

Can you remember the last time you talked to your mom? Not just the casual "hey, how are ya?" but actually listened to her? Even if she was just talking about going to the store, could you mentally picture every friend she ran into and every bargain she found? Did you look at her? Did you notice the beginnings of those tender smile lines around her eyes, or see that her foot twitches the more animated she becomes? It's hard sometimes to really focus on those that are in your life everyday. It's almost frustrating to know everything they will fuss about or story they will repeat, or even how they will react to something happening to you. It's frustrating to know, and easy to ignore.

Take one minute to think on that last conversation. Take one second to conjure up those smile lines, and try to breathe in the smell of her perfume or just the aroma of her house.

Now take it all away.

You can't make a call, see that smile, or even overlook what you had. You can only remember. Do you remember the sound of her voice or the feel of her hug? Can you remember getting into trouble or making her laugh? Or do you now want to go back and tell yourself, "JUST LOOK AT HER!!!"

Is God asking you to look at Him? Are you too busy with you? Do you think you know His answer and haven't even bothered to ask the question? Are you not really seeking yet expecting to find something? Why not take every day of the next year as if it were your last...like each moment is your last to feel and hear God, to really get to know Him? Why do you love your mom--because she is who she is and you got to know her. Get to know God in the next year like there is no tomorrow. Love Him because He is who He is and because you got to know Him...¹

Take the time to spend praying and reflecting on the question, "God, if I only had one year to live, how would you want me to live?" Just ask God to show you what 'type of changes' He can make and wants to make in you. Just sit with Him. Take time to journal or prayer or any other way you connect and spend time with God.

¹ By Monica Shearer September 2011 for this Fallow Ground 'experience' -- Thanks Monica!!!