The Pastor, the Prayer and the Princess

“You are a Princess...”

As I stood behind a group of children at the front of the church, I watched Pastor Chris look into the eyes of the young girls before he began to pray and he so sweetly told them “You are a Princess.”

Week after week, every Sunday, Pastor Chris would call the children to the front of the church to pray over them and each time he reminded the young girls that they were Princesses.

The first time that I heard “You are a Princess.” I did not realize just how powerful those words were. Week after week these words are said to the little girls and even though they are a positive affirmation intended for the youth, they began to echo within me.

Those four words replayed over and over in my mind for weeks. I began to wonder what exactly Pastor Chris meant by these words. Why did He feel it was important repeat these words to the girls week in and week out? What was the meaning behind those four words - what were their intended purpose?

I began to pray over this for weeks. I felt in my heart that those four words had a special meaning and I wasn’t able to fully wrap my head around it...and more intimately - what was God asking me to do or what was God telling me about these four words? I prayed over this often and then one day - that small, still voice came...that soft whisper that spoke volumes to me.

I was reminded about our church. Our church is an Outreach Ministry located in the inner-city of Indianapolis. We are a church that strives to bring help to those in need within the community and to share hope with the broken and lost. I know our mission as a church but I have never really thought about “who” are church was.

The body of our church are inner-city families. Specifically I began to notice that within the body of our church are single mothers. These mothers day in and day out do the best they can to raise their children within the walls of the inner-city where social and economic adversities exist.

They have experienced desperation at times unimaginable. Some desperate to feed their children, clothe them or to provide a safe place for their families to live. They live in areas characterized by high unemployment, extreme crime, broken families and inadequate housing. Some who have sought residence in shelters at times because it was the only place they had to keep their children warm at nights.

When I thought about this it dawned on me that it is not just the adults who are experiencing that adversity but it is also the youth that are faced with the challenges and uncertainties each day. It is the young children who have first hand accounts of the unspeakable crime, broken families , and poverty that surround them.

Through prayer God began to show me the entire picture clearly. The words our Pastor has spoken over the young girls... “You are a Princess” became four of the most powerful words I have ever heard.

When you begin to think about the daily challenges that these young ladies and mothers experience - it truly is hard to wrap your mind around unless you have experienced it first-hand. As an adult, let alone as a child - I have never experienced the types of hardships these mothers and children have experienced.

I personally have never faced the worry, pain, sadness, broken spirits and confusion that they may experience at times. For the children, their youth is when their self-images are so vulnerable and their tender hearts are so susceptible negativity and self-doubt.

What has amazed me over the weeks is that no matter what these young ladies and their mothers are currently going through they are in attendance at church every Sunday. I’ve witnessed just how immensely devoted these mothers are to their children and persistent they are in teaching their children about the paths they should go. No matter what their circumstances are they find their way to church every Sunday. The mothers and their daughters astound me at times because I watch how they are faithful servants for the Lord. You an often find them giving to others, tending to one another’s needs or serving in the ministry even though in their own lives they too may be struggling or in need of help.

On Sunday, when they come in to the House of the Lord - unbeknownst to many - something powerful has been happening. Through our Pastor, these young girls and their mothers are receiving life-giving words, positive affirmation and love. These young ladies are being reminded week in and week out that they are of royalty. That no matter what life looks like now - they are heirs to the throne of Grace. Their Father is the King of all Kings and they have royal blood running through their veins.

When God showed me this story in it’s entirety - I felt Him move within me. Recognizing that four little words could possibly be making a powerful, positive, and meaningful difference in their young girl’s and their mother’s lives, I was inspired to encourage them in their life’s journey as well.

Through prayer, I listened for the Lord and I felt Him tell me that these young girls and mother’s stories have just begun, that no matter where they are right now - He loves them, He is with them, and that they are true princesses.

For months I thought about Pastor’s words, these young girl’s life story and God’s promise to all of us that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).

I felt a deep passion within my heart to do what I could to give these young girls and their mothers something to remind them that they are a princess every day, that God Loves them and that He is always with them.

As a business owner I have been blessed with the opportunity to work with an amazing group of business owners. A group of women who sell Origami Owl Living Lockets. Origami Owl is a jewelry company whose foundation is built upon the Lord and their motto is to “Be A Force for Good”. Their tagline is “You tell stories with words, We tell stories with jewelry.” I felt like giving each girl a locket of their very own with charms inside that represent God’s words for their life would be an amazing, positive daily affirmation to them.

I reached out to my Origami Owl friends all across the U.S. and told them about these young ladies and their mothers. I explained the social and economic backgrounds of some of these families and about what the Lord had put on my heart for them.

