the gospel Like I grew up in church I had heard the gospel preached a thousand times I you know believe the gospel and received it but it didn't occur to me that the gospel applied to motherhood as well as other areas of my life And so I can remember when my first child was maybe like six or seven months old and I was keeping track in my head of the number of things that I had done wrong in his little life Like literally keeping Track And if I stepped away for a moment you know and he tumbled over as babies often do when they're learning to sit up and stand I would like count that against myself or even simple things Like if I ran out of his favorite foods or if I was feeling stressed and anxious and wasn't able to give him my full attention that day all those things were just like another strike against me And so after several months of just feeling like that I was completely just overwhelmed by my faults as a mom And it was only getting worse as he was approaching toddlerhood and there's so many more trials and tantrums and just things that occur until their hood that don't always bring out the best in you as a parent And so I was struggling just I really was And I stumbled on a free ebook by desiring God called mom enough And I'll link it in the show notes because it is so so good but it has maybe 15 to 20 short essays written by moms And each one pointed to how the gospel of grace is for mothers too how we will fall short and we will make mistakes And that's why our kids need Jesus They have imperfect moms but a perfect savior And so that book changed a lot of things for me And instead of counting my faults I just began to see those moments where I messed up as a moment to stop and appreciate the gospel and the grace that I've been given through Jesus And also as a moment to invite the To work in me and to make me more like Christ and additionally they were a chance to just go to my kids and say I'm sorry mommy messed up Can you forgive me I haven't been a perfect mom by any stretch of the imagination but I've been a mom who I hope has preached the gospel to my children with my life and with my words So yeah the gospel is for mothers weary burdened worried broken always imperfect mothers You know I remember reading Hebrews 10 17 through 18 and this time where it was really occurring to me that God forgave me and had grace for me as a mother and these verses say then he adds their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more And where these have been forgiven sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary through Jesus I'm forgiven for losing my temper for being impatient for being disengaged and through the work of the holy spirit I am constantly growing in those areas in my life So I'm forgiven for my weaknesses and I'm empowered by the holy spirit to live in Christ likeness And just like what a blessing that is to know as a mom and what hope I have in Jesus that's just one thing that the gospel has changed for me But what about you Krystal What is the gospel changed for you

[00:10:19] **Krystal:** Yeah I cannot think of an area in my life I just has it been transformed by the power of the gospel I became a believer in college so I can see a really marked difference in my life before and after salvation And one area that I've seen just completely changed is my pursuit of identity So before Christ I struggled a lot with insecurity and just never felt like I was good enough at anything that I did And so the tangible expression of that was finding my identity what others thought of me So if I can make them happy it became this indicator of my value As if those people didn't deem me worthy in some way Now I wish I could say that when I came to faith in Christ you know it was instantly freed from that struggle but it's been a process in identifying when I pursue those things Apart from the And honestly I feel like in some ways it's a daily process to remind myself who I am in Christ but the big difference is that now even though I still struggle with it the object of my pursuit and the one who speaks into my identity is now the Lord And so when I find myself pursuing other things I'm able to reorient myself through prayer through scripture and just confessing my sin to the Lord and to the community that God has placed me in And so I I truly believe that this struggle in particular has drawn me closer to the Lord because it's really produced a greater dependence on

[00:11:42] **Shelby:** Hmm that's really so true I think for all of us in one way or another the gospel speaks to our identity and we all run after something to in order to identify ourselves and just ground ourselves And so I love what you just shared That was really great and encouraging

[00:11:58] **Krystal:** Okay so let's get into our questions So the first question actually comes from a listener named Alicia who asks how can I be a good Christ centered friend

[00:12:07] **Shelby:** Oh I love this question and I am maybe working on a Bible study that will speak into this topic That's all I can now on that And I don't think it will be released till maybe late 20, 23 or early 20, 24 In a way I think that this question answers itself too often our friendships are centered around acceptance happiness comfort similarities and while a lot of those are things that we can enjoy in friendships None of them should be the central thing that we are pursuing in our friendships Jesus should be central And that's the first step I think into being a Christ centered friend is to just keep Jesus in none of those other things that are good about friendship at the center

