

Daily Cup of J.O.E.



Reflections of Jesus Our Encourager

A BOOK OF DEVOTIONS



How to use this devotional: This devotional was meant to serve as a way to take time to meet with the Lord during this time before the Resurrection. We encourage you to take this a day at a time. Each devotional was written by a member of The Rock Fellowship congregation. Following each devotional is a blank page for you to use for prayer or reflection. Write your notes or your thoughts. Or, use the space to get creative! You will also find a few pages with just scripture or just a thought. Use those pages to brainstorm the ideas and think about what they mean to you. Above all, we hope that you meet Jesus in these pages and that you see the way He is **STILL** working in our lives today.

In Christ,
'one' Women's Ministry Team



The Rock Fellowship Church

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He is Faithful

“Before they call I will answer while they are still speaking I will hear.” –Isaiah 65:24

All winter as we fed the birds, we had a single male red bellied woodpecker. I enjoyed him so very much that I decided to ask God if He would give him a mate. I thanked God for him and asked if he'd send a female so we could enjoy more of them. Before I finished my prayer, I heard the above scripture in my heart and there she was! He heard me and answered me even before I had finished my prayer. We now have a whole family that we can enjoy.

Reflections/Prayer

Washing His Feet With My Tears

“Therefore I tell you her many sins are forgiven, for she has loved much. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.” Luke 7:47

As I sit here and dwell on God's Word as a divorced mother, as I weep over the many mistakes that I have made, even as Christian, as my tears fall on the feet of my King. I realize the depth of his love, the depth of his grace and mercy. Because even when the carpet is pulled from under your feet and your world caves in, even when people are speculating and gossiping about your life, you can cry at Jesus feet just as the woman in this scripture did, just as king David did. We will never be perfect. We are called to love one another and encourage one another even in our weaknesses. Our Daddy loves us, he knows our hearts. I want to encourage someone today to leave the past in the Lord's hands and move ahead. He is there through it all, when no one else is. Cry your heart out at his feet. Let him wrap his arms around you. Let it go.

Reflections/Prayer

HE ONLY IS MY
ROCK
AND MY
SALVATION;
HE IS MY **DEFENSE**
AND MY
FORTRESS,
I SHALL NOT BE
MOVED.

---PSALM 62:2---



I AM

GRATEFUL

FOR

Invitation

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person and they with Me.”

Revelation 3:20

~

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Only those who have a union with My Spirit will inherit My kingdom. So many search the scriptures and learn of Me. They are content knowing of Me, but more is required for everlasting life. I stand at the door of hearts and knock. Those who hear Me and invite Me in are the ones who will know everlasting life. You have heard and invited Me in to your house. I have come to dine with you, and you with Me. I want you to seek Life from this place where My spirit and your spirit are united; this place of communion with My indwelling Presence. This is the place where your soul will find its home. It is here, dining with Me, that you will find nourishment. I will provide strength and preserve you. It is here, you will find your purpose, because united here, we break the bread together and give it to feed My family.



Reflections/Prayer

Faith

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

~

With many sleepless nights passing, wrestling against anxiety, it was time to seek a Dr.'s help. After the initial examination, we were sent to ultrasound. In that small room, as we watched and listened, the reality of birthing our 3rd child was gone. How could it be? We had heard life just weeks ago, as his heart beat so strongly. My faith bottomed out. But in falling apart during the days afterward, Jesus met me in that deep sorrow. My Abba Father gave me a deeper trust in knowing all things work together for good (yes, even the loss of a child I've not yet seen). Because you see - in that painful experience, only He can take the ashes of that loss and turn it into the beauty of a renewed relationship with Jesus, who comforts me, and shows me He meets me still in the dark sorrows of this life. Only His Spirit can prove faith exists, and, it is. . . now.

