

Sometimes when I begin writing I'm not sure where I'm going to end up. I tend to have a rough idea of what I'm supposed to share and then let Jesus take over and lead where He wants. This is no exception, although I do believe it's going to be different than what I typically share and we likely will be more like a series of posts.

A brief backstory - In Late June my husband and I had the opportunity to participate in a mission to Greece. In complete honesty it was a frustrating, yet amazing trip! One of the things that was especially frustrating was that having a daily time alone with Jesus is a huge challenge when you are on a trip like this. You are sharing space with others, there is always something more to do, your sleep patterns are messed up, etc... For me this meant I was already feeling distant from Jesus upon returning. Now I had to get myself back into the correct time zone, return to work, grocery shop, not to mention unpack and try to close out the trip. As if that weren't enough within a couple of days of returning, it seemed as though our lives and the lives of those we loved began to unravel. It caught me completely off guard! I always believed that the spiritual attacks came before the trips, not after.

While it was nice to be back home and be able to fall into normal routines again. I found myself randomly flipping my Bible open each morning and reading wherever it happened to land that day. I didn't have a plan, was struggling to even talk to Jesus; let alone read His word. The emptiness and distance was growing stronger by the day. I knew it was me creating the distance, but I couldn't figure out how to fix it.

I started praying the words of Psalms 63 *"God, you are my God I eagerly seek you. I thirst for you; my body faints for you in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory"*. All the while continuing with the daily Bible flip, wondering when and if Jesus was going to answer.

Turns out He was, I just wasn't listening. I'd been sensing I needed to read the words of Jesus (Holy Spirit prompting that I was choosing to ignore). One day I gave in and decided to read the book of John because that seemed like the easiest.

For about three weeks now, I've been doing a deep dive on the book of John, which is what I plan on sharing here. I'm only 4 ½ chapters in, so I have zero idea how many sections this series might end up with. But God! He has been so very faithful in opening my eyes to see, my ears to hear and my heart and mind to understand His words in fresh new and deeper ways. I am so excited to be able to share the things Jesus is teaching me. My hope and prayer is that the words of Jesus will touch your heart like they've touched mine!

I was going to title this: What I'm learning from the book of John. But really and more accurately it should be: What I'm learning from reading and listening to the words of Jesus.

I'd love your feedback along the way, so please share. And thanks for taking the time to read.