[00:12:50] **Krystal:** Yeah And you actually address biblical friendship a little bit in our last episode So episode 167 can we disagree and still be friends So if you haven't checked that out go ahead and do that I think the fact that Alicia is asking this question already shows that she is a good friend because she cares enough to ask these kinds of questions so she can have those deeper relationships centered around the Lord So I think the big things would be like you said continually pointing your friend to Christ um and doing that over just sharing personal experience or advice Cause I know that be kind of tricky and then being focused on your friend's needs over your own which we see obviously described in Romans 12 where Paul talks about how we should take the lead in showing honor to one another weep with those who weep rejoice with those who rejoice and I think also being willing to keep short accounts and to step into hard conversations when it's needed with humility and graciousness so I think there's a lot of things we could say to that question but I think those are just a few things that will help us to have Christ centered friendships

[00:13:52] **Shelby:** Yeah absolutely I love everything you just shared And I think the last thing you shared about being willing to step into hard conversations when needed might be the most neglected that I see in friendships but really there's so much work that God can do through those hard conversations And those have always ended up being my deepest friendships So that's some really good advice All right let's move on to our next question It is How do you know oh this is a good question How do you know if you're currently where God wants you to be in life and how do you differentiate between God's voice in your own thoughts

[00:14:32] **Krystal:** I know a lot of us have probably wrestled with this kind of question So one thing that I think is important for us to consider is what is it that we are focusing on with these kinds of questions as we ask them So for me I can easily be hyper-focused on what I'm doing I think of Proverbs 16 when it says in verse three to commit your activities to the Lord and your plans will be established And then later in verse nine it says a person's heart plans his way but the Lord determines his steps And these verses have encouraged me so much over the years as I've wrestled with making major life decisions because it shows that my plans can not hinder God's plans He is the one that establishes our plans He is the one that determines our steps We just have to pursue the Lord as best as we can and trust him with the rest And I walked through this several months ago when I sensed that my time in vocational ministry was coming to an end I had no idea what I was supposed to do because I loved my job in women's ministry And I felt like it was something that God brought me to So why is it that I feel like I should leave It really made no sense to me So I I sought counsel in I just committed my plans to the Lord and said okay I'm going to walk this out in faith and trust that you are going to determine my steps And then as soon as I wrote that in my journal later that week I went online to buy another set of my favorite highlighters from the daily grace co And so that they were hiring for a staff writer And I told my husband oh wouldn't that be so cool Like if I could just write all day and produce content I mean it's a total long shot but it'll just be fun I'll just apply And I'll just see what happens But with each email and with each interview I just continued to pray Lord establish my plans and determine my steps So obviously we know like how that story is cause I'm here but as I talked with our church staff about stepping down from my position I said just how sad I was And I kept using the word bittersweet It just felt so bittersweet And one of my pastor stopped and said crystal it's not bittersweet This is only sweet because this is what God has for you And so even in their response to me they really modeled their own trust in the Lord and they were just excited for what God was doing in my life okay So Shelby let's address the second part of this question How do you differentiate between God's voice and your own thoughts

