



Faith Over Fear



Journaling for Peace

in Life's Storms



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Faith Over Fear: Journaling for Peace in Life's Storms

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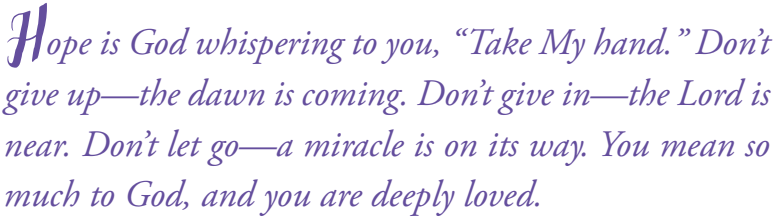


Introduction

We all experience valley times in our lives...seasons when life seems so hard, troubles come one after another, and challenges appear to loom over us. Often, our response is fear. As panic quickly sets in, anxiety and worry threaten to overtake us.

But there is hope! We can find peace in the turbulence of life's storms. That peace is born of our faith in God—the One who created us, understands our deepest thoughts, and loves us unconditionally. Nothing we go through in this life is a surprise to Him. He cares and wants to support, encourage, and walk with us through every situation we face.

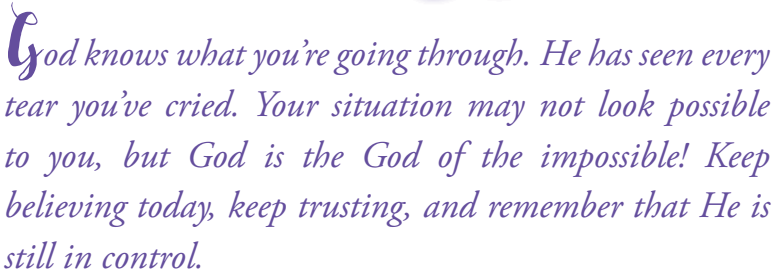
Faith Over Fear: Journaling for Peace in Life's Storms was created to encourage you during this difficult time in your life. Each page contains inspiring, comforting words and Scriptures for you to meditate on. Then spend some time writing—maybe a prayer or list of concerns, what God is saying to you about your situation, or what you are learning as you go through this experience. Let this journal be a safe place to pour out your heart to God, and may you discover His peace as you grow strong in your relationship with Him.



Hope is God whispering to you, “Take My hand.” Don’t give up—the dawn is coming. Don’t give in—the Lord is near. Don’t let go—a miracle is on its way. You mean so much to God, and you are deeply loved.

*Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest
in the shadow of the Almighty.*

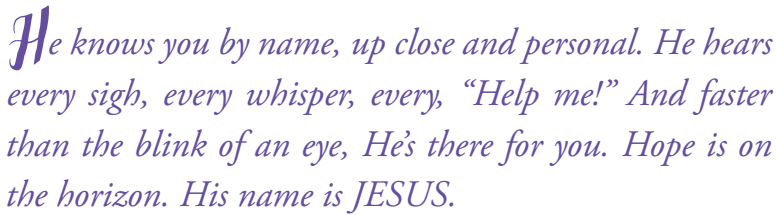
PSALM 91:1 (NIV)

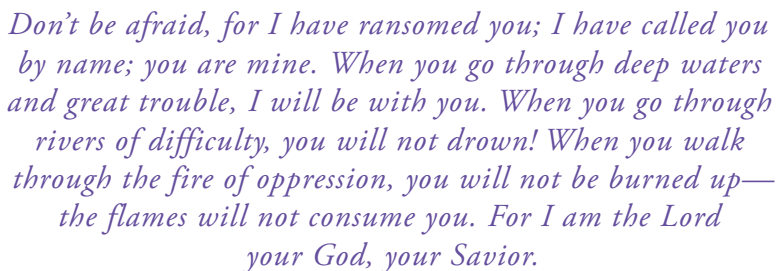


God knows what you're going through. He has seen every tear you've cried. Your situation may not look possible to you, but God is the God of the impossible! Keep believing today, keep trusting, and remember that He is still in control.

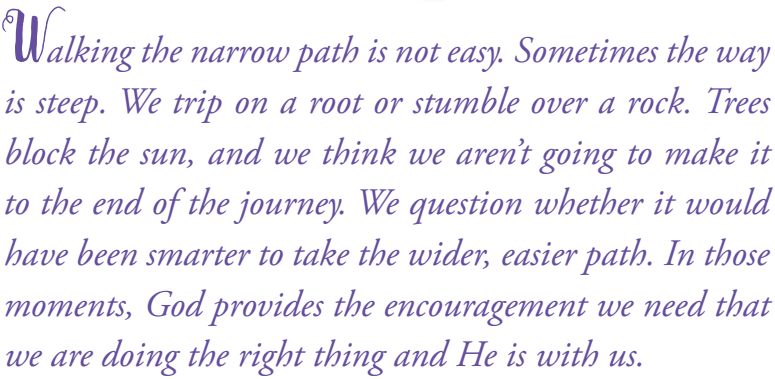
*Jesus looked at them intently and said,
“Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God.
Everything is possible with God.”*

MARK 10:27 (NLT)





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Walking the narrow path is not easy. Sometimes the way is steep. We trip on a root or stumble over a rock. Trees block the sun, and we think we aren't going to make it to the end of the journey. We question whether it would have been smarter to take the wider, easier path. In those moments, God provides the encouragement we need that we are doing the right thing and He is with us.

I am sure that our suffering now cannot be compared to the shining-greatness that He is going to give us.

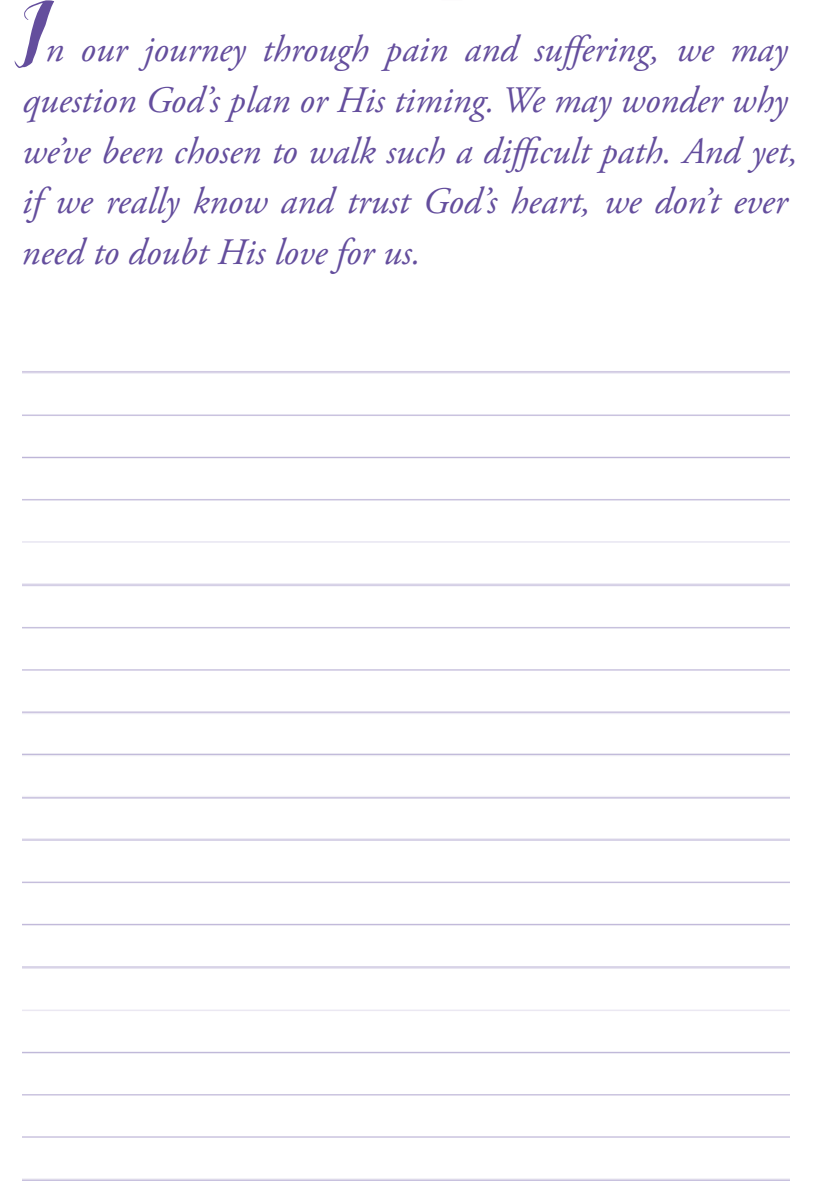
ROMANS 8:18 (NLV)



God is using the challenges in your life right now to prepare you for victory in bigger battles in the future. As you GO through some tough times, you will GROW through them.

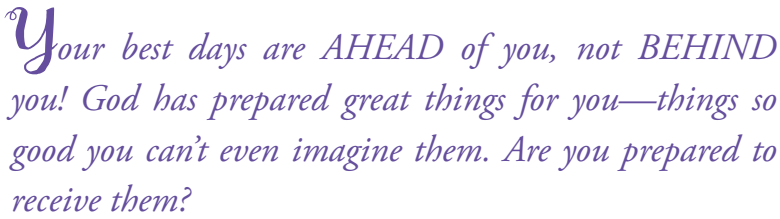
Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

1 JOHN 5:4 (NIV)



Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever.

PSALM 136:26 (NIV)



Your best days are AHEAD of you, not BEHIND you! God has prepared great things for you—things so good you can't even imagine them. Are you prepared to receive them?

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.

I CORINTHIANS 2:9 (NLT)



If we let God be the foundation of our lives, we don't need to allow fear and worry to be a part of us. No matter what you may be facing today, God said that He will never leave you! He will get you through times of struggle.

