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Guyon Response Paper

It is always my intention to commence every new year with new goals or old goals that I did not follow through with. Though that may seem silly to some, I did not want to quit working on myself to be better than my previous self. Listening to a motivational message through YouTube or even a podcast helped me to start each morning on a positive note. Although, this version of myself took time to build and grow. Mentally preparing myself for the start of a new semester this year made me feel anxious, yet excited. This was a fresh start to a new year, and I knew I would be a great one.

My intentions to retain God at the center of my life have not always been consistent. I've recently begun practicing immersing myself fully in the word especially when I felt afraid or lost. My second semester in nursing school had some hiccups from the beginning. These hiccups led to feeling fearful of failure. As a result, I used my fear to draw closer to God knowing that he will faithfully bring me to the end. Waiting patiently in his presence brought me to Proverbs 3:6 which says, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths". I knew this was the Lord's way of telling me to trust that he will bring me to the end however, to trust him requires unwavering faith.

There were moments over the last few weeks when I've permitted the enemy unknowingly to intrude on my thoughts with empty words. In chapter six of *Experiencing God Through Prayer*, Guyon reminds us that we should not listen to voices that confuse us. Instead, "great faith produces great abandonment" (Guyon 258). Renouncing the enemy each time I knew

he was about to attack gave me power and strength over my life. There is power when we relentlessly speak the name of Jesus.

While growing up, my parents practiced family prayer each night before we went to bed. By instilling this practice, I understood as a young girl that prayer is warranted at the end of each night despite our agendas. However challenging tomorrow may seem, we should never be too busy to spend time with God. As I grew into my teenage years, I naturally ask the Lord to speak to me in stillness especially when I felt uneasy in my heart. Having the ability to speak to God with faith granted me the ability to find peace seamlessly.

My late grandfather was once a well-known pastor in my Indian community. Folks all around the world paid their respects by visiting my grandfather and would minister with him during Sunday service. As he grew weaker in strength, his abilities to travel afar suddenly came to a halt. His passion for the Lord was unlike anything I'd ever seen. I admired his ability to recite bible verses from memory even though he was becoming forgetful. My grandfather would often forget his name and where he was, but he never forgot God's word. Shortly after his first heart attack, my grandfather found ways to gather the church together when unwell. He encouraged church members to reach out to their loved ones to attend bible study in his home. As a teenager, a late-night bible study was not on my go-to list. Nonetheless, I would attend bible study on Tuesday nights and I would feel the spirit of God moving through each person. My grandfather continued his bible studies for as long as he could. In January 2016, my grandfather was called home and passed away peacefully with his six children and twelve grandchildren. Shortly after his passing, the fire that burned inside my heart started to dim more each day.

Gravitating from God's word sanctioned the enemy to pursue my life while flooding my heart with hopelessness and anxiety. I began to question God which ultimately led to feeling

resentment and wounded. How could God permit the enemy to swindle me at a vulnerable state? Why would he not rescue me from the devil?

In chapter fourteen of *Experiencing God Through Prayer*, Guyon mentions “If, in our weakness, we attempt to attack the enemies of our soul, we will find ourselves wounded, if not defeated...” (Guyon 517). After some thought, I comprehended that no matter how many times the enemy brings us down and creates wounds within our hearts, the only one who will be able to heal us and give us the strength to overcome him is Jesus. Life is full of grueling moments but Jesus reminds us through his word that the enemy can be defeated by proclaiming his name and declaring victory. Exodus 14:14 states “The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace”. God listens to us when we cry out to him, especially when we are feeling lost, hurt, and broken. Nonetheless, Guyon reminds us of the importance of not dwelling too much on our weakness and unworthiness because it deteriorates our prayer life. I am reminded to forsake my beliefs and nature to God when I feel woeful or undeserving of his Grace.

Surrendering ourselves to the presence of God will make room for him to cast away evil. The scripture reminds us that God should be the sole judge of our hearts and if we practice abandonment of ourselves to him, “his divine light is more effective than your own careful examination” (Guyon 485)