[00:17:01] **Shelby:** well first of all I don't know if I've heard like the whole backstory of you getting hired here and that is so cool I love hearing that we're so glad to have you team but yeah talking about differentiating between God's voice and your own thoughts you know the first thing that immediately comes to mind is just that God's voice always aligns with the Bible And so if I ever think that maybe God is telling me to do something but I'm not quite sure I'm going to just look in scripture and see okay does scripture actually speak on this issue that can be really clarifying a lot of times And I'll just share this too I rarely like so rarely hear the voice of God giving me moment by moment instruction And when I do it's always a nudge from the holy spirit not usually to do some big huge act of faith but to just simply obey scripture and so I think that my advice if you're trying to discern God's voice is to spend less time like sitting in your room with your eyes closed and trying to like somehow inwardly decide if you're hearing God or not And just to spend more time in the Bible learning who God is and what he's like that's how you'll learn his voice That's why he's given us his word It's how he reveals himself to us And so that'd be my advice there And I'll say this You are going to make mistakes at times and hearing the voice of God in obeying the voice of God it's a lifelong process to discern the voice and leading of God I mean in large part that's a really big part of what sanctification is It's learning how to respond to God in our lives And so what I'll just say on that is that God can redirect the heart that is tender and responsive to him You know my daily prayer is honestly the Lord's prayer Matthew 6, 9, 13 This is like how I pray God like keep me on track today And I love this prayer Of course Jesus taught this prayer to us because it is the prayer that we should be praying of course we can pray other things as well but I would encourage you to just pray this daily You know it says our father in heaven honored be your name So first I'm just starting off recognizing God you're close to me like a father You're also in heaven You're holy and you're honored You're different than I am And then I say your kingdom come your will be done What a perfect prayer to start every day on earth as it is in heaven Give us today our daily bread A lot of times I'll stop here and say God here are my needs for today Could you meet them And forgive us our debts As we have forgiven our debtors I'll confess my sin to God and I'll ask him to help me forgive those who have sinned against me And then I love the last part of this prayer but it says and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one And so God would you just lead me away from the temptation to even stray from you in one small little area today deliver me from the evil one That is my prayer for like staying on track or hearing God's voice or being where he wants me to be it's not like some amazing skill that I have It is just simply being in the word knowing God's voice praying the word and just relying on God to do the rest

[00:20:16] **Krystal:** All right So our next question is can we please discuss the need for Jesus for moms who work 40 hour weeks

[00:20:24] **Shelby:** Hmm that's you and I we are moms who work 40 hour weeks yeah I for sure Want to talk about that And let me just say for moms who maybe don't work 40 hour weeks maybe you stay at home or work part-time we all need Jesus and I am really so thankful that in my short eight years as a mom you know in the beginning I started out working a really high pressure 60 hour a week job And then along the way transitioned to a part-time job was a stay at home mom for five years and now I'm working a full-time job And so I've had the privilege of seeing how Jesus has been enough in each and every one of those seasons And there's definitely unique struggles and hardships in each one But our friend here wants to talk about how working moms full-time working moms need Jesus and We do so from one working mom to another I think my encouragement to you is that Jesus will always be enough for you when your kids are sick when deadlines loom when your mom brain causes you to forget an important detail that literally happened to me yesterday I was 20 minutes late to a meeting when your guilt rises at because you can't go on every field trip or be at every school event your challenge And my challenge is between your busy work life and your busy home life how will you carve out the time to be with Jesus what things do you need to say no to so that you can prioritize your relationship with the Lord your family and your work Because sometimes those three things are all we can really fit on our plates as full-time working moms And so I always go back to What does it look like to be faithful to my family in this season What does it look like to be faithful to my career and calling in this season And do I have a solid foundation of time in the word prayer and fellowship with other believers to support those ways that I'm pouring out to my career and my family that's really the foundation of everything else that I do And so it's a constant work in progress for me I'm constantly adjusting my schedule my priorities and a lot of what I do is say no to anything that isn't related to my family my job or to building up my faith there's really not time for me for anything outside of that but I feel fulfilled and happy and just I don't know I do feel equipped by the Lord when I prioritize things in that way

[00:22:54] **Krystal:** it's kinda like living out 1 Corinthians 10:31 right Like whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do do everything for the glory of God So it's about saying do everything in the world but what it is that is on your plate do it for the glory of God So we faithfulness with whatever is right in front of us So whether it's a sick child whether it's your computer screen whatever it is at that moment being faithful and even down to those ordinary moments of life And so when we struggle with trying to balance it all we can rest and it reminds me of Lamentations 3 His mercies are new every morning and he remains faithful And so that's what we can cling to whether we work 40 hours whether we stay at home whatever it looks like those are truths that apply and can encourage all of us

