

Bibles and Bows February 7, 2023



February - *Blessed is the woman:*

Whose hands reach out in kindness and wipe away the tears of the brokenhearted and lonely.

****THRIVE or SURVIVE****

So many of us live life on repeat . . . a perpetual “Groundhog Day”. Wake up - take care of kids, or house, or self, or spouse - work - meals - church - ministry - hobbies - sleep - repeat. Again and again. Stuck in a rut – over and over same thing every day.

Does it feel like sometimes we are just surviving
but our spirit longing to thrive.

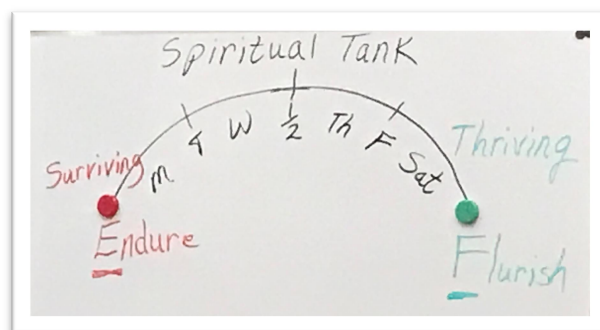
By definition SURVIVE means to endure, to live or exist through an affliction, adversity, or misery. While many of us have survived many hardships and situations, Do we really just want to “survive life”?

**I am not on this earth to merely survive –
I AM HERE TO THRIVE!**

By definition THRIVE means to flourish.

(3 John 1:2) God desires us to live prosperous and blessed lives, not lives of merely existing or just getting by.

His desire is for us to thrive and flourish, prosper and be successful. To thrive should be our life’s goal.



We can learn so many lessons from the bumblebee that can give us a look into not just how to survive but

HOW to thrive in the hive!!!!

1. CREATE A ROYAL BUZZ.

Bees' buzzing serves a very distinct purpose. "When certain species of "buzz-pollinating" bees, such as bumblebees, visit a flower, the buzzing and vibrations of their wings and bodies cause pollen to shake off the flower. The pollen then attaches to the bee's body and is deposited on the next flower the bee stops to visit."

To thrive in our lives we need to be creating a "royal buzz". Ask yourself, what kind of BUZZ does your life create?

YOUR WORDS FRAME YOUR ATMOSPHERE. Are your words creating a life of peace or chaos? Joy or anger? Healing or hurting? Do you constantly bring drama and verbal attacks? Do you constantly nag? Are your words filled with bitterness, anger, and hate?

Or, like the bee, does your "buzz" pollinate the lives of those around you causing them to bloom. Do your words cause things to grow? Does your speech bring beauty and life?

Ephesians 4:29 says, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."

To thrive in this life, you must be the Queen who uses her buzz to build up and not tear down.

In fact, when a hive switches Queen's, the Queen will determine the atmosphere of the hive; often bringing change when needed. Some Queen's encourage aggressiveness and others hard work and success.

Your buzz is your choice!

2. WORK HARD.

Every Spring in my backyard I plant flowering bushes. Every spring, a swarm of bumble bees come to collect pollen from the flowers. Every morning, I have coffee on my patio, and without fail, my bee friends are awake with the dawn, and they are working.

My bumblebee friends buzz about working hard all day. Bees must visit two million flowers to give us one pound of honey. The average worker bee will only produce 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime. That seems like a lot of hard work for a very little result?

“The worker bees, which are all females, are the hardest working. They are tasked with the foraging of nectar and pollen, spending most of daylight outside the hive. Experts that study the bees have reported that these bees make more than 100 foraging trips in a day. When the sun goes down, they head back to the nest. Other worker bees are kept busy around the clock with jobs within the hive including feeding the queen and larvae, building and repairing the hive, fanning their wings to keep the hive cool, and protecting the hive against enemies.”

When I studied the worker bee, I couldn't help but notice that she sounds a lot like *The Proverbs 31 woman*.

"She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good, And her lamp does not go out by night. She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants."

Proverbs 31:15-18

If you want to thrive in this life, you must work hard unto the Lord. The bumble bee doesn't know that we enjoy the honey they work so hard for. They aren't working for us. The bees are working unto the Lord because that is what they were created to do.

