



2026 VICTORY FAMILY CONFERENCE • DAY 2 • WOMEN'S SESSION

Don't Stop Here

There Is Grace for a New Place

Pastor Portia Taylor

Tuesday, August 19, 2026 • Morning Session • At Sea

*"People don't die because they lack direction. **They die because they settled in a place that was only supposed to be passed through.**" Come out of survival mode and into discovery.*

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How This Applies to Us

OPENING

The Climber's Warning

- ◆ When climbers become exhausted, they start convincing themselves that stopping is safe: "This is far enough," or "I'll keep going later."
- ◆ Experienced climbers know something critical: **if you stop too long in the wrong place, the place that was supposed to be temporary becomes fatal.**
- ◆ **Exhaustion will make you normalize places that were never meant to become your destination.**
- ◆ Many of us have been climbing consistently without seeing much result, and we are fighting the temptation to stop or to say "I'll do it later."
- ◆ The word for this season: **Don't stop here. There is grace for a new place. Grace for beyond. Continue to grow.**

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People don't die because they lack direction. They die because they settled in a place that was only supposed to be passed through.

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POINT ONE

Between Survival and Promise (Joshua 1)

- ◆ Joshua 1 opens in a dangerous place: not a battle, but standing **between survival and promise**. Moses is dead. The wilderness is behind them. The promise is in front of them.
- ◆ Surviving seasons can make you think you are done. We talk about the past so much that our conversation never touches what God is doing NOW.
- ◆ Women know how to keep going: answer the phone, take care of the children, show up for your husband, serve at church, meet the deadline, all at the same time, and never tell anybody "I'm exhausted."
- ◆ We have learned how to function tired. We have learned how to **function dysfunctionally**.
- ◆ **Your ability to endure a place is not God's permission to remain there.** Just because you can endure it does not mean God wants you to stay in it.
- ◆ Israel had **40 years of survival training but no success training**. They knew maintenance and endurance. But the drought is over. Say it: "I'm in a new season."
- ◆ The new season requires new skills and new leadership. You cannot approach this generation the way you did 20 years ago, or you will be irrelevant.
- ◆ You can't go into new places with old thinking. That is why God said **MEDITATE day and night** (Joshua 1:8). Meditation rewrites the way we think. "Meditation has been my preventive medicine: I meditated before it came, so when it came, it couldn't hold me."

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You don't need more strength to survive where you've been. You need grace to transition into where you're going.

MEDITATION #1 • COLOSSIANS 2:9-10 • TLB (AS READ)

"For in Christ there is all of God in a human body; so you have everything when you have Christ, and you are filled with God through your union with Christ. He is the highest Ruler, with authority over every other power."

- ◆ **"I can spend Christ. I don't have to spend me."** When you need something (financially, emotionally, spiritually), spend Christ. You cannot spend what you don't own, and meditation causes you to own it.
- ◆ The payroll story: a businesswoman friend asked her to float her company's payroll. Her husband said, "She sees something in you that you don't see in yourself. Why not you? Maybe God just wants your yes." Standing on "I have everything in Christ," she said yes and called back. The friend answered: "Girl, I'm good. It worked out." **God wanted the yes.**

POINT TWO

A Version of Yourself You've Never Met

- ◆ Joshua was introducing Israel to a version of themselves they had never met. For 40 years they knew themselves as **wanderers, survivors, manna collectors, and tent dwellers**.
- ◆ Now God says: you are **landowners**. You are **builders**. You are **mothers of inheritance**. You are people with vineyards you did not plant and cities you did not build.
- ◆ You can enter the land seeing yourself differently, not just as wilderness people.
- ◆ "I believe in this time of my life, I'm being introduced to a version of myself that I've never met."
- ◆ Don't be afraid to get into new rooms and new spaces to see who you really are.

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I'm being introduced to a version of myself that I've never met.

