

Immerse Day 78 :: May 19

There are certain passages in scripture that make me very nervous. Today's reading is one of them. "Those who hear the warnings of this curse should not congratulate themselves, thinking, 'I am safe, even though I am following the desires of my own stubborn heart.'"

Passages like these make me nervous. Why? Because we do exactly what it says NOT to do. We do feel safe, safe from God's wrath, safe from the curses He has promised, safe enough in fact to not really worry about "not sinning" in the little things the bible speaks most about – justice for the oppressed; love for the lost, the last, the least, and the littlest; sharing the gospel with everyone I meet. If anyone admits to NOT feeling safe, we tell them their faith is too weak and that they need to just trust more and then they'll feel safer. And so we go on following the desires of our own stubborn hearts. We go on feeding our appetites when God says to master them. We go on living as the center of our own universe when God says to put Him first, others second, and ourselves last. We go on getting more, accumulating more, eating more, when God says to give more, simplify more, and fast more.

So how do we live between foolish safety and panicked self-doubt? We remember that while we are expected to live Godly, Christ-focused lives every minute of every day, Jesus fills in the gaps when we fail. Jesus' death and resurrection allow us to be forgiven for the parts of our lives that fall short. When God looks at us, He doesn't see the failures we tend to fixate on – He sees Jesus' success, and He loves us.

So put my trust in God's grace. Try your hardest because you love God and it is what He wants, but trust that Jesus fills in the gaps, covers the mistakes, and forgives when we fall short.