You may be a stay-at-home Mom. You may be a teacher, a blogger, a nurse, or the CEO of a Fortune 500 company. Whatever your work may be, do it with all your might unto the Lord. You may never reap the applause of man, but like the bee, you aren't working for man . . .
you are working unto the Lord.

3. MIND YOUR OWN BEESWAX!

Now that may seem harsh, but follow with me. The term that fits so well here means . . . “mind your own business”.

As I watch my bee friends work each morning, I can't help but watch how they mostly work alone. They go from flower to flower “minding their own beeswax”. THIS bee isn't looking at THAT bee to see what her flower looks like. She isn't comparing how much pollen the other bee has gathered compared to the amount she has gathered. THIS bee isn't jealous of how THAT bee looks, flies, or buzzes. EACH bee puts their bee head down and working.

My friends, if you want to thrive in life, you must mind your own beeswax. Stop comparing your life to the little squares on Instagram. Stop comparing your entire life to someone's highlight reel on Facebook.

Your business is not their business. Your family is not hers. Your hair, height, weight, clothes are uniquely yours. **OWN IT!** And let us stop the sickening, fruitless, and destructive comparison game. Theodore Roosevelt said, “Comparison is the thief of joy”. Such truth. The fastest way to ruin a day is by comparing yourself to someone else.

⁴But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. ⁵For every man shall bear his own burden. Galatians 6:4-5

4. WORK TOGETHER.

While honeybees may gather their pollen alone, focusing on their own individual work and not comparing with others, they know that they are part of a bigger picture.

Dear Friend, you are an integral part of God's family. There is something only you have been called to do the way you can do it. There is something you have been chosen to say only the way you can say it. Your gifts and talents are not small compared to anyone else's.

The bee hive needs the Queen just as much as it needs worker bee. Without the Queen the hive could not survive and without worker bee, the hive would not function properly.

To thrive in this life, we must do our part, use our own gifts and we must work together for the greater good. NO one is here by accident! With God, there is a perfect plan and you have a part in His!

5. TASTE THE SWEETNESS.

Did you know . . . one ounce of honey would give a bee enough energy to make a complete flight around the world? Unbelievable!

So much study has been done on the medicinal benefits of honey it would be hard to mention them. Among a few, honey is an energy booster, cough suppressant, helps with skincare, can reduce sinus issues, and even controls cholesterol.

The Bible says in Psalm 119:103, "How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey."

If honey can deliver enough energy to help our physical bodies to "keep on keeping on", how much more sweeter and significant is God's Word to our spiritual bodies?

Spend enough time in the world, and it will beat you down.

But when we feast on His word, we taste and see that the Lord is good ([Psalm 34:4](#)). **How WE are renewed! Our energy, our focus, our strength grows in the light of His glorious grace.** The words of the Lord are sweeter than honey. Savor it. Devour it. Live it! - - it's pages will have the strength and energy you need to thrive in this life.

6. DON'T LOSE YOUR SONG & DANCE.

In this life we can lose our song and dance. Lose our praise,
lose our worship. We can lose our dance in life's problems.
We can lose our song in the middle of life's sorrows.

Interesting fact . . . “The honey bee dance is a method by which a honey bee scout tells a swarming colony about the location of a potential new home. A honey bee communicates to its sisters the distance and location of food and also water through the dance.” In 1973, Karl Ritter von Frisch won a Nobel prize for cracking the honeybees' communication code. It was discovered that bees have an awesome sense of time, distance and direction which they communicate through the dance.

My dear sister, if you are going to thrive in this life, you cannot lose your dance. Your dance communicates praise to God.

Psalm 149:3 says, “Let them praise His name with dancing.”

When you dance as David danced, you are communicating the ultimate praise to your Heavenly Father. In your dance, you release the shackles of this world and you become free to thrive.

The Queen Bee's also sings! You cannot lose your song in this dark world. Colossians 3:16 tells us: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, *singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*”

If you want to thrive and live an abundant life,
Your song and your praise take your focus off of YOU
and puts YOUR focus on JESUS!
Praise HIM with every fiber of your being . . .

Just survive in this life ?? – NO WAY!

I want to thrive in the hive every moment of every day!

