

SHE'S BEARING ALL FRUIT

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Excerpt

Chapter 4

We live in a world full of fast-paced technology, where everything is just a fingertip/touch away. Instead of waiting for the mail, you can now check your email or a website to find the information you're looking for within a minute. Instead of waiting for a taxi, you can Uber or Lyft, and they'll be there in less than five minutes. Instead of waiting to find out the sex of the baby, a mother can now choose to have the sex of her baby impregnated. We, as a nation, no longer bear patience; instead, we yearn for the next great thing to come within seconds. With a fast-growing world wanting to reach and accomplish goals, sometimes we neglect to pause and enjoy important milestones.

Enjoying each small occurring moment can be more gratifying than that which leads to a grand finale. The process of waiting to see how something is going to turn out makes life worth living. In other words, having the patience to keep doing something without losing interest or becoming anxious can lead to a life full of enjoyable moments.

I read "Enjoy the Ride" by Steven Gilland in my many readings of various self-awareness books. The book is a self-reflection of one's life that talks about the actual ride or events one will go through while leading up to their destination. For example, in a school year, there are typically nine months that make up a calendar year. In those nine months, there are certain events that a teacher/student/parent will go through before the year comes to an end. In that calendar year, there's the first day of school, the beginning of the year pre-assessments, fall/winter break, mid-year assessments, spring break, and the end of the year assessments. During those big, highlighted moments are the different types of school functions and activities, extracurricular after-school programs, parental night, family fun night, science fair, literacy night, etc., which one may encounter. Even though all these events are expected to happen, as predicted in the school calendar, going through each event's process will make each moment memorable. By the time one has reached the end of the school year, success can be celebrated because of the endurance, actions, and steps taken to achieve a good ending. The point here is that there will be events in your life that will be predictable based on what's been circulated in

the past. Knowing what is expected, you can learn to “enjoy the ride” by embracing the moments and minutes of each anticipated event.

In this same book, Gilland also talks about how success is not a thing you acquire or achieve, but the journey you take throughout your life makes you successful. I must agree with this statement. Having success in life is an outcome of how you live it. Your approach and actions on how you use the given time and moments will make you see life differently.

When I accepted my calling as a teacher, I went through a series of events that felt like I was on a roller coaster of ups and downs of emotions. There were days when I felt excited, and there were days when I didn't want to be bothered or do anything. My mom, being the woman of God that she is, would tell me, “Daughter, know that you will go through storms in your life. You will be either entering a storm, being in the midst of a storm, or coming out of a storm”. She would let me know this was a part of life's journey, and it was up to me how I wanted to react to the storm that I was currently in. When I processed what she told me, I knew I had to push harder to overcome those rainy days and drive towards the goals I once set for myself. In those moments, I realized I needed to appreciate life's roller coaster of emotions and be thankful for the more incredible days to come.

Now that the ride of becoming a teacher was over, I had surpassed that moment. It was time for me to apply what I had learned through readings and experiences and now use it to my student's learning needs.