

A Prayer of Surrender-Childlessness

Dear LORD, my heart doesn't know where to begin some days. I always took for granted that someday I would be a mom. Growing up on happily ever after movies & doll babies, & seeing my own mother & grandmother... friends' mothers... friends who became mothers. And still, here I am... with no children. My heart breaks a little bit every time I let myself think about it. The hardest part is the mourning... mourning a life I always envisioned having... with game nights & praying with them before bedtime & teaching them how to navigate this crazy life... to nurture them & love them... to rock them when they're sick & be their shoulder to cry on when days are rough. I long to mother... to fill my aching arms with a child I brought into this world. Did I do something wrong? Something in my past? Is this a punishment I deserve? Am I just not good enough? Do you think I'm not enough? Oh, God, the ache in my heart seems to overwhelm me sometimes. You tell us that children are a gift from you & blessed is he whose "quiver" is full... & here I am with no children, despite my ache & efforts to make it so. I don't understand. But, God... But, God... I know You have a perfect plan. You don't hold grudges. You pour Your love on the just & unjust & YOU are my sufficiency where I for sure lack! So, if all that is true, then You must have Your reasons. Help me to trust You over ME. Help me not cling so tightly to my ideal that I drift apart from You. I know You don't condemn my ache, the mourning I experience for unrealized hopes... but I also know how easily that can become bitterness, resentment, & distrust of You if I am not careful. Guard my heart. You are worthy. You are deserving. Your plan is higher than me. Show me how to live out this desire in another way in the waiting or in the none at all. I trust You.

In Jesus' name, *Amen.*

A Note from the Author:

At the time I am writing this prayer, my husband & I have been married for a few months shy of 11 years. We stopped trying to prevent pregnancy 1 year into our marriage. My heart ache for many years is expressed through the words of this prayer. But, I want to encourage you of something. God really does have a plan. This isn't a carefully curated cover-up, stuffing down hurt or bitterness to appear "godly," but a true heart that has clearly seen God's GOODNESS in our childlessness. I went to a women's study covering "Breaking Free" by Beth Moore, & she beautifully covered Luke 1:6-7: "And they were both righteous before God... But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren..." illustrating that we can't assume it's punishment-related. Then Beth covered that when the Bible mentions "Go forth & multiply" in the Old Testament, it's referring to multiplying through more children, but in the New Testament, its focus shifts to multiplying your FAITH. She then mentions Isaiah 54:1: "'Sing, O barren... For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman," says the Lord." How can this be? Because a mother of children has the main responsibility of raising her OWN children: pouring into them, teaching them, & caring for them... but a barren women has the opportunity to pour into THOSE women, allowing an overflow into those mother's lives to THEIR children... she has the opportunity to be the spiritual mother of MANY, pouring into THEIR lives, being an encourager & building them up for a life of giving God the glory in ALL. What a beautiful opportunity we have as childless women. And maybe that's not such a comfort to you... I get it. If I see a talent competition on tv with parents crying tears of happy pride seeing their "babies" thrive, I feel a pang of what I always pictured would be my life. But I will tell you that if I am not quick to take that ache right to God's loving, comforting arms... Satan WILL use it against me. Any bitterness or discontentment comes when I determine that only MY WAY will ever satisfy me, rather than trusting the loving goodness of my Heavenly Father every step of the childless way.

~Michelle Hyde

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