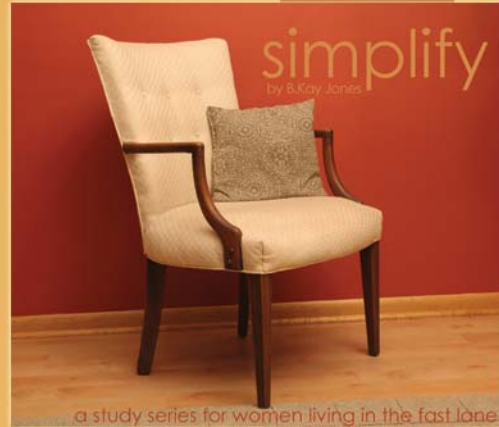


simplify

love is a beautiful thing



“Love is a beautiful thing,” the songwriter penned. The truth is that true love only comes from God. No one can dispense genuine love without experiencing it straight from the heavenly Father. I John 4:7-8 (Message) says it like this, *“My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn’t know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can’t know him if you don’t love.”*

The most beautiful thing about God’s love is its transforming power. Just think... God can take anyone, from any background, and transform their life into a marvelous work of grace. That, my friends, is absolutely amazing. The miracle Jesus paid for - that you can be a child of the King, adopted and chosen for royalty - is a beautiful thing. We’ve been called out of darkness into marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9-10). God is truly the great transformer.

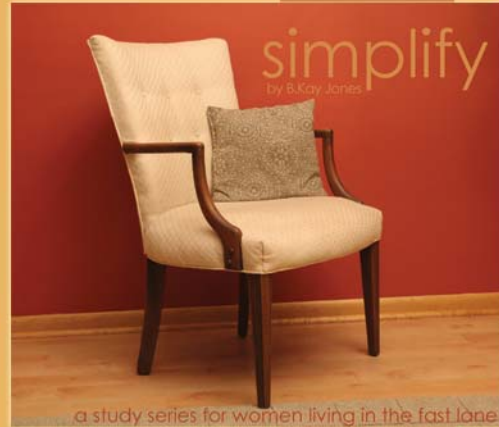
A song by Mylon Lefevre still lights a flame in my heart...“Oh yes, oh yes, I’m a child of the King. His royal blood now flows through my veins.” You have the choice to say yes to an adoption invitation into royalty. In reality, I was born for royalty and so were you. Don’t pass up the opportunity. Being accepted by God surpassed all my issues. If He loved me then I had value and worth...and you do too. Romans 8:15-17 *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”*

The true beauty of this adoption is that it leads to more than just royal lineage; it makes us heirs of God. Everything that is His will be passed down to us. I John 3:1 says it best, “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God.” And that is what we are! I told you it is a beautiful thing.

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Think of all you've gained by receiving God. Don't you feel His love being poured out upon you? He wants to constantly lavish His love on you and give you the desires of your heart: the wholeness you long for, the relationships you desire, the peace of mind you crave.

That's what He's up to...working everything out for your good. His love is truly a beautiful thing. Your focus just has to stay on Matthew 22:37-39 *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

The beauty of love... so simple, yet so profound. Let's keep going on this simple journey – learning to love God and love people.

Simplicity Suggestions

1. Discuss the beauty of love... earthly and heavenly. List three main differences between the two.
2. Discuss why we often "leave our street clothes on" spiritually. Put on your royal robe. Let God do His transformation in your life.
3. Can you receive the love God wants to lavish on you? What is standing in your way? Knock down your walls and put down the umbrella...get soaked in His love.