

TREASURES IN THE DARK

KATHERINE WOLF

It is one thing to be inspired by stories, but are we applying those lessons to our lives?

We all experience suffering. **If you have a pulse, you have a purpose.**

When we share our stories with empathetic listeners, it changes the way we feel about our stories.

- (2 Corinthians 1:3-7)

Overwhelm = Abundance

- Many of the most stressful elements of our stories right now are answers to prayers.
- Other times of overwhelm can happen in the darkness of our stories
 - In the darkness we cycle through “What if?”
 - Katherine diagnosed with vertigo. An MRI would have revealed the mass growing on her brainstem.

The escape hatch out of the “What If” loop is **hope**.

What If → What Is

The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

PSALM 16:6

To radically accept what is, we first must lament the reality of what has been lost.

I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places.

ISAIAH 45:3

TREASURE TAKEAWAYS

1. My suffering can feel a little more bearable when I love who I've become because of it.

“New life always starts in the dark. Whether a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it always starts in the dark.”

- Learning to Walk in the Dark, Barbara Brown Taylor

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

ROMANS 12:2

→ We cannot change what happened. By thinking of it differently, over time, can we make the suffering a little more bearable.

2. God can use my deepest wounds to bring healing to the world.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

ISAIAH 43:19

3. I can see my suffering as a curse on the people I love or as an inheritance of breathtaking value.

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

JAMES 1:4

→ You are worthy of being in the story, **because you are here**. And they are worthy of taking care of you.

4. Hope is not a fixed point I will reach. Hope is the living force that propels me forward.

...suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame...

ROMANS 5:3

→ Suffering is a cycle. Hurt is ongoing, but **hope fortifies us**.

...so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.

ISAIAH 45:3

God is with us in the darkness.

TRIALS **OF** MANY KINDS