

Anticipation Proclamation

by Laura Shaw

As a young girl, I remember the start of a new school year being so exciting! The first day of school for me was as New Years was to the grownups I knew. It was a time for vows and resolutions: **THIS** would be the year to make perfect grades. **THIS** would be the time for me to make new friends. Yes, **THIS** would be the defining year of my talents as well as my personality. I would even be a better Christian witness, and EVERYTHING would be more exciting than the year before... The cherry on top was the blessing of new clothes, cool school supplies and all the other "stuff" that was required for a student to get a good start to the new year. Cha ching! Christmas in August!!!! On the other side of the beaming and scheming, though, was Anxiety, just waiting to rear her ugly head. *What will I wear? Which teachers will I have? Who will I sit next to? WHERE did these pimples come from?* Before the first bell had even rung, Anticipation, Aspiration and Anxiety had become inseparable friends of mine. Nonetheless, now that those days are over, I wouldn't mind having that feeling of great expectation again...

Sometimes our Christian lives have become all too familiar with the aspirations and anxieties of this life, but somewhere along the way, the anticipation has been lost. What if we could find it again? What might that mean for us as believers? Believe it or not, the Bible shows us in numerous places that the Lord has great newness and hope to offer us each and every day:

Lamentations 3:22-23

"Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

2 Corinthians 4:16

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away,
yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

Psalm 51:10

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Colossians 3:10

"...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."

So what does this mean for us? I believe it means that we can be like school kids at the end of summer each and every day, but without the worry! No matter what fruit we are lacking, the Lord will be faithful to provide it as we put our hope in Him. It is a daily (for me, hourly sometimes) process...it is a "giving over" of ourselves with the exchange of renewed eagerness for the great things God can do in and through us as we let Him. We can choose to serve ourselves, our anxieties and our desires; or we can start the day with dependence on our Lord, who will faithfully show up and

keep His promises. Let's decide to proclaim our anticipation in Him alone this very day!

**"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you,
then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...
But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."
Joshua 24:15**