*God has said, "I will never fail you.
I will never abandon you." So we can say with confidence,
"The LORD is my helper, so I will have no fear."*

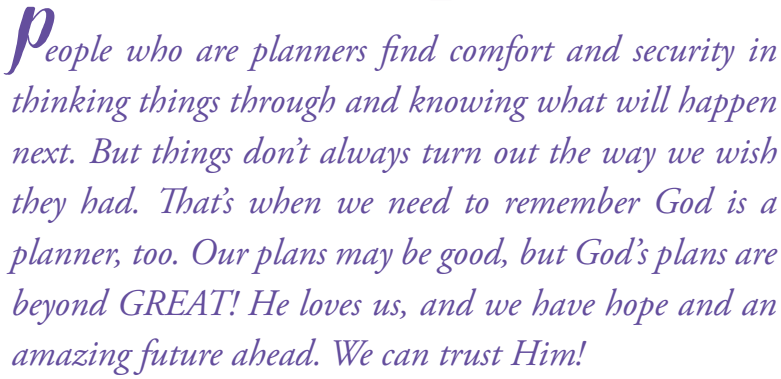
HEBREWS 13:5-6 (NLT)



When God wants to do a work in your life, there is a “grace”—an ease, a peace, and a deep sense of “rightness”—about it. You don’t have to bend over backwards, struggling to make it happen. God makes it happen for you.

*God is energizing you so that you will desire
and do what always pleases Him.*

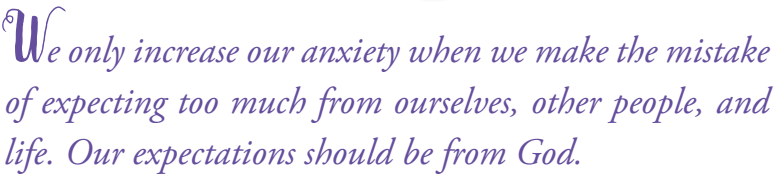
PHILIPPIANS 2:13 (VOICE)



People who are planners find comfort and security in thinking things through and knowing what will happen next. But things don't always turn out the way we wish they had. That's when we need to remember God is a planner, too. Our plans may be good, but God's plans are beyond GREAT! He loves us, and we have hope and an amazing future ahead. We can trust Him!

*"I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future."*

JEREMIAH 29:11 (NIV)



We only increase our anxiety when we make the mistake of expecting too much from ourselves, other people, and life. Our expectations should be from God.

*My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation
is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation;
he is my defence; I shall not be moved.*

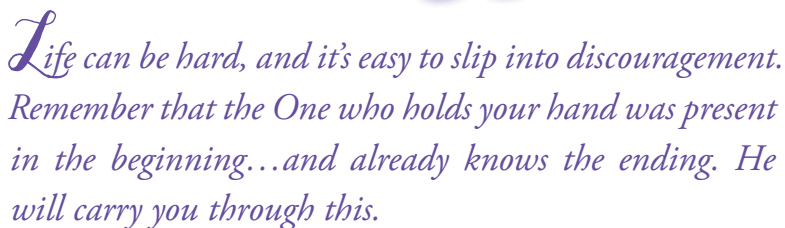
PSALM 62:5-6 (KJV)



Often, we fight change so desperately that God has to block off the way things have been in our lives, so He can take us where He wants us to be. Just because you have done something for many years does not mean that God doesn't have something else for you to do now.

*Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God
my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.*

PSALM 25:5 (NIV)



Life can be hard, and it's easy to slip into discouragement. Remember that the One who holds your hand was present in the beginning...and already knows the ending. He will carry you through this.

For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

ISAIAH 41:13 (NIV)



In order for it to grow, our faith has to be tested. We can say we trust and believe in God all day long, but we won't really know that's true until our faith is all we have. When everything you counted on is stripped away, allow nothing and no one to undermine your faith. At the very moment you think all is lost, God is going to reveal Himself in a mighty way.

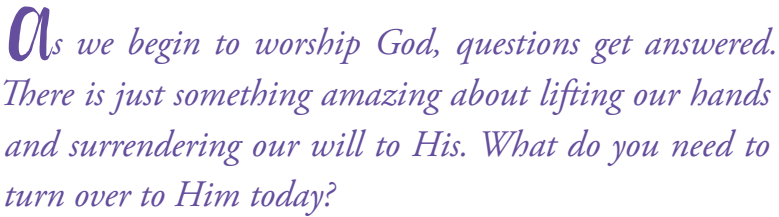
Consider it pure joy...whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

JAMES 1:2-3 (NIV)



Major life changes can be scary, but do you know what is scarier? Not being in God's will for your life—being in the wrong place, at the wrong time, in the wrong season. Maybe you need to let go of the old and let God do a new thing in your life. It will be worth it!

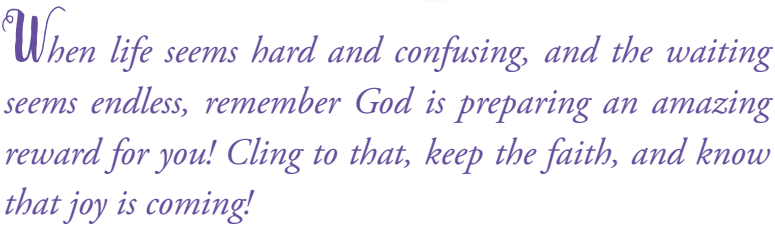
ISAIAH 43:19 (MSG)



As we begin to worship God, questions get answered. There is just something amazing about lifting our hands and surrendering our will to His. What do you need to turn over to Him today?

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

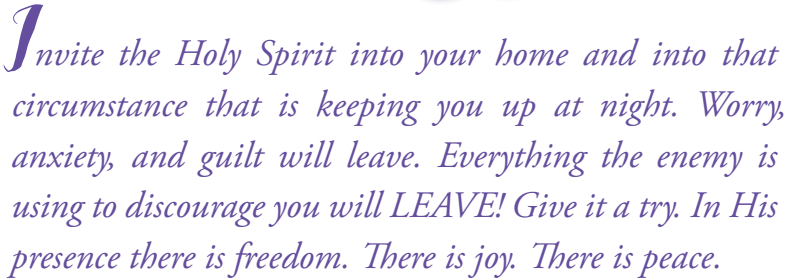
PSALM 95:6-7 (NIV)



When life seems hard and confusing, and the waiting seems endless, remember God is preparing an amazing reward for you! Cling to that, keep the faith, and know that joy is coming!

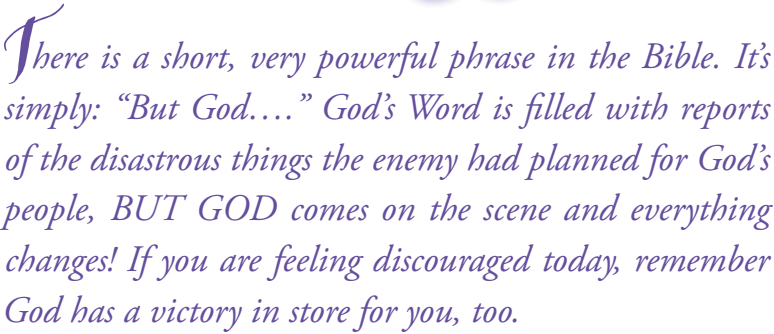
*You direct me on the path that leads to a beautiful life.
As I walk with you, the pleasures are never-ending,
and I know true joy and contentment.*

PSALM 16:11 (VOICE)



Invite the Holy Spirit into your home and into that circumstance that is keeping you up at night. Worry, anxiety, and guilt will leave. Everything the enemy is using to discourage you will LEAVE! Give it a try. In His presence there is freedom. There is joy. There is peace.

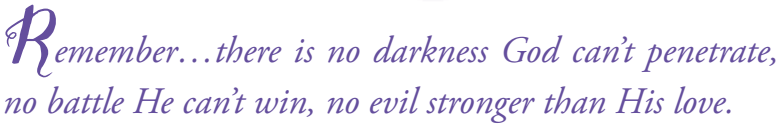
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
2 CORINTHIANS 3:17 (NIV)



There is a short, very powerful phrase in the Bible. It's simply: "But God...." God's Word is filled with reports of the disastrous things the enemy had planned for God's people, BUT GOD comes on the scene and everything changes! If you are feeling discouraged today, remember God has a victory in store for you, too.

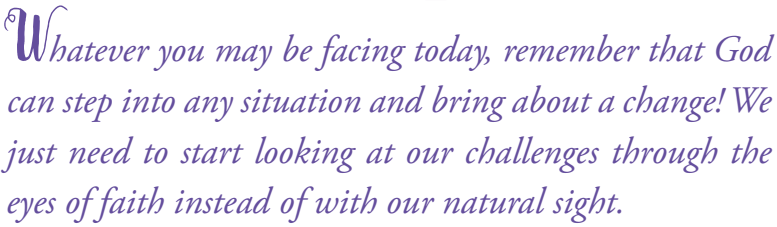
*Despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours
through Christ, who loved us.*

ROMANS 8:37 (NLT)



*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help
in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.*

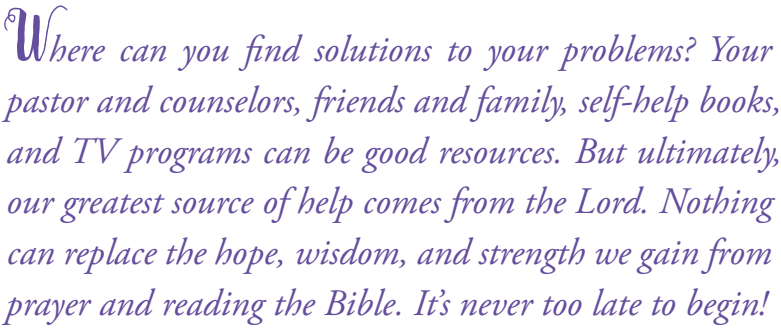
PSALM 46:1-2 (NIV)



Whatever you may be facing today, remember that God can step into any situation and bring about a change! We just need to start looking at our challenges through the eyes of faith instead of with our natural sight.

*I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything.
I have learned the secret of living in every situation,
whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty
or little. For I can do everything through Christ,
who gives me strength.*

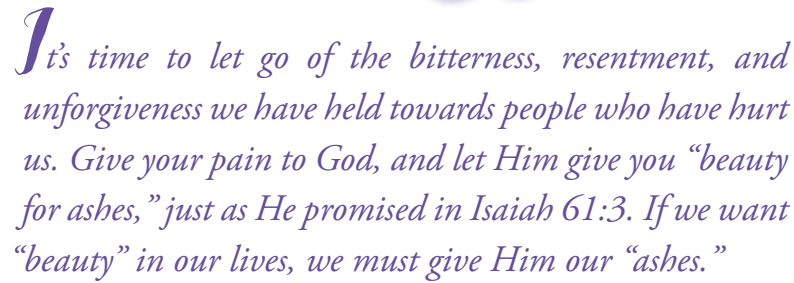
PHILIPPIANS 4:12-13 (NLT)



Where can you find solutions to your problems? Your pastor and counselors, friends and family, self-help books, and TV programs can be good resources. But ultimately, our greatest source of help comes from the Lord. Nothing can replace the hope, wisdom, and strength we gain from prayer and reading the Bible. It's never too late to begin!

