

CHILL OUT:

T - Take No Credit, Thank God

I Thessalonians 5:18

“...give thanks to God in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Jesus Christ.”

So, as I write this, we are in our twentieth year of homeschooling. Yep, seven kids, 4 graduates and three in the home stretch (aka middle school and high school). Almost done. It’s been an amazing ride! But here’s the deal. This has not been about what I was capable of, not about how organized I’ve been and certainly not about my patience level—especially not about that.

No, thankfully those things are NOT the prerequisites for this journey. Nor are they disqualifiers for the journey. At all. No, this journey is about being available, answering that still small voice when it whispers. Daring to lean in and listen. Daring to trust and obey. Daring to step out in faith and live what you believe.

I could take the time here to enumerate all of what the Lord has done, all that I am aware of that is. I am confident that there are many things He has done that I am sadly oblivious to. I could list providential meetings, scholarships, opportunities. He has gone beyond.

I could tell you story after story of things that shouldn’t have happened but did. Of things that didn’t make sense, but happened anyway. Intersections, crossings, missteps and accidents that He brought good out of, that He redeemed. I could go on and on about things that came together at the perfect time. His time.

I could recount how He has met me time and again. He has provided over and over. How He had granted me patience. How He has brought order out of my chaos. How He has showed me things about my kids and myself that I couldn’t see. He has done more than I could ask or imagine.

Further I could list all of my inabilities, my failures, my inadequacies. All of the holes in our homeschool like the Latin I didn’t teach, the history we didn’t discuss, the math that went undone. I could list our hundreds, no, make that thousands of reasons why we shouldn’t have done this. Like the fact that I am dyslexic, I’m a slow reader, I’m not great at math-at all-, and I struggle to finish things. Yes, I could do that, but I won’t.

I won’t because the fact is that this journey has been more about what He has done through me, through us, than it has been about me or us. It has been about Him glorifying Himself through our weaknesses, it’s been about Him growing all of us together and individually. It’s been about Him. Look, I really couldn’t imagine doing this without Him. I mean, I guess I could have but it would have been ugly, because it would have been all about me, making me look good. Like I said, ugly.

Because I know that this has been about Him, about what He has done, I am so thankful. I am thankful for the call, the challenges, the changes. I'm thankful for all that I couldn't do, all of the ways that I've needed Him, desperately. I'm thankful that He has a plan and that it isn't the same as mine. I'm thankful that He hasn't given up on me. So thankful.

So when someone says something like, "Wow, you did a great job!" or "You are awesome!" or "I could never do what you did," I am quick to say—"It wasn't me. It was God." Only He could do what has been done through our journey. Only He could bring beauty from ashes. Only He could redeem all of the junk. Only He.

To wrap up our trek through the process of CHILL OUT, we must end back at the beginning. When we started we discussed the first point that was Change the Way You Think. Remember that? Well we didn't discuss it then because it fits here. We must stop thinking that this journey is about us—strengths or weakness. It's not. NOT. It is totally and completely about Him, His strength in our weakness. It is all about His glory. All about Him.

What are your most important goals for your children? What are you working to accomplish?

Starting out each day worshiping Him and glorifying His name gives you focus on Him. How do you approach each day? What are some ways you could begin to worship Him and focus on Him as you begin?

Name an area that totally frustrates you. Have you given it to God? Have you thanked Him for the challenge and the opportunity to trust Him when it seems impossible? Write your prayer of thanksgiving below.

So, what areas of your journey have you seen Him act? How has He shown Himself mighty, able, worthy?

What areas of this adventure do you think you have done pretty well? In what ways are you capable?

Name the areas where you are incapable, inadequate. Are you white-fisting these? Ignoring them? Denying them? Or are you living open-handed with them, allowing Him to have them?

Name the attributes of God you have experienced.

<https://roadmapsforworship.com/cultural-questions/tips/alphabetical-attributes/>

He is Worthy of our praise. He is on the throne. Take some time now to thank and praise Him for all He has done, for all of the gifts, all of the challenges, all of the opportunities, all of the dreams. Thank Him for your weaknesses in which His grace is sufficient; His strength is evident, His redemption is sure. Bless His holy name!