

Journal Entry # 2

When it came to reading chapters three and four in this Palmer book, I honestly felt like these chapters were almost attacking me, but in a positive way, if that makes any sense. There were a few quotes, in particular, that really stood out to me. For starters, I really liked how the author explained that “we can learn as much about our nature by running into our limits as by experiencing our potential.” This quote was real for me because this is something that I had to come to terms with recently. I knew that God was calling me to social work, but he never revealed to me what it was that he wanted me to pursue in such a broad field. I assumed that when I graduated with my bachelors degree, God would reveal that to me and I would just know what to do next, but it never happened.

I decided to take a gap year and try to put myself out there, but all the social work jobs required a masters degree, and all the regular jobs I applied for either denied me or caused me to experience burnout on a regular basis. Eventually it got to the point where I started to question what if I heard God wrong? What if I was even meant to be a social worker? What if I’m not good enough to do this or anything for that matter? I almost gave up on everything because I was clinging to closed doors and living in my limitations, not realizing that the answer was right in front of me. I needed to sit in these “underground” moments, to realize that God was calling me to be obedient to finish what I started and get my masters degree. And let me tell you, I am so thankful that I was able to sit in these underground moments, and reflect and pick myself back up again, because being in this MSW program has honestly helped me answer that question and find my calling/purpose in the field of social work. The author explains that “The anxiety that kept me pounding on closed doors, almost prevented me from seeing the secret hidden in plain sight; I

was already standing on the ground of my new life...” This is something that truly resonated with me because I lived through and truly experienced this for myself.

References

Palmer, P. J. (2000). When Way Closes. In *Let your life speak: Listening for the voice of vocation* (pp. 41–55). essay, Jossey-Bass.