

Gaby Duke:

Hi. Hi. Hi. Welcome everyone. I'm so excited to be here on this panel. We have three of our presenters here today. So right here, we have Sheila, this is her sign name. Where are you from? I can't remember.

Sheila Hall Price:

I'm from Virginia.

Gaby Duke:

Virginia, that's right. That's right. Virginia. And then, right here, we have Renca. This is her sign name.

Renca Dunn:

Hi. And Virginia, it's for lovers. Yes. Amen to that.

Sheila Hall Price:

In love with my Lord.

Renca Dunn:

I am Renca, and I'm from Nebraska.

Gaby Duke:

Welcome. And here, we have someone new. This is Mandi and this is her sign name.

Mandi Dye:

Hello. I'm from Alabama.

Renca Dunn:

Alabama. Yes.

Gaby Duke:

So I'm just really excited about this time that the four of us have had to just really interact and talk. And really, the three of y'all. It's the first time you all met in person. So after watching the three of y'all, wow, I just really noticed there was a connection between the three of you. Why is that? How do you think that happened? It was just so quick and automatic.

Sheila Hall Price:

Do you mind?

Gaby Duke:

Go ahead.

Sheila Hall Price:

Well, for me, when I first sat down with Mandi and Renca, and I noticed that Mandi was so expressive and so emotive, and I thought, I just instantly connected with her. The Bible says, "Weep with those who weep and rejoice at those who rejoice." And so when I met Mandi, I felt, oh, wow, I just felt so connected to her joy.

Renca Dunn:

Yes. I think one of the biggest things that we sometimes face is how easy it is to do things individually. It's easy to do things from home, to work from home. Now, everything can be done from our home on our own. It's become all about self-reliance,

me, me, me, but when will we stop focusing on me and instead, rejoin the collective we. These past two years have been really tough for all of us, for sure. It's nice to have this chance to be together. It just feels right. Even though we're from all over, being in one place and sharing stories reminds me of our capabilities, and that we are all serving that same spirit of God inside of us. We are one by serving the same God. So we feel instantly connected. It's really nice to be here in person.

Mandi Dye:

Yeah. The unbreakable theme that we are exploring, it's been powerful to me. And I've so enjoyed meeting you all. We each have our own unique personalities and that makes it even more fun.

Gaby Duke:

Yeah. I know that your husband typically is the one that has the camera on him. So her husband is named, Steve Dye, and this is his sign name. And typically, the camera's on him because he has a podcast. He does interviews with all different kinds of people, but now, it's your turn. Camera's on you. So how does that feel?

Mandi Dye:

Yes. It's been a big step for me. I usually stay behind the scenes. That's where I feel comfortable. So this experience as a

presenter, it's brought up a lot of emotions for me. I definitely see God's hand in leading me here to do this. But on the news, so busy lately, and this weekend has given me a chance to just relax and slow down. It's a break from my regular work. It's been a new experience and wonderful. And to feel the support from all the team here, looking forward to what the future holds.

Renca Dunn:

Yes, I'm happy you're here. And it's nice that God is changing things up. It's like, God has been marinating you and now, you're well done like a steak, and you're ready to go.

Mandi Dye:

Absolutely. My husband says the exact same thing.

Renca Dunn:

Oh, the sign. It's a sign.

Mandi Dye:

Yep. He's ready to throw me out there into the world. And I'm like, "No, no, no. I'm fine where I am."

Renca Dunn:

Yes.

Gaby Duke:

Yes.

Renca Dunn:

Yes. I agree.

Gaby Duke:

I've really enjoyed watching the three of you in your presentations, your signing. One thing I noticed in Sheila, your presentation with your theme on love, you discussed the woman from the well. And you mentioned something about how we carry our burdens, just like the woman at the well carried her water. Really, they walk with the water on the ends of the sticks. And typically whenever I've read that story, I never really identified with her sin struggle of sexual morality, but burden, I did identify with that. And it was a moment for me where I was like, "Whoa, that's something I can identify with." And after watching your presentation, just that burden and learning to just put it down, that really impacted me.

And so, because the woman at the well, she left, she just left her burden. Jesus told her, "Go tell others about me." And she left her water and she ran off to tell other people to say, "Jesus. Look everyone, look what Jesus did for me." So for the women that are watching who have not yet left their water to go and tell others about Jesus, what do you have to say?

