

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR *Real Life*

133. There Has Got to Be More to Life Than This

You are listening to episode 133 of the Encouragement for Real Life Podcast, titled "There Has Got to Be More to Life Than This." Welcome to the podcast! I'm glad you are here and I pray you are doing well. Do you ever wonder or question if, "there's got to be more to life than this"? I'm guessing we each have at some point in our lives. I know I have. Or quite possibly we're wondering or questioning that today. What do we do with a thought or question like this? Do we address it, bury it, forget about it, or act on it? Well, today we're discussing this in this episode, and I invite you to hang with me here for the next short while. We will find some hope and encouragement together. So, let's get into this episode.

As I travel around to speak to various groups about my newly published book, *Right Now Matters*, one question I like to ask is this, "Have you thought or voiced lately 'there has got to be more to life than this'?" And every time I do, I see the same reaction on the faces looking back at me. Every single woman understands this question and feeling. Every single one. I haven't met one that hasn't. Because we've all felt it. One woman at the event I spoke at on Saturday nodded her head and rolled her eyes. It was clear she certainly could relate.

In Chapter 2 of *Right Now Matters*, "There's Got to Be More," I discuss this in great detail. I share about the first time I thought this thought and how it wouldn't leave me, no matter how I tried to ignore it or forget it or bury it. I knew there had to be more to life than the life I was living. It was then I began to believe God was trying to get my attention, so I listened. I stayed alert, and I followed Him to where He as leading me.

Which was to a pregnancy and an at-home business.

This was a turning point in my life, and I can say without hesitation, my life has never been the same since. I invite you to read Chapter 2 for the full story.

Countless women are pondering similar thoughts daily. I hear their desperate pleas for the answers. I see their anxious faces, and I feel the heaviness they've been carrying in their hearts for what feels like forever. They each desire to live an abundant, joy-filled life, but currently are living anything but that. This may be for a number of reasons, but in Chapter 2 I address distractions.

Distractions are robbing us of joy, of abundance, of our very lives! Yet so many of us don't realize it. Like me all those years ago, we are miserable and we can't quite put their finger on why. Deep down, we know there's got to be more to life than this, but how do we go about finding it? Friend, if you're feeling any of these ways today, I'm glad you're listening. I'm glad you're here. Because maybe God is trying to get your attention, too, like He did with me.

As I share in this chapter, "Distractions aren't just something to avoid to make our lives more enjoyable; they are something to avoid to make our lives more impactful." And when we are living impactful lives, we never question if there's got to be more to life than this. Right? When we're doing what God has for

us to do, we never think thoughts like this. I knew back then I was not in His will, and I desperately wanted to find it. Only then can we live impactful lives.

But we can't live impactfully when we're living distracted.

Let me say this, it's easier to live distracted than it is undistracted. It's much more difficult to live the way God desires us to live, fully engaged and focused on His will for our lives. Because the enemy of our souls wants to keep us stuck. He desires to keep us distracted. Because when we're distracted, we are ineffective. When we're distracted, we can't think straight. When we are distracted, we can't focus on what's important. And when we're distracted, we certainly cannot follow God's calling on our lives.

So, it's no wonder this spiritual enemy wants to keep our minds preoccupied and our lives jumbled up by distractions. He knows us well, and he knows what distracts us the most. It's also no wonder why the battle against distractions is a challenging one.

And even if it is easier to live distracted, it's certainly not God's best for us.

Because God knows us better than this enemy does. Remember, He created us, right? No one knows us better. God knows what's best for us, and living distracted is not His best--it never will be. Jesus came to give you and me lives of abundance. It states this clearly in John 10:10: "The thief approaches *with malicious intent*, looking to steal, slaughter, and destroy; I came to give life with joy and abundance" (Voice).

We each desire to live our lives with joy and abundance, right?

Yet we know this world is not our home. We have one waiting for us, one that will last and that will never perish. We'll get to this in a minute, but what we do and how we live in this world greatly matters in the next. Let's allow a few scriptures from The Message paraphrase to encourage our hearts today.

"But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He'll make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him" (Philippians 3:20-21 MSG).

And what we experience here won't last forever. What we can't see, however, will last for eternity.

So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever (2 Corinthians 4:16-18 MSG).

Our lives here on earth are short, and what we do with them matters.

But we will live forever in our eternal home. And the glory we will experience there will be unfathomable. We can't comprehend it! But this Scripture right here excites me:

"I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared, and so had the sea. Then I saw New Jerusalem, that holy city, coming down from God in heaven. It was like a bride dressed in her wedding gown and ready to meet her husband. I heard a loud voice shout from the

throne: God's home is now with his people. He will live with them, and they will be his own. Yes, God will make his home among his people. He will wipe all tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. These things of the past are gone forever. Then the one sitting on the throne said: I am making everything new. Write down what I have said. My words are true and can be trusted" (Revelation 21:1-5 CEV).

Now that we're reminded of what awaits us, what do we do about right now?

Friend, we live in it. We embrace the right now. We live as if every moment counts because it does. It matters how we live right now. So will we live it distracted, miserable, thinking there has got to be more to live than this? Or will we seek God, allow Him to lead us to the abundant life Jesus came to give us, and be a light for Him in this world, living impactful lives for Him?

It's our choice.

Yes, there has got to be more to life than this. And there is!

When we partner with God to live the lives He has for us, we'll experience everything He desires for us to experience. We will be smack-dab in the center of His will where we will find joy, abundance, and impactful living.

Don't ignore or try to bury the wonderings of "there has got to be more to life than this." If you're thinking this, then it's likely for a reason. Could God be trying to get your attention today? Are you wondering if "there has got to be more to life than this?" What will you do today about committing to live undistracted and to overcome the daily distractions that plague you? Friend, the time is now. Right now matters. Because we both know we're not guaranteed another one.

We're carrying this conversation over to our private Encouragement for Real Life Community on Facebook this week. Come on over and join in the conversation. You'll find the link in the show notes.

Also, you can find out more about my books, *Right Now Matters: Empowering Right Now Women in a Culture of Distraction* and the *Right Now Matters Bible Study: A 28-Day Guided Adventure to Living as a Right-Now Woman* at the links in the show notes as well. We will begin another in-person and online session of the Right Now Matters Bible Study soon. Stay tuned for that!

In closing, as I say often, God has good plans for your life and mine. And with Him is the best place to be. Because of the abundant life Jesus came to give us, we have hope for the future in what's to come, and we have hope for today. May we choose to live each moment of the day attentive and undistracted. This life is too important to live it distracted. Thanks for tuning in, and stay encouraged, friend. God bless you!

Links in this episode:

[Philippians 3:20-21](#) MSG

[2 Corinthians 4:16-18](#) MSG

[Revelation 21:1-5](#) CEV

[Encouragement for Real Life Community](#)

[Learn more about Right Now Matters and the Right Now Matters Bible Study](#)

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