

God Knits

Devotion

*For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well (Psalm 139:13–14).*

The English student in me often leads me to focus on the verbs in sentences. Contemplating this verse, I saw the word “knit” and could not help but wonder. As you read this verse, think about what it might mean for you as a daughter or as a mother. The verse says, “I *praise* you.” Despite our insecurities (large pores, uneven skin, frizzy hair, height, weight), God tells us we are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” God made me [you, us] *wonderful*. You were *knitted/created* by God, the same God who created the world. You are not just a jumbled up pile of evolved cells and biology. And that is certainly something to praise Him about!

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5).*

Think about what it means that God tells us, “I knew you.” Before I was even a thought of my parents or anyone else, He knew me. He knew what my name would be, my likes and dislikes, who and when I would marry, where I would go, what I would do, and who I would be. He had a plan for my entire life! Now, this does not mean that I did not get to choose my husband or that I have no say in whether or not I like *Star Wars*. It means God knows me as His child now, as well as before I was born. He designed me and has a plan for me, which is a relief because my plans are not always the best ones.

A couple months ago I found out I was pregnant. It was an amazing and joyful thing! I have been so blessed to experience every wonderful moment of having the life of my child inside me. However, I soon did the math and came to realize that my baby would be due in July, which is around the same time seminary students and their families move for vicarage (which would include my husband and me this year). I thought, “Uh, God, are You crazy? Could You not have planned this a month sooner or later? How is this going to work?”

I often find myself worrying about how everything is going to work out with all the packing and unpacking, and where in the world I am going to have my baby. This is where God places people in our lives to reaffirm our faith and remind us that God has a plan. He challenges us to trust in Him and follow where He leads. Even when it does not seem like it, His timing is perfect, and it is exactly what we need in order to grow as His people. We cannot even comprehend what this truly means, and that is truly inexpressibly amazing to me!

If you have a knit blanket, or better yet, if you have ever attempted (or succeeded) knitting one, think about that blanket or hold it in your hands. Even if it was knit by a machine, it is bound to have some flaws. In my knitting experience, I usually have plans to make a blanket or something great and beautiful and, halfway through, it turns into another scarf or washcloth. The hands I use to create things are sinful and imperfect, and it shows in the things I create. We could take any of the projects we are working on, or have completed, and change them to fit our plans better; or we could use different yarn, a different stitch, or a different size needle, etc. That is not how it works in our lives though. Sometimes we stray from God's plan and say, "No. My plan is better. It is easier and it works out better for me." We are "playing God" when we act that way. But we cannot be God because there is only one God and He is perfect. His plans are perfect. The hands that created the world, the same hands that knit you and me, are absolutely perfect!

When God created the world, all He had to do was speak and it was done, and it was good (Genesis 1). He could have just said, "Let there be Lauren," and I am sure a Lauren would come to be exactly the way God intended. But instead, for you and me and all humans, He *knit* us, using His hands, putting effort, thought, and planning, and as with every good recipe or work of art, a bunch of love into each part of us. He designed you and me and He has a design for our lives.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for carefully knitting each and every one of us together according to Your divine plan for our lives. Help us to live according to that purpose, Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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