Sheila Hall Price:

We have to leave our shame, our burden of how we see ourselves and self worth. Many women, we were concerned about what we look like and what other people think of us. And we're concerned about what they think of us, but we really need to look inward and realize that Jesus says, "You are perfect. You are accepted just the way that you are, no matter what your experiences are." And so that is living water. And that is the living water that the woman took to town. She left her water jar, yes, but we need to seek the Lord. And when we see our burdens and we think about that cup of water, we're able to just leave everything, and put everything aside, and go ahead and let the word take care of the rest.

Gaby Duke:

Yes. Yes. That is so true. Typically, women just really struggle with their identity. I wanted to look perfect a specific way.

Renca Dunn:

Right, right. To add to that, today, I think there is a lot of societal pressure. Back then, I'm sure women had their fair share of pressure as well, but it seems exacerbated for modern day women, like how we present ourselves or how we view other women. For example, we have quick information access about other women in our feeds. We see pictures of women with their families, spouse, or partner. And our gut reaction can be

one of disappointment because we don't have that or we automatically compare ourselves and feel shame. This adds to the burdens we already have as we think that other women must be luckier than us, but that's not the right framing. Our journeys are different. We aren't meant to pick up and do burdens. We need to keep our eyes fixed on the Lord. He can clear our paths and allow us to grow more. We've got to stop comparing ourselves, really.

Sheila Hall Price:

Yeah. And another thing, from my experience with the dog when it bit me, the dog actually bit me and I automatically saw my lip. And as soon as I got the stitches, I thought, wow, I just felt like I wasn't worthy. I was just like, "Man, how can the gospel even reach me or touch me? I didn't feel beautiful." But the Lord said, "Who said that you're not beautiful?" And then I thought, actually, no one said that. I was just focusing on myself. And I was telling myself that I was no good because I had a scar. When the Lord looks at us, he looks at the heart. How am I serving God? How am I doing with God? He says, I'm wonderful. And he says, "Sheila, you're perfect. You're fine. No matter what you think about yourself, you can leave that behind." Go ahead and let the Lord take care of the rest.

Renca Dunn:

Right. It's about faith.

Mandi Dye:

Yeah, it's crucial that we need to give ourselves grace. We all deal with the pressures of social media, Instagram, Facebook, all of that. None of us are unscathed. So we need to be extra kind to ourselves. That's something I'm still learning as well. My kids always say, "Oh mom, I already know what you're going to say next." Give yourself grace. But that's truly how we get through today. Tomorrow will have its own troubles. It's of utmost importance that each one of us just have to show love to ourselves. And then we can show God's love to others.

Gaby Duke:

Yeah. I feel like that really ties in with Renca and her presentation related to joy. The joy you have inside. The beautiful joy that can just radiate out. Where you're rooted is important and what you depend on. So my question for you is rooted. What does that mean? Can you explain?

Renca Dunn:

The first thing to understand is that roots come with growth. We can lose sight of the growth part if we're only fixated on being rooted. It's really the fruit of the spirit. Joy is a fruit of the spirit. Now let's consider how actual fruit grows, whether it's strawberries, oranges, watermelons, grapes, or what have you. It feels like if we try to rush through the growth process, the plant will wither away. Or if we don't water enough, it will wither as well. Being rooted starts with planting a seed and it

slowly grows into something beautiful. Just like grapes. Grapes are rooted in soil, but grow and expand beautifully in bunches of grapes. The same applies to an orange tree or a beautiful watermelon. It starts with the soil.

And let me clarify, we all know watermelons don't grow on trees. The soil is important. And I think that illustration shows us where joy comes from. Yes, it comes from being rooted in the right place, but we must be willing to allow growth to happen. God gives us the components within the fruit of the spirit as we experience life. Being rooted is important, but allowing space for growth over time is also vital. It's not going to happen overnight. Our understanding of this depends on our intimacy with God and sharing stories. Honestly, this right here is a joy because God is using us as his people to edify each other through sharing stories and testimonies, gathering together, reading the Bible, watching worship together, and taking nature hikes.