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POINT THREE

Psalm 139 and the Path of Pain

- ◆ Her November-December 2025 meditation: **Psalm 139**, one chapter, every morning and every night, before the Year of Discovery was even announced.
- ◆ In earlier psalms David asks God to search his ENEMIES. Here he shifts: **"Search ME, O God."**

PSALM 139:16 • TPT (AS READ)

"You saw who you created me to be before I became me."

PSALM 139:23–24 • TPT (AS READ)

"God, I invite your searching gaze into my heart. Examine me through and through; find out everything that may be hidden within me. Put me to the test and sift through all my anxious cares. See if there is any path of pain I'm walking on, and lead me back to your glorious, everlasting way."

- ◆ The heart testimony: her heart kept looping into SVT. After the second episode she asked the doctor why. He said: **"Portia, your heart remembers."** Medically the heart has a brain; a hidden rhythm that misfires can stay. She heard something deeper: "Search my heart, O God. What is in there?"
- ◆ **The path of pain speaks of familiar spirits.** Unhealed areas create a frequency that attracts voices that sound familiar but are not divine.
- ◆ In pain, people prophesy: "Don't ever give a man your heart." "Keep a little something on the side." That is the path of pain talking, passed down through generations. Like the Apostles preached last night: **it ends with me.**
- ◆ Familiar spirits imitate the comfort of the past. **The voice that comforts your dysfunction is not the voice of God.**

- ◆ Pain preaches a gospel of self-protection: don't trust again, don't try again, don't feel again, "the dating pool is trash." That is not the spirit of truth.
- ◆ For marriages recovering from betrayal: if all you have are old memories, **make new memories**. Nothing new inserted means the old keeps replaying.
- ◆ You cannot hear and process a new thing if you are still tuned into an old wound.

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It's the spirit of fear dressed like wisdom.

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POINT FOUR

Clean Out the Closet: Remove, Don't Renovate

- ◆ Ask: what am I still holding on to that no longer serves me?
- ◆ Clean the closet OUT; don't just reorganize it. We know how to reorganize mess: clothes with tags still on, dresses unworn for five years, jeans we swear we will fit into again. Organized, but **no capacity for anything new**.
- ◆ Everywhere she preached in 2025, she packed a bag from her closet and gave things away. "I don't need to renovate anymore. **It's time to renew.**"
- ◆ Women are asking God for a new season while holding on to an old version of themselves: **praying for expansion while refusing to release what has expired.**
- ◆ Lot's wife: one translation says she **lingered**. Old memories made her look back. What areas of your life are you lingering in?
- ◆ Tell yourself: **"I'm not that woman anymore."**

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Sometimes God burns things because they can't be renovated. Most women want to remodel Sodom.

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ISAIAH 43:18-19 • NKJV

"Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it?"

- ◆ Not everything is assigned for repair. Some things are assigned for removal.

- ◆ Why does God say forget the former things? Because **remembrance can become resistance**. We reminisce about the good old days and never ask what God is doing NOW.
- ◆ The empty-nest testimony: after dropping her daughter Paris at college, the quiet hit the next morning. The Lord said: "**Sit in the empty so I can fill it. You prepared for her next, but did you prepare for yours?**" We pour everything into our children and keep nothing for what God wants to do next in us.
- ◆ You cannot discover what's next while pretending nothing has changed. Things change; people change; routines change. It's okay: **there is grace for a new place**.
- ◆ The greater danger is not that you won't make it. **The danger is that you will mistake exhaustion for completion.**

Come Out of Survival Mode

- ◆ The enemy's primary strategy in this generation is not simply deception; it is **mental occupation**, mental fragmentation. **If he can occupy your mind, he can interrupt your destiny.**
- ◆ Mentally scattered, emotionally exhausted, spiritually distracted: you function without feeling whole. "You show up, you produce, you parent, you lead, you serve, you work, and then you realize: **I lost me.**"
- ◆ Pray: "Make me the me You created me to be before I became me."
- ◆ **Signs you are in survival mode:**
 - You feel guilty resting
 - Constantly busy, but rarely fulfilled
 - You solve everyone's problems except your own
 - You don't know what brings you joy anymore
 - You haven't dreamed in years; you've only managed
- ◆ **Signs you are exhausted:**
 - Everything feels heavy
 - You are constantly irritated
 - You stopped expecting good things
 - You are surviving instead of dreaming
 - You feel disconnected from yourself
 - You can't remember the last time you really laughed
 - You keep saying "when things settle down" (they never will)
- ◆ The mall story: a joke had a group of women speakers laughing on the floor of the mall with no sound left, and one woman's laughter turned into weeping.