With an overwhelming response they started donating the pieces to create these lockets for the young girls. But not only did these ladies donate for the little girls, but they were so inspired by the strength, tenacity and faithfulness of the mothers - their giving hearts also donated lockets for each of them. How amazing God is - not only did He want to bless the young girls, he made it possible through the Origami Owl designers to bless the mothers as well.

This past weekend we held a Princess Party for the young girls and their mothers. We decorated the church with Princess Balloons and Princess decorations. We had tiaras and princess wands at the tables as well as few trinkets. We had a wonderful fellowship with the ladies and their daughters and we enjoyed Pizza, Punch and Purple/Pink Cupcakes.

During the Princess Party I spoke with the ladies and their daughters. I explained that this party was in honor of them. To celebrate their Faithfulness to the Lord and the Church. I told them that I had recently contacted friends from all across the U.S. and shared with them about how amazing these ladies and their daughters were. I said that my friends were so inspired by them that they sent gifts for each one of them.

Then I showed them the Lockets they all would be receiving and explained what each charm within the Locket meant.

For The Princess:

A Tiara Charm - To remind you that you are born of royalty. (1 Peter 2:9) That they are a Princess and heir to the throne of Grace. Not because they have a Prince but because their Father is a King of Kings.

A Compass Charm - To remind them to Trust in the Lord with all their heart; to lean not on their own understanding but in all their ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct their paths (Proverbs 3:5-6) The Compass Charm is also a reminder of our church One Body Ministries as we have a Compass in our logo ... and that all of us at church love them.

A Heart with a Cross Charm - To remind them that God is always close to their heart. Everyday He thinks of them (Psalm 139:17). Every hour God watches over them. (Psalm 121:5) Every minute God cares for them. (1 Peter 5:7) Every second God is near them. (James 4:8)

For The Mothers:

A Mom Heart - To remind them that their children are a gift from the Lord; a reward from Him (Psalms 127:3) That As is the Mother, so is her Daughter. (Ezekiel 16:44) and that her children arise and call her blessed (Proverbs 31:28)

A Bible Charm - To remind them to train up their children in the way they should go; and when they are old, they will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

A Compass Charm - To remind them that He says to come to Him, all who labor and are heavy laden, and he will give them rest ( Matthew 11:28) as well as to Trust in the Lord with all their heart; to lean not on their own understanding but in all their ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct their paths (Proverbs 3:5-6) The Compass Charm is also a reminder of our church One Body Ministries as we have a Compass in our logo ... and that all of us at church love them.

The Mothers and Daughters were so humbled and grateful for the gifts they received. The little girls eyes twinkled with excitement. They immediately put them on and danced around the building while giggling and smiling. One of the little girls said she is never taking her necklace off because it has a cross in it and that it will keep bad things away. Hearing this from the sweet little girl confirmed to me that God was there, that he fully orchestrated a beautiful and powerful moment for these young girls and that their happily ever afters were just beginning.

There was an unexpected giving opportunity within the afternoon too. There was a young lady that came to the party with one of the girls from church. We had not expected her but coincidentally enough we had an extra locket that we were able to bless her. What a powerful way to show love to a stranger for the Glory of God. I personally had never seen her at church before so on Sunday it blessed my soul to see her at our church wearing her new locket. I hope that it blessed her being in attendance at the Princess Party and that God is able to do mighty things in this young ladies life.

After the party was over we all cleaned up and head home. I thought about how blessed I was to be a part of this day - how beautiful it was and how encouraged and uplifting it was for me. It could not have been a better day... But I should have know better God was not done yet!

Saturday night, when I returned from the party I went to check my mailbox. In the mail was a box that I was not expecting that day. To my amazement, inside this box were 2 more lockets. I knew that this was God’s perfect timing and that these 2 lockets had a purpose. I prayed that night and asked what I was to do with these lockets and on Sunday morning I knew.

I was to share these with the young girls who were at the party - it was to be an opportunity for them to see and experience the blessing in giving to others. So Sunday morning at church I gathered the young ladies and presented the 2 lockets. I asked them if they each loved their lockets and they said “Yes!” I said, would you like to bless someone else with a locket today and with pure excitement they said “Yes!”

I handed the girls the two boxes and they presented them to two women at the church who are also faithful servants within the ministry and community. These young ladies smiled as they handed them the gifts and told the women that they loved them. It was beautiful, touching and full-circle, just as He had planned.

The morning of the event - I spoke again with God through prayer. I thanked Him for these young ladies and their mothers - for the blessing they had become in my life. For this opportunity to show love to them. I thanked Him for those giving hearts that made it possible for each girl and their mother to receive lockets.

Most significantly, I thanked God for touching my life so sweetly - never in my wildest would I have imagined how The Pastor, Prayer and The Princesses would affect me and I am truly blessed.