

Learning to Walk

A Story of Accepting Myself, My Disability and the God Who Gave Me Purpose

Living for years without her family, Vaneetha spent her childhood in and out of the hospital being treated for polio. Though excruciatingly lonely, it was preferable to the world in which she was bullied throughout elementary school. Burying the hurt, Vaneetha played the good girl, while continuing to feel worthless. But at sixteen, the approval of an unlikely friend and the love of an unexpected God transformed her, convincing Vaneetha she was *worth* loving. In discovering that her disability was given for the glory of God, Vaneetha found joy and purpose in the affliction that had once crippled her. *Learning to Walk* is a memoir of survival, self-acceptance, and finally learning to walk on one's own.

Being bullied throughout childhood and navigating adolescence with a physical disability, Vaneetha's life is transformed by the steadfast acceptance of another teenage girl and the God who loved them both



Vaneetha Rendall

Vaneetha Rendall is a writer and speaker who is passionate about helping people find joy in the midst of suffering. Her blog title, *Dance in the Rain*, is gleaned from the wisdom of Vivian Greene, "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain" — reflecting Vaneetha's vision and mission. Part of Vaneetha's story is losing her infant son, which was the inspiration for the song *Held*, recorded by Natalie Grant.

Vaneetha's writing has been featured on John Piper's *Desiring God* blog, one article being among the site's most popular posts, and the *(In)courage* blog. Pending articles will appear soon in *Today's Christian Woman* and *Just Between Us*. Her work has also recently been accepted into the bestselling *Contagious Optimism* book series. Vaneetha shares her story of grief and hope in the newest *Grief-Share* ministry's videos and workbooks.

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