



I have always had a hard time letting go. When my mom first took me to kindergarten, I cried for days. The teacher's assistant, precious Mrs. Wingo, would give me extra love. She would sneak me into a side room and give me extra cookies after nap time. Loving people and investing deeply are honestly all that I have ever known. I watched my mom and dad do this from the time I was a toddler. Growing up in ministry I never really understand anything other than a deep and abiding love for ALL people. The thing about loving hard is that it makes leaving that much harder. For that reason, the call to let go always hits me hard. The only way I know how to serve is entrenchment into the lives of those around you. I love being one of the first to arrive on Sunday and one of the last to leave- normally you will find me talking until the lights are turned off. ☺

The Lord has reminded me lately that He requires complete and total obedience from His followers. It must be a 100% surrender to His Divine Will. When we left Cedar Shoals Baptist Church, I can remember saying to The Lord, "Okay, I will go because I know you are saying to go, but I am not going to get very involved at Locust Hill." LOL ☺ I never ever dreamed when God called Stephen to Locust Hill, how He would call me to serve.

Recently, The Lord has called Stephen to serve as Pastor at Millbrook Baptist Church in Aiken, SC. We have prayed and prayed and sought The Lord. We know that this is His clear and perfect Will for our family. His faithfulness has been sufficient through the tears. His clarity and peace have been paramount in a season of transition and change.

We have three children at three completely different seasons of life. Three children who are all asked to let go and follow an agenda ONLY set by The Heavenly Father. God laid on my heart three things that I must do to transition from "All in to Letting Go to All In again." I share this in hopes that it may help someone else who finds themselves in a similar place.

- **Relinquish-** In Exodus 3 and 4 Moses asks a lot of “what if” questions. I have had so many of those lately. Natalie said that God had shown her this week that God doesn’t speak in “what ifs”, but rather in “I AM’s”. The key for me is to focus on all that He has done and all that He promises to do. The challenge is put the “YES” on the table and let Him do the rest. At the end of much negotiation, Moses finally let go in Exodus 4:20. It is a beautiful picture of relinquishing that I hope to emulate.

- **Resist -** We have to fully resist the urge to control everything. Those who know me, know I love to plan. I typically have a plan A, B, and C. My dad would always say that outside of The Lord we are just “a zero with the rim kicked off.” As a child, I never understood fully what he meant. Recently though, it has become very clear - there is nothing that we can do in our own planning and power. In every decision and every detail, His strength and power must be applied. Lately, Ruthie loves using a magnifying glass. I will catch her going around the house looking at things in more detail. She said “it helps me to see it all better.” The Lord has taught me that when I resist the temptation to control, that He helps me to see better and clearly. Psalm 37:23 has become such a blessing - “The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in EVERY detail of their lives.”

- **Resurrender-** We then must surrender and go ALL IN again once we know where God or what God is calling us to. It is a call to refocus and to fully live out **Mark 12:30**, “And you must love The Lord your God with all of your heart, all of your soul, all your mind, and all of your strength.” ALL IN! To give Him everything- new schools, new house, new community that will see His glory. To serve in whatever way He asks without knowing the details.

John 14:31, *“I will do what The Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love The Father, come let’s be going.”*

Those last 4 words. Come, Let’s Be Going are what God is asking of all 5 of the Cannon family. We will always have a deep and abiding love for the people in this beautiful Blue Ridge community. We ask that you pray for our family as we continue to pray for those here whom we dearly love. Salt. Light. Mercy. Grace. Love. May we all reflect those virtues in a day when it is needed more than ever.