

Excerpts from *Dawning Light: Adoption*
(A Dust2Diamond Devotional)



Day 16 with Nancy
Time to Grieve

*My soul weeps because of grief;
Strengthen me according to Your word.*
Psalm 119:28

When my husband and I sat down to fill out the application to adopt, we ended up quarreling. There was no good reason. The true issue at hand was we hadn't taken the time to grieve our invisible loss. The act of filling out that form broke open the wounds we carried but could not see. It brought us to the raw reality that the child we had envisioned to look like us, act like us, and carry our genes would not be.

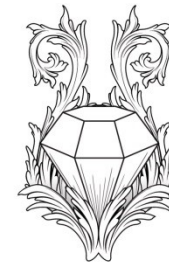
We experienced the death of a dream.

People on the outside don't recognize the loss. It's unseen but real. The pain tells you so. Don't be caught in the trap of denying its existence. Take time to set your dream free. Give those unmet hopes to the Lord. I suggest buying an object, like a toy boat or a helium balloon. Write a farewell to your dream, attach the note to the object, and let the wind, river, or ocean carry the letter away. Watch it leave you. Then, in prayer, write yourself a new dream which includes an adopted child or two. Set your course toward the goal, and anticipate the joys awaiting you.

Help me, Jesus, to let go of the dream of having a biological child. I give the dream to You, knowing You hold my future in Your hand. Please replace the dream I'm releasing to You with Your dream for us. I thank You for Your presence in our struggle.



When given to Him, He turns our tears to rivers of joy.



What is the unmet dream in my life? Ask the Lord for His dream for you and write it down.



Day 19 with Kelly
Birth Mom,
Chooses Adoption

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.
Galatians 6:9

One question I am asked frequently is why did I choose an adoption plan for my child? It wasn't an easy decision, and I waffled back and forth a lot. The choice ultimately came down to whether I could provide for my child. My child deserved a stable family life, and at seventeen, I could barely take care of myself, let alone a child. I wanted him to have the best future I could give him with two parents that loved him. I knew he would have the best chance at that if I chose an adoption plan.

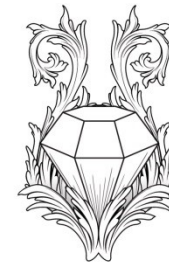
This gut-wrenching choice does not come easy, but most adoption agencies provide counseling, and I was better prepared because of their efforts. People prayed for me as well. These prayers held me up through those hard times.

If you are looking to adopt a baby, pray for the birth mother. This is a tough time for her, and your prayers might be the ones that help her through the decision.

Lord, help me to be mindful of others. I don't always know what people are going through or what they are facing. Adoption is a beautiful and wonderful thing, but never let me forget the pain the birth mother goes through in making this decision. Thank you for all the ones who have made this choice, and bless them, Father.



Your prayers may be the strength someone needs.



How do I think it feels to a birth mother who must consider adoption? Write a detailed description.
