

# Encouragement for Real Life Podcast

## 247 You Were Made for More Than Settling for Less

[00:00:00] Welcome to the Encouragement for Real Life podcast. I'm Julie Lefebure, your host. Life is remarkable, sometimes raw and always real. And some days we could use a little extra encouragement for our real lives. Here you'll find that. Along with personal life impacting stories, helpful life hacks, timely inspiration, Biblical insight, and a fresh perspective.

The Encouragement for Real Life Podcast equips you to be a light in this world and to shine bright wherever God has you. I'm glad you're here today.

Have you ever looked at your life and thought, yeah, it's fine. Or maybe you've said that to someone? Yeah, my life's fine. It's not terrible. It's not falling apart. But also it's not full. It's not alive. It's not vibrant. It's [00:01:00] not what you thought it might be at this point in your life. And maybe you've wondered, even without saying it out loud, is this just how it is? Is this what my life looks like now? Or is this really what God has for me?

If you've ever felt that tension or you've wondered these things, well, I wanna tell you, this episode is for you today. So let's get into it.

I welcome you back to the podcast today and I'm thrilled that you are here. Today we are continuing in our series of You Were Made for More. And we're discussing the ways we quietly settle for less than God's best for us, for less than the life that God has [00:02:00] designed for us.

This is what we're talking about today, and it's so very important. Because I see women, often just settling into this mode of this is all there is for me, and it really breaks my heart. Because settling doesn't usually look like, you know, someone's really given up, but it looks like it's just adjusting. Maybe it's out of protection. We're gonna talk about that. Or out of just disappointment. But it might look like saying that this is just how my life is. And again, it's not horrible. It's not falling apart. But it's just not abundant and thriving. It may look like lowering expectations, not because someone wants to, but because it feels

easier than hoping for more. I think we can all kind of relate to that a little bit. And maybe you can today.

But what does [00:03:00] settling actually look like? I mean, we could talk about it all day long, but if we don't know really what it looks like, how are we gonna figure out if we are the ones settling?

Settling can look like just staying spiritually disconnected, but calling it quote, busy. And you know how if you've been around here at all, you know how I feel about the word busy. I have completely taken it outta my vocabulary. And it's a word that I just no longer say. And I talk about it in my book Right Now Matters. But um, yeah, that's one of the things we can feel spiritually disconnected, but we call it busy.

Or accepting constant exhaustion is just normal. Or losing joy and calling it maturity. Or feeling stuck, just truly stuck, but telling ourselves to just be grateful for what we have. Or avoiding change, because that [00:04:00] just feels too hard. Or believing that this is just my personality or my life, or the season that I'm in.

Settling oftentimes isn't a decision that we make. It's, it's the reality that we live out. I wanna say that again. Settling oftentimes isn't a decision that we make, it's the reality that we live out. None of us really, I believe, decide to settle. It's just something that we slip into and then we end up living it out.

So why do we settle? Why? Why do we do this? You know, if we don't intentionally do it, why does it happen? Well, I think there's a lot of different reasons, but just a few that come to the top of my head are that we've been disappointed. It's just easier just to settle. Or we've tried before and nothing changed. It didn't work what we tried and so we settled. [00:05:00] Or we just don't wanna be too much or expect too much because again, we don't wanna be disappointed. We don't wanna, we don't wanna feel that again. Or we've confused contentment with complacency. And those two words can feel like they're really close, but they are quite different. Yeah. Confusing, contentment with complacency. Totally different.

Or we've stopped believing that more is actually possible. Somewhere along the way we just stopped expecting more. Not more ease, but we just stopped expecting more of God in our everyday lives. And I think this is where it gets really subtle because most of the time we don't even realize that it's happening.

Let me tell you that there was a season in in my life when I had [00:06:00] settled. It was a, a time in my life, and maybe I've talked about it on here before, but it's a time in my life where my faith had quietly shifted into, I guess what you could call autopilot. You know, I was, I was still doing all the things, reading my Bible, journaling, spending time with God, and just showing up the way I always had. But I know I can be completely honest with you and I, I, I, I firmly believe that we learn, of course, from the lessons, the things that we go through, and we can also help others learn from our mistakes. Um, and so to be completely transparent, um, my relationship with God had become more routine than a, a real, vibrant relationship.

But the thing is, I didn't know it. I didn't realize it. I [00:07:00] wasn't coming to Him with expectation any longer. I really wasn't listening to Him anymore. I wasn't looking for Him in my everyday life. I wanna make an episode on that sometime about that. About how we look for God in our everyday lives. 'Cause I, I had stopped doing that. I was just going through the motions, checking it off the list. Really just checking God off the list. And I didn't even, I didn't even realize all of it was happening. That's how sneaky settling can be.