Deliverance happened right there in the mall. "I don't remember the last time I felt this kind of joy."

MEDITATION FOR THE EXHAUSTED • ISAIAH 40:29 • KJV

"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength."

- ◆ That is grace: what God does for us, independent of us.
- ◆ Isaiah 11:2: the spirit of might will rest on you and give you stability so you won't tire.
- ◆ Ephesians 6:10: be strong **IN THE LORD**. Your flesh is a liability in battle.

ZECHARIAH 4:6 • NKJV

"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD of hosts."

Build Rhythms of Rest

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Build rhythms of rest before you need rescue. Rest is trusting God enough to believe the world can keep spinning without you.

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- ◆ **Rest is not quitting.** Rest is a rhythm, not a rescue mission.
- ◆ Genesis says be fruitful, multiply, replenish. We have been **faithful but not fruitful**. What has come FROM you? Who are you pouring yourself into so it doesn't all depend on you?
- ◆ **"If you get to the top alone, you're not a leader. You're a hitchhiker."** Who did you bring with you? Who are your Timothys?
- ◆ Practical steps:
 - **Protect your time with God**, especially as your day begins.
 - **Learn to say no.** "No is a complete sentence." Ask: "God, is this aligned with what You need me to do?"
 - **Schedule delight, not just responsibility.** Good friendship is like the anointing oil: burdens removed, yokes destroyed. Ask God to send people for your NOW.
 - Ask **"What restores me?"** not only "What has to get done?"

MATTHEW 11:28 • KJV

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

- ◆ The invitation is not simply "stop working"; it is "**come to Me.**" Learn to carry responsibility from a place of grace, not survival.
- ◆ **Rediscover who you are apart from what you do.** Ask God: "Who am I now?"
- ◆ The shore dream: playing in the sand with Jesus. He said, "Portia, get up. **What's out there beyond your horizon?**" (John 8:23 MSG: "You're tied down to the mundane; I'm in touch with what is beyond your horizons.") Her eyes opened to her tomorrow: "Oh, that's for me, Jesus."
- ◆ Ask: What gives me life? What has God been stirring in me? **What have I buried because I was busy raising everyone else?** What dream is waiting for THIS season?
- ◆ Joshua did not conquer Canaan in one day. Crossing the Jordan was one step. **Discovery doesn't happen sitting; it happens walking.** Your steps are ordered of the Lord.
- ◆ Move toward it: have the one conversation. Find the mentor (complement, don't compete; the assignment has your DNA). Take the class. Book the trip. Join the new ministry.
- ◆ **The church is the greatest human resource department there is.** You learn the skills, you develop the character, and you take it into the marketplace. And there is power in being a good second.

PROVERBS 18:15 • NLT

"Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge."

- ◆ Every new season, sit down and **be a student again.** Read new books. (She spent all summer reading books on rest. She doesn't like them. She reads them anyway.)
- ◆ "We are human beings, not human doers."
- ◆ "Discovery is not becoming someone else. It is uncovering the woman God has been forming through you, even through the seasons you survived."

HER LIFE SCRIPTURE • EPHESIANS 2:10 • AMPC

"For we are God's own handiwork, His workmanship, recreated in Christ Jesus, born anew that we may do those good works which God predestined, planned beforehand for us, taking paths which He prepared ahead of time, that we should walk in them, living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live."

- ◆ Say it: "I am a piece of work." Get a life scripture, keep your scriptures in your phone, and meditate on them when life is life-ing.