In nature, we get to see his majesty in the world through mountains and skies. Everything is beautiful and reminds us how God created everything because it was his joy to do so. We are his joy. Babies are his joy. So when I think about how we are rooted in joy, we must be willing to allow ourselves to grow in that as well. Let the fruit grow. At the same time, we need tools like community, where we can exchange stories and build each other up. This has been a really joyful weekend for me with these ladies.

Gaby Duke:

Yes.

Mandi Dye:

It's been a beautiful weekend of fellowship and joy. Without joy, how can we even relate to God or talk to others without his joy motivating us. If you don't have joy, you're missing out on the very essence of God. He is joy.

Renca Dunn:

Right. You and Gaby are both moms. And for me to see your daughters here and be part of watching them grow up to witness your motherhood take place, that gives me joy. Even to see you discipline your daughters through no and yes, through cheering them on, or shaking your head to correct them, through all of that, there's still joy in being a mom. I feel like you have to let things grow to be rooted in joy.

Sheila Hall Price:

Also, I think that we rely and hang onto that joy, because our joy is from God and we should grab a hold of it, and we should hang onto his joy, and we should commune with him. And like she said, being rooted, when that joy trickles down from God, it will come and it will impact us. And everything that is taking

away my joy will be removed and nothing can destroy or disconnect me if I'm actually rooted to God. So we must depend on him and hold fast to him, because my joy is strengthened continually.

Gaby Duke:

Right, right. Amen. Yes. You had mentioned also about, false positivity is different than joy. That was really... Oh, what's it called? Oh yes, toxic positivity, that. I feel like sometimes believing in culture and just [inaudible 00:13:12] as the general culture, I feel like sometimes we encourage that. Sometimes we don't even realize that we're doing it. So I'm just curious with that. If we recognize that we are doing that ourselves, that we start to have that toxic positivity. How do we change and just really show that joy and come alongside other people and not just check in, finish, and be done?

Renca Dunn:

Yes. I think toxic positivity applies to a lot of areas right now. When negative things come up, people just want to nip it in the bud. They get bored and don't want to listen or engage in dialogue. Instead, they are dismissive and want everything to just be good. But maybe that person doesn't know what to do or they don't know how to deal with that situation. I think we really need to take a step back and just listen to the other person sometimes. We are not called to solve problems. We're just not. We are called to serve God and simply do ministry.

That can include a lot of sitting and listening, just being there. Sometimes simply your presence is enough. Trying to cut off a person or rig your hands of them, for example, on several occasions, I've shared about a bad day and the person I'm with instructs me to pray, and then you'll feel better.

Honestly, no. Sometimes I pray and I still feel agitated or I feel so disheartened. A simple or dismissive answer like that is the wrong mindset. The Christian life is not easier. Many times people think, I can accept following Jesus, then when life gets difficult, we reach out for help and are met with a response like, "Just pray. Throw it up to God and you'll be on your way." That can't be the solution. That is an incorrect perspective. I think we, as Christians who grew up as Christians, or even seasoned Christians, still needs to take a deep look inside ourselves. Same with new Christians, but it still doesn't mean we need to solve other people's problems. It means we need to listen, be there and maybe make referrals or just check in sometimes. You can offer to pray with them or just check in with a, how are you text? Just simple things like that.

Alternatively, trying to artificially puff someone up or brush hard things under the rug while someone is struggling inside, causes more frustration. And the sin inside them will continue to mount. That person will think, they just need to stay positive and keep hiding their struggles. And the result of that mindset is drifting away from God when hard things happen. We really need to be careful with that. But at the same time, we are also not responsible for dealing with everyone and their problems

getting pulled in every direction. That's not our job. Yes, we need to have boundaries, but I want us as Christians to be raw, real, and vulnerable. If you can't do anything, you can say, "Honestly, I don't know what to do," Or "I don't think I'm the right person for this. I'm sorry," or "Let me think about which friend might be able to assist." That's fine. You don't have to be paralyzed or take off. We just need to encourage that more among each other. What do you all think?

