



Stop. Drop. Roll. by Carol Landis

I've been told two things need an immediate response: fire and flood. I've realized the onset of repeated temptations (for me anxiousness, hurt feelings, anger...) is a spark that will become a fire if not extinguished. These temptations cause me to focus on myself, and about what I can, need to, or can't do, and prevent me from seeing the power and presence of God. Unless I stop the cycle, they flood the life out of living. Intellectually I see this, but how do I actually change? Thankfully, the Holy Spirit breathes fresh insight into familiar truths.

When I asked God to help me change, He brought to mind the concept of stop, drop and roll. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).

"Do not be anxious about anything" - so **STOP**. As soon as I become aware that I'm anxious, stop the flow. Don't excuse or tolerate - it's fire. Stop and...

Drop. Drop to my knees (at least in my heart), and thank God for who He is.

God is Sovereign. *My situation does not exceed the limits of His power.* He is Omnipotent (invincible, unstoppable, Almighty, Supreme).

God is in all things. *There is no situation where He is not present.* He is Omnipresent.

God knows ALL. He knows each *thought within me* (even ones I can't articulate), and *with each person involved He knows each thought and motive.* He also knows how every aspect of earthly life will unfold. He is Omniscient.

God, my Heavenly Father, is in all, yet above it all, in control of all, and loves me perfectly. So...

Roll over the situation and surrounding dynamics to Him. Most likely it will need to be rolled over again (*and maybe again*). But rather than feeling stuck, recognize it's forging a new trail; of following through on the decision to allow Him to guide, and trust Him with the outcome. If a situation remains and one feels stuck; seek counsel. (James 5:16: Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.)

Lord Jesus, thank You that Your Spirit shows me when my focus is not on You, and gives me power to be able to stop, drop what has a grip on me, and roll it over to You. Amen.

"Cast all your anxiety on him (God) because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

August 2023





Making Connections

Meet **Linda Souder**. Upon entering my 7th decade, God's words have become more precious to me. Before a recent worrisome repeat mammogram appointment, my morning devotional was Isaiah 43:13. "For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'"

Being raised in a Christian home, at 14, I was baptized in Souderton Mennonite Church wearing a handmade double knit navy dress. When the water was poured over my covering, I felt joy bubbling up inside of me. (Galatians 5:22)

In June of 1973, Pastor Floyd Hackman married Blaine and I. In his meditation, he stated that marriage would be hard, which I thought odd on my wedding day. However, he was right! (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

God blessed us with three wonderful daughters, Bronwen Leister, Bethany Landis, and Becca Kulp. We are fortunate that they all live within five minutes of us and their families attend church here. (Proverbs 22:6)

After our marriage we attended Franconia Mennonite Church. The second last row to the left rear in the old sanctuary and the current one! Our church family has been an important part in my life, during the past 50 years. Coordinating VBS, girls club, decorating & library committee, choir, women's Bible studies, Friendship & Care ministry, and currently the Mom's Market have all contributed to who I am today. Our BFG is an extended family of dear friends where I have planned sweetheart banquets, picnics, hayrides, Christmas breakfast and even a bus trip to the Ark Encounter! (1 Peter 4:10)



The most difficult time in my life was when my beloved mother was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor and died within six months. It was also a time that I felt closest to God through prayer. How do people survive the death of a loved one without the hope of heaven? (John 6:40)

Another mother who influenced me was my mother-in-law, Joyce Souder, who lived next door. She portrayed quiet strength, based on prayer and gave selflessly to her family. (Psalm 121:1) And she even taught me how to can piccalilli!

I was employed by The Family Heritage Restaurant in Franconia as a banquet waitress, caterer, banquet manager, Gift Shop manager, and then Country Furniture Store manager for a total of twenty years. For the past twenty years, I work at Dock Mennonite Academy in Souderton as an administrative assistant. (Colossians 3:23)



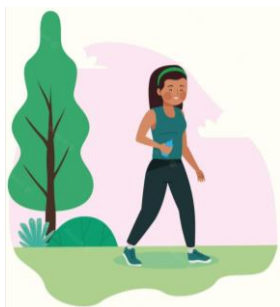
Things that currently bring me pleasure are grandchildren, friends, white puffy clouds with warm sun on my face near blue waters. You may find me sitting in my gazebo, reading Christian fiction among the garden flowers. (Psalm 148)

Favorite Bible Verse: "Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." Micah 6:8

← I enjoy taking photos of God's amazing creation!



Get Involved!



Come join us for a Ladies'

Walk in the Park

Tuesday, August 1st
7:00 pm

At Franconia Park
(Allentown Rd. entrance)



All are welcome! This is an informal gathering for fellowship, exercise, and enjoying God's creation. Walk and talk as long as you like!

Next walk: Sept. 5th

Ladies' Game Night

with Homemade Ice Cream!

Wednesday, September 13th

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Come join us for a fun night of fellowship!

We will be playing Tenzi, which is an easy game to learn (no skill required) and lots of fun for everyone, and we will enjoy some homemade ice cream together!



Please **SIGN UP** (beginning August 20th) at the Women's Ministry Table or by emailing franconiawomen@gmail.com

WM Team News:

Welcome to our newest Women's Ministry team members: Heidi Yoder, Charity Veltre, and Sydney Leaman! They join Gail Reinford, Julie Stitt, and Janet Derstine. (Carol Landis, Jill Fallon, and Julie Kratz are all completing their service on the team.)

Please PRAY for the team as they discern a new leader as Carol Landis steps down. Thank you, Carol, for your leadership and dedication over the last several years!

August 2023 |

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 Walk in the Park 7pm	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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