

DAY 3

BOUNCE

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DEVOTIONAL

Restoration begins by letting scripture be a mirror to our hearts and brave enough to face whatever it reveals. I've heard some say, "Oh, I don't sin, maybe a mistake or two, but I don't sin," yet saw no fault with gossiping. When we feast on God's word, the truth of who we are is revealed. If we fail to examine ourselves with His word, we can go on believing such things, and as a result, we suffer, our relationships suffer, and friendships suffer. A pride issue is usually the culprit that prevents us from truly healing and being restored.

As you reflected on the questions from day 2, were you honest with yourself? Or did you respond with what you've been taught to say? Did you have an honest conversation with yourself and God?

As I shared in day 1 of this devotional, my husband and I left a 5-year-long service in ministry, not due to any moral failures on his part, but personality differences and financial reasons. Ministry looks different on the leadership side of it. As a wife of a leader, certain things are expected of you, such as how you speak, dress, and interact with others. True, most jobs expect their employees to present themselves a certain way while at work, but there's no clocking out of ministry. Small groups can be isolating because everything you share is up for critique, at least in my experience.

As the years passed, I became a shell of who I use to be, formed in the likeness of everyone's expectations. So, after our time in that ministry ended, I didn't know who to be anymore. I didn't know how to be apart of the body in a different vocation again. I had been this character for so long—a person who lingered in the shallows yet yearned for depth. I had become afraid of asking myself deep questions because I was terrified of how I would respond if I allowed myself to be truly honest. This experience and those thereafter are why I'm so adamant about being transparent. Because, after all, it's you who has to live with yourself at-the-end-of-the-day. If your home is in disarray, then everything that comes out of it will be too.

Reflect on the scriptures below as you sit with God in prayer today.



SCRIPTURE

- Ephesians 4:17-32;
- Isaiah 40:28-31;
- Isaiah 55;
- James 5: 13-16;
- Psalm 51:1-17

PRAYER

Lord, I trust that you have a plan for this life, my life you've redeemed. Lord help me continuously rest in that plan even when the pangs of life seem overwhelming. Father, I am deeply grateful to be known and loved by you. Your love chastises me, restores me, and leaves me in awe of you. Lord, I asked that you continuously help me to live authentically before all. Remove the stubborn pride that pulls me away from being exposed before powerless men. Lord, I ask that you take away the fear of being truly known by the body of believers you've placed in my life. Lord, give me the strength to walk fearlessly in my calling and not bound expectations of being someone I am not. Lord, let my imperfect life be the arrow that points to one who is perfect; Jesus.