

Rest, Renew, Restore - May 25, 2022

To say that I was a little apprehensive about going on a three-day retreat would be putting it mildly. It wasn't that I didn't want to go, I absolutely wanted to! What was holding me back was the fact that I only know a handful of ladies at surface level. I was going to a cabin with five people that I didn't know well, bringing my own meals, and sharing one bathroom with them.
But God!

From when my ride picked me up to go until the time she dropped me back home I was blessed.

Blessed by my sisters who listened to my story and didn't reject me.
Blessed by listening to their hearts while they shared their lives.
Blessed by the Word of God brought forward by Misty Amburg, who is pure joy personified!
Blessed by sitting at the feet of the Father in worship, unhindered by interruptions.
Blessed by the testimonies that my sisters in Jesus shared at the end of our weekend.
The setting of the retreat was truly lovely, but the most beautiful thing of all was the overwhelming sense of the Holy Spirit with us.

He cleaned our hearts in renewal with His Word. He refreshed us by washing us clean with His Word. He filled us up with the living water of HIS WORD!

The beautiful thing is that we have the promises of God and His Holy Spirit with us all the time! We just need to set aside the distractions in our day-to-day lives and dedicate time to spend with Him. If we invite Him to walk with us and show us where we can fellowship throughout our day, He will show us when, where, and how.

He longs to lavish us with His love! As we lay aside time for Him, focus our gaze on Him, and rest in His Word, we are strengthened and refreshed. Are you feeling dry? Here is a scripture that reflects the desire of God for us:

Isaiah 41:17-18 (The Voice)

(17) And when people thirst, when those poor souls with parched tongues look in vain for something to drink, I, the Eternal, the God of Israel, won't leave them to suffer. I will respond (18) By making the hard, brown hills sparkle with streams of fresh water and causing valleys to come alive with springs. I will see that gentle pools wait on the desert floor for the weary traveler, and great fountains bubble up from dry ground;

But remember that we cannot do life alone. We need each other. Being honest and vulnerable is scary initially, but when God is orchestrating it, there is nothing like it.

Psalm 133 (The Message)

(1-3) How wonderful, how beautiful,
when brothers and sisters get along!
It's like costly anointing oil
flowing down head and beard,
Flowing down Aaron's beard,
flowing down the collar of his priestly robes.
It's like the dew on Mount Hermon
flowing down the slopes of Zion.
Yes, that's where God commands the blessing,
ordains eternal life.

As Jesus was enjoying the fellowship with His disciples before the crucifixion He said in John 13 (NIV):

(34) "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (35) By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

This retreat allowed us to experience the beauty of godly fellowship. He was with us. We laughed, we cried, we drank deep from the well of living water. Know that He IS with us!

Let us pray:

Dear Father God,

Thank You for Your great love for us.

Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us.

We know that times of refreshing come from You!

Fill us up and pour us out, Father!

Life is so hard. But You are greater than any trial we face.

Would You help us to share Your love and hope with those around us?

Help us to set aside more and more time for You.

Show us ways that we can focus on You throughout our day.

Bring us together in godly fellowship that will please Your heart!

Bless us with a close walk with You and understanding of Your Word.

We love You,

In Jesus Name!

Amen