Reflections/Prayer

At the Feet of Jesus

Great crowds came to Him bringing along the paraplegic, the blind, the maimed, the mute, every sort of person in need. They laid them at the feet of Jesus and He healed them all. -Matthew 15:30

If the blind get to see and the lame and crippled get to walk and run and jump; if the dead sons and daughters get to be raised to life and the lepers get new skin; if the hungry get to eat their fill and the parched will never be thirsty again, then what must be in store for me? I'm not wasting one more day wondering! You will find me at the feet of Jesus!



Reflections/Prayer

Bless Your Name

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD works righteousness justice for all the oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass, flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But from everlasting to everlasting LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children- with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts. The LORD has established his throne in heaven and his kingdom rules over all. Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, O my soul.

--Psalm 103: 1-22

Reflection

Did you ever tell someone “I love you”, and find yourself surprised by them asking you ‘why?’ Look at the heart of David when he writes this Psalm. He declares his praise to the Lord, backed up by a powerful thought – “**because**”. Too many times I have found myself turning my brain off when I turn my “praise” on. Jesus called for us to worship the Father in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). I challenge you to sit down and write your own Psalm, and where in the Bible you might see a re-telling of Israel’s redemption from slavery in Egypt, write your own personal story.

~

*I am
with you
Always*

MATTHEW 28:20

Reflections/Prayer

I Feel...

How long, O LORD ? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look on me and answer, O LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death; my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall. But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, for he has been good to me.

--Psalm 13:1-6

~

As we grow in our walk with the Lord, it's so important to go beyond the realization of God knowing us, and to begin to know ourselves; to search our own hearts and motivations and bring them before our heavenly father. And even though we should come to Him in reverence, we should also be able to express to the Lord what we are really feeling and not feel the need to hide something from Him. God's not afraid or shocked by your feelings. And when we express them to Him, being the perfect Father that He is, He helps us walk through them to a place of redemption.

Reflections/Prayer

The Way of Love (1 Cor 13)

~

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love. . .
I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making
everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump,"
and it jumps, but I don't love. . .
I'm nothing.

If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as
a martyr, but I don't love. . .
I've gotten nowhere.

So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without
love.

Oh God! Let my love look like You and what You're made of
How You lived, how You died
Love is sacrifice!
So let my life be the proof,
The proof of Your love

—For KING & COUNTRY - Proof Of Your Love

Reflections/Prayer

Search My Heart

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and *lead me in the way everlasting.* –*Psalm 139:23-24*

A foundation of any good relationship is vulnerability. And can I let you in on a little (not-so) secret? You can trust God. Whatever your past experiences may try and tell you, God is trustworthy, he loves you, and He never fails. Some days this truth is easier to grab on to than others. But He loves opportunities to prove His love and faithfulness. So before we go any further, we must open our hearts to the one who already knows what's inside.



Reflections/Prayer

The Kiss

**Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will
KISS each other." Psalm 85:10**

~

Sliding down the wall in frustration, tears, and anger, there seemed no hope as my marriage was crumbling. Years of labored unequally yoke-ness. Kids grown up and on their own, setting out on their journeys. And ours looked done. Finished. Confirmed by sonic booms of silence. Deafening my heart, my home. Literally tearing us apart and to pieces. Yet God is faithful and His steadfast Love meets my shattered heart, my dirty life, uncovering hidden affairs of separation and sins. Surrendered on my face, this Prince of peace floods the details...and it's as if none of that ever happened! Rightness is restored. Our covenant vows awakened and renewed. Oh Lord! Your goodness over me is consuming and everlasting and you kiss me all over again!

