

Those of you who went to bloom this year know that the theme was abide. And the verse that went with the theme was Psalms 91. He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge.

The artist in me loves the images that come to mind with that verse. It's such a beautiful picture of our God. And as I'm worshipping and I'm praying and contemplating this and God gives me an image to go with this verse. And that image was a duck. Not really what I had in mind when I was thinking about this or thinking about our glorious God. A duck is not majestic. A duck is not strong. How is my God like a duck??

You all probably know from reading your Bible that Jesus likes to use parables to teach us. He takes ordinary everyday things and uses them to help us understand deeper biblical meanings. Something that everyone knows about ducks is that water rolls off their back. But you might not know why this happens. Daily ducks will take oil from a little spot on their back that produces it and they all rub it over their entire body. And this oil coats their feathers and makes them waterproof. That's oil is what causes the water to hit their feathers, turn into little beads and fall away.

Something you might not know, something that I learned in raising Ducks is that baby ducks do not have this oil. It's not something they can produce yet. They get their oil covering from their parent. So when you're raising them, you have to understand that when they are apart from their parent for too long or they're orphaned, they do not receive that oil covering and without this, water can be dangerous to that baby duck. Water that would normally roll off their back, now can soak in.

Without that oil, the water that they used to glide across and swim happily above will saturate and slowly weigh them down until that baby duck drowns.

God whispered quietly to me during worship, you are like that baby duck. You have wandered far from my wings and have not been receiving my oil covering.

And you know what, lately the storms of life that have been coming and the things that normally didn't affect me were suddenly weighing me down. The things that would normally roll off my back we're hitting and staying with me. I felt like I was swimming and swimming and trying to keep my head above the waters as they were rising and barely able to stay afloat as the water soaked in and weighed me down.

God called me back to the protection and the comfort and the rest in his wings, where he will cover me with his oil. And it's not a one-time thing. You have to receive that covering daily. So that when the storms come, and they will come. I won't go under. The water, the troubles will roll off my back.

God I need your oil. God I need your covering. Help me not wander far from you. You are my refuge. Help me rest in your wings.

