

Time. We've talked about wasting, killing, frittering, investing, redeeming, and valuing time, and yesterday I spoke about cherishing moments.

Time is a daily gift (that is why it is called the present), but time is something that Wise Women cherish - to protect and care for lovingly, to hold dear, and to keep hope or ambition in one's mind.

Wise Women cherish their time because they understand that what they may dread today, will be missed (dearly!) tomorrow.

- Babies grow up and become teenagers
- Teenagers become adults
- Elderly parents move on to glory

In the moment it's hard and trying, but after they are gone, it's bittersweet.

I told a story about how dear the memories of my Mother are to me. Towards the end, it was challenging for both of us. It isn't pleasant having to rely on someone else to bathe you or take care of you, and yet we managed to make the most of our time together. I got to choose between complaining and begrudging the calling that I had at that time, or enjoying the last of her precious days with me and making it as wonderful as possible for her.

When my children were little, I remember the mess and the chaos, and OH THE LAUNDRY! I felt myself becoming resentful from the endless household chores, but I remember reading Proverbs 15:1: A wise woman builds her house; a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands. In other words, my complaining, resentment, and sense of entitlement to how it "should" be, what was "fair" changed. I shifted my thinking and now I gratefully look back on my cherished memories of their childhood, even doing the laundry! 😊

Don't we all miss those shoes left lying in the doorway, once they are gone?

Cherishing moments is the ultimate expression of gratitude.

Love wins when your heart is steadied by this idea.

The requirements of cherishing are all about focus, mindset, and decision-making.

"You are having an amazing childhood!, " I'd tell my children. This influenced the way I raised them. Years later I overheard my daughter telling someone that she'd had a magical childhood.

Our **INFLUENCE** is a **CONFLUENCE**. This is how we merge a renewed focus, a corrected mindset, and a decision made to cherish these moments instead of cursing them.

Cherish every moment! Create those moments and shift them to represent what you want them to be. For example, Blessed Solitude, not loneliness, as Carla so beautifully penned in a letter to me.