[00:23:41] **Shelby:** Yeah I remember when my first child was born I put that verse on the wall that the Lord's mercies are new every morning not knowing that I would be in his room trying to console him back to sleep you know in the middle of the night And so often I would look at my phone and I would see okay it's almost 1201 like new mercies are coming It's almost a new day I'm not sure if that's exactly what that verse means but I definitely clung to as a new mom who was also working full time okay So our next question is asking for advice on unequally yoked marriages The listener says that she wants to overcome struggles and opening her Bible When her husband doesn't believe and isn't supportive Krystal do you have some thoughts to share

[00:24:31] **Krystal:** Yeah that's hard I think first of all I just want to thank the listener who submitted this question Cause I know there are so many out there that are either in a similar situation or maybe have friends that are walking that road And I just appreciate the vulnerability and humility in asking this question And second I want to make sure that we address her question specifically because what she's asking is how to overcome struggles in her pursuit of Jesus while being married to someone who is a believer And so as I was reflecting on this question this week I actually asked my friend Carly who has a similar story Her husband doesn't attend church with her And I said Hey how would you encourage someone who is in a similar season of life or maybe is walking this road And so I'm actually going to share a couple of things that she shared with me Cause I thought they were so helpful So the first thing she said was just stay the course dig into the word and grow in your walk with the Lord even when it's hard remind yourself of the promises of God and actually thought of our new coffee table book that just came out on the promises of God and thought man what a neat way to remind yourself of truth throughout the day just leaving it open on your desk on your kitchen counter and just meditate on one verse and one promise of God throughout the day another thing that she said was to find a women's Bible city at church or a small group to be involved in or you're just surrounded with other believers who will continually speak truth into your heart and allow you to feel seen and loved And she said specifically that was such a key thing in her life Whenever she was really struggling having a women's Bible study to attend and having other women there to just pour into her it was just really encouraging And then the last thing she said was just to pray To pray for him diligently to pray for yourself and your family and just to seek to show the love of Christ and the way that you love your husband And there's one more thing that I was actually thinking about as I was reading this question especially if you're having a hard time reading your Bible I think journaling is really helpful I know some women love it Some women don't love it and that's okay But even if it's just writing one or two sentences a week on how using God's faithfulness in your own life I actually just got the abide to journal from daily grace And as soon as I had Why didn't I get this sooner It is so cool because it has four different sections It has a place where you can take notes for your Bible study the place that's called the adore section and then there's prayer general notes but that adore section it's got a little tab It gives you space every week You can just reflect on how God has shown his faithfulness and you can write things that you're grateful for And I'm just not great at recording those things Like I'll think about it and I'll move on but to be able to write it down and to see how God has been faithful When I am in a season where I just feel discouraged or maybe I'm in a dry spiritual season it allows me to go back and just to see like all of those moments of God's faithfulness And it just encourages me to see how God is at work even in just those ordinary moments of life

[00:27:43] **Shelby:** Hm Yeah I think all of that is so encouraging and you know maybe we find ourselves in a season where it's difficult to open our Bible for a different reason I feel like a lot of those things can apply there too So thank you to your friend Carly that advice

[00:27:58] **Krystal:** She's so wise All right So this next question is about dating So the listener asks how do I find patience while waiting for the ring