Mandi Dye:

Yeah. I've always been a big believer that the people who have experienced similar struggles are best suited to help each other. If I'm trying to help someone struggling with alcohol, I can't fully understand because that's not a weakness for me. Therefore, my help isn't effective. I believe in using the connections that you have to locate a more appropriate helper. We can always check if they don't have anyone to support them. You can say, "What can I do at better for you?" Ask them, "How do you feel about this?" Ask them about their own feelings. Don't make it about you and your feelings. Try to meet their needs and get an idea of what they need. And then tell them, "Is it okay with you if I put you in touch with someone?" The Christian life, we all have different experiences. And unfortunately, I hate to say this, but some people have told me that Christians are not nice sometimes. And that's true. You need to show people that not all Christians are like that. There

are a few who will really care about them and who will lift them up to God.

So it really depends on the situation. Everyone's story matters. We never want to dismiss anyone, but often, it is prudent to refer them to a more helpful person to meet their needs. And that can help us avoid a lot of unnecessary guilt as well, because you really didn't know how to help that person and you ended up hurting them.

Sheila Hall Price:

Oftentimes, I think we should find time. And if we could be there, we should just be there and just listen. Sometimes our presence of just sitting and listening is what's needed. We can let them know. We might not have the same experiences then, but we can be there to listen and we can be there as they figure out what to do. And of course, if we know someone, whether it's the pastor or the pastor's wife, or someone else that we could contact, like a group leader or someone that they feel comfortable with, we can always refer them to them. But sometimes, they don't want that. Sometimes they would just like us to be patient, and just be present, and offer support and comfort. So just like they mentioned, we don't need to fix everything. And sometimes we can't fix everything. But how can I help you with your issues, if I'm not able to help myself? Sometimes things are just there. And of course, we don't know a hundred percent everything, but yeah.

Renca Dunn:

Right. Also, when we help someone or when that person who just needs someone to listen to them, comes to us, we need to remember, they can't depend solely on us. For example, I've noticed that some people become needy and that creates a dependency. Then when we suddenly cut them off, they get upset and say, "I thought you were supposed to help me," but that was never the intent. We have a responsibility to communicate that we can't solve all the problems, but we're still willing to listen, pray with them, and keep checking in. That person needs to remember that they need to keep depending on God and not just on other people. Remember that there are other resources like mental health counseling, or maybe that person just needs marriage counseling. Maybe they need more professional help or the church's help. Maybe they just need a friend's help. There are many different ways. And that's why we are called the body of Christ. There's no scripture that says, we are only the arm of Christ. It says-

Gaby Duke:

Body.

Renca Dunn:

... body. We all serve different purposes. Sometimes you're the arm and you're the leg, then we come together. We can't depend solely on the arm or things become imbalanced. We need a whole healthy body.

Gaby Duke:

Yes. I remember that verse that just talks about carrying each other's burdens and what that looks like. It seems like really coming alongside someone is the journeying with that person. It's not fixing, like you just said, or depending on that person, but it's just really more of a coming alongside with them on their journey, and just helping them turn to the Lord through that. And yeah, it's really just beautiful development.

Renca Dunn:

I think it's also cool as we look through the Bible, we see all kinds of struggles, and frustrations, and war, but the people of God are never alone.

Sheila Hall Price:

That's right. That's right.

Renca Dunn:

Never. They're always with someone, like their fellow warriors, or in a palace, or with their priests. We never see an instance of one of them being alone. I think it's an interesting reminder for us as we go through the process of life with joy and supporting each other. We know we are never alone. Find someone who can match your situation, but be sure not to depend on them,

depend on God. We're here to exchange resources with each other.

Gaby Duke:

Yes.

Renca Dunn:

Oh, it's like, imagine a scene where we are crouching and ready for battle. And I realized, "I don't have a sword. What do I do?" But I look to my right and you say, "I have one. Here, take mine." And I see someone coming for you on my left. And I say, "Here, take my bow and arrow. Take that, take that." This is what I imagine like, think of exchanging resources to support each other.

Sheila Hall Price:

We are women of multitasking. So, we usually are skilled to multitask with different things to support each other. So for example, really, if I can't help, and she can't help, and she can't help, we can always keep giving to each other, so that we can continue to meet, to be the people that God need us to be for others.

Renca Dunn:

It's hard.

