

THIS I KNOW

*It's only in the simplicity of a child that we come into the Father's embrace and find
He is more than enough.*

WE LEARNED IT EARLY

It was in my black patent leather shoes and smocked dress that I rehearsed these words (I am thinking you know them, too):

Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong.
They are weak, but He is strong.

We sing the song, but do we hear the message? Are we making this all too complicated? We are to be children at heart forever. We are weak. He is strong.

RELY

“Humble yourselves, then, under God's mighty hand, so that He will lift you up in His own good time. Leave all your worries with Him, because He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:6-7)

There are so many kinds of everything, but only one kind of reliance, humble reliance. Reliance speaks to dependency. Humble speaks to the readiness to receive it. Only in humble reliance can we lean in and place our trust

outside of ourselves. We then have the capacity to be captured, and to place our hope where it belongs, literally pinned to someone else.

A humble reliance and a hope that hinges on, and holds tight to, the only real One upon whom we can truly RELY.

LET'S BE REAL

Others have let us down and proven unreliable. We all have faced heartaches and heartbreaks along the way. We've all been let down. I've had people flat out lie to me and make promises that they never intended to keep. Let's not let this trip us up. Let's not let our broken experiences butt in and keep us from coming to the One we all need.

ABOVE ALL REMEMBER

It's broken here. There are broken relationships, broken words and promises. We undo covenants at the first sign of weakness and struggle. He is not like us. He keeps His covenant. Above all, remember -- the Love of God in Christ Jesus isn't broken, but is pure and reliable. He keeps all promises.

Truly, not one promise will pass away incomplete! "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through Him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God." (2 Corinthians 1:20)

HE STAYS

At night I like to use this app on my phone that puts a soothing sound in the room that lulls me to sleep. I tap the button, the noise fills my room and it rocks me to sleep. My choice noise is called “storm.” As I tapped the button one night, I thought of all the storms I never would have chosen in my life but have poured down. In each storm He chose me. Through my tears and sleepless nights, He chose to calm me and help me through. Was it the storms of marriage? Was it the heavy rains that fell from a heavy heart for our children? Or the torrential downpours that left me soaked in sadness and covered in worry? No matter the storms, He’s never left my side. I wouldn’t choose them, but they have certainly brought me to Him.

“Storms come, storms go. He stays. He never leaves.”

WAKE UP AND CRY OUT

Jesus invited His disciples to the storm. “Let’s go over to the other side.” They all hopped in a boat and furious squall came up while they were out on the water. Waves came in so that the boat was nearly swamped. They cried out in fear. “Jesus!”

Where was He? What was He doing? Get this. He had his head on a pillow, catching a nap with no worry in the world. They cried louder still, “Jesus, wake up!” Why was He asleep? Didn’t He know? Did He not care? “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” (Mark 4:35-41) I get it, I would’ve asked the

same question. I have another question. What is this all about? Is there a deeper truth to this boat ride?

We can be sure. He was in the boat with them and He is in the boat with us. I'm thinking that Be still and know. maybe we are the ones who need to wake up and cry out. He is not asleep on the job. He's in the boat and on the throne. It's in the storms that we find Him. Our job is to continually cry out for help! When we awake to this truth, and rehearse it in the storms, it brings calm on the inside.

In the story, Jesus woke up. And with only two words the waters subsided. Jesus said, "Be still." (Mark 4:39) "Be still and know that He is God." (Psalm 46:10)

WHO IS THIS?

"Who is this man that even the wind and waves obey Him?" (Matthew 8:27). He is Jesus. He is trustworthy. Pause and voice the truth with me. "You haven't bowed out and left the throne."

You reign now and will forever. Despite how we feel and how dark and grim things can look, Your name is Victory and You will get us to the other side.

FORECAST

The forecast calls for ultimately good in Christ Jesus. He's the anchor for our souls, firm and secure. (Hebrews 6:19)