But over time, as the weeks drew on, there was this just quiet sense that something wasn't right, that something was missing. And it was an aching in my soul that I, I really couldn't describe, even to myself. And looking, looking back now, I can see that it wasn't just me feeling off, it was God [00:08:00] gently drawing me back to Him. Not with pressure. Never with guilt. That's not what He does. But with an invitation of something like there's, there's more for you than this. Not more to do, not, not more to, uh, strive for. But just more of Him to experience.

And I realized that settling was something that I didn't choose, but I was there. I had just slowly drifted away. And I let the other things and other people become more important in my life. And I had stopped responding to God's invitation to, to come and be with Him.

And maybe friend, you felt that too. Maybe you understand this. Maybe you've settled in a way that Yeah, you, you [00:09:00] know, yeah, I, I can relate. This is me too. The thing is, I didn't walk away from God. I just stopped leaning into Him. I just stopped holding His hand and walking with Him. And I still had my faith and I, that didn't change. But I had drifted. And over time, that created a life that, sure it looked fine, but it felt like just less than what He had for me. And I knew that. My soul knew that. My heart knew that. Just I knew that it was missing in my life, that He was missing in my life, even though I was going through all the motions.

And I think that's what settling often looks like. Not turning away from God, but just slowly stopping our expectation of what life with Him can actually be. And He didn't leave me there. He doesn't do that. He doesn't leave us there. Wherever we [00:10:00] are, He never leaves us. He met me right in that place and He began inviting me back into a deeper and vibrant relationship. That was what my soul was aching for.

You know, I think that settling comes with a lie. There's a lie beneath this settling. And the lie isn't always obvious. And I think the dangerous part is that it feels believable. Yeah, lies, lies can be easy to believe. The lie may sound like, you know, this is just how life is. This is just the way it is. So get used to it. Or you know, this is fine. This life is fine. God didn't come, Jesus didn't come to give us a life of just fine.

But underneath that lie is something deeper. That, you know, this is all that's available to me. This is all, this is my [00:11:00] lot in life. This is all God has for me. And friend, that's simply not true.

Let's look at God's Word today. I have three scriptures that I pulled out because I just think these are so powerful as I searched for uh, Bible verses, for God being the God of more. And this is what I found. God is a God of more. And I found right from the beginning of the Bible, Genesis chapter 17, verse 1 in the New Living Translation.

And, um, I love this. Check this out. It says, "When Abram was" , that's Abraham. Before God changed his name to Abraham. "When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, I am El Shaddai, God Almighty. Serve Me faithfully and live a blameless life." Now, I looked up El Shaddai and El Shaddai is often [00:12:00] translated as "the God who is more than enough." I love that. God is more than enough. He is a God of more. He is. He is the God Almighty. There's nobody greater than Him. He is the most. So He is the God of more, El Shaddai. What if instead of saying God, we just called him El Shaddai all the time. That would remind us that He is the God of more.

And then I found Ephesians chapter 3, verse 20, and I love this in The Message Translation. Check this out. It says, "God can do anything, you know. Far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams. He does it not by pushing us around, but by working within us. His spirit deeply and gently within us." Did you catch that? Oh, I love this. I kind of wanna write this and put it on my bathroom mirror. That "God can do anything, you [00:13:00] know, far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams." He is a God of more.

And then I found 2 Corinthians chapter 9 verse 8, and this one's in The Voice Translation. So yes, we're looking at three different translations today. I love looking at different translations. And this is what this one says. "God is ready to overwhelm you with more blessings than you can ever imagine, so that you'll always be taken care of in every way, and you'll have more than enough to share." More than enough to share. So we, we have a God who's more, He gives us more, and then we'll have more than enough to share with others. He is a God of more. I love that. I love that.

So when you think of more, I would love to know what does that mean to you? Now the world's gonna tell us more is just like more stuff. You know, I, I like, we [00:14:00] treat God as a genie in a bottle and we, you know, we rub the bottle or the whatever, the lamp or whatever, whenever we want something and God will just give it to us. That's not what we're talking about.

More does not mean more stuff. It does not mean perfect circumstances or just more, uh more striving, more accolades. It doesn't mean any of that. It means more as a deeper life, in a deeper life with Him. That's a beautiful thought. If we would just keep that in the forefront of our mind all the time. More is it is just a deeper life with Him. It's more peace, it's more purpose, it's more connection with Him. And when we're connected to Him, we're able to better connect with ourselves and with others. It's so powerful.