Gaby Duke:

So Mandi, your presentation, I watched it. And wow, it really touched me. It's about your journey, and moving, and not being sure, and your family, your husband, your kids changing schools. Wow, that was really heart touching. I noticed that you started to get a little bit emotional because it's a really big deal, all those moves. And you know what? Your daughter is also here with us. Yeah. I was really excited that she came. What's was that like, just presenting and having all those emotions? Just sharing your heart with us and being here, especially with your daughter.

Mandi Dye:

This is really our first trip that the two of us have taken together, because she's older now. In my past travels, I didn't always feel like she was the right age to come along, but on this trip, it's been such a gift for her to be here, been able to spend such quality time together. We get to fly together and meet all of you when we arrived. It's so good for her to be around Godly women. It's inspiring for her. It's not always easy to find like-minded women with whom she can form a special connection. So it's been so great to have her with me this weekend and for her to be able to see it all firsthand, rather than me just telling her about all the stories that I hear of people. And that's been bringing us closer together. It's neat that you guys are watching

us too and seeing us be silly. She's a very girly girl. She enjoys doing makeup and she did your makeup, Gaby. So yes, we've so enjoyed this experience.

Gaby Duke:

Yeah. She's so sweet. And I've loved seeing the two of you. Well, Sheila, your daughter too.

Sheila Hall Price:

Yes.

Gaby Duke:

She knows relationship. Oh man, I pray one day, my daughter and I will have a relationship like that, because you know what? I'm actually going to be texting two of you often for advice because this was amazing.

Sheila Hall Price:

Yes. Yes. So I moved from Washington state to Virginia, and I had an opportunity to share God with so many people and minister. And this is actually the first time that my daughter is with me. And so, as she's developing and becoming a woman, I don't want to miss these opportunities to be with my daughter. So this trip was a chance to talk, and tease, and laugh, and eat together. And it's been such a blessing. And maybe she would've thought, "Oh man, I'm going to be here with older women." But actually, as she's been here, she's been learning

and she's been learning about herself and how it means to be godly.

Renca Dunn:

How dare you call me an older woman.

Gaby Duke:

I know. [crosstalk 00:25:18] losing that.

Renca Dunn:

I personally really enjoy having your daughters here. Sometimes it reminds us that we were their age before and that who we are now is what they might become. It's cool to see. It makes me think of a Bible verse in Deuteronomy that says, "You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you're sitting in your house, when you're walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." So along with that same idea, your girls see you here now. And they can look back 20 years from now. And remember that they were here for this moment. They see that. And maybe one day, your daughters would be sitting in these chairs doing a panel.

Gaby Duke:

Yes, yes.

Sheila Hall Price:

Yes. In the new testament in Titus, and also first and second Timothy, it says, "Older women teach the younger women." And so that is an opportunity for Mandi and her daughter, and me and my daughter, we are able to show them how God is working in women's lives.

Gaby Duke:

Yes, yes.

Sheila Hall Price:

And so, as they see us, they will see what God is doing. And hopefully, they'll want to be like that too. And your daughter as well, when she grows up, it'll be her turn.

Renca Dunn:

What's also amazing is I feel like you have the wisdom that you have from your life experience is rich. That is something that I cherish as a woman. God created women. Oftentimes women are thrown under the bus, but we won't let that happen. We can rise up here, like the women warriors before us.

Sheila Hall Price:

Yes.

Renca Dunn:

Deborah, Esther, Eve, and the list goes on. We will rise up because that is who God made us to be. So it's awesome to have daughters that look to you as an example, to rise up and continue that.

Sheila Hall Price:

Yes, it's a challenge as well. It's not easy to raise a daughter, but it is a blessing.

Mandi Dye:

Oh, I love watching my girls grow up. And coming here has been a powerful bonding time, because God is here and this is ministry. My hope for my daughter's future is that yeah, like you said, she will one day take my place. My husband would be overjoyed to see that happen. I would love to see her do something like this. I even asked her if she could see herself doing it. And I said, I understand that, but yeah, we're making beautiful memories. When she looks back on her life, two, five, even 10 years from now, she'll remember the things that she watched her mom and dad do. And maybe she'll follow in her footsteps. Now today, she told me, she said, "I'm proud of you." And that made me smile. She's been my biggest fan this weekend. I've loved having her with me.

