



June 2017

Dear Friends,

How can I begin a letter to someone I do not know and have never met? How can I possibly understand the situation that you are in, or even the series of circumstances that brought you to this place? How do I encourage you when I cannot be there to wrap my arms around you the way Jesus does for me every day of my life, and say it will be ok?

As I type these words, I pray, I believe, and I trust that my heavenly Father can make all the questions that we can possibly have go away with the unexplainable peace that only He can give.

“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” -
Philippians 4:7

I haven't always believed. I grew up in a Christian home, my mom and dad both devoted followers of Jesus, and always living their lives in faithful service to Him. But me, I was a bit rebellious, but not unlike most young people I suppose. I was very strong willed and no one could tell me what to think or feel. My parents could never force me to do anything I did not want to do, and I suppose today as a woman, a mother and a wife, I am that stubborn young girl within some parts of my walk. I always had a need to belong as I was growing up. I needed people's encouragement to see my self-worth and always tried so hard to impress people. It wasn't until I unwillingly went to a service with my mom and sister, to a speaker from America that I received a seed from someone I had never met before. A glimpse within the path God had for me. The day I received this vision from this little man, of course due to my seemingly bad attitude, I refused to allow it to grow. God placed it in my heart at that time for a purpose, but it would only be many years later and through one of the saddest days of my life, when it would finally embed, take root and grow.

This year, 10 years ago, will be the anniversary of my Dad's death. A shock phone call from my sister in the early morning hours, before daybreak, saying I am fetching you, Dad just died. And as I write these words the tears drip down my face in remembrance of the beautiful soul lost to earth, but an angel gained for Heaven's army. He was perfect, the most loving dad, an incredibly quiet and beautiful human being. Just gone, with absolutely no preparation. Within the days following, as we prepared for His funeral, God gave me a gift. A Healing that no human could ever gift. A gift, as I look back on my path up until this very letter that has continued bringing me through many trials within my life. The seed He embedded within me, became a seedling, and started to rapidly grow, enveloping my heart with an unquenchable thirst for more.

He gave my pen, words on a piece of paper, my feelings turned into words that formed a poem and that turned into a lyrics, lyrics that turned into a melody and a melody that turned into a passionate song of healing to my soul. I had never thought or imagined, that prophecy spoken over me, at church that day, could be real. How could it be? I can't even play an instrument or even spell (hahaha, no really, I am terrible at spelling.) I suppose you are wondering what this seed was. Well, it took years after my father's death, to realize how this gifted seed would grow.

Looking back at my life, I am in awe today of every little detail God crafts and designs for our lives and how everything plays out in exactly the right way. How the sad *and hard* and seemingly never ending heartache of our lives are the times where those seeds shoot their roots becoming stronger for the day they must grow a stem, branches and leaves. God has every little detail planned and knows exactly what He is doing in order for us to grow into the Oak He needs us to be.

You see, my dear friend, it was only until my sister's death of cancer three years ago, that I truly realized Gods peace that He grew every day within me through these songs. It was only then when I truly experienced how much He loved me, that he would take so much time to prepare me to understand this gift He was growing and why.

The traumatic times in my life started watering this seed to grow, from a spoken word over my life, from a little man I had never met, into a healing song to my heart. What was this word that was spoken over me you ask? He told me that He had a vision of me singing and playing a piano worshipping my songs to God.

Today, my friend, 15 years later, I am a songwriter, and I say it with confidence knowing that I have received no formal training. God gave me the ability to write lyrics of healing, with melodies of praise, that have moved me through every trial I needed to move through, and the gift has allowed me to know more of my Father's heart. My thirst to learn more from His written word, His Bible, is unquenchable. God spoke to my heart in a way I never imagined He could. And He can do it for YOU too. I didn't need people to tell me how to hear my Lord, feel His love and experience His peace, the way I thought, after all. God knew my stubborn spirit needed a relationship straight from Him, something no human being could ever give. My gift of music, received at the age of 30, with no training and no background, is straight from Him. A miracle Holy Spirit gift that only came from Him. Although, over the past 20 years since I received that seed, I have had many more trials to walk through, and amazingly God gave me a song for each heartache. His attention to the detail of our lives is unique to each of us and proof to me that He has a specific plan for all.

God knew what I needed for the yesterdays and what I need today and he knows what your need too. While you hold this letter today, I pray you will feel the love and the peace God gives within each situation. While your seed is currently growing roots, within your heart, during times of trial, I pray that the Holy Spirit will display your uniqueness and the specific seed God has 100% uniquely gifted you. I pray that you will have confidence in the Holy Spirit within you, and that you will receive the most incredible encounter with the Lord, a thirst to grow in His word, more intimacy with Christ, and an awareness for your purpose in His kingdom.

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” – Numbers 6:24-26

Bless you my friend,

Juanelle Venter, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”
Hebrews 13:16