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help
come from? My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

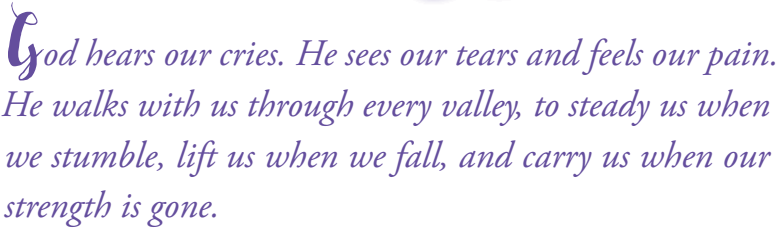
PSALM 121:1-2 (NIV)



It's time to let go of the bitterness, resentment, and unforgiveness we have held towards people who have hurt us. Give your pain to God, and let Him give you "beauty for ashes," just as He promised in Isaiah 61:3. If we want "beauty" in our lives, we must give Him our "ashes."

*He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted...to proclaim
the year of the LORD's favor...to comfort all who mourn...
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes.*

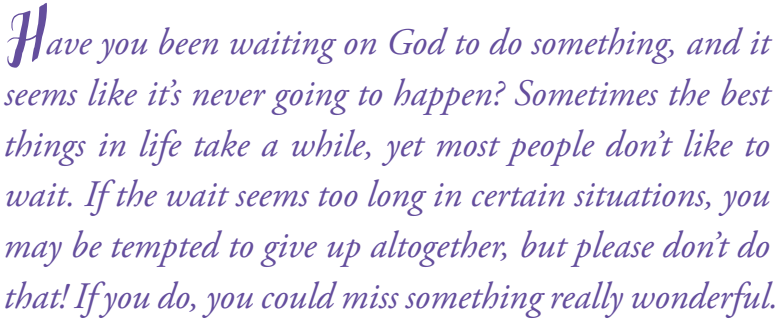
ISAIAH 61:1-3 (NIV)



God hears our cries. He sees our tears and feels our pain. He walks with us through every valley, to steady us when we stumble, lift us when we fall, and carry us when our strength is gone.

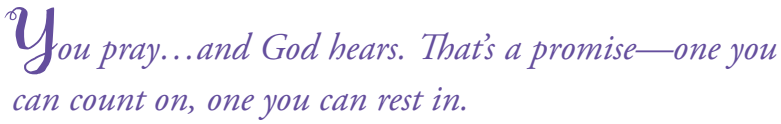
*Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not
grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

ISAIAH 40:31 (NIV)



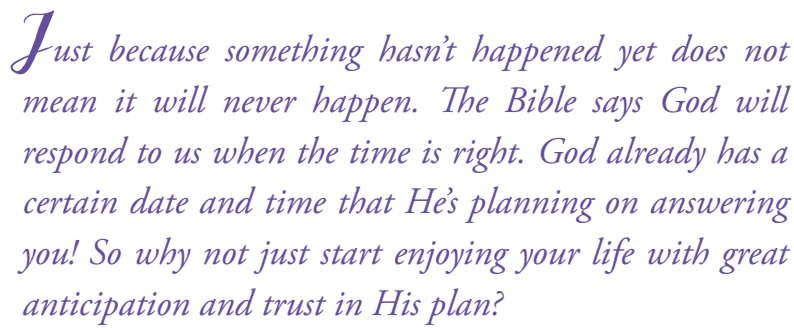
If we must keep trusting God for something that hasn't happened yet, it teaches us to wait patiently and confidently. And in the same way—by our faith—the Holy Spirit helps us with our daily problems and in our praying.

ROMANS 8:25–26 (TLB)



*Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.*

ISAIAH 65:24 (NIV)



Just because something hasn't happened yet does not mean it will never happen. The Bible says God will respond to us when the time is right. God already has a certain date and time that He's planning on answering you! So why not just start enjoying your life with great anticipation and trust in His plan?

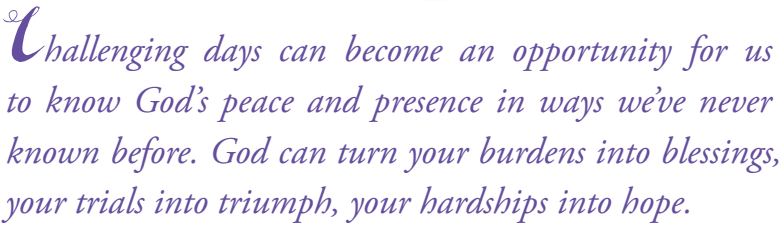
*This is what the LORD says: "At just the right time,
I will respond to you. On the day of salvation
I will help you. I will protect you."*



When God speaks, you will know it! Usually you'll have a very strong sense of a specific direction to take, or maybe a thought or idea that just won't go away. When you do something God doesn't want, you will feel uncomfortable in your soul. If you do, go in a different direction! Let God lead you today.

Call to Me, and I will answer you. I will tell you of great things, things beyond what you can imagine, things you could never have known.

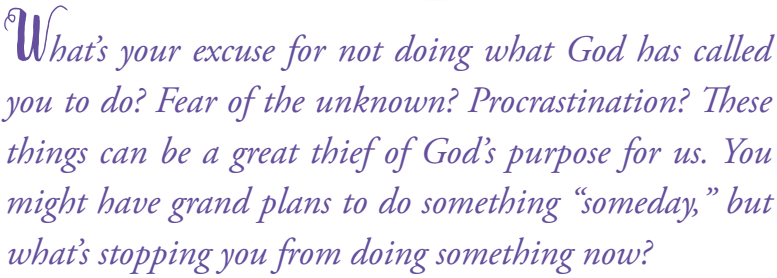
JEREMIAH 33:3 (VOICE)



Challenging days can become an opportunity for us to know God's peace and presence in ways we've never known before. God can turn your burdens into blessings, your trials into triumph, your hardships into hope.

*I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart.
And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give.
So don't be troubled or afraid.*

JOHN 14:27 (NLT)



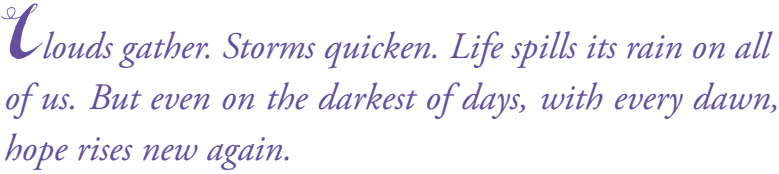
What's your excuse for not doing what God has called you to do? Fear of the unknown? Procrastination? These things can be a great thief of God's purpose for us. You might have grand plans to do something "someday," but what's stopping you from doing something now?

*What does the LORD your God require of you?
He requires only that you fear the LORD your God,
and live in a way that pleases him, and love him
and serve him with all your heart and soul.*

DEUTERONOMY 10:12 (NLT)



When we are experiencing a really hard time, just praying about it by ourselves may not be enough. We can become bogged down in discouragement and worry, and the temptation to give up is too strong. God wants us to reach out and ask trusted people to pray with us. Their encouragement and faith may be just the boost we need to see a breakthrough.



Clouds gather. Storms quicken. Life spills its rain on all of us. But even on the darkest of days, with every dawn, hope rises new again.

*There is surely a future hope for you,
and your hope will not be cut off.*

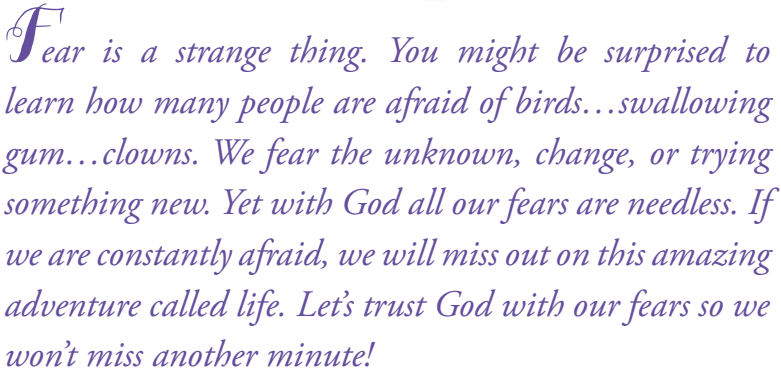
PROVERBS 23:18 (NIV)



Have you experienced a situation where you need to stand and speak up? Jesus didn't fit in. He did things differently than the leaders of His time. Though some people called Him crazy and some people called Him rebellious, God called Jesus His Son!