Sheila Hall Price:

Having my daughter here has just been part of the process. I know and trust God. And I do believe that she will find herself in her future. I've taught my daughter many things, but sometimes, she'll say, "Okay, mom does this or says this," but if I'm blunt or very direct, she'll say, "Mom." And I'd tell her, "Hey, God gives me the opportunity to be blunt," but she's also learning that she doesn't just have to sit there and just say, "Okay, whatever." I'll just accept that. But I do remind her, God has given me a personality and characteristics, and he's making me into who he has me to be. But at the same time, I'm going

to tell you what God tells me to tell you. So it's all part of the process and part of raising godly girls.

Mandi Dye:

I agree wholeheartedly. It's not easy being a Christian mom in the world right now. It's tough, but I've learned the value of talking with my children, not to them. That shows them that mom is really listening. I always kind of probe and ask, "How are you feeling about this? Do you feel like this or do you feel more like this?" That's how I keep my eyes on which path they're heading towards. And if I see them in the wrong direction, I get more blunt. But if they're growing, and they're positive and healthy, then I tell myself, I'm doing a good job, but it's a big journey.

And I always ask them every day, "Do you love God?" And they say, "Yes." That's what matters most to me, even if we don't agree on other issues, but we have a strong relationship as our foundation. They know that my husband and I are available and we're here to talk with them. I can't imagine if my kids didn't have God. Sometimes they even try to picture what my life would be like if I didn't have Jesus Christ and I can't even fathom it. I'm so grateful that he is in my life. I'm sure that's the same for you and your daughter. She's so beautiful. And our two girls have really hit it off. They're planning to go back to the hotel and chat tonight, and I'm like, "Okay, have fun." So sweet to see that. That's part of my testimony of moving so frequently. And this is an example of the good that can come from meeting new people and even meeting a new friend's

mom. Sometimes you don't get to meet your friend's parents. So it's been a wonderful opportunity.

Renca Dunn:

I also think it's important to remember that not all mother-daughter relationships are great. There are some that have tension or distance in the relationship. With that being said, what would your advice be for others who may be experiencing that?

Mandi Dye:

Honestly, I think the age and stage that your child is in really impacts the relationship. Through the middle school years, that's a really difficult age because of so much peer pressure. As a Christian mom, it's painful to watch them go through stuff. We're always trying to teach them to love, to forgive, to be selfless, but when it comes to going to school, they've got to learn to be tough. They need to learn to stick up for themselves. It's a hard age. I feel like seventh and eighth grades were tough on all of my kids.

Elementary school and high school, they were easier. And it depends a lot on the relationship style you have with your kids. All relationships have issues. Every relationship goes through ups and downs, but I feel for the parents of middle schoolers, because that's such a hard time and puberty hits around then. Sometimes your child might not want to hear about God about that age. So the struggle's real, but God will never forsake you. He's always there. No matter how upset I feel, I have to remember that I'm here to help my children get

through these times. And they're never going to forget that. Parenting is hard, but God is with me and he doesn't forsake parents. It's a beautiful and challenging adventure. Just never give up.

Sheila Hall Price:

That's right. What God gives me is his love. I mean, his unbreakable love. It's strong and enduring, and that is the love that I want to give my children. My children, when they make a mistake, I want to show them love because love was shown to me. When I made mistakes, God still loved me. And because of that with my kids, when they make mistakes, it's so important of course, to address them and tell them what is acceptable and not. But then, we should also embrace them and show them love. Because after that, after a correction, I always show them love or give them a hug, because I want them to know that God loves them as well.

Gaby Duke:

That's something I love about the two of you and your daughters, are teens. And that teen age is just weird and awkward.

Sheila Hall Price:

It's a challenge.

Gaby Duke:

Yeah. It's challenging. It's challenging.

Sheila Hall Price:

It's a challenge.

Gaby Duke:

Whether that's teen or adult age, relationships are hard, but it's hard to accept God's love regardless of your age. So Sheila, you mentioned struggling with the bite on your face and just how that affected how you looked, but you felt that God was calling you to just tell others about him. And it was tough for you to accept that role. And you knew that God loved you no matter what you looked like. So for people out there that are watching right now that haven't yet gotten the opportunity to accept God's love, what would you encourage them with?

