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Pray In

Overlooked?

This month we are going to confront the feeling of feeling and sometimes, reality, of being overlooked. We are going to study the life of Job and how, despite the worst of circumstances, he still remained faithful.

Many times when we are working out emotions of inferiority we also feel as if we have been overlooked. Perhaps, we see those around us getting promotions, new jobs, new families, or an overall increase that we just have yet to experience.

Can you share a time when you have felt overlooked?

The bible tells us in Hebrews 12:2-3 that, *we must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete. He endured the shame of being nailed to a cross, because he knew that later on he would be glad he did. Now he is seated at the right side of God's throne! **So keep your mind on Jesus, who put up with many insults from sinners. Then you won't get discouraged and give up.***

What are ways that you encourage yourself during times when you feel overlooked by God or those around you?

The word, *overlooked*, means – fail to notice. So perhaps you feel your boss hasn't noticed your hard work, or your spouse hasn't noticed the effort you put into taking care of your home and children, or your friends don't notice when they have hurt your feelings. Or maybe your life is unfolding like Job and everything is being taken from you. The story of Job is a powerful story of a faithful man who had his home, family, health and possessions all taken away. His health was gone, he was suffering both physically and emotionally. His friend's thought he was crazy. He felt overlooked.

In the midst of suffering, we must never lose our hope in God. Job made a great statement of faith in chapter 13 when he said, "Though he slay me, I will hope in Him." What does having *hope* mean to you? What does hope look like in your life?

Job also teaches us that the people closest to us will fail us, will think we are crazy, or talk negatively about us. How do you remain faithful when everyone around you does not believe you? When everyone is overlooking who you are on the inside because they are blinded by the outward circumstances?

Job shares and proclaims where his strength comes from; *“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. “If only my words were written in a book— better yet, chiseled in stone! Still, I know that God lives—the One who gives me back my life— and eventually he’ll take his stand on earth. And I’ll see him—even though I get skinned alive!— I’ll see God myself, with my very own eyes. Oh, how I long for that day.* Job:19-25 msg

After much suffering, Job heard God’s voice. It was at this time that God commanded him to pray for his friends that had persecuted him that had talked negatively about him and forgive them. God accepted Job’s prayer for them and THEN Job’s fortunes were restored WHEN he prayed for his friends!

Isn’t this an interesting connection? Job forgave his friends BEFORE he knew how blessed he was about to become.

It was Job’s prayer that released blessings! *“The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.”*

~Job 42:12 Are there people in your life that you can be praying for? Is there anyone that you need to forgive?

The second definition of the word **overlook** means - to have a view from above. What a paradigm shift it would be to take the thing that once brought feelings of doubt and inferiority and submit it to Christ. To be empowered by the thing that once brought discouragement. To view ourselves from above, from the heights of our God.

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. Colossians 3: 1-4

- This week, make notice of where your mind focuses in times of doubt. Do you tend to feed those feelings or do you quickly submit them to God?
- Think of some of the strategies you and your sisters talked about during this study and begin to be intentional about turning from world like thoughts and focusing on Jesus.
- Forgive! Sis, God wants you free from bitterness and anger. Pray and ask God to give you wisdom regarding anyone that you may need to forgive.
- Don't give up! Keep pushing. Keep pursuing. Be grateful for your portion and work with it to give God all the glory!