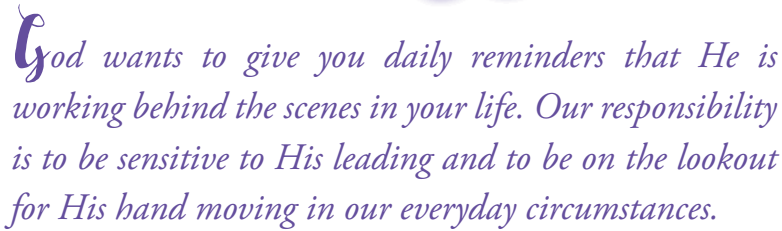
*If you do not stand firm in your faith,
you will not stand at all.*

ISAIAH 7:9 (NIV)

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*The LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?*

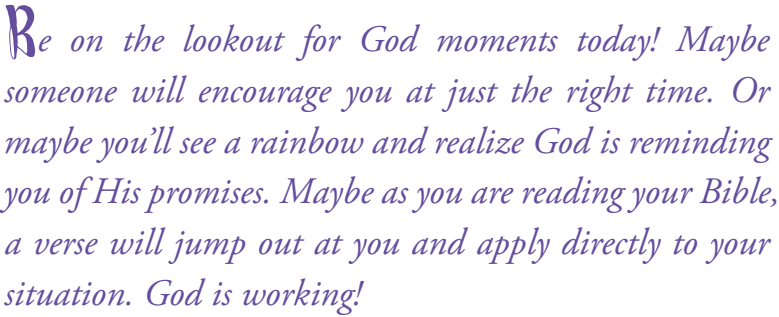
PSALM 27:1 (KJV)



God wants to give you daily reminders that He is working behind the scenes in your life. Our responsibility is to be sensitive to His leading and to be on the lookout for His hand moving in our everyday circumstances.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

PSALM 139:23-24 (NLT)

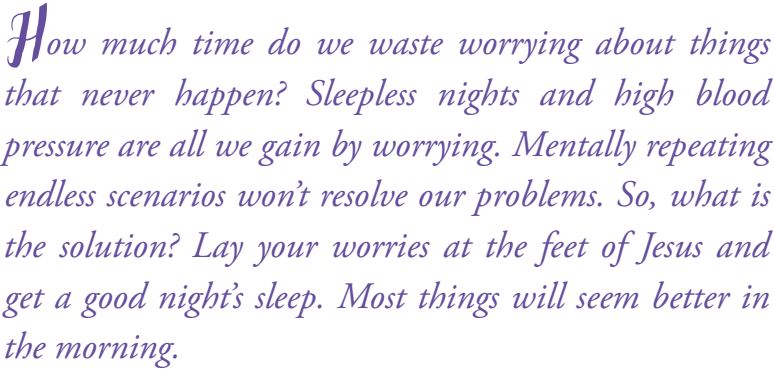


Be on the lookout for God moments today! Maybe someone will encourage you at just the right time. Or maybe you'll see a rainbow and realize God is reminding you of His promises. Maybe as you are reading your Bible, a verse will jump out at you and apply directly to your situation. God is working!

*Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.*

*Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do,
everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.*

PROVERBS 3:5–6 (MSG)



*Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.
Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live
righteously, and he will give you everything you need.
So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring
its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.*

MATTHEW 6:32-34 (NLT)



Like the stars that shine across the skies of eternity, God has so many good, good plans for you, it would take forever to count them all. That's how much God loves you... infinitely...intensely...immensely...forever and ever.

*Be sure of this: I am with you always,
even to the end of the age.*

MATTHEW 28:20 (NLT)



Jesus said that His followers would have to give up some things. We might have to walk a path that leads away from what others are doing. It will be hard sometimes, and we may not understand why certain things happen. But if we follow Jesus' example, our lives will be better for it in the end.

*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me.*

MATTHEW 16:24 (NIV)



The ground shakes, our hearts rattle, our dreams lurch. Suddenly our faith jolts at 9.8 on the Richter scale. Things don't look so good. We all experience a little shaking now and then. But everywhere we are—He is. Where our feet stand, God stands with us. Calming our fears, rushing to our rescue, our amazing God is on call.

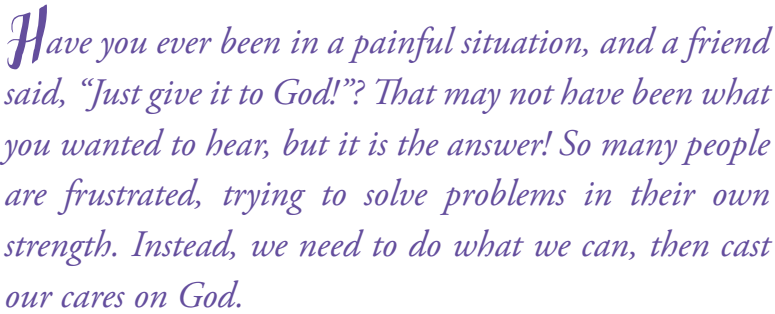
*Don't be afraid...for you are very precious to God.
Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!*
DANIEL 10:19 (NLT)



You don't have to struggle and spend all your time wondering why God is, or is not, doing something. When you really trust God, you can be at peace knowing at the right time, God WILL keep His promises! It's going to happen, and the good news is, it's not going to be one second late.

*Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people
Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed
of all the good promises he gave.*

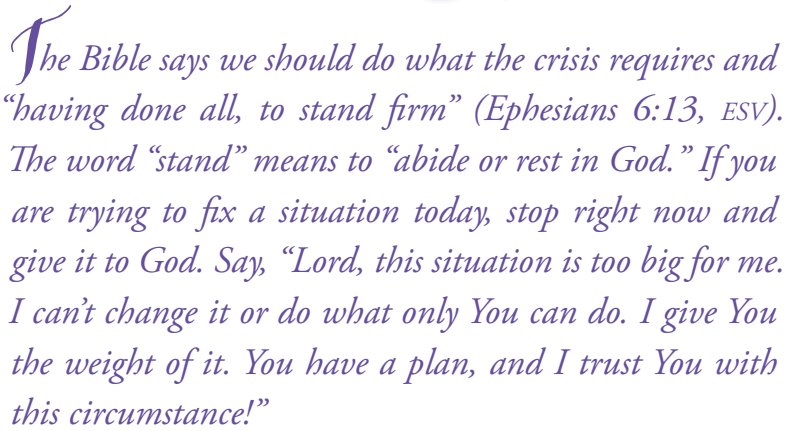
1 KINGS 8:56 (NIV)



Have you ever been in a painful situation, and a friend said, "Just give it to God!"? That may not have been what you wanted to hear, but it is the answer! So many people are frustrated, trying to solve problems in their own strength. Instead, we need to do what we can, then cast our cares on God.

*I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me.
He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to him
for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame
will darken their faces.*

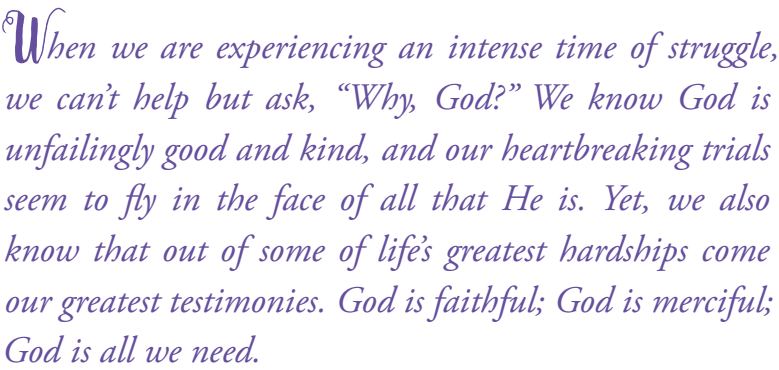
PSALM 34:4-5 (NLT)



The Bible says we should do what the crisis requires and “having done all, to stand firm” (Ephesians 6:13, ESV). The word “stand” means to “abide or rest in God.” If you are trying to fix a situation today, stop right now and give it to God. Say, “Lord, this situation is too big for me. I can’t change it or do what only You can do. I give You the weight of it. You have a plan, and I trust You with this circumstance!”

Be still. Be patient. Expect the Eternal to arrive and set things right. Don't get upset when you see the worldly ones rising up the ladder. Don't be bothered by those who are anchored in wicked ways.

PSALM 37:7 (VOICE)



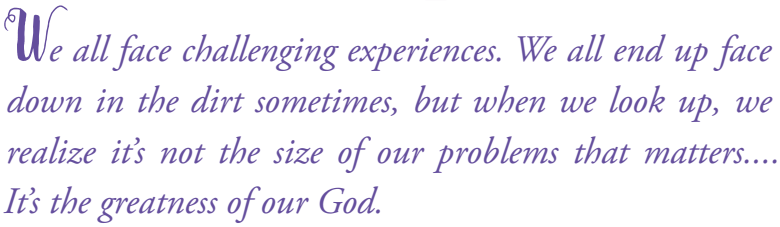
*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail. They are new
every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

LAMENTATIONS 3:22–23 (NIV)



Worries and fears, trials and train wrecks, unexpected misfortunes, anxieties stacked up. We are overwhelmed by it all until we remember, we serve the One who is ready to catch our worries, dissolve our fears, erase our trials, transform our train wrecks, turn our misfortunes into blessings, and pull our anxieties out by the roots! His name is JESUS.

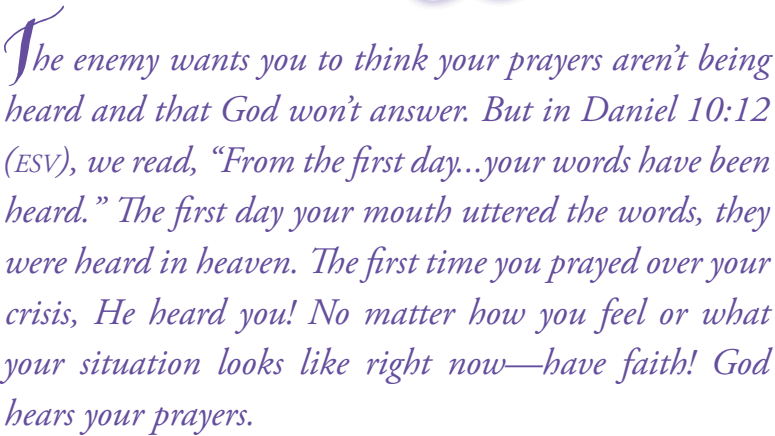
PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 (MSG)



We all face challenging experiences. We all end up face down in the dirt sometimes, but when we look up, we realize it's not the size of our problems that matters.... It's the greatness of our God.

*God rescued us from dead-end alleys and dark dungeons.
He's set us up in the kingdom of the Son he loves so much,
the Son who got us out of the pit we were in.*

COLOSSIANS 1:13-14 (MSG)



The enemy wants you to think your prayers aren't being heard and that God won't answer. But in Daniel 10:12 (ESV), we read, "From the first day...your words have been heard." The first day your mouth uttered the words, they were heard in heaven. The first time you prayed over your crisis, He heard you! No matter how you feel or what your situation looks like right now—have faith! God hears your prayers.

We live in the bold confidence that God hears our voices when we ask for things that fit His plan. And if we have no doubt that He hears our voices, we can be assured that He moves in response to our call.

