



November 2017

Dear Friends,

God is so big. Let that really sink in. God *is* SO BIG. Our weak minds can scarcely fathom or understand how big God really is. God is orchestrating the timing of thousands of galaxies far beyond ours, planning events to take place in the lives of billions of people daily, overseeing catastrophic weather events in one hemisphere, while holding back the seas of the ocean from dry land in another one. All this *and more* is being done simultaneously by our infinite Father.

Meanwhile, I can barely hold down one household with five people in it. I can wear so many different hats in one day: wife, mother, daughter, friend, teacher, foster mom, cook, housekeeper, taxi driver, volunteer, cheer coach, and the list can go on. Days can seem long, yet the months seem to evaporate. Life can feel mundane, chaotic, hurried, or scattered. Relationships can feel distant. Circumstances can seem insurmountable. You too, friend, may be able to relate to some part of this. If so, I want you to be encouraged with these three things: Remember, Rest, Redemption.

God is so big, BUT God is so close. If you know and believe Jesus is God's Son who died the death you deserve, who rose victorious over sin and who is alive seated next to God today, then friend, God is close *to YOU*. So, in life, when you feel swallowed, **REMEMBER** who God is and where He is in your life. He is close. He never leaves. Those hats you are wearing and changing constantly can all be removed and replaced with the only one that lasts, "Beloved." **REST**. Yes, we'd all like to sit down and take a break or be able to run off to that favorite vacation spot we fantasize about to take a physical rest. But Jesus offers us a constant, never-ending rest for our soul that won't run out when you have to turn in your room key or punch in on the clock again. His rest is lasting peace for our souls, mercy that's new every morning, joy unspeakable, knowing that I can commune with Him in the blink of an eye wherever I am. I can rest with Him while I cook the food He provided for my family. I can rest with Him while I drive to bring a meal to a friend. I can rest with Him while I resolve sibling conflict. God is redeeming it all. God sent Jesus for redemption once and for all, but He is constantly redeeming the everyday moments of life. I can look for God's redeeming handiwork in all circumstances.

So friend, I encourage you to REMEMBER who God is, so you will find REST and so you can see life in view of His **REDEMPTION**.

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

**“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”**

**“Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”**

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Layla Varvoutis

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16*