



CHRONIC JOY® DEVOTIONAL

TINY RAINDROPS

By Kara Plett

I love to serve and be available to God, but over the past few years, some necessary changes had to be made due to my illnesses. At times, I've had to say "no" to almost all the ministries in which I was previously involved. It frustrates me that what I can now offer seems like just a tiny raindrop.

Throughout Scripture, God reminds me that He uses *such small* things to make a big difference. Think about the tiny mustard seed (Matthew 13:32), the meager five loaves and two fish (John 6:5-10), the poor widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), and Moses' simple staff (Exodus 4:1-5).

I've come to understand that our tiny raindrops of service or intentional acts of kindness can be like a crashing waterfall to God.

When I reflect on my day, my week, or my month, I ask God to bring to mind some of my "raindrops." He reminds me of a quick phone call to a friend, lending an ear to a colleague, the card sent to share in someone's sorrow, or that video chat with my niece. I hear Him saying, "You may see these as small and insignificant raindrops, but I see them as a mighty waterfall of my love." What a shift in perspective!

Wonderfully, He has already included these good things in His plan. I don't have to strive for a plan to be intentionally kind ... all I need to do is act on His promptings. He has prepared opportunities for the days ahead—which I will recognize if I keep in step with Him.

RAINDROPS – SMALL ACTS OF SERVICE

I still want to look for ways to be involved in specific ministry and service—and be available as my body and energy allow. Even more, I want to see the small acts of kindness as God does—as mighty and powerful representations of His love in this world.

Your service may look different than it used to, but remember, God can turn something small into something mighty. Listen to His promptings as He guides you toward the intentional acts He has prepared for you to do.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Thank You for encouraging me today. You have used me in the past and continue to use me today. My service may look "less than" in the past, but small things make a big impact in Your economy. Help me to catch Your perspective and see how You are using my life. I want to walk so closely with You that I recognize Your promptings and act on them, whether I see them as big or small. Thank You for preparing good things for me to do as I head into this day.

In Jesus' name, amen.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Reflect on your "raindrop" moments. Jot down what God brings to mind that may have been a "crashing waterfall" to Him.

- In what ways has God uniquely equipped you to serve—to be intentionally kind? Note below what's different than how it may have looked in the past.

- What seemingly small acts of kindness have others done that have meant a great deal to you?