THE CLOSING DECLARATION

I declare that I am coming out of survival mode and stepping into discovery. I am discovering new strength, my voice, new capacity, joy, my identity, what is possible. There is more in me. There is more for me. There is more God wants to reveal through me. Today I get up. I move forward. I cross over. I embrace the transition. I receive fresh grace. I will not stop here, because there is grace for a new place. God is doing a new thing in me; it is springing forth, and I will perceive it. As I wait upon the Lord, my strength is being renewed. I will mount up with wings like an eagle. I will run and not be weary. I will walk and not faint. Exhaustion will not have the final word. His grace is sufficient for me. His strength is made perfect in my weakness. There is still power working in me. There is still purpose in me. There is still vision in me. There is still life in me. There is still more in me. I will not settle here. I am moving from exhaustion into renewal, from familiarity into discovery, into what God is doing in me NOW. God, I thank You for the grace of this new place.

CAPTURE THIS

Key Quotes

"Exhaustion will make you normalize places that were never meant to become your destination."

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"Your ability to endure a place is not God's permission to remain there."

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"You have everything when you have Christ. I can spend Christ."

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"Portia, your heart remembers."

HER DOCTOR, ON THE RHYTHM HER
HEART KEPT

"The voice that comforts your dysfunction is not the voice of God."

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"Not everything is assigned for repair. Some things are assigned for removal."

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"Remembrance can become resistance."

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"Sit in the empty so I can fill it. You prepared for her next, but did you prepare for yours?"

WHAT THE LORD SAID TO HER

"The danger is that you will mistake exhaustion for completion."

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"If you get to the top alone, you're not a leader. You're a hitchhiker."

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"We are human beings, not human doers."

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"Discovery is not becoming someone else. It is uncovering the woman God has been forming through you."

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Themes

Endurance is not permission: some places are meant to be passed through

Survival mode is a season, not an identity

Meditation is preventive medicine that rewrites thinking

Unhealed pain has a voice, and it imitates wisdom

Removal, not renovation: release what has expired

Rest is a rhythm of trust, not a reward for finishing

Discovery happens walking, one step at a time

You are God's handiwork, with paths prepared ahead of time

Nuggets

- ◆ "I'm in a new season. The drought is over."
- ◆ Spend Christ, not yourself.
- ◆ Get around people who can see the real you.
- ◆ Make new memories, or the old ones will keep preaching.
- ◆ Don't remodel Sodom. Don't linger. "I'm not that woman anymore."

- ◆ Schedule delight like you schedule responsibility.
- ◆ Girls' nights are anointing oil: burdens removed, yokes destroyed.
- ◆ The church is the best HR department in the world.
- ◆ Read the books on rest even if you don't like them.

Reflection Questions

1. What place are you enduring that God never asked you to remain in?
2. What are you still holding on to that no longer serves you?
3. What path of pain have you been mistaking for wisdom?
4. What did you bury because you were busy raising everyone else?
5. Who are your Timothys, and what restores YOU?

How This Applies to Us

- 1 Pick a meditation and own it.** Colossians 2:9-10, Psalm 139, or Ephesians 2:10. One chapter, morning and night, until you can spend it.
- 2 Pray the search-me prayer over the path of pain.** Invite God's searching gaze. Name the familiar voice that has been imitating wisdom, and let it end with you.
- 3 Clean out, don't reorganize.** Physically give something away this month, and release the expired version of yourself with it.
- 4 Run the survival-mode checklist honestly.** Guilty resting? Busy but unfulfilled? Haven't dreamed in years? That is a signal to transition, not to push harder.
- 5 Build one rhythm of rest this week** before you need rescue: protected morning time with God, one scheduled delight, one real laugh.
- 6 Say no to one thing** that is not aligned with what God needs from you. No is a complete sentence.
- 7 Take one walking step toward the new place:** the conversation, the class, the trip, the ministry. Discovery happens walking.
- 8 Say the declaration out loud:** "I will not stop here. There is grace for a new place. Exhaustion will not have the final word."



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Notes compiled from the live session by Rick Pina. Scripture quotations noted by translation as read in the session.