

Heart and Soul

A College Aged Teen

By

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Theme:

This monologue is the second in a series of five monologues which convey the different stresses that women of various ages experience throughout life. This monologue presents the viewpoint of an older teenager as she prepares for life. She stresses that no matter how you feel regarding the circumstances around you, you can be assured that God is in control. He is there to forgive you, to heal you, to guide you, and He does it in his consistent loving and supporting spirit.

Biblical Reference:

Ephesians 1:22-23

God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Approximate Running Time:

15 minutes

Notes:

The actors in this series of monologues are wearing hats that signify the different stages of their lives. The college aged teenager is wearing a baseball cap and has her hair in a ponytail that has been pulled through the gap in the back of the hat.

Scene:

There is a stool at center stage. The college aged teenager enters, sits on the stool, and begins to tell her story.

I have to tell you, it's not easy being my age! You can't imagine the pressure and difficulties that a woman my age has to go through in this world today. It seems as if no one understands you, no one cares about you, there isn't anyone to talk to, and sometimes you wish you could just change the things that are around you, but that's really hard to do.

I'm in my first year at college. It's really weird, because I've been looking forward to this time in my life for a long time, and now that I'm here it's not quite what I was expecting, if you know what I mean. I was looking forward to the freedom that I was expecting, not being near my parents and all, but I really miss my family, the influence they have on me, and the fact that they were there for me whenever I needed them. Now I'm all alone in a world that is so foreign to me. I realize that everyone else is feeling the way that I do, but it's still really hard to open up to strangers and make friends out of the blue. My support structure is so far away! There are days I just want to give up and go back home, but I know that I can't do that. I know I have to stick through the hard times because it'll be worth it in the end. It's just that the end is so far away right now, it's hard to see the reward for all of my hard work.

And boy is college hard work! I mean it's a lot harder than high school. The professors expect us to know so much coming into the class and then they expect us to learn a lot from them every day! It wouldn't be that hard, but I have 8 classes and each of them acts as if theirs is the only class I'm taking. It's really hard. I mean, I failed the first test I ever failed my first month in college. Oops, don't tell my parents about that test, I shouldn't of said that. Anyway, I sure hope that I get used to how hard college is before long. I can't afford to fail too many times and keep my grade point average up, and we all know how important the grade point average is. Without a high average I can't get a really good job, and without that really good job, I can't do really well in life, and if I don't do really well in life there will be a lot of people who are disappointed with me. And I don't want that to happen. A lot of people have invested themselves in my life. They're all counting on me to do really well in college so that I can do really well with the rest of my life.

Yeah, like my parents. I already told you about the failed test, but there's a lot more to school than just grades, and I know they'd be disappointed with me if I didn't do well with the extracurricular activities too. They're spending a lot of money so that I can go to the college that they went to when they were my age, and I know they're expecting me to do a lot of the things that they were able to do when they were my age, but you know what? This world's a lot different than it was when my parents went to college thirty years ago. The world's a lot different, the people are a lot different, the technology is a lot different, and I'm a lot different. Sometimes I wish people would stop comparing me to everyone else and just let me be me. Let me do the things I want to do, let me like the things I like, let me say the things I want to say without worrying about what others are going to think about it, and about me. I'm different than my mother, why can't she just let me be me?

Don't get me wrong, I really appreciate all that my parents have done for me. They've given me so much over the past 19 years, a lot I don't know about, and a lot I'll never understand. I can't thank them enough for that. I'm just saying that I don't want to live the rest of my life doing exactly what they tell me to do. I want to make my own decisions and I want to live my own life. But in a way I don't want to let go of them either. They've done a great job preparing me for life, I think, and I'm not sure how much harder college would be if they hadn't done such a good job.

One of the things that they couldn't have prepared me for was the way that college students act on campus. I've been involved with church since I was a baby. I've been taught to act in a Godly manner in all things. I was able to choose friends at school who were a part of my church, so I've never really had a lot of peer pressure to do things that I shouldn't be doing. My friends were all Christians, we all went to the same church, and we all hung out together. College is way different. My roommates are not Christians, they don't have any morals, and they do things I've never heard of before. What's even worse is that they're trying to get me to do some of the things that they're into. I haven't done anything yet, but I have felt myself slipping at times when school was really tough and I wanted to take a break. My roommates are there telling me that I deserve a break and that joining them wouldn't harm anyone. They tell me that no one will find out and that everyone else on campus is doing it. And from what I've seen I think that they're right. They know that I'm a Christian. They know that I believe the things they're doing are wrong, but they tell me that no one's perfect and everyone screws up every now and then. They tell me it's no big deal.

I don't buy it. Even when I feel my weakest I know that the Lord is there to strengthen me. I wear this bracelet that has wwdj on it. That stands for "What would Jesus do." Every time that my roommates ask me to do something I'm not sure about I just look at my bracelet and ask myself what would Jesus do? I know that he didn't compromise his beliefs all the time that he was here on earth. I know that he doesn't want me to compromise mine either. This bracelet has really helped me out of a few tough situations, and it's even given me an opportunity to witness to my friends when they're facing tough decisions.

One of the toughest things about being my age is the fear of the unknown. What will my major be? What if I'm not really good at what my major is? What if I can't handle all the pressure of school? What if I don't want to be a businesswoman for the rest of my life? What if I meet the guy of my dreams and he asks me to marry him? What effect will my decision to have a family have on my career? What effect will my career have on my family? What if I want to be a stay-at-home mom? Is school worth really worth it? Should I have gone to a Christian college? Should I drop out of school and enter the mission field? What if I do give in to some temptation and ruin my reputation? It scares me to think of the potential answers to these questions. I don't want to screw up and I realize that this is the time that I have to make all of these really important decisions. If I screw up I have to live with it for the rest of my life. I know that it is possible for me to make all of the right decisions, but that seems to be next to impossible right now. To say that I'm overwhelmed would be an understatement.

There is one thing that helps me when I'm feeling overwhelmed with all of the decisions that I'm making: that God is in control.

Ephesians 1:22-23 says "God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. " That's really comforting when I think of the impact my decisions have on myself, those around me, and the future. I know that he can forgive me for all things, he can heal me of all things, he can guide me through all things, and no matter what the results are to the decisions I make, whether good or bad, he will be there, loving me all the same. I don't know how I could do it without him.

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