

PEAKS AND VALLEYS OF FAITH

"Faith in Action through Valley Experiences"

New City Church
Sisterhood
May 13, 2019

Pastor Mona J. Kelly

Life Happens

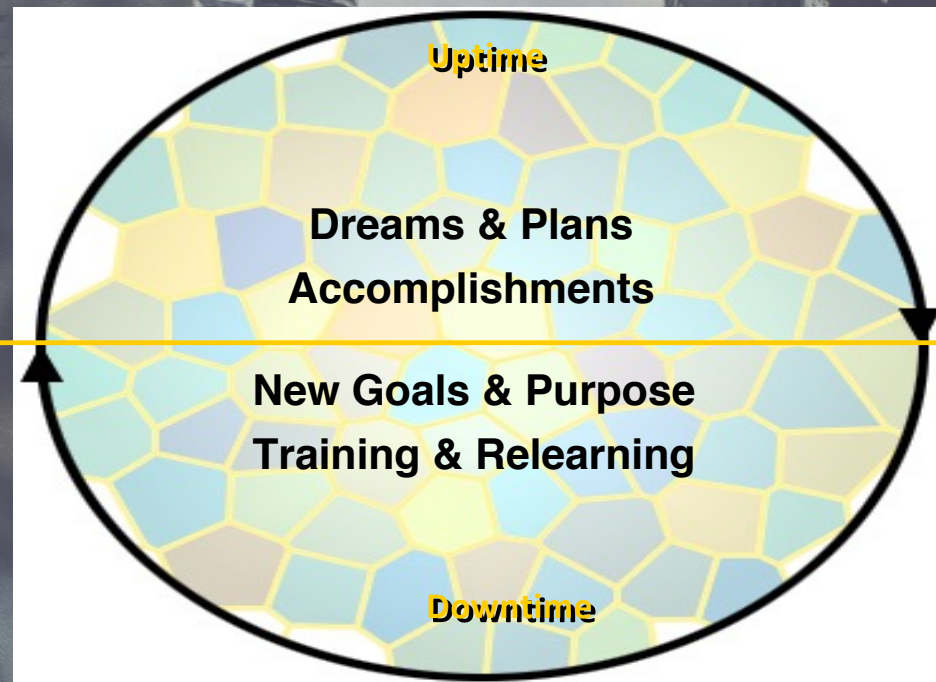
The Rules Have Changed

- Hard Work doesn't guarantee success anymore
- Our lives include surprises and increasing complexity
- Constant change is the only guarantee we have
- The future is not predictable

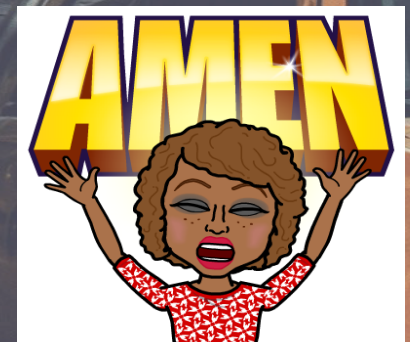
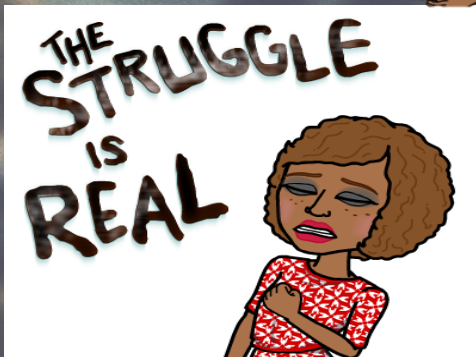
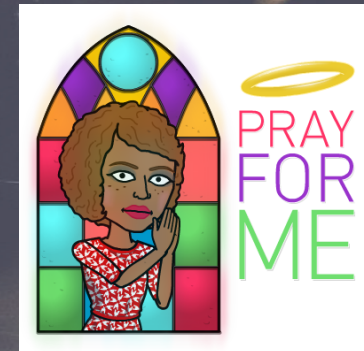
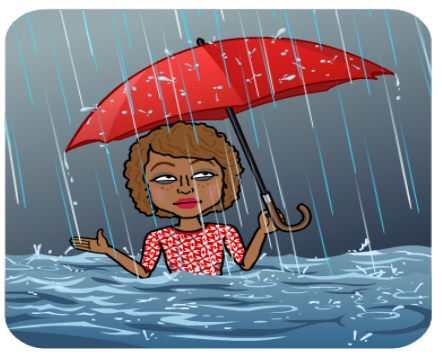
Our Heavenly Father is Predictable



