

By  
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# THE PAGE

Getting GBC ladies on the same page.

July  
and  
August  
2025

## Have you ever seen anything so beautiful?

Flying to the Hawaiian Islands last summer, I looked out the airplane window in awe. The water was so aqua and so clear that I could see the coral beneath. Palm trees swaying, pineapples waiting to be eaten, and sunsets to be enjoyed. An absolute paradise! (Aside from the fact that my daughter broke her leg and I broke my toe, but anyways...) It's hard to believe that these beautiful islands were formed from volcanic eruptions under the ocean. Lava layered upon lava slowly formed what we know now as Hawaii. How could life be formed on lava, how can such beauty come from ashes? A verse in Isaiah talks of such a concept, though without mentioning the aloha life. *Isaiah 61:3, "To appoint them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment or praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness,*

*the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified."*

We would all want a life described as beautiful, joyful, and full of rejoicing. God is offering a trade. Give Him your ashes, mourning, and heaviness and He will give you these things of beauty. When we hold onto the hard parts of our story and the heavy parts of our life, they stay that way. They weigh us down and hold us back. They are the lump of coal that we wear around our neck when God wants to turn it into a diamond.

*Job 1:1, "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job..."* and he is our example on this subject. Literal ashes surrounded him. All the good things in his life had been taken and he sat down in the ashes, scraping the boils off his body with a piece of broken pottery. Talk about rock bottom! But Job handed these ashes to God and chose to trust Him during the trial. He acknowledged that God was smarter than him and just might have a bigger plan than Job had for Job.

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### MUSIC RECOMMENDATION:



"We Believe" by Goodly Heritage  
Available to stream.

### BOOK RECOMENDATION:



"People don't quit their jobs; they quit their bosses." By Jennifer-Ruth Green (the speaker at our Ladies Extravaganza.) Available on Amazon.

### FURTHER BIBLE STUDY:

Beauty from Ashes:  
Psalm 30:11-12, Rom. 8:28  
Joel 2:25, Rev. 21:4-5

### FOR GIGGLES:



We know the end of the story where Job got his health and riches back. He had ten more kids, among which his daughters were the most beautiful in the land. And they lived happily ever after... Well, they probably did, but that's not really the end of Job's story. His story lives on even into 2025, where every Christian who has ever gone through a trial can look at Job and be encouraged to endure. How hard would it be to go through a trial and not know anyone who's had it worse than us! Ah, but there's always Job, and his trial will always trump ours. Believe that, yes, God can bring beauty from ashes. What can we do practically with this thought?

**1. Own the ashy parts of your story.**

Though we should not be proud of sins we've committed, or sins committed towards us, we don't need to pretend that they didn't happen. For better or for worse, these events are part of your story. Perhaps they pulled you closer to God, taught you lessons, or brought you to where you are today. Everyone has a past, whether they want to acknowledge it or not. No one's life is a highlight reel of only blessings and only wise choices. It's in the ashes where we see our need for God. We should thank God for those ashy parts of our story. It is at these points

in life where He can start something beautiful.

**2. Notice the "beauty from ashes" pattern in your own life.**

Sometimes it's easier to notice the growth in another person's life than it is to notice growth in our own lives. It's important to look back from where we started to where we are today, not in pride, but in praise to God. I don't just mean from being an unsaved person to becoming a Christian, but the recent victories too. From the time you decided to really start digging into your Bible to now having more fruits of the spirit like patience. From the time you started praying for a particularly annoying person to now having a strong friendship with them. God was not done with you at salvation. He can take any ashy situation and bring beauty from it. Look for this pattern in your life and be encouraged that God is not done with you.

**3. Point out beauty in other people's stories.**

"You're doing better than you think you are" is a phrase I've been telling women. Some women are so hard on themselves. They see the here and now failures and fail to see how far they've come. They see their fall, but

forget about the mile they walked stumble-free. We must come along side our sisters in Christ, dust off a little ash, and point out the beauty that we see in their life. We may not have a designated Team in our church for encouragement, but you could unofficially start one. Every woman who looks a little down, or does a good job at hiding it, make it your job to encourage them. Point out the beautiful work that God is doing in their lives. Up from the ashes is where God wants to take each of us.

**UPCOMING LADIES EVENTS:**  
(Contact Faith Reynolds with any questions)

**Soul Sisters:** Once a month Bible study 11am-12pm

July 5<sup>th</sup> and Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Fall Flannel Fling:** September 13<sup>th</sup>