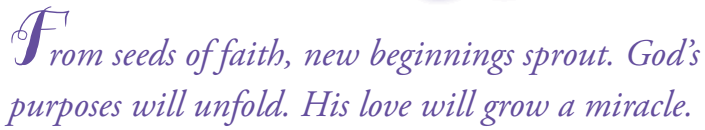
1 JOHN 5:14-15 (VOICE)



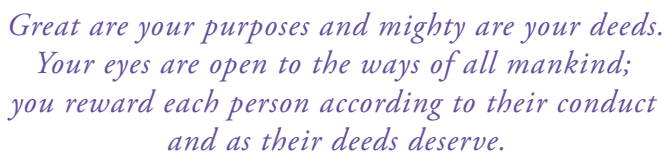
Is fear ruling your life today? Are you consumed with worry? Sometimes situations can make you feel anxious—even physically ill. When you are feeling this way, run to your safe place! Run to Jesus.

*You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.*

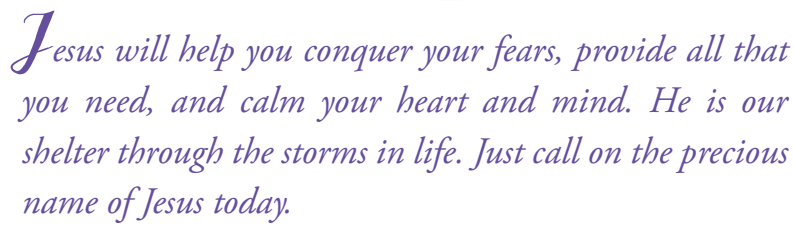
PSALM 32:7 (NIV)



From seeds of faith, new beginnings sprout. God's purposes will unfold. His love will grow a miracle.



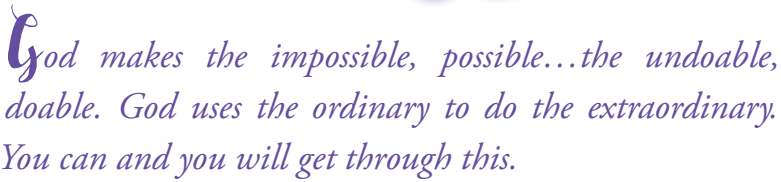
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Jesus will help you conquer your fears, provide all that you need, and calm your heart and mind. He is our shelter through the storms in life. Just call on the precious name of Jesus today.

*I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father
may be glorified in the Son.*

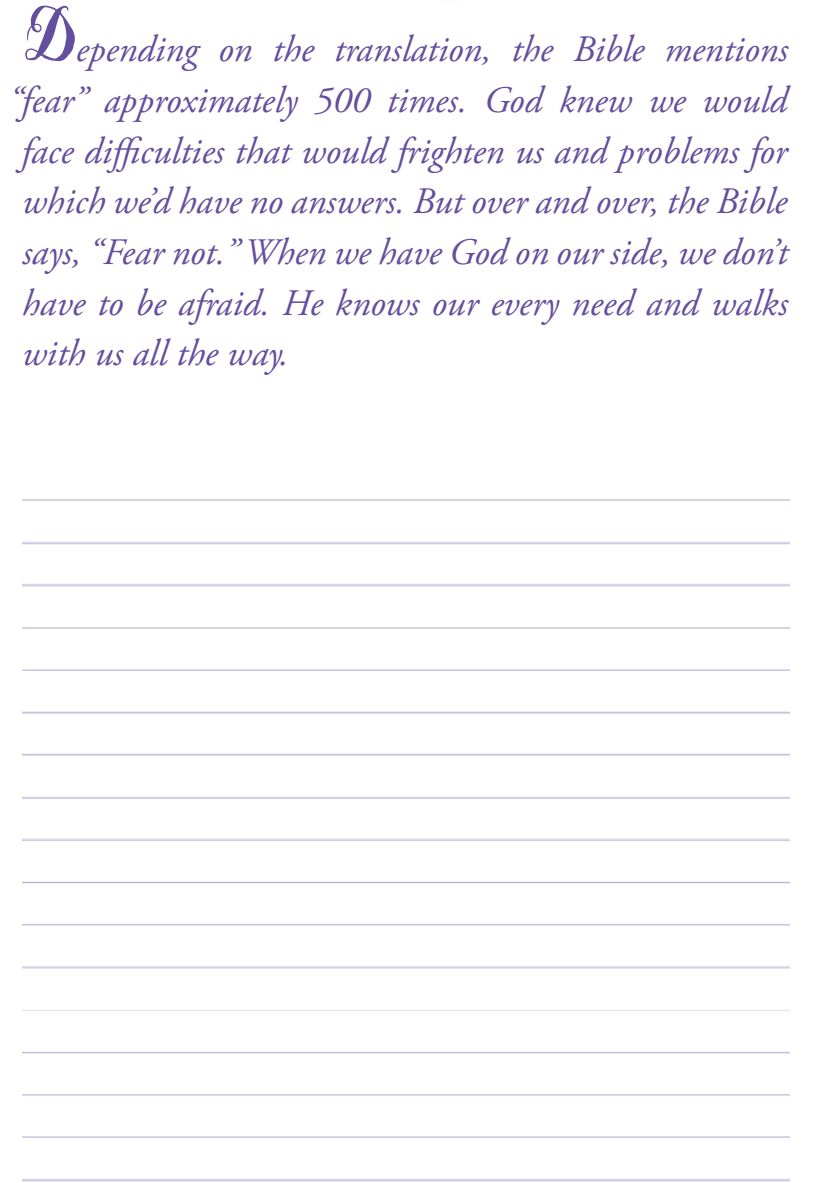
JOHN 14:13 (NIV)



God makes the impossible, possible...the undoable, doable. God uses the ordinary to do the extraordinary. You can and you will get through this.

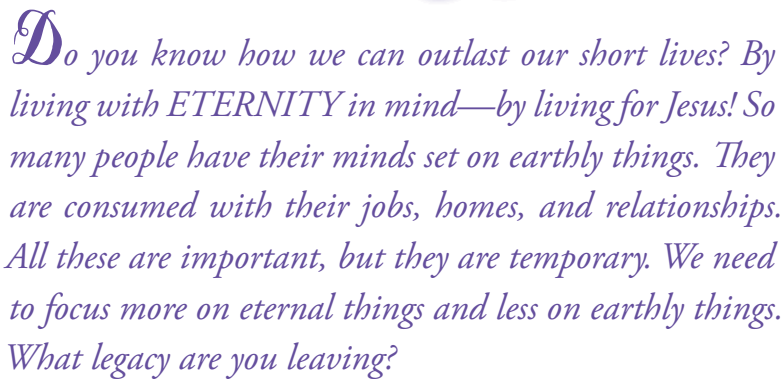
Live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience.

COLOSSIANS 1:10-11 (NIV)



*Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;
say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with
divine retribution he will come to save you."*

ISAIAH 35:3-4 (NIV)



Do you know how we can outlast our short lives? By living with ETERNITY in mind—by living for Jesus! So many people have their minds set on earthly things. They are consumed with their jobs, homes, and relationships. All these are important, but they are temporary. We need to focus more on eternal things and less on earthly things. What legacy are you leaving?

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective.

COLOSSIANS 3:1-2 (MSG)



Many Scriptures emphasize the importance of waiting. What are you waiting on today? A relationship to heal, a prodigal child, your ministry, a spouse, a good job? Whatever it may be, keep waiting! When the right time comes, you will understand what that waiting process did in you. You will be glad you laid that problem at the feet of Jesus and waited on His timing.

I waited patiently for God to help me; then he listened and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out from the bog and the mire, and set my feet on a hard, firm path, and steadied me as I walked along.

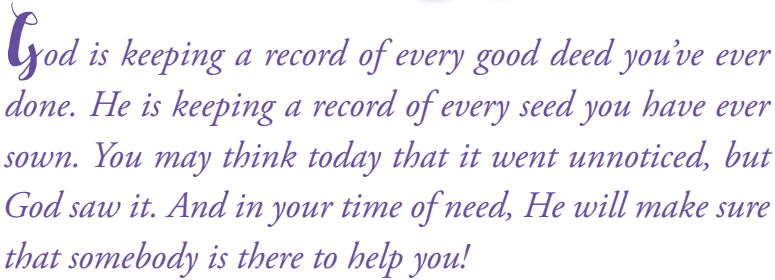
PSALM 40:1-2 (TLB)



Fear is a bully, shoving at our faith. Trying to push us off our path. Trying to puff itself up and flex its muscles like it's all that and more. Not a chance! Our God is more! Stronger, bigger, brighter than any fear waving its fist at us. God is always in our corner!

*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:
because greater is he that is in you,
than he that is in the world.*

1 JOHN 4:4 (KJV)



God is keeping a record of every good deed you've ever done. He is keeping a record of every seed you have ever sown. You may think today that it went unnoticed, but God saw it. And in your time of need, He will make sure that somebody is there to help you!

You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

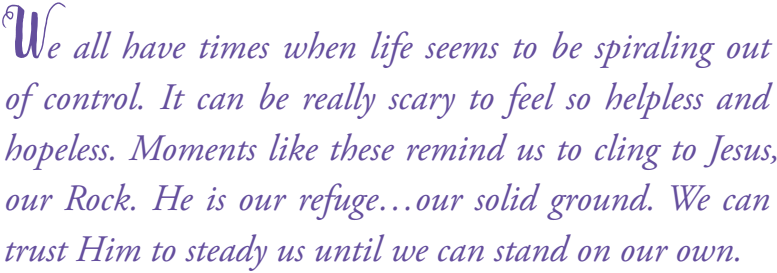
PSALM 139:16 (NLT)



There are broken places in all of us...cracks and fissures and crumbings. Life has a way of giving us plenty of reasons to fall apart at the seams. But God is an expert at mending. He gives us hope for every hurt.

*The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves
those who are crushed in spirit.*

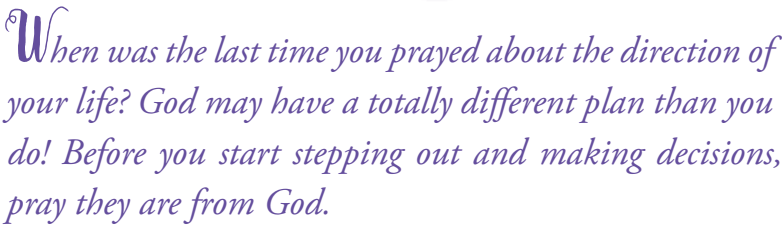
PSALM 34:18 (NIV)



We all have times when life seems to be spiraling out of control. It can be really scary to feel so helpless and hopeless. Moments like these remind us to cling to Jesus, our Rock. He is our refuge...our solid ground. We can trust Him to steady us until we can stand on our own.