Sheila Hall Price:

Well, first I would encourage myself with patience. First, I have to encourage myself and have patience. And I must humble myself and accept that God is in me and that he's working in me, so that I can share with other people his love. I can't just love other people on my own. I have to really rely on the love that is given from God. And as I fellowship with him, I'm able to give that love to others. Something that I do with my children is when I see homeless women. Homeless women, they tend to be on the street with children. And so my first thing is to approach them and then ask them, "Do you need help? Do you need food?" And I bless them. And then I ask if I can give them a hug. And my children are often appalled and they say, "Mom, did you just hug that homeless woman?" And my response is, "Yes." The same love that God gave me, I don't want to keep it for myself. I want to share it with others.

Renca Dunn:

Yes. We can self sabotage. We can tell ourselves things like, I'm not worth it, I'm not deserving, or I'm not good enough. We can spiral into negative self talk. The thing is, God already unconditionally loves us. He doesn't see our misbehavior and question his love for us. When we have thought, we don't deserve his love, who does that come from? It's us. We can become our own worst enemy. And when that happens, I wouldn't say evil wins, but he uses it as an opportunity to deceive. We will encourage you. He will encourage you to believe those lies. So when there's proof right in front of you of God's love, for example, he'll bring you people and so many other things, but we are resistant to believe it because of those lies. I think first, like you said, we have to receive it. I have to say it to myself. I receive God's love. I know I am loved. You have to say it, even if you don't feel it. Say it to yourself every day.

I have a story of a friend who felt discouraged every day. This friend would self sabotage repeatedly. Then her doctor told her to look at herself in the mirror every day and say, "I am loved. I am beautiful. I am worthy." My friend thought it was silly, but the doctor was adamant. She agreed to do it. And after days of doing this, it started to sink in or became rooted. She started to believe that she is deserving, worthy and valued. This completely changed her mindset, attitude and perspective. She made a full 180. She was optimistic and hopeful. And it was like, where did she come from? So as you said, it comes from within first. You have to receive God's love, say to yourself, "I know I am loved." It doesn't matter what other people say. We have to

remind ourselves that we are worthy, that I am a woman of worth, that you are a woman of worth. Start there, and then it will start to overflow into other areas of your life. It can impact our behavior, responses to people and community.

Sheila Hall Price:

There's a song that I love. Because of this song, it's something that I have to tell myself over and over again. And the song says this, "Your faithful love is enduring. Your love, it touched me. It strengthens my soul and it inspires me. And it flows out for me like a river. This I know, truly the things that I have experienced, your love has endured." And that's something that I have to tell myself over and over again. So whenever I'm feeling angry, I think about that song and how his love washes over me and can turn that anger into something else. Instead of drawing a line or pushing people away, I can remember, nope, the Lord has already touched me and I automatically can be changed from the inside. And that anger can turn to love. I don't have to doubt his love. I already have my experiences, but I've already experienced his love, and it's strong, and it beats anything.

So his love in face of my anger, when he touches me, he changes me, and that anger becomes love. That's it. So that's something I have to tell myself often.

Mandi Dye:

Yeah. To add to what you both are saying about those identity statements, you are worthy, we're important, we are loved, I use those for my kids all the time during the middle school years. Reminded them of those words, put them on their mirror

and their lunchbox, texted them throughout the day. So just do our best. That's all we can do. Just abide in the love of Christ. Your children will look back and remember those things. The statement, "You are worthy," I send those words to my friends all the time to remind them. Remember, you are worthy no matter how hard your day was. God is always with you. He promises to go with you wherever you go. He'll never abandon you. Those affirmations bring up a lot of memories for me. They're just essential reminders to cling to. It's the good news.

Renca Dunn:

And honestly, we do forget. We do. It gets beat into our heads. We hear it so often, it loses its significance. We see this many times in the Bible. People will turn away even after seeing with their own eyes what God has done. Even they forgot. We can get tired of pastors or others saying the same thing over and over again, or maybe like your teenage daughter who says while rolling her eyes, "Mom, I already know you love me." But at some point, she could forget. So we keep saying it. I'm confident in myself as a woman, but sometimes people hurt my feelings, which can lead me to feeling despair. But I have to pause and remember, I am worthy of his love. I have to tell that to myself. I have to repeat it until I can get a hold of myself.

