

Patterns of Grace and Gratitude Week 1

Monday, April 12



Artwork: "The Wind Blows" by Hannah Garrity © Sanctified Art

This is the cover art for our devotional series. Listen as the artist describes her experience of grace and her vision of this piece: THE WIND BLOWS by Hannah Garrity inspired by John 3:1-17. "I could not see the forest for the trees. My child-bearing years were a time of wilderness for me. Having been a successful student, I looked for measurables to track my failures and successes as a young mother. I read books, talked to friends, compared stories, and mentally tracked what worked and what did not with my little one. I struggled mightily with the fact that my measurable failures significantly outweighed my successes. I have since reimagined how I measure success and failure. Looking back, however, I can see that I was lost in the details. I was mired in measurables while I needed to be open to enjoying the fleeting days of babyhood. I could not enjoy those precious moments of infancy. I just remember babies crying, unable to comfort them. Each subsequent year has presented an onslaught of detail, so many that I have had to restructure my approach to my daily life. This shift has allowed me to move into a realm that is more like this idea that Jesus mentions in John 3:5-8: the idea of being born of the Spirit. It is not a profession of faith that allows one to live like the wind. Plenty of people who believe do not live such a life. Rather, it is a moment-by-moment intention to be aware of God's presence. It is a minute-by-minute appreciation for the amazing life we have been given. It is a deep breath and a slower-paced walk. It is a freedom unparalleled. It is an ability to see the forest and the trees. This space in the Spirit is deep and wide. It is fleeting and ever-present. Come, live a life born of the Spirit." — Hannah Garrity

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." John 3:5-8