HEAVEN WAITS #4: *Whatever*

✨***Colossians 3:17, 'Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.' (MSG)*** ✨

Each year, I receive a word. It's ***my word*** for the year ahead. Being a *'word nerd'*, as I am known, it has always been a fun exercise for me to participate in, well, mainly, with myself. But a couple years ago, in 2022 to be exact, my word for the year took on an entirely new meaning. I was given the word 'whisper'. I don't mean that I chose that particular word. No, I was given that word. I was being taught about discernment from the Holy Spirit by this time, and doused deep in my spirit from the very Spirit of God Himself, came the word 'Whisper'. Seemed like such an odd word for 'my word' of the year, but only until I realized what the Lord wanted to convey to me. I soon knew the word 'Whisper' meant He was close, close enough to whisper and I could hear Him speak. My relationship with the Lord that year became more real and raw than ever in my life. It was an intimacy I had never before known.

The following year, the first night after having decorated our Christmas tree, I sat in the glimmering dark. As I waited beneath the boughs and the little white twinkle lights, I was given my word for the upcoming year: 'Decorate'. The Lord said He wanted me to decorate my being, my soul, the place where He resides, with as much intentionality and beauty as I'd decorated my home, providing a peaceful place that welcomes Him. Whew.

Then came 'Threshold'. Wow, that word didn't come until two days before the year ended! For the life of me I could not figure out why I hadn't been given 'my word'! Then it all made sense. Right as the old year was ending and the new year was entering in, I was given 'Threshold', which made no sense again, until the Lord asked, "Will you trust Me enough to be willing to cross over into anywhere that I am taking you? You are on the edge of a precipice, entering a new beginning…do You trust Me enough to cross the threshold into all I have for you this year?" WOW, right?!

And He has been so trustworthy, so very faithful, even when I couldn't see what He is doing. Even when I <u>can't</u> see it! So, it is little surprise what brought me to 'my word' for this year. Would you believe it if I told you, my word is 'Whatever'?! I asked Him, "Really, Lord? Like, 'whatever!'?!" I think He smirked. I think the God of the Universe who hung every star in place, who nestles the warming waters in His hands, who parts the granules of sand to form drifts and valleys, I think *this God*, smirked at me! Then He said, "Will you say, 'Whatever' when I ask something of you? Will you posture your heart in My presence in a manner that enthrones My glory and crowns Me as Lord of your life, so that 'whatever' I ask, you are willing to, first, trust Me, and then, to be obedient?" Whew. I sighed. That's really taking a chance, I thought. Makes me vulnerable. It's giving a blank check. Giving permission, is what it is. Whew, my thought repeated. I know I nodded. I felt my spirit nod. Then I said 'Amen', so He could know I am in full agreement with Him, that all the details of my life, my words, my actions, my *'Whatever, Lord'* will be postured to the glory of His Name. Heaven waits, and He waits too. For my permission to His whatever.

✨**Philippians 4:8-9, 'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.' (NIV)**✨