

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR *Real Life*

113. When Good Is the Enemy of Great

You are listening to episode 113 of the Encouragement for Real Life Podcast titled, When Good Is the Enemy of Great. Welcome to the podcast today. Thanks for tuning in! Daily we make numerous decisions, some to do good things, and others to do great things. And sometimes we don't know the difference until we make the decision, am I right? Well, today in this episode we're discussing this and how this might look in our lives, especially that scenario when good is the enemy of great. I invite you here to hang with me for this next short while and together we'll find encouragement and hope for our real lives right now. Let's get to it.

For years I participated in a 31-days writing challenge in October, where I wrote a blog post every day. I loved doing it, and each year I wrote on a special theme. It really helped strengthen my writing skills and grow me as a writer. I remember the first year I made the decision not to do it. It was an excruciating decision to make, and I drove myself crazy with the back-and-forth self talk. Do I do it, or do I not? Finally I just said no. It's clear now that was the best decision for me. I haven't done it since.

About the same time a piece I wrote was published in another author's book. It was a collection of writer's stories, and I was so excited to be a part of it. But after receiving my copy, I never shared it. It was published with numerous errors. My text was not copied and pasted into the book, but instead, was re-typed for some reason. It was clear it never was proofed or edited before it was published. It was a completely disappointing experience. I was embarrassed and felt humiliated. Only a handful of people in my life know about this experience.

But I remember something my sister-in-law said to me after that book came out. After congratulating me, she closed out our conversation with words that lingered long after. She said, "Now get going on YOUR book."

Get going on your book.

I thought of these words often, but eventually, they faded like a passing memory. Until I came across a post recently that reminded me. Friend, I had that conversation with my sister-in-law seven years ago. Seven! I was motivated for awhile, but life took over and days turned into weeks and weeks to months and months to years.

And I did not get going on my book.

I allowed other things to take my time, to become my focus, and to be more important in my life. Some of these things were good and positive and helpful things, and some of them were plainly a waste of time. I kept writing, but I lost my passion for my book.

I guess you could say I got distracted.

This is when good can be the enemy of great.

You may or may not know I've finally written that book, yes, seven years later! It releases in just a couple weeks on October 17. I firmly believe 2023 was the year I was to write this book. After being told from a number of acquisition editors and literary agents that my platform wasn't big enough, I lost almost all hope last fall. Until something clicked in me in January.

My word for this year is uncomfortable, and I knew that if God wanted me to have this word, that He would use it for good and for my growth. Frankly, I didn't want it. And you should have heard the mixed reactions I received when I shared my word in January! Shortly after, however, I felt His prompting to forego the traditional publishing route and self-publish this book.

So, that's what I've done.

I was tired of years of good being the enemy of great. I knew God was calling me to step away from the good to pursue what was greater, and I just knew He was calling me to more. So, I just took one step at a time, He provided what I needed along the way, and He gave me the words to write this book and the wisdom daily to do what I needed to do to finish it.

I never want good to be the enemy of great again.

How about you, friend? What is good in your life that is the enemy of great? Think about this for a moment. What could God be calling you to do, to step away from the good to pursue His great? What do you just know you need to or want to do?

I get it. It's easier to stay comfortable, and it's maybe even a little simpler to. But comfortable isn't always comfortable, if you know what I mean. Comfortable can become uncomfortable if we stay there too long.

I say this often--that God has good plans for our lives. Not just good though, He's got great plans for our lives. His best plans for our lives. And sometimes He makes us uncomfortable to get us moving in the direction for those best plans.

That's where I was in January.

And now ten months later, *Right Now Matters: Empowering Right-Now Women in a Culture of Distraction* releases. That's crazy to me. But when God moves, we follow. Even if it is uncomfortable. Is God moving you, friend? Where is He making you uncomfortable? If He's moving you, He'll go with you. He will lead you every step of the way.

This verse has become one of my favorites the psalms. So much so, I included it in *Right Now Matters*. It has to do with this very thought.

The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." Psalm 32:8 NLT

This says it all, doesn't it? We don't have to figure out the way, God will guide us. Not only that but He will advise us and watch over us! Isn't that amazing and comforting?! I cling to this verse almost daily, when I don't know what decision to make or what direction I should go. When I'm confused and overwhelmed and when I don't have the answers I feel like I need right now.

It also reminds me to go to God. He's got it all under control.

Yet, sometimes we just don't know and we haven't received any indication from God what to do next or where to go next. And we make the decision that appears best. Whether or not it ends up being the good or the greatest choice, we follow through and make the best of it. That's when we find good is still good, even if the choice we made wasn't the greatest. And, God can still bring His good from it.

But I'm thankful God doesn't leave us alone in any of this.

Here are a couple more Scriptures to encourage us:

Isaiah 41:10 ESV reads, "...fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

And Joshua 1:9 NIV says, " Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

What do we do when we don't know what's good and what's great? We can ask God. We can go straight to Him and seek His wisdom and direction. And if for some reason we aren't getting any answers, we can ask Him some specific questions such as:

God, is this option better now or better in the long term?

God, what the good thing and what's the great thing here?

If I choose this today, Lord, how will it affect me six months from now? A year from now?

God, what do You want me to do today? Guide me in your truth.

Aren't you so glad we don't have to decide for ourselves what's good and what's great. God already knows.

Friend, as I mentioned, my book *Right Now Matters: Empowering Right Now Women in a Culture of Distraction* releases October 17, and I wrote it for us who struggle with living undistracted in a distracted-filled world. I share my own stories of how I've battled distractions through the last number of years and offer tangible ways to help you overcome them in your own life. If you're tired of missing out on life because of daily distractions, then this book is for you. You'll be able to find it on Amazon and likely Barnes and Noble.

And if you found encouragement and hope in this episode, would you consider rating and/or reviewing it from where you're listening today? This helps others find this encouragement and hope too. Be sure to subscribe to the podcast so you never miss a new episode.

In closing, let's not let good become the enemy of great. God's plans for us are perfect, and He knows what He's doing. Let's just step out and follow His lead. He will guide us every step of the way. I'm cheering you on, friend. God bless you!

Links in this episode:

[Psalm 32:8](#) NLT

[Isaiah 41:10](#) ESV

[Joshua 1:9](#) NIV

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