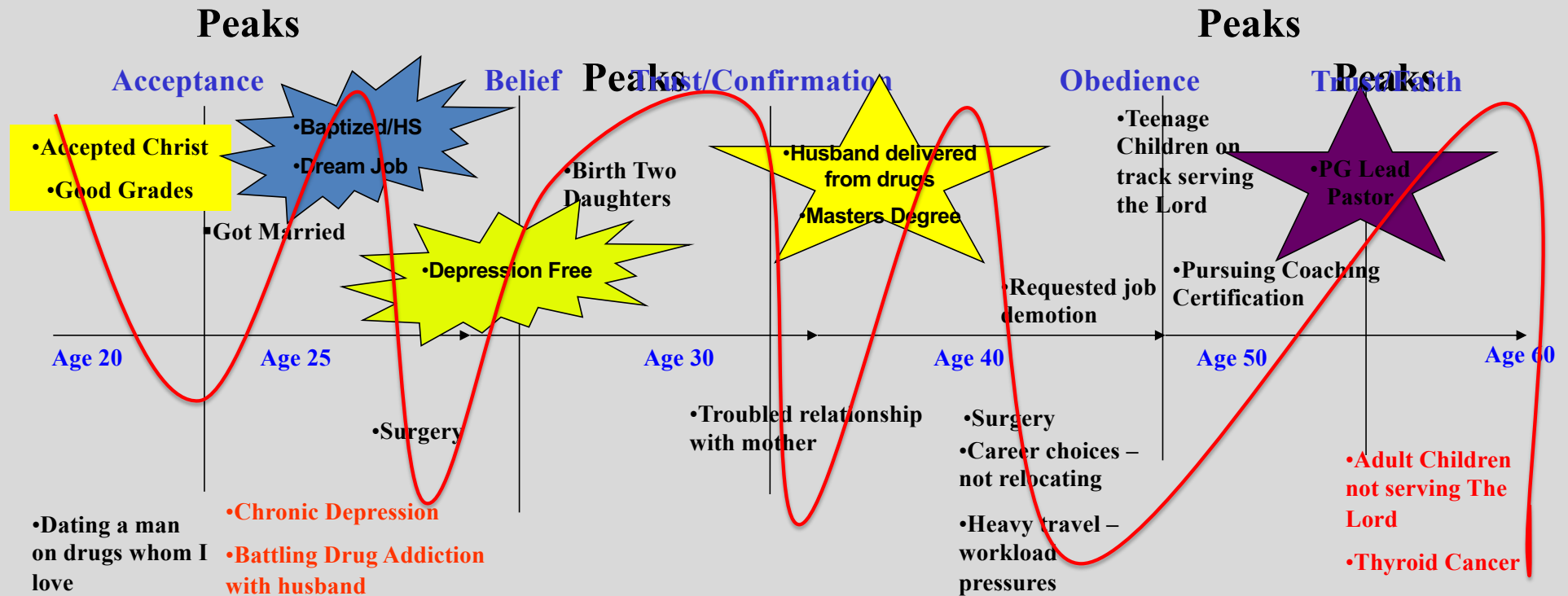
The Patterns of Change



Reframing OUR Response



THE CHAPTERS OF MY LIFE



Valleys

Valleys

Valleys

Valleys

Psalm 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

My Learnings and Navigation Tools

- **Salvation (indwelling of the power of the Holy Spirit)** enabled me to stand and believe when fear and darkness filled me.
- **"Child-like" belief** in the midst of what appears to be overwhelming and unending circumstances.
- **Whose truth am I believing – The Word of God or The Enemy (the counterfeit, my feelings, my circumstances, etc.)**
- **Fellowshipping with other believers** offered me hope and reminded me of God's victories through others.
- **Choices: Being aware and intentional** about where I want to go and paying attention to where I am now. Not allowing the "NOW" to be the END. Changing my questions, changes my perspective/my life.
 - Keeping the NOW in perspective.
 - What are my choices?
 - What's the big picture? – Eternity, God is in control
 - What's useful about this experience?
 - What can I learn?
 - What's possible?
 - Remembering WHOSE I am.
 - Letting go of what's not working in my life, focusing on what may work in the context of God's plan and a vision inspired and nurtured through prayer
- **Prayer**
- In the midst of the storm, **PRAY** having **peace in the valley** and **praise God** continually for answered prayers.

Questions
“Enabling Faith through Valley Experiences”
Mindsets

| Head/Victim | Heart/Believer |
|--|---|
| <p> Confessing words of unbelief What’s wrong? Who’s to blame? Judging of self and others Reactive Accepting of Misery Focusing on the problem and issue Inflexible and rigid Either/or thinking Self-righteous Afraid of difference Personal perspective only Possibilities seen as limited Primary mood: Fearful </p> | <p> What am I confessing? Speaking Words of truth and wisdom Trusting God Making God supreme Confident in Christ Praising God Changing your Focus Walking through deep waters Waiting patiently for God What’s useful about this? What can I learn? Accepting of self and others Understanding my emotions Developing Godly habits Making wise choices Comparing is not allowed Primary mood: Growing through adversity </p> |

Panel Discussion

- Synopsis of Valley Experiences
- How you persevered through the valleys?
- Advice to others