



Do you ever feel like your pilot light has gone out? Like the spark that once fueled your passion, clarity and energy has been dimmed under the mental load of motherhood? Perhaps it's the need to make a million decisions a day (so many decisions!) that causes you to never really feel confident you're doing it right. Maybe you are in a season where you feel you are not showing up well for yourself or others, just going through the motions, and trying to get to the end of the week.

That is about to change because now is the time to declare a season of new things. A new season needs a new strategy, and we encourage you to choose wild, contagious hope. Hope is not a passive exercise in wishing; it's an active approach to living life engaged. Hope is generative. Proverbs 13:12 says, *"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life."* Hope provides clarity, vision and vitality.

Looking at the adversity and division that seems to be seeping into the fabric of our culture, hope offers another option – the opportunity to see new paths and ways of living that you might not have considered before. It is a reminder that you can make a positive difference in your family and community and that tough times will not paralyze you. Hope requires courage and trust because to see the new thing God is doing likely means going into the wilds – paths that take you through uncomfortable places and challenges that nourish your deepest longing.

God is doing something new, and you can get your hopes up. It's time for *Wild Hope*.

VERSES

ISAIAH 43:18-19, NIV

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

PROVERBS 13:12, NIV

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

devotional



Moms are notoriously brilliant at caring for others, but when we get tapped out, we often try to dig our own wells instead of drinking from the stream God has provided. But now is the time to practice receiving. It means drinking from the stream in the desert, eating the manna provided, accepting help when needed, saying yes to Jesus' sacrifice for us, and trusting in God's power. Begin letting go of the belief that you must manage every detail and over-analyze every decision. Instead, be open to trusting that God will provide at the moment you most need it.

Jesus frequently asked people, "What do you want me to do for you?" It's a complicated question, right? When was the last time you thought about what you REALLY want deep in your soul? When you don't have clarity, it's easy to live untethered – to have a life ordered and prioritized by others telling you what you should want. Is it possible that with all the available choices, you have lost focus and are chasing a thousand different ways of doing life? Does your life align with your values? Take some time to get clear about what you want for your family and make room to receive the new rhythms, habits and opportunities God offers. This is the time for trusting God to guide your decisions, calm your anxious searching and free your mind from believing it's all up to you.

VERSES

MARK 10:51, NIV

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

PSALM 146:5, NIV

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

PSALM 63:7, NIV

Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings.



Endurance helps us discover the secret of contentment, which is the ability to find hope in any situation. It is tempting to outsource the growth process, to take the easiest route, but the advancement never lasts. Stop waiting for enough confidence or motivation to take action; motivation comes from action. Doing the uncomfortable work looks like showing up and putting in the reps, building the habits, and developing discipline. Just because something is difficult doesn't mean you are doing it wrong. Instead, it's an opportunity to endure, build character and rediscover hope.

In order to build endurance:

Get outside _____.
our house.
our routine.
our fears.
our head.
our circumstances.
our control.

VERSES

ROMANS 5:3-5, NIV

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

2 CHRONICLES 15:7, NIV

But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.



Choosing passion means living fully committed. We are all asked to do more than we can do. Every hero and heroine of the Bible does more than they thought was possible. Peter walked on water; Sarah had a baby even though it was biologically impossible; Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego survived a fiery furnace; Moses stood in the middle of a sea trusting God to part the water. The story of God is filled with passionate and flawed people who God used to do impossible things. What if now is the time you pursue risky obedience and passionately go all-in with God?

Living passionately also means accepting the new thing God asks you to step into while simultaneously enjoying what you've already been given. It's about living your normal everyday life beautifully and audaciously. What do you want your kids to remember about their childhood? Do more of that. What would you love to do that you haven't done yet? Today is the day to start. Why not let loose your inner hugging person, even if you've tamped her down in social settings before? Why not wear the pants you didn't think you could pull off? Seduce your husband and make his day. Enjoy your work and view it as a blessing – do it with all your might. Don't just make it through the day – add a little romance. Why not go for it? Your life has been given to you as a gift from God; it doesn't always have to be serious and high-stakes – go and enjoy it.

VERSES

JEREMIAH 29:13, NIV

You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

ROMANS 12:11, NIV

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24, NIV

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.



No matter how hopeless a situation seems, God specializes in the impossible. This is a tremendous source of hope. Starting in Genesis 18:14, God asks Abraham, who is having a hard time believing that he and his wife would have a baby after waiting for so many decades, "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" Throughout the Bible we are reminded of this same fact – nothing is too difficult for God.

Is he calling you into a new season of hope? New seasons call for a new level of trust in God. This is why God reminds us not to dwell on the past. We can own and learn from it, but don't need to get stuck there. We can't expect past victories to sustain us (Judges 6:13). We also shouldn't let past failures paralyze us. All of our experiences so far are breadcrumbs leading us to what's ahead.

Are you ready for the wild and passionate life God has for you? Are you excited to discover new things about yourself? To loosen your grip on control so you can be open to receive? It's time to face your limits in the wilds and come out on the other side with stories to tell.

LET'S GO! It's time for *Wild Hope*.

VERSES

JEREMIAH 32:17, NIV

Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

REVELATION 21:5, NIV

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

MATTHEW 19:26, NIV

But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."