

And in seeing all that, they—and we ourselves—witness the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ working within us.

*[For use on Mother's Day: Mother's Day celebrations often include beautiful cards and flowers, notes of appreciation and prayers of thanksgiving, words of encouragement and smiles of joy. Some families take Mom to a Tea Room for lunch. Some daughters host a tea party, just for Mom. However you celebrate Mother's Day in your family, I hope you recognize the "beau-ty" our Lord has created in the heart of that mom, aunt, or mentor whose life means so much to you. I hope you thank Jesus for his loyalty to your mom and to your whole family in letting his love take him all the way to the cross for each of you. And I hope you give that special lady in your life a few minutes of tranquili-ty—at least for today!]*

## Taking It Home

As all the ladies leave this morning/evening, they will receive a (name the item/s you are distributing). I pray that these tokens will remind you again and again to take some "tea time"—some moments of grace to remember all Jesus has, in loyalty, done for you, to restore in you the beauty of holiness and to fill your heart with tranquility!

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (Romans 16:20)*

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The Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible.

#WOGXDA



Expanding the Impact of Your  
Gifts of Encouragement

## Woman of God® Moments of Grace

### Introduction

*Tee time.* If you're a golfer, those words mean one thing. On the other hand, if you're from London, *tea time* means something else altogether.

Over the past decade or so, tea time has grown more popular—and the popularity I'm talking about has nothing to do with drivers, putters or caddies. Someone has said, "Tea is the new coffee." And why not, with all the choices now available?

- When the buds on tea plants are picked before they open, then dried, white tea results.
- Those who cultivate green tea allow the leaves to open and dry. Then they heat-treat them to prevent oxidation.
- Black tea leaves are bruised and allowed to oxidize before being dried.
- To make oolong teas, tea leaves are partially oxidized.
- Herbal teas and fruit and flower infusions do not contain

real tea leaves per se, and so they are not, strictly speaking, tea. Most tea shops, though, would not be without jasmine, chamomile, and other non-tea varieties.

That may be more than you wanted to know about tea!

## Getting to the Heart

Some “teas,” though, are always worth knowing more about. Let’s talk about three of those “teas” today:

- ♦ Beau-tea (beau-ty)
- ♦ Loyal-tea (loyal-ty)
- ♦ Tranquili-tea (tranquili-ty)

First, beau-ty. Psalm 29:2 encourages God’s people in these words:

*Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*

The “beauty of holiness.” I wonder if anything like that belongs to us?! We may be able to fool the neighbors into thinking we’re holy—especially if we don’t interact with them too often. We may be able to fool at least some of our friends and a few of our co-workers into thinking things like, “She’s a saint!” It’s hard, though. And it’s harder still to fool family. They know what we’re like after a sleepless night. They’ve seen us curled up on the sofa when we have a headache. They’ve experienced our short temper when worries creep into our hearts and begin their “What if? What if? What if?” dance there.

We might fool some of the people, some of the time. But we can’t fool everyone. And for sure, we can’t fool God! Even if we fool ourselves into thinking we’re not so bad, our Lord knows all about those secret sins that lurk deep inside, those sins we don’t like to talk about—or even think about. I know what mine are. You know what yours are, too, don’t you?

No, we can’t fool God! But the good news is we don’t have to!

And this brings us to our second “tea”—“loyal-ty.” When we lacked the “beauty of holiness,” God, in love, did for us what we could not do for ourselves. In committed love, in perfect loyalty, he rescued us from sin by sending his own Son to die for us!

The dictionary might define *loyalty* something like this: “the attitude or feeling of commitment and faithfulness to an individual, group, or institution.” What a description of our Savior! Committed to his heavenly Father’s will that we be forgiven and set free from guilt and fear, Jesus came to earth. Committed to us, he took upon himself the punishment that we deserved. Faithful love led Jesus into death—even death on the cross (Philippians 2:8)! And faithful love led him out of the tomb on Easter morning, alive forevermore!

Because of Jesus’ loyalty, every one of us who clings to him by faith can live in confidence that the beauty of holiness now belongs to us!

Beau-ty.

Loyal-ty.

And, then, comes today’s third “tea”—tranquili-ty!

God’s love for us floods our hearts with peace. Redeemed and forgiven, we are safe. No matter what happens, we belong to our Lord. Nothing can separate us from his love. Listen to what the Bible says about that. (*Read Romans 8:31–39.*)

Safe and secure in that love, we live out the beautiful holiness Jesus has planted in us! Others look at us and see the imprint of Christ himself on our lives. They see our concern for the poor. They see our willingness to help, even when we get nothing out of it. They see our loyalty to others, loyalty that refuses to spread juicy gossip and that goes out of its way to protect the reputation of others—even the reputation of our enemies. They see our peace, our tranquility, even in times of trouble and crisis.