

# Ordinary Women, Extraordinary God

Have you ever felt too ordinary to be used by God?

I know I have.

Even at 65 years old, I'm still learning that my worth isn't found in what I've done, where I've been, who I've raised, or who I've loved. My worth is found in one thing only: in who I belong to.

God delights in using ordinary women for His extraordinary purposes. Ruth was an outsider. Esther was a young woman risking her life. Mary was just a teenager from Nazareth who said "yes." None of them were extraordinary in worldly terms—but their obedience revealed God's glory.

That same truth has played out in my own life.

I'm the oldest of six kids. By seventeen, I was married and pregnant, and by twenty-one, I had three children. I didn't grow up in a Christian home, but God planted seeds early. I accepted Jesus at twelve, even though I didn't have anyone to disciple me.

My husband and I decided to take our kids to church and raise them the best we knew how. We were sports parents and youth leaders, trying to give our kids what we didn't have. But life wasn't easy. Our family faced financial hardships, addiction, and brokenness. Many times, I felt like we had failed as parents.

But through those struggles, God drew me closer to Himself. When I finally stopped trying to control everything, He showed me He was carrying me all along.

For years, I wondered who I really was and what God wanted from my life. Then, in 2016, I went on my first international mission trip to Haiti. My family didn't understand why I needed to go, but I knew in my heart God was calling me.

The next year, my mission leader told me she had been praying for two years for God to reveal who would take over leading missions at our church when she retired. Then she said, "It's you."

I laughed and told her she was crazy. I didn't have training, I didn't speak other languages—I felt completely unqualified. But God reminded me that He wasn't looking for perfect qualifications; He was looking for obedience.

So I said yes.

And God said to me, *"I will equip you. I just need your obedience."*

Around that same time, one of the hardest seasons of my life began. My daughter told me her family was moving to Texas—with three of our grandloves who were part of my every day. My heart shattered. I realized I wasn't in control, and I fell to my knees before God and surrendered everything.

That moment changed everything. Surrender became a daily practice for me—not just one decision, but a way of life.

Four years later, God told my husband and me that it was our turn to move to Texas. Now, we live near our grandloves again. God restored what my heart had surrendered.

Today, I serve as the Missions Coordinator at StoneWater Church. Over the years, I've been on 28 international mission trips to 11 countries. God has allowed me to love and lead others across the world.

I don't share this to point to anything I've done—but to what God has done through me, because I said yes.

Ten years ago, I was in a stressful job that drained me. I didn't even know what my heart desired, but today I see that God has given me more than I could've imagined—joy, purpose, and peace in doing what I was made to do.

It reminds me of that picture of the little girl offering Jesus a small bouquet while He holds a huge one behind His back. That's what obedience feels like. We give Him what little we have, and He gives us so much more.

Psalm 37:4 has taken on new meaning for me:

*“Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”*

For me, it now reads: Delight yourself in Me, and let Me become the desire of your heart.

My identity isn't found in being a wife, a mom, a Nonny, or even a missions leader. Those are gifts—but they are not who I am.

Who I am is this:

- I am loved with an everlasting love.
- I am chosen, not overlooked.
- I am a daughter of the King.
- I am a new creation in Christ.
- I am secure in His hands.

Identity is not a destination; it's a daily journey with Jesus.

At 65, I'm still learning, still listening, still saying yes. But this I know: God isn't done with me, and He's not done with you either.

He uses ordinary women who simply say yes—Ruth did, Esther did, Mary did, and so can we.

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for using ordinary women like me to do extraordinary things for Your glory.

Help me to delight in You daily so my desires align with Yours.

Teach me to trust You completely, to release control, and to say yes when You call.

Let my obedience flow from love and intimacy with You, not duty or fear.

Take my ordinary life and make it a reflection of Your extraordinary grace.

Amen.

## **TRUTH DECLARATIONS**

- I am loved with an everlasting love.
- I am chosen, not overlooked.
- My obedience flows from delight in the Lord.
- Surrender brings peace and blessing.
- God equips me for every calling He places on my life.
- He can take my ordinary and make it extraordinary.

## **FURTHER READING**

- Psalm 37:4 – Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.
  - Proverbs 3:5–6 (TPT) – Trust in the Lord completely; rely on Him to guide you.
  - Ruth 1:16–17 – Ruth’s faithfulness and trust in God.
  - Esther 4:14–16 – Courageous obedience “for such a time as this.”
  - Luke 1:38 – Mary’s humble yes to God.
  - Ephesians 3:14–21 – Paul’s prayer for spiritual strength and fullness in Christ.
- John 15:5 – Abiding in Christ bears fruit that lasts.