[00:28:08] **Shelby:** Ooh So I'm actually excited to this one Waiting was a big part of my story in singleness and even in dating and all of that So really soon after I met my husband I just kind of fell for him We were in the same friend circle and I just thought he was pretty cool and really great but he did not feel the same about me initially in through some really embarrassing events and friends who just spoke more than they should have He even ended up like kind of finding out how I felt And we ended up having to have a super awkward phone call where he let me know that he was not interested at the same level that I was And so Well at the time that was pretty hard There's a reason I'm showing this In a lot of ways that phone call taught me that with the Lord's help I can choose what I attach my heart to And in that moment I had to unattach my heart from him You know I always say that my husband taught me how to pray because I needed God's help to overcome my emotions towards him in that season And I drew some boundaries around being in contact with him and even viewing his social media profiles I'm not saying everyone has to do that I just realized that's what I needed to do because my heart was more invested than his and that's not a healthy place to be in I'll tell you why ultimately it isn't a healthy place to be when we are more invested or more further along than the person that we are with or then our circumstances are it's because we're allowing our To live in a place that doesn't match our reality And we're rejecting God's sovereignty over our life And we're living in a reality that we have dreamed up instead of the one that God has given to us And that's idolatry that's exalting yourself in your wisdom over God's And so I do think it's really important to control our emotions and be in charge of them as hard as it can be funny enough a year or so later he and I both ended up at a gathering with mutual friends and long story short Our friendship grew from there and we began dating a short time later but just as it was before we started dating while we were dating I had to wait again because I thought he was pretty great and I was ready to get married but he as he told us today wanted to do his due diligence and just take time and date for a while and get to know each other first And I'm so thankful that it had already established that emotional self-control previously Well I wasn't perfect at it It was easier to patiently wait because I'd already practiced that And my personal conviction was that I will never let my heart go further forward in this relationship than what my boyfriend has communicated with me with his words And so if he hadn't said it out loud then I wasn't going to fantasize or live in the future in that place And that is really hard but here's my one tip when my heart started running ahead of where he had communicated to me I would just turn that into a prayer And we've talked about prayer journaling already but that would be so helpful and just saying Lord right now you know that I desire but Lord I also Trust that whatever you have for me is what is best And so that really takes the focus off of ourselves and planning our future and puts it right back into the hands of the Lord And I remember a passage of scripture that I meditated on a lot during that time was Isaiah 26 3 And it just says you will keep the mind that is dependent on you in perfect peace for it is trusting in you And I think it's so important to know that in singleness and dating and marriage that peace is not ultimately found in relationships or the guarantee that they will continue or be stable and dating is a really great time to establish that your partner in life your spouse won't be what determines your happiness or your stability because truly the Lord alone can be those things So that's a couple of tips I have on waiting patiently for their rings But let's move on to another question And Krystal I want to ask you a listener asks how can I be joyful in the hard seasons

[00:32:22] **Krystal:** I really like this question because this is another question that I feel like I've wrestled with several years ago I was diagnosed with a condition called thoracic outlet syndrome or tos for short And I was dealing with a lot of physical pain on top of just walking through a season of severe anxiety and depression So there were days that I physically and emotionally just did not want to get out of bed I couldn't pick up my child or drive for more than 20 minutes Like joy just felt like an impossibility Like it was just not going to be something that I could pursue And I felt like I needed to just push through this season And when quote-unquote life gets easier than I could be joyful but I hadn't really faced reality with what if this condition doesn't get better What if it only just gets worse And that's when I realized that my joy is really dependent on my comfort and in getting answers for my condition and those aren't bad things to want but I was elevating them and they had become idols and these were all temporary things Anyway then I realized that this idol of control and comfort wasn't just limited to this struggle with my physical condition because I realized once I saw it I saw it everywhere in my life I saw it in ministry I saw it in parenting in my relationships And so I think first identifying where we tend to find joy apart from Christ is a great first step in finding true lasting joy but then practically I would say first be in God's word as much as you can read and pray the Psalms aloud read through stories of men and women in the Bible that walked through hard seasons which is A majority of scripture to me I really think that's the best way to equip ourselves with walking through trials and just fighting for joy One story that comes to mind is the story of Joseph and his brothers in Genesis now this is not a short story I actually recommended this to someone in a small group that was dealing with suffering And my co-leader pulled me aside I was like you know that's like a fourth of Genesis right Like you just told her to read it for the Genesis before the next meeting And I'm like it's fine so it I mean it spans like a dozen or so chapters at the end of Genesis but you see this incredible story arc of how God is at work in Joseph's life and how Joseph comes out on the other side as someone who fully trust the Lord and is able to say to his brothers you planned evil against me God planned it for good to bring about the present result the survival of many people And so I think second to that is just to be in true authentic community where you can let others into your life who can pray for you who can serve you and walk with you as you fight for joy