Reflections/Prayer

Eclipsed

As I was driving to work yesterday, lower in the southeast sky hung a crescent moon...and as I looked at it pondering how the earth had slowly moved across the sun's path and how it was gradually blocking the warming reflection on the moon to get to this point of making a crescent - I heard this question: "has the world moved across the reflection of My Son in your life, gradually causing darkness and blocking Me from being seen in you to others?" -- - Boom!! That hit me right there, in my heart, my mind, the pride ... I asked myself: have I let the world values/norms/ways of man in too much? am I letting/inviting/choosing the world and all its darkness to eclipse/block/hinder God's Light, Jesus, in and thru me? You see, it's a sloooow fade once you give yourself to and allow the lights of this world to move into your mind/heart/flesh instead of constantly seeking-chasing-asking the One true Light - The Only Light of The World, Jesus, to live in and through you, to be your guide - to find Him and know Him as the very breath that moves the vessel we are to live in His Light --- have we let the ruler of this world come in where the tiniest of gaps are and invade our thinking, our flesh, moving us/shaping us/molding us into the likeness of the world ...He came so no one would perish in The Darkness, to bring Hope and be Love ... "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life." John 8:12

Reflections/Prayer



Rocks of Remembrance

Joshua 4: 20-24

Joshua instructs 12 tribe leaders to get 12 stones from the Jordan to Gilgal to help the people know what to say when their children ask “what are these stone?” They were reminders of the God that dried the sea. We all need a rock of remembrance, or 12. Memories of when He was faithful when the world dissolved. Sometimes it’s a diagnosis, an accident, an affair, a phone call. Something that changes everything. The time before and the time after.

6/11/06 : A phone call. Your daughter is dead. I clung to the rock and remembered—the time the money ran out before the bills and we found an envelope in the mailbox with our names on it. It had \$100. Just what we needed. Jehovah Jorah. The time we were asked to abort to save my life and we chose not to. Jehovah Shalom, our peace. The time my husband of 20 years left me alone with 2 children. My Ishi, my husband. The time my daughter was raped and I wondered where He was. El Roi, the God who sees.

Reflections/Prayer

We all face those times – eventually each of us get our time to test our faith. What are your Rocks of Remembrance when your world falls apart?

Trust

What a hard thing to do.

Trust.

When all I know is fear.

Trust.

When I think I can do it on my own.

Trust.

Trust you, Lord.

Trust that you are always near.

Trust that you will mend the broken pieces.

Trust that my life is in your hands.

Trust that everything has a purpose.

Trust that you won't leave.

Trust that you love me.

Trust that you will save my family.

Trust that I will see you face to face.

Trust.

And I do.

I trust in you, Lord.

Trust
in the
LORD

PROVERBS 3:5

your love
is wild
for me.

Reflections/Prayer

God Always Has a Better Plan

“For 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

I'm a list maker. I like to have a plan for everything by making lists. Having a plan can help me achieve goals, but sometimes the checklist can give me a false sense of control in my life when I am afraid of what is to come. Even something as simple as making a list can turn into spending too much time planning and not actually acting on the things I have been called to do. It is easy to get caught up in my plan, but God has always had a better plan and nothing can stop it. Three years ago my lists had nothing to do with Jesus. I refused to believe God had a plan for me. I had big plans of how to be good enough for what the world wanted me to be. That was really overwhelming and led me to create plans to kill myself because I never thought I would be good enough. God made a list for my life and it's not based on me being good enough because JESUS is more than good enough. See, in the many lists I made, I never planned for me and my husband to be baptized together...six months after we were married in a pagan wedding ceremony. I didn't plan to be delivered by God from an abusive family environment into the family of Christ, which has replaced more love than all that was ever lost. I didn't plan on the only house we had money to afford that was falling in on itself, to be transformed into the cozy little home it is now. I didn't plan on having a baby, because the world told me I couldn't. But I did and she is perfect. I never planned on being found, but amazing grace how sweet the sound!

