

The Purple Corner

It is with much excitement that I introduce something new to the Beauty for Ashes Ministry, Inc website. For several years God has placed it in my heart and spirit to write but for some reason or excuse I have not done so, until now. The purple corner will be a monthly devotional with the intent to give encouragement to our visitors. We invite you to **read** it, **reflect** on what is written and **respond**, if so led.

As you begin this New Year, do so with a spirit of expectancy, a mindset of rejoicing and fervor to look forward. The past is over and the only thing you can change about it is your thinking. If you choose to dwell on the past you will ultimately miss the present that God has prepared for you.

A spirit of expectancy searches for the promises of God and holds them near, even in the midst of adversity. It peels off the wrapper of doubt and reaches for the hidden treasure within. Even when one cannot see the beauty of that which is within, an expectant spirit still hopes for the best. Just as an expectant mother is excited about the life growing inside so shall you be about the life inside of you. Expect it to flourish, expect it to grow and expect it to be all that the Creator intends it to be. Expect the best, reject the doubt and experience the joy of knowing His promise is true – God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.(Psalms 46:1)

A mindset of rejoicing looks past the troubles of yesterday and rejoices in the mere fact that you are still here. As one chooses which television channel to watch or which radio station to tune in to, you can choose the thoughts on which to set your own mind. Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. (Philippians 4:8) Whenever your mind begins to get static from the past, choose to change the channel. Turn to the channel of peace and joy and allow it to calm your anxious mind.

Fervor to look forward keeps you on the path God has chosen for you. For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11) Tap into the power within and reach down deep for that which God has deposited in you.

Step forward into the place God has prepared for you- a place of peace, health and wholeness. A place where dreams come true and potentialities become realities. Embrace the moment and live life to the fullness.

Happy New Year and Happy New You!
Reverend Marguerite Lee