[00:35:16] **Shelby:** Thank you for sharing your story and those tips I know those are not just like things that you're saying but things that you've lived and So I appreciate you sharing those Krystal You know it makes me think of Romans 8:18 that says For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us And sometimes our circumstances just contain very little joy And so I think that's so important that we're not looking for joy and that our circumstances are going to improve or change and hopefully they do and we can pray and have faith but our joy is rooted ultimately in the fact that eternity is going to be a glorious place where all of our pain and suffering will be gone and we'll be United with Jesus perfectly And so that for me when I'm going through a hard time I'm saying you know I am suffering at this present time But someday that's going to be totally and completely outweighed by the glory that is revealed And so I think that's a way I cling to joy in hard times okay So we are going to move into for our last couple minutes doing some rapid fire questions and we are each going to answer four or five questions and we're going to have 20 seconds to answer each question And so we might not get comprehensive answers but we're going to give quick answers

[00:36:44] **Krystal:** Okay Are you ready I'll ask you the question that I'll start the timer Okay So first question is how do I encourage my friends to read the Bible and not self-help books

[00:36:55] **Shelby:** Hmm Okay I would say model reading the Bible for your friends ask good questions when they're discussing their books ask Oh that's interesting Like where where do you see scripture support that idea Nancy Guthrie talks about introducing people to better mentors So introduce them to people Oh my goodness Five seconds and the last thing I would say is that everyone's faith matures over time Just be a slow and steady discipler in their

[00:37:21] **Krystal:** That was good I'm impressed That is hard to do in 30 seconds Okay

[00:37:26] **Shelby:** All right Ready for the next one

[00:37:27] **Krystal:** Alright next question I gotta get my timer ready what are your thoughts on spiritual warfare Uh what resources are there to learn more about this topic Easy question for 20 seconds So you're ready

[00:37:40] **Shelby:** Easy question 20 seconds okay So my thoughts in 20 seconds our spiritual warfare is real It's not scary or mystical I think it's more everyday in mundane and my opinion it manifests as like distraction discouragement not picking up your Bible not praying not going to church Um and lastly study the armor of God Oh understanding and applying the armor of God will perfectly prepare you to handle all spiritual warfare in your life Oh and podcast episode 127 you're in a battle engaging in spiritual warfare is a great resource Oh this is fun

[00:38:17] **Krystal:** this fun Oh my goodness Okay All right So next question How do I encourage new believers through hard scriptures like Leviticus and Exodus

[00:38:29] **Shelby:** okay great Yeah I would get a study Bible I like the ESV or CSB study Bible a commentary the Christ centered exposition commentary series is great and super affordable like $15 for a volume that covers a whole book of the Bible You can use videos from Bible project that will explain that will explain that book in the context of scripture And then lastly don't be afraid to let them ask hard questions And you can always say I don't know but we can figure this out together

[00:38:55] **Krystal:** Next question How or when do you find the time with God as a stay at home mom with the little ones

[00:39:03] **Shelby:** Yeah I think you have to prioritize your time with God above chores social media Netflix I mean that is like the basics of it It was an adjustment in my thinking instead of saying oh good the kids are quiet or busy I need to throw in a load of laundry or finally a minute to myself to zone out on Instagram I had to think oh good A moment to pray through my prayer list or a moment to do my Bible reading that was a really helpful thing for me

[00:39:25] **Krystal:** So last question I want to see how you do this in 20 seconds I was reading in Exodus 4 24 and I am wondering was God really going to kill Moses before he freed the Israelites