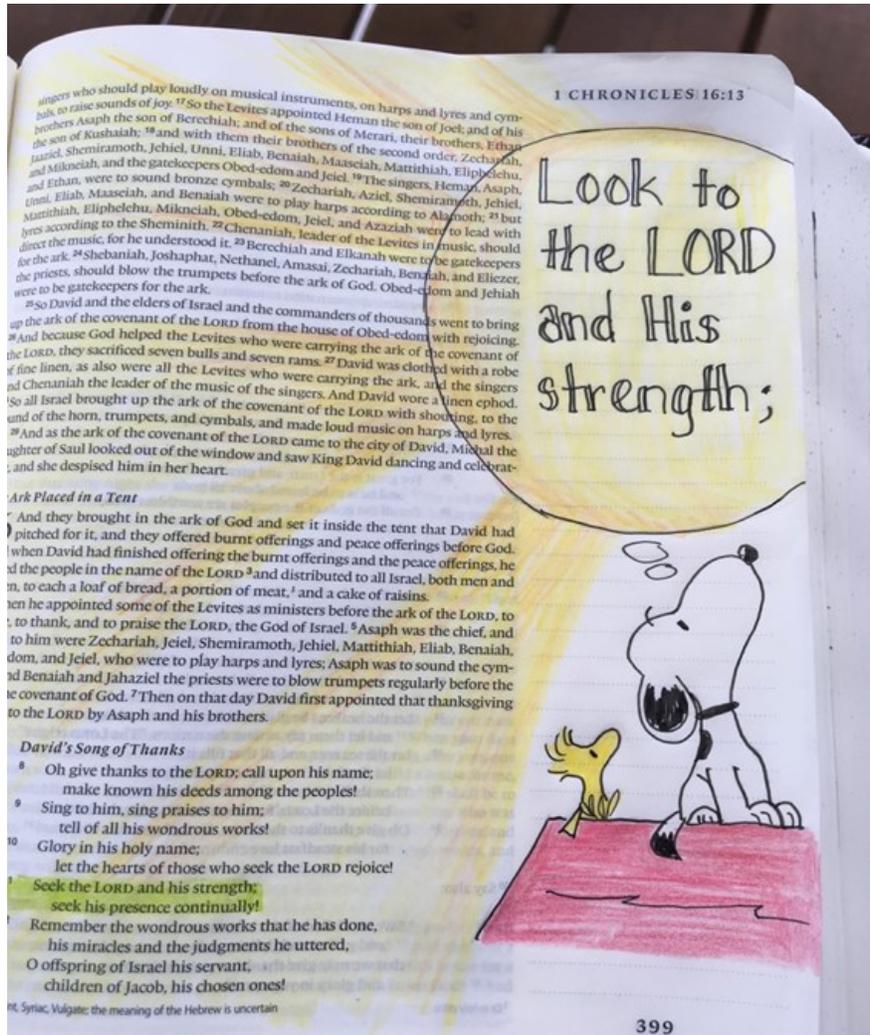
Reflections/Prayer

Thank you, God, for having a better plan that is so much more beautiful than any list I could ever write. You give me life, a future, and so much hope! Worthy is my Savior, Jesus Christ! Father God, thank you for knowing exactly what I need in this life. Help me surrender to you Lord, that I may know you better. Help me let go of the plans to fearlessly go where your spirit leads me. Amen.

Look Up!

“Seek the Lord and His Strength; seek His presence continually!” –1

Chronicles 16:11



Good day, precious Savior,

I praise your name and your presence in each minute of the day. Guide me Lord, to stop and slow down and see your presence all around me. I want to see you in the small and big things of my day. I want to see you in the easy and hard times of my day. Point my eyes to you!

In Your Name,

Amen

Reflections/Prayer

What are the Chances?

In April 2002, the well-respected Oxford University philosophy professor Richard Swineburne used a broadly accepted probability theory to defend the truth of Christ's resurrection. He did this at a high-profile gathering of philosophy professors at Yale University.

In a *New York Times* interview, Swineburne said, "For someone dead for 36 hours to come to life again is, according to the laws of nature, extremely improbable. But if there is a God of the traditional kind, natural laws only operate because he makes them operate." Swineburne used Bayes' Theorem to assign values to things like the probability that God is real, Jesus' behavior during his lifetime, and the quality of witness