

May 2012 ~ “Vacation from God?”

Anticipation is an interesting experience. A mentor once shared with me, “Anticipation is the joy, not the actual event.” I’ve been sharing that thought with numerous audiences when I speak, and have personally found this to be true. In line with this thought, I encourage others to always have something to look forward to. We really try to live this out, especially around the idea of planning vacations.

Gaylyn really wanted our spring vacation to be a trip to any body of water, so that he could fish until his heart was content. I don’t know about you, but I really don’t enjoy sitting out on the water’s edge for extended periods of time with a pole in my hand hoping that a fish jumps on my line whenever it finds it to be convenient. However, I was reminded (by my wonderful husband) of my pre-marital commitment to go fishing at least once a year. I just spoke at a women’s conference last month on keeping one’s commitments, so I was really being challenged. So, fishing here I come!

Once the vacation dates were set and the location identified, anticipation swung into full gear and set its course. I could hardly wait for the day for us to leave the house and put the car on the road. It became difficult to keep my mind on work when in my office, because my mind was already on vacation, but my body was in my work chair. I kept telling everyone I talked with that I could hardly wait to be on vacation. Do I ever anticipate time with God in this same way? Well, I thought I did, because I made preparation to spend tons of time with God while having to sit patiently on the waterfront hoping for a fish to jump on my line. For some reason, once the vacation began, I found it hard to make time to steal away with God.

To be totally transparent, part of me wanted to take a vacation from my “God routine.” God would understand, right? As the days passed, I felt this deep sense of disconnect between myself and my Savior. What made me think for one second that God is someone I can discard from my vacation? He is the maker of vacations! He makes them possible and doesn’t stop working in our lives just because we are on vacation.

May the Lord help me to be intentional and disciplined—to include Him at all times, especially on vacation. There is no way that He would want me to leave home without Him! He’s always with me, even when I’m sitting and waiting for one of His creations to jump on my line!