[00:39:42] **Shelby:** Yes It sure seems like it That is what I read in the text yeah we know the Lord confronted Moses Moses must have responded Sinfully I think we could imply and so the Lord was going to give him the just consequence for that but Zipporah intervened And so God did not kill Moses but yeah the answer to your question is yes I think we can just let the Bible interpret itself in that moment Yeah Okay Krystal it's your turn now So I'll ask you the question then I'll start the timer Your first question is how can you be an effective ministry leader or pastor's wife when working full-time outside of ministry as well

[00:40:24] **Krystal:** Through the help of the holy spirit and by having women in your life who can invest in you and love you not as a pastor's wife or a leader but as a sister in Christ find balance in your life which includes hobbies and relationships outside of the church protect your times of rest and set up healthy boundaries protect and prioritize your own spiritual wellbeing And don't let ministry become an idol and don't let success and failure become your identity

[00:40:47] **Shelby:** Wow That was a lot of wisdom for 24.84 seconds

[00:40:51] **Krystal:** So close I'll take it

[00:40:54] **Shelby:** All right resetting for the next question Your next question is when starting to read the Bible where do you start Should I begin in Genesis or the new

[00:41:04] **Krystal:** Hmm Yeah begin in Genesis It's like reading a sequel without having read the first book You might understand it on its own but there's a lot more of those puzzle pieces that will fall into place When you understand the history and context of the verses that Jesus quoted in the promises that Jesus fulfilled the old Testament is long and tricky at times but we have resources like redemption studies that help you walk through the whole Bible as one story

[00:41:27] **Shelby:** yeah Oh awesome You're like you're like 23, 24 seconds You're crushing this

[00:41:32] **Krystal:** Bad

[00:41:32] **Shelby:** Uh let's see how you do with this one in 20 seconds Your question is can you please explain the Psalms now there's only 150 chapters that you have to explain

[00:41:44] **Krystal:** No big deal

[00:41:48] I'm

[00:41:49] **Shelby:** Oh all right You have 20 seconds

[00:41:52] **Krystal:** the book of Psalms is considered to be the songbook of God's people So they were written to be sung And there's a lot of different types of Psalms like Psalms of lament which were used to express sorrow Psalms of ascent which were sung by Jews as they ascended up the hill to Jerusalem predatory Psalms asking God to bring judgment on his enemies Messianic Psalms that point is to Christ The whole book is actually organized in five smaller books in each of those books in with the short doxology

[00:42:15] **Shelby:** Hey that's great That was a good summary of Psalms Ready to go

[00:42:20] **Krystal:** It's all you need 20 seconds of solves Done

[00:42:23] **Shelby:** Oh okay Here's your last question Are you ready

[00:42:27] **Krystal:** Yes

[00:42:29] **Shelby:** in Luke Why did Gabriel punish Zachariah and not Mary When they asked this same question

[00:42:38] **Krystal:** Okay those Zachariah and Mary seemed to ask similar questions There's a lot in the text that it just doesn't tell us But what it does tell us is that they receive two very different responses So Luke one 20 says that Zechariah did not believe the Angel's words but we don't see that set of Mary So we can gather that Mary's into it and asking the question was God honoring which is evident in her response to the angel and Luke 1:38 when she said I'm the Lord's servant May it happen As you have said

[00:43:02] **Shelby:** well we hope you guys have enjoyed this Ask us anything episode We certainly enjoy answering your questions Um so we're so glad that you've joined us today on the daily grace podcast And we look forward to our next conversation where hunter Bilas is going to join us to talk about simple steps to grow in knowledge of and love for God

[00:43:24] **Krystal:** I'm excited for that episode and don't forget to subscribe to our weekly newsletter to receive free resources related to the podcast straight into your inbox you can click on the link in the show notes to subscribe

[00:43:35] **Shelby:** yeah the podcast newsletter is so great in our free resource for this week is a continuation a bunch of questions that we didn't have the chance to answer on the podcast We actually already have resources other podcasts or blogs or resources that we can direct you to You are definitely going to want to check it out but until next week come join us as we continue this conversation over on Instagram at daily grace podcast And we'll see you next time