

Trusting God's Plan

"It's the most wonderful time of the year" are words from one of my favorite Christmas songs. Every time I hear it, I think about waking up Christmas morning, opening presents with my family and listening to my father's favorite singer, Johnny Mathis, sing the best Christmas songs.

This time of the year isn't just about joyous Christmas celebrations. For me, it's also a time where I reflect on how many of my goals I met for the year. Did I lose weight like I wanted to? (No). Did I save money like I said I would? (I tried but so many things were on sale calling my name). Did I write those books like I planned? (Yes...one was published in August...still working on the other ones).

There's still so much I set out to do but haven't done yet. However, rather than think about what I didn't do, I'd like to think about the goals I did meet. And instead of considering the other goals as unmet, I still consider them goals "in progress." It sounds crazy but it keeps me encouraged.

This is one of my favorite quotes that also encourages me as I think about those "goals in progress" by Saint Francis de Sales Patron Saint of Writers. "Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections but instantly set about remedying them - every day begin the task anew."

Here's a prayer from my recently published book, "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: Inspirational Prayers for Writers." Even if you are not a writer, being able to seek and trust God's plan might make the importance difference in how you see your ability to reach your goals.

Trusting God's Plan

I thank you God for showing me your plan and your direction. I may sometimes struggle following you with my cloudy eyes of faith. But I pledge to trust you and your plan for my life (as a writer.) I thank you God for loving me enough

to plan with meticulous care every detail of my life. I trust you in the good and bad times and when I don't know how to take my life's circumstances. I trust your hand to guide me through the sometimes dark, unclear areas of my life.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 is a great scripture that also reminds us of this. "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. "When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen."When you come looking for me, you'll find me. "Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed."

Happy New Year 2011!

Shewanda Riley is a Dallas-based author who can be reached at lovehangover@juno.com or you can join her own Facebook. For more information, visit www.shewandariley.com or www.anointedauthorsontour.com.