God's more isn't about having more, it's about living more fully with Him. [00:15:00] I am gonna say that again, just so we don't miss that. God's more isn't about having more, it's about living more fully with Him.

And the good news, gosh, if we're realizing today that we, we've settled for less than God's best that we've just said yep, I guess this is my lot in life. We don't have to overhaul our lives to fix this. We don't. Alls we need to do is just become aware, which now we are, and then begin again. Become aware and begin again. That's it.

So what, what does more actually look like? Let's really look at this. More in our lives, more with God might look like reconnecting with God daily. Change it up. If you just feel like your time with God is really boring, is really just stagnant, is really, um, [00:16:00] just something that you're going through the motions, change it up. Do something different. Sit somewhere different. Um, do something different with Him. Um, journal if you're not a journaler. Or if you're a journaler and that just feels like it's becoming just monotonous, meet with Him a different way. Maybe in worship with music, worship music. Out

outdoors. Find a way to connect with Him that will kind of spur you on and bring a spark back into that, that yearning for Him.

Another, um, way that, uh, more might look like choosing presence. Being present, fully present instead of just going through the motions on autopilot.

Another one might be letting go of what's draining you. There's something that's draining you. There's something that's draining me. And we need to let it go so we can fully live the life that God has for us.

[00:17:00] And creating space for Him again. What, what might that look like in your life? You know, I, I mentioned this last week, maybe the week before that, um, I'm reading through the Bible, uh, this year and yeah, I'm behind. But that is my space that I'm creating for Him. That is something that has been, has just kind of been the, the fire within me, is to continue reading His Word daily. Now, that might be different for you. But create space, uh, for Him again in your life. And only you know what that's gonna look like. Only you and Him know what that looks like.

But more doesn't start with a big change. It starts with just one step. One step in returning to Him. So today, instead of asking, how do I change this? How do I stop settling? What if we just simply ask, where have I settled? And then give that to God.[00:18:00]

Some reflection questions. You know, me, I love reflection questions, um, might be where have I accepted less than God's best for my life? Or where have I stopped expecting more from God? Where have I stopped expecting more from God? Or what is one step back toward connecting with Him? What is one step that I can take to connect with Him today?

You know, and , this is what was in my heart when I wrote Made For More. It's a a 365 day devotional, book that it's for women who refuse to settle. They're tired of settling. And that's what this book is for. Because I know how easy it is to drift into a life that feels fine, but not full. I lived it. And to be quite transparent with you, I've done it more than once. To feel existing but not [00:19:00] flourishing. To feel surviving, but not thriving. And how powerful it is to begin just to turn and come back to the life that God actually offers us.

You know, settling isn't just about our circumstances, it's about how closely we're walking with God. I wanna walk so close with Him that when He moves, I move. That when He, He points me in the direction I'm not gonna miss it. And I assume that you do too.

If you found yourself in that place, this kind of place today, going through the motions, loving God, but feeling a little disconnected or maybe a lot disconnected, I want you to hear this today. That you haven't missed it, you haven't gone too far, and you haven't settled beyond what God can restore. That's good news today, isn't it?[00:20:00]

But you know, friend, you don't have to stay there. God is still inviting you. Not into more pressure, more stuff you have to do, but just into something deeper with Him. Just into a deeper walk with Him, a deeper relationship with Him. Back into that beautiful relationship that He has designed just for you with Him. Back into connecting with Him. Back into a life that is full of His presence. And you know what comes with His presence. His peace and provision and everything we could ever ask or dream and more comes with His presence.

And maybe today the step isn't to change everything. 'Cause it's not. Maybe it's simply just to respond to Him and say, I am listening. I am here. I hear You, Lord. I'm coming back to You. And to lean into Him again. To expect again. And to come back to Him [00:21:00] right where you are. Don't wait till later. Don't wait till tomorrow. Do it today. You don't have to live on autopilot one more minute. Because this is not all there is that's available to you. God has more. You were made for more than settling for less than God's best.

As we close out today, I invite you if you were encouraged in this episode, I invite you to like it, to share it, to subscribe, you know all the things. It really does help someone else find this encouragement too. And I invite you back next week for our guest episode. I can't believe it's our guest episode already. This month is flying by. But this guest that I am having on is a dear friend of mine and has been for many years. We'll talk about some of that. And we are gonna, we are discussing real life, [00:22:00] real faith and how we can live with a made for more mindset.

So I invite you to come back next week bright and early on Tuesday and it'll be a great time together. And I truly believe that you'll be encouraged. So thank you so much for joining me here today. Until next time, God bless you.

Thank you so much for joining me here today. You can find more at [julielefebure.com](http://julielefebure.com). And until next time, stay encouraged.