



**"THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD
NEVER CEASES;
HIS MERCIES NEVER COME TO AN END;
THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING;
GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS."**

Lamentations 3:22-23

"Mommy, do you want to put the Sorting Hat on?" Well Berkley, it's 11:00 pm. Normally children should be in bed at this hour, but because of COVID-19 I don't know what "normal" is. "Sure! Why not, Berkley?!"

You have to know one thing first. Berkley, my 11 year old daughter has discovered Harry Potter, and that is now her current obsession. We have had many obsessions through the years. Tutus, her brother's too small Under Armour t-shirts, Zac Efron, Tom Hanks (Do you hear "WILSON!!!!") The Reba show...there have been a few! Harry Potter though, turns out there is quite a following AND merchandise. Lots and lots of merchandise. Like, the sorting hat.



"There's nothing hidden in your head, the sorting hat can't see. So try me on and I will tell you where you ought to be. Ravenclaw, Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff." Announces the tall, light brown, too small to actually fit my head, sorting hat. What house do I belong to? SLYTHERIN!!! The one house no one wants to be a part of!

Right? I mean, no I haven't seen all of these movies, but what I have seen is the bad guys are from Slytherin!!! Afraid of my destination, afraid of the one word I didn't want the fake sorting hat to say - I'm already on edge! Then I hear it. I instantly yell "NO! I don't want to be in Slytherin!" Then, little Berkley, wise beyond her years, gives me my July newsletter topic.

Berkley says, right there in that moment, "No. It's perfect. Because you are determined to go after your dreams." No, I didn't cry. I was in shock. My 11 year old just counseled me. Her mom has had a rough couple of months. I have tried for two jobs. I have heard "no" both times. This little girl has seen her mom, excited for the opportunity, then sad and confused by the news. Hurt by friends. She has seen me cry. But soon after, she has also seen her mom smile and laugh. All thanks to friends that send nice text messages or bring over iced chais at 6:00 pm while I sit in bed in a shirt too small, that read "baby you're a firework" I bought it online from some random site. I should have known the small would fit a 5 year old! Not to mention shorts that were too short and no bra! I was sad, ok! :) Also thanks to my family. A solid family that encourages me, tells me I'm pretty (I'm kidding. They don't say that. That was just funny!) They do however, tell me how great I am. They also say they will hurt whoever they need to. They feel what I feel. Don't worry. We pray, life moves on and nobody gets hurt. Why? Because that's who you need in your corner. Friends and family that NEVER leave your side. The good ones don't leave.

When I don't feel like God is giving me what I want, when I want it, I start to think poorly about myself. I start to feel less than. I doubt. I get VERY confused. Then I get scared. Then I think, "Ha! No you don't, Satan! I have come way too far for you to come between me and my God." When the time is right, I, the Lord, will make it happen." - Isaiah 60:22

Through this I also am reminded, thanks to Berkley and the sorting hat from Harry Potter at 11:00 at night, that I am determined. I am brave. And gosh darn it, I am loyal. (A little SNL reference for ya!) I have shown Berkley that I know what I want, I go for it and when things don't work out how I'd like, I try again! You hope. You love. You smile. You laugh. And when nothing makes sense, and there is no real "normal" anymore, you try on the Sorting Hat, when the family should actually be sleeping. You might not get the answer you were wanting, but it may just be the perfect one for you! You just have to wait and see!

Alohomora!

Love,
Ashley Eischeid

"FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS. AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH, SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR THOUGHTS."
- *Isaiah 55:8-9* -

"IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT A MAN'S LIKE, TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT HOW HE TREATS HIS INFERIORS. NOT HIS EQUALS."
- *Sirius Black The Goblet of Fire* -



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