



As a planner, I have a strong dislike for the word tentative. It means that something is uncertain or provisional. There is a hesitancy involved. I had much rather prefer words like consistent, long-term, and definite. I like to know the answer to the question before the question is even asked.

This season of COVID-19 has certainly taught me many things. My five-year-old even asked me this week, "Mom, how much longer are you going to be my teacher? Do we ever get a substitute?" It took me a minute to realize she was looking for a replacement for me.

I was frustrated and unsettled about this word tentative being used again in terms of reopening. **God took me straight to John 16.** Even though you and I are living in a day where it seems many dates and timelines are tentative, aren't you thankful that His love for us was settled at the cross? It was final.

I have been reading through my mom and dad's Bibles. It brings me such comfort to read the notes in the margin. My mom had written this, "*Either your God will overshadow your problems, or your problems will overshadow your God.*" I have been guilty of allowing social media or the news overshadow at times what I know to be true.

I am forever thankful for the working of The Holy Spirit. There have been many times in my life when The Lord has spoken to me. When you have a decision to render, a path to choose, or a choice to make you can rest in the guiding knowledge of The Holy Spirit.

Three characteristic that are SETTLED from John 16 that God laid on my heart to share:

TRUTH- John 16: 13. *“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.”*

I am so thankful that I have a relationship with the One who holds the future. There is total and absolute truth in His Word. Allow Him to speak HIS truth over you and your family today.

JOY- John 16:22 & 24. *“So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy. You haven’t done this before. Ask, **using my name**, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.”*

Our youngest daughter is usually so full of spunk and JOY. Lately, she has burst into tears over the smallest things. Her little heart is broken. Honestly, I feel like we have not done the best job in explaining things because we are all navigating a road we’ve never walked before. I do know that only through The Lord can her sorrow and my sorrow be turned back into that “abundant joy.” Praying these verses over her and that this would be part of Ruthie’s story that God is writing for her.

PEACE- John 16:33. *“I have told you all this, so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart because I have overcome the world.”*

When we rest in The Lord, He will provide us with peace. We will have many problems, trials, and sorrows, but He already has the victory on all of those! His VICTORY is not in question.