

**Dot Autrey**

**March 21, 2018**

**I am so thankful to be part of a small group during this Lenten Season. Every morning I look forward to reading and studying a chapter in the book, "What On Earth Am I Here For" by Rick Warren. I have been especially touched by Day 25 titled, "Transformed through Trouble." In Romans 8:28, the Bible tells us: "In all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." That means even our troubles!!! And, at the time of our trouble, it's hard to see anything good in what is happening!!!**

**About 18 months ago, my husband's health began to decline quite dramatically and I had to make major changes in my life. I couldn't leave him for long periods of time to play in a golf tournament, or spend an afternoon shopping, or continue to be involved in several ministries at church. At first I felt deep resentment and frustration over what I was missing!! But I knew in my spirit, this was not God's will. Paul tells us in first Thessalonians 5:18 to "give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus".**

**I began to claim this scripture, started getting up earlier to read my Bible, pray, and just be with Jesus. I tried to focus on surrendering my circumstances to God. During that time, a dear friend gave me a beautiful meditation on surrender!! It says, "the more you surrender, the more grace you receive..... it is like a divine exchange." There are days when I fail. But I know....., Jesus is always there, waiting for me to surrender all over again and receive His Grace.**

**I invite you to join me in trying to surrender to our Heavenly Father each and every day.**