Mandi Dye:

Yeah. It is not easy, but we can't give up. It's unbreakable or unbreakable faith, unbreakable love, unbreakable joy.

Renca Dunn:

Unbreakable joy.

Gaby Duke:

Yes, yes. That, I love it. I often have to remind myself too. I don't have to do anything to earn his love. He just loves me regardless. I just love that. Ladies, thank you so much for being here. It has been a joy to have the three of you here on this panel. It really has.

Mandi Dye:

Yes. Thank you.

Renca Dunn:

Thank you for having us. It's an honor for me to be here, sitting next to you women, as you share your stories and to know godly women, women of God.

Sheila Hall Price:

Yes. Being here really has been such a blessing, being able to connect and minister together. Thank you so much, Deaf Millennial Project.

Mandi Dye:

Yes. Thank for you for giving me this experience. It's My first time here. To the awesome team, thank you all.

Gaby Duke:

Yay.

Mandi Dye:

I [inaudible 00:41:40] here. I think I should move to Texas.

Gaby Duke:

You should. Okay. So I think this would be a really great opportunity to just pray as we close out. So if the three of you don't mind, I'll start with the prayer, and then Sheila, you can go next with love, Renca with joy, and then Mandi with faith. Okay? Dear heavenly father, just thank you so much for today. And for all the women that are in the audience watching, oh Lord, I just thank you so much for how you've used these three ladies to just teach us and just help us to know more of who you are. Thank you so much for this opportunity. This is for you.

Sheila Hall Price:

Father in heaven, Lord Jesus, we honor you. We lift up your name and you alone are God, and there is no other. Lord, we received from you that nothing is impossible. Lord, we thank you for your unbreakable, enduring love. And we pray that you touch every woman who needs inspiration, who needs to fill your love. Lord Jesus, let every woman know that they are worthy and that their jar of water filled with shame can be laid aside, because you will touch them and you will permeate your love to be sent out like sprinkles of water. Lord Jesus, thank you for your enduring, unbreakable love. Thank you for each woman. In Jesus' name.

Renca Dunn:

Heavenly father, I have no words. I want to thank you, but I have no words to describe the way I'm feeling right now. I just want to thank you for your creation, the earth, the animals, the

plants, the people. You also created all of us women sitting here right now, as well as the women watching. I pray for those women out there. There are some who have a broken spirit. Some may be depressed. Maybe they're struggling with something or some may be in a good phase in their life. Whatever they're experiencing, wherever they're at, maybe they're at home watching this conference by themselves or with that community. You are with each and every one of them. Let your spirit overflow and remind them that they are women of worth, that you created all of us with your own hands. We are not manufactured from a machine, but from your hands. We are all beautiful women of this earth.

We thank you for your honor and power. We want to pray that we would have unbreakable joy, that it would be contagious. We know that we can have unbreakable joy because you are unbreakable. The earth and everything in it is breakable, but you are not. When you're with us, we become unbreakable. We can have unbreakable faith, love, joy, and the list goes on. So Lord, we pray that we would experience your peace, your joy, your hope, your everlasting joy, that we would not become rooted in this world, but that we would be rooted in you. Like she mentioned, that we would cling to your vine and be like branches that grow and develop the fruit of joy for all the world to see and know you, our sovereign king over our daily lives and beyond.

Mandi Dye:

Thank you Lord, for this extraordinary opportunity. I know people say this all the time, but you are the best. For this ministry, and so many others throughout the word world, please give them the same experience that we've enjoyed this weekend. All the lives will be touched. Those who are hurting and those who are not, wherever they're at in their life, let them know that their story matters. We ask you Lord to bless each person who is watching this recording and let them share their story now and continue to share.

Thank you for your abundant love and your unbreakable love, your unbreakable joy. We couldn't ask for anything more. There's nothing better. Cover us with your love in all that we do. Continue to bless the future of the Deaf Women's Conference, DWC. Is that right? Oh, good. I got it right. Thank you for all that lies ahead. And for the Deaf Millennial Project, for how they're working to reach more lives, bless their ministry. Thank you for using each of us tonight in every place that we are. Every person has a unique calling to fulfill. We honor you. We love you. Thank you for this time we had together. Amen.

Gaby Duke:

Amen.

Sheila Hall Price:

Amen.

Renca Dunn:

Amen.