*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith;
be courageous; be strong.*

I CORINTHIANS 16:13 (NIV)

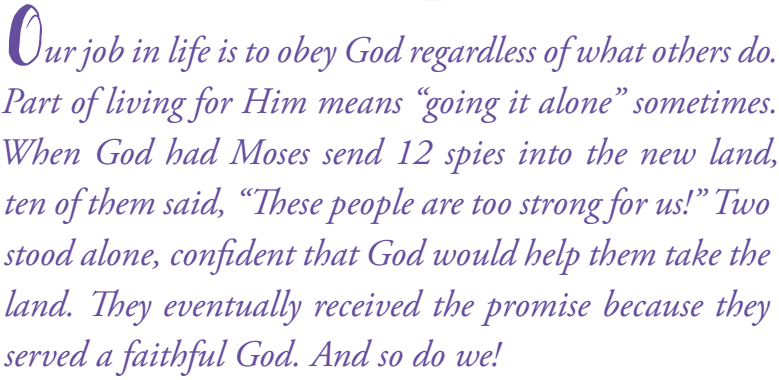
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*I know, LORD, that our lives are not our own.
We are not able to plan our own course.*
JEREMIAH 10:23 (NLT)



***B**one-weary moments, long days, longer nights, tear-stained pillows, smudged dreams. Life is not for the faint-hearted—it's for the faith-hearted. The heart that knows Jesus always finds a way. When life throws you a curve ball...throw it to Jesus.*

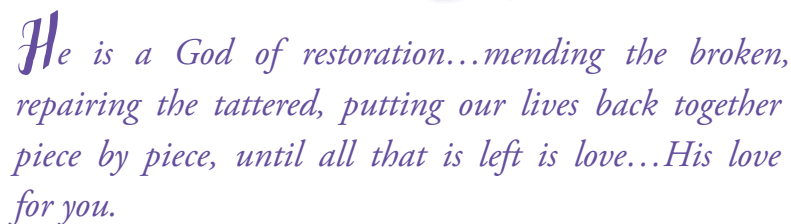
MATTHEW 11:28-30 (MSG)



Our job in life is to obey God regardless of what others do. Part of living for Him means “going it alone” sometimes. When God had Moses send 12 spies into the new land, ten of them said, “These people are too strong for us!” Two stood alone, confident that God would help them take the land. They eventually received the promise because they served a faithful God. And so do we!

*We should go up and take possession of the land,
for we can certainly do it.*

NUMBERS 13:30 (NIV)



He is a God of restoration...mending the broken, repairing the tattered, putting our lives back together piece by piece, until all that is left is love...His love for you.

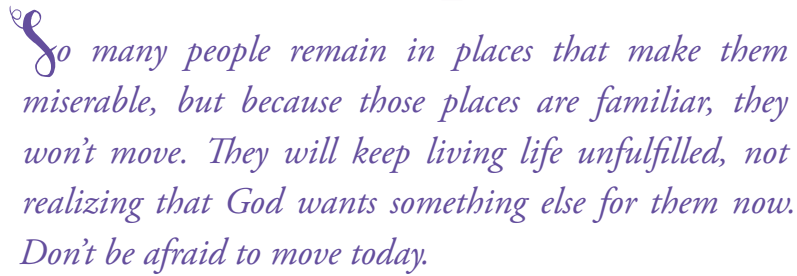
1 JOHN 4:9-10 (NIV)



Do you ever feel like you're annoying God by praying about certain situations daily? God's Word reminds us of the importance of persistent prayer. Far from being a bother to God, He invites us to communicate with Him. When you are tempted to give up, quit praying, and think nothing is going to change, remember God hears, God cares, and you are not forgotten!

*Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for.
Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking,
and the door will be opened to you.*

MATTHEW 7:7 (NLT)



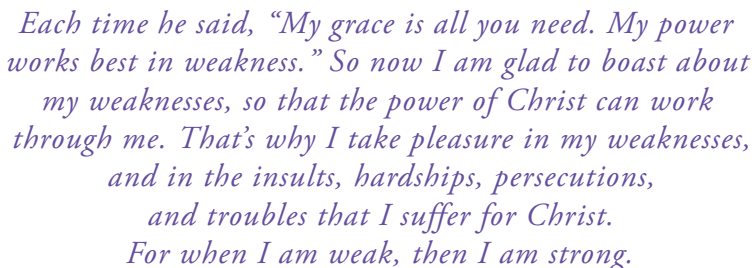
So many people remain in places that make them miserable, but because those places are familiar, they won't move. They will keep living life unfulfilled, not realizing that God wants something else for them now. Don't be afraid to move today.

*For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy
name's sake lead me, and guide me.*

PSALM 31:3 (KJV)



Surrendering a situation to God can be one of the hardest things we'll ever do. Relinquishing control and admitting we can't do something in our own strength is humbling. No one wants to feel powerless. But giving everything to God doesn't mean we are weaklings—it means we know the Source of all power and where our help comes from.



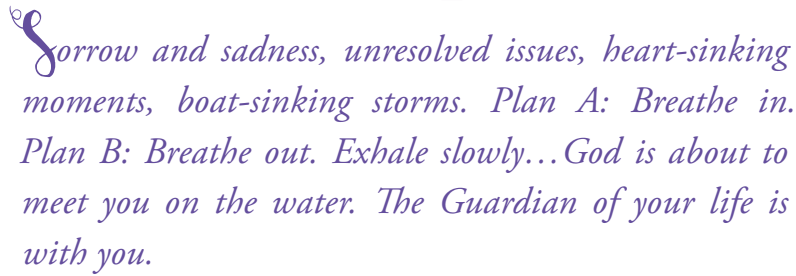
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Your generous gifts to others will always come back to you. God has seen every tear and every smile. He's observed every time you went out of your way to lend a helping hand. Keep giving and allowing God to use you. Keep loving people—even the ones who misunderstand you. God is keeping a record!

Freely you have received; freely give.

MATTHEW 10:8 (NIV)



Sorrow and sadness, unresolved issues, heart-sinking moments, boat-sinking storms. Plan A: Breathe in. Plan B: Breathe out. Exhale slowly... God is about to meet you on the water. The Guardian of your life is with you.

*You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you,
all whose thoughts are fixed on you!*

ISAIAH 26:3 (NLT)



Where is God leading you today? Are you exactly where you need to be? If you are feeling restless and worried, ask God if you are in the right place for this season in your life. Step out from wrong relationships, wrong jobs, wrong locations, and just watch what God had planned for you all along.

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God
will be with you wherever you go.*

JOSHUA 1:9 (NIV)



What has God instructed you to do in your life? Don't expect your assignment to look like everybody else's. It's not the same plan. If we want to walk in God's perfect will for our lives, we must obey what He's asking, even if it doesn't make any sense to us. Step out today. With God's help, you can do this!

*Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears
will hear a voice behind you, saying,
“This is the way; walk in it.”*

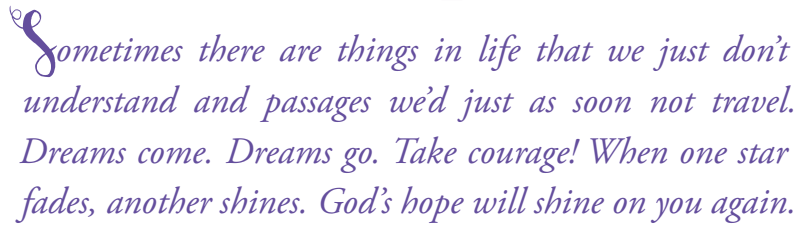
ISAIAH 30:21 (NIV)



If we are honest, most of us pray, “Lord, let MY will be done,” not “Let YOUR will be done.” We think we know the best way and the perfect solution. We presume to give the God of the universe our advice, when it should be the other way around! God is already working everything out, and He doesn’t need our help. Trust Him with your concerns today.

*We know that in all things God works for the good
of those who love him, who have been
called according to his purpose.*

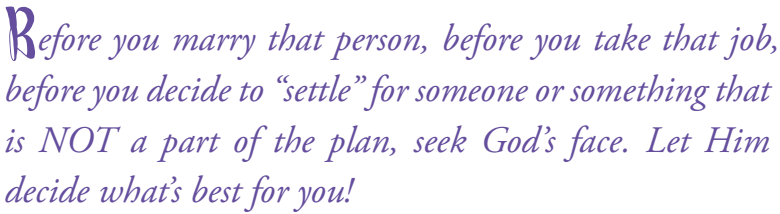
ROMANS 8:28 (NIV)



Sometimes there are things in life that we just don't understand and passages we'd just as soon not travel. Dreams come. Dreams go. Take courage! When one star fades, another shines. God's hope will shine on you again.

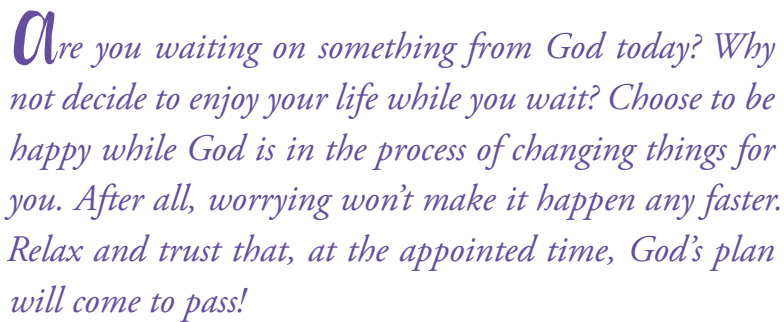
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

ROMANS 12:12 (NIV)



Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

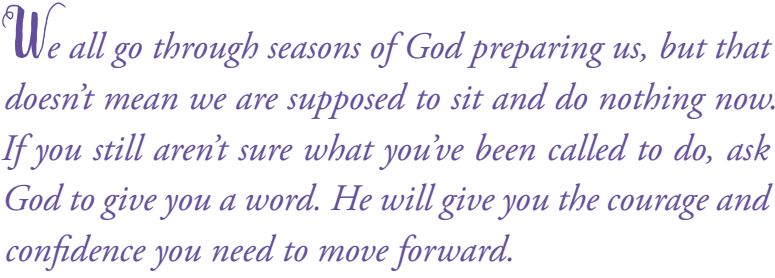
HEBREWS 11:6 (NIV)



Are you waiting on something from God today? Why not decide to enjoy your life while you wait? Choose to be happy while God is in the process of changing things for you. After all, worrying won't make it happen any faster. Relax and trust that, at the appointed time, God's plan will come to pass!

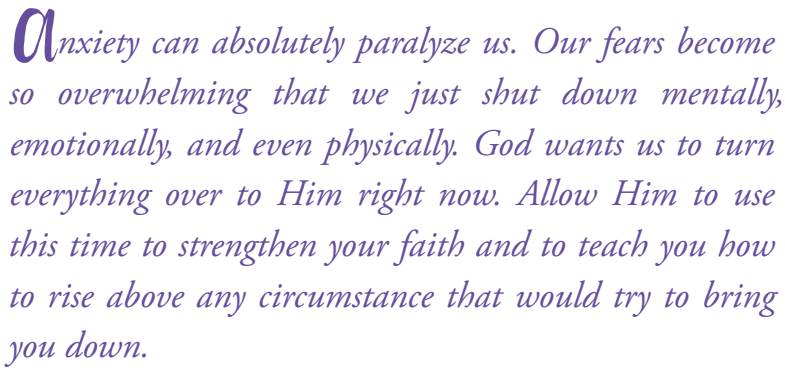
*Is your life full of difficulties and temptations?
Then be happy, for when the way is rough,
your patience has a chance to grow.*

JAMES 1:2-3 (TLB)



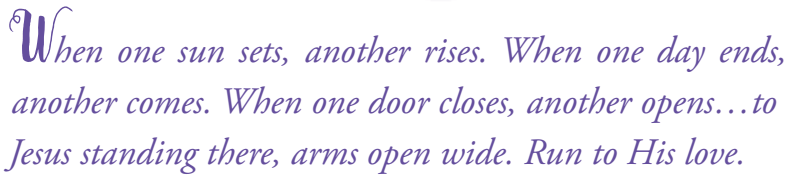
*Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season;
correct, rebuke and encourage—
with great patience and careful instruction.*

2 TIMOTHY 4:2 (NIV)

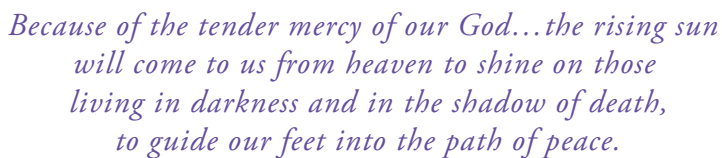


*Give your burdens to the Lord. He will carry them.
He will not permit the godly to slip or fall.*

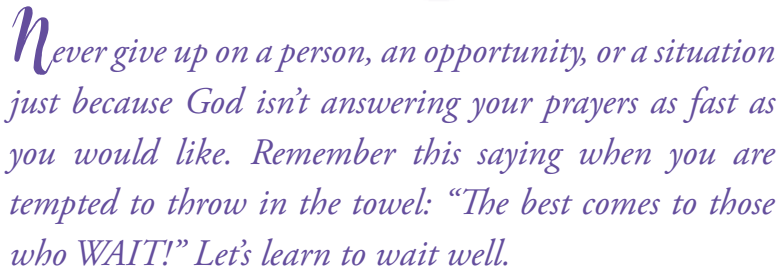
PSALM 55:22 (TLB)



When one sun sets, another rises. When one day ends, another comes. When one door closes, another opens...to Jesus standing there, arms open wide. Run to His love.



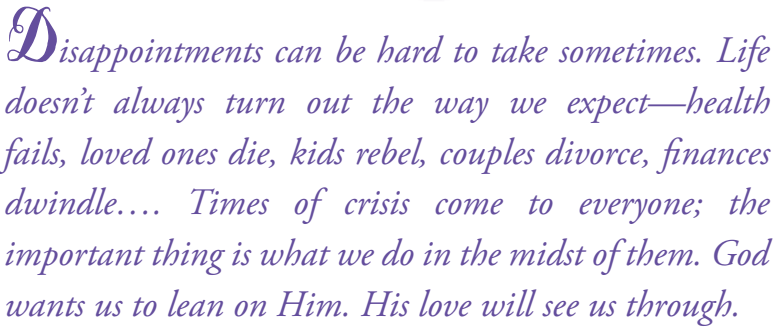
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Never give up on a person, an opportunity, or a situation just because God isn't answering your prayers as fast as you would like. Remember this saying when you are tempted to throw in the towel: "The best comes to those who WAIT!" Let's learn to wait well.

The LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

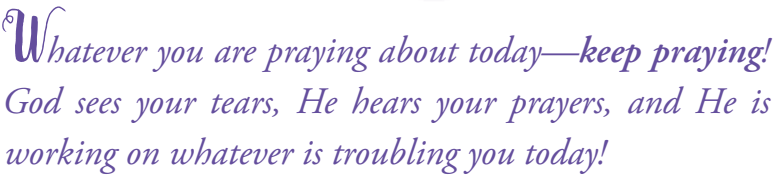
ISAIAH 30:18 (NIV)



Disappointments can be hard to take sometimes. Life doesn't always turn out the way we expect—health fails, loved ones die, kids rebel, couples divorce, finances dwindle.... Times of crisis come to everyone; the important thing is what we do in the midst of them. God wants us to lean on Him. His love will see us through.

*Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.
Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles,
and the judgments he pronounced.*

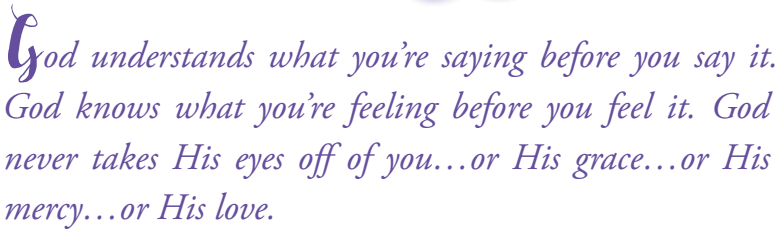
1 CHRONICLES 16:11-12 (NIV)



Whatever you are praying about today—keep praying! God sees your tears, He hears your prayers, and He is working on whatever is troubling you today!

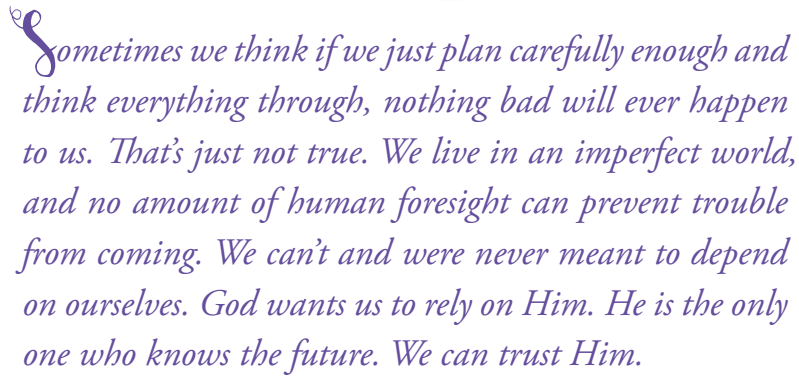
Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 (MSG)

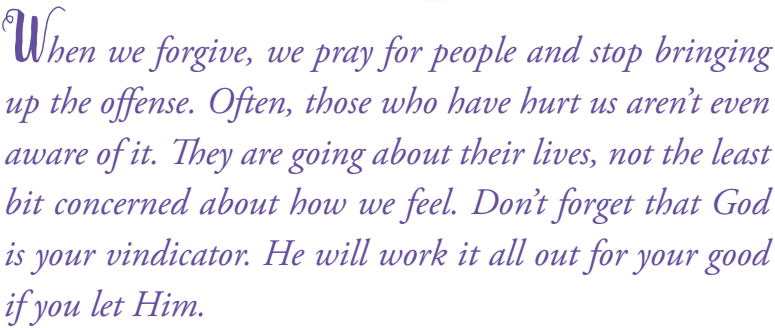


God understands what you're saying before you say it. God knows what you're feeling before you feel it. God never takes His eyes off of you...or His grace...or His mercy...or His love.

*Don't panic. I'm with you.
There's no need to fear for I'm your God.*
ISAIAH 41:10 (MSG)



Sometimes we think if we just plan carefully enough and think everything through, nothing bad will ever happen to us. That's just not true. We live in an imperfect world, and no amount of human foresight can prevent trouble from coming. We can't and were never meant to depend on ourselves. God wants us to rely on Him. He is the only one who knows the future. We can trust Him.



When we forgive, we pray for people and stop bringing up the offense. Often, those who have hurt us aren't even aware of it. They are going about their lives, not the least bit concerned about how we feel. Don't forget that God is your vindicator. He will work it all out for your good if you let Him.

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

LUKE 6:27-28 (NIV)



God has many special plans mapped out for you. For every detour, He has a better way. For every roadblock, He has a new plan. For every dream that suddenly hardens like cement and crumbles into a thousand pieces, God has a comeback and a promise...He will smooth the way. Trust His leading.

*Level the mountains! Fill up the valleys! Straighten
the curves! Smooth out the ruts! And then all mankind
shall see the Savior sent from God.*

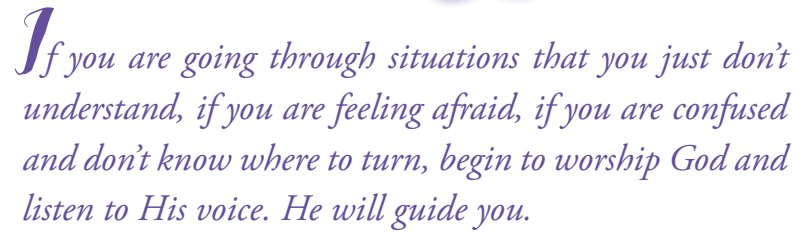
LUKE 3:5-6 (TLB)



That thing that has been on your mind incessantly... that problem you just can't solve... let it go. Right now, submit to God and LET IT GO! If you need to forgive someone, do it. If you need to apologize, make that call. If you've been trying to tell God how to manage your situation, just stop. Place everything in God's hands and trust Him to take care of it from now on.

*Submit to God, and you will have peace;
then things will go well for you.*

JOB 22:21 (NLT)

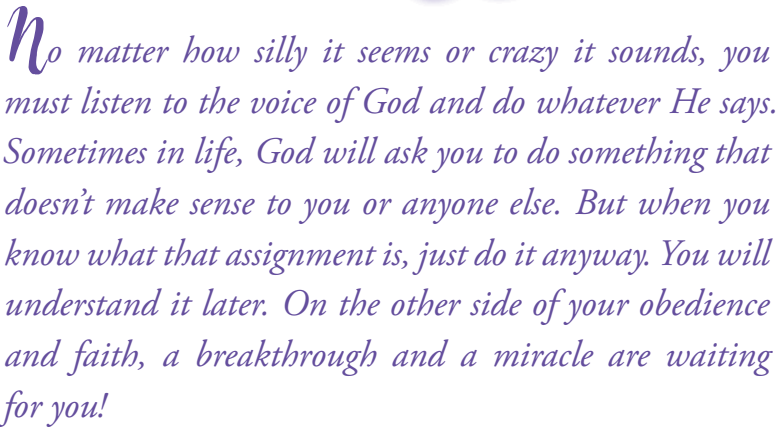



If you are going through situations that you just don't understand, if you are feeling afraid, if you are confused and don't know where to turn, begin to worship God and listen to His voice. He will guide you.

*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God,
whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid.*

What can mere mortals do to me?

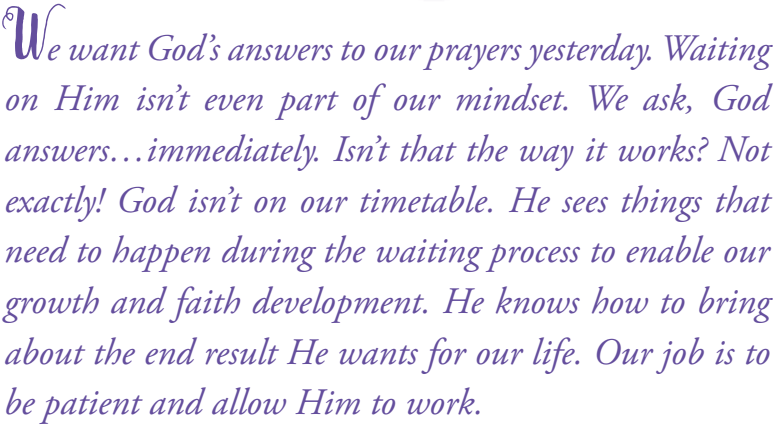
PSALM 56:3-4 (NIV)





*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves.
Do what it says.... Whoever looks intently into the perfect
law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting
what they have heard, but doing it—
they will be blessed in what they do.*

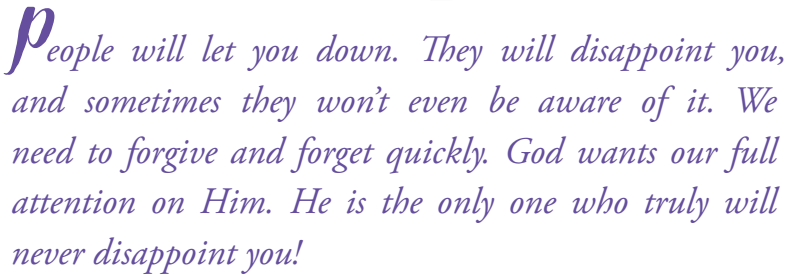
JAMES 1:22, 25 (NIV)



We want God's answers to our prayers yesterday. Waiting on Him isn't even part of our mindset. We ask, God answers...immediately. Isn't that the way it works? Not exactly! God isn't on our timetable. He sees things that need to happen during the waiting process to enable our growth and faith development. He knows how to bring about the end result He wants for our life. Our job is to be patient and allow Him to work.

Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

COLOSSIANS 2:7 (NLT)



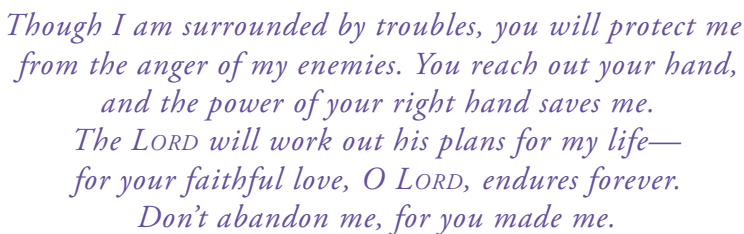
People will let you down. They will disappoint you, and sometimes they won't even be aware of it. We need to forgive and forget quickly. God wants our full attention on Him. He is the only one who truly will never disappoint you!

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

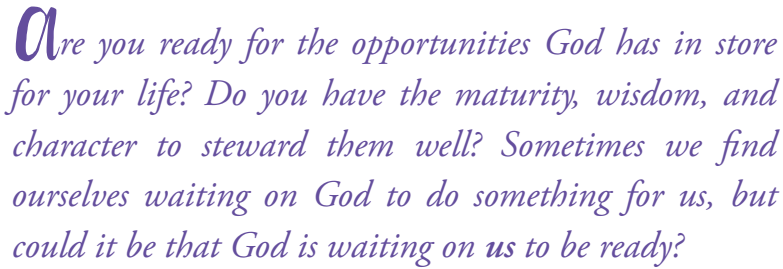
COLOSSIANS 3:13 (NLT)



Times of trial reveal what we are made of. Some people crumple at the first sign of trouble. They are ready to retreat before the battle has even started! Other people rise up, form a plan, and prepare for what lies ahead. Which person are you? Will God find you ready when it's time to fight?



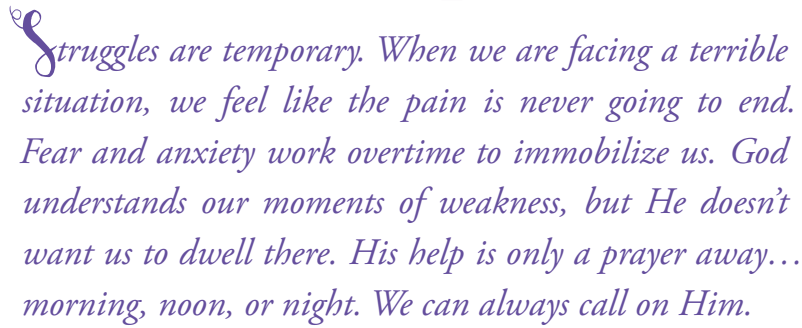
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Are you ready for the opportunities God has in store for your life? Do you have the maturity, wisdom, and character to steward them well? Sometimes we find ourselves waiting on God to do something for us, but could it be that God is waiting on us to be ready?

When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

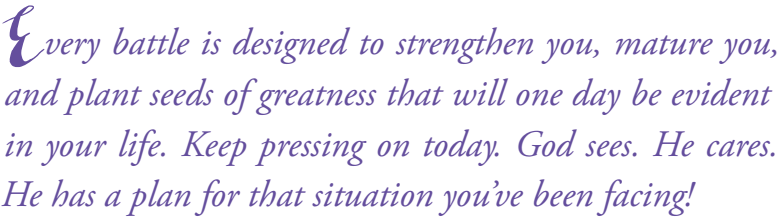
LUKE 12:48 (NLT)



Struggles are temporary. When we are facing a terrible situation, we feel like the pain is never going to end. Fear and anxiety work overtime to immobilize us. God understands our moments of weakness, but He doesn't want us to dwell there. His help is only a prayer away... morning, noon, or night. We can always call on Him.

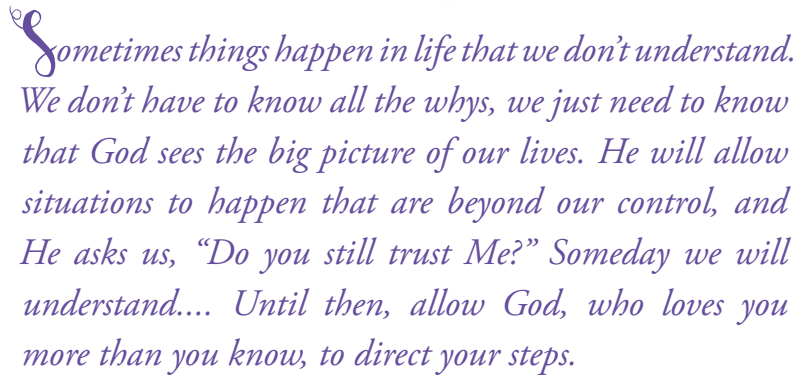
*For our light and momentary troubles are achieving
for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*

2 CORINTHIANS 4:17 (NIV)



I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

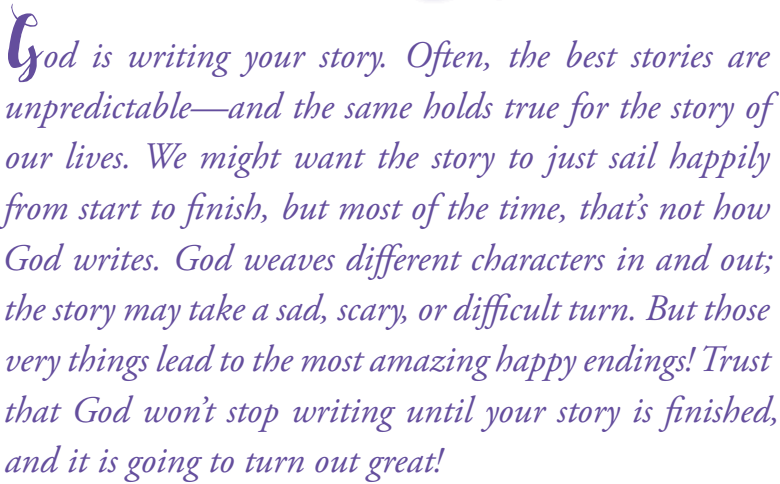
PHILIPPIANS 3:14 (NIV)



Sometimes things happen in life that we don't understand. We don't have to know all the whys, we just need to know that God sees the big picture of our lives. He will allow situations to happen that are beyond our control, and He asks us, "Do you still trust Me?" Someday we will understand.... Until then, allow God, who loves you more than you know, to direct your steps.

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

JOHN 13:7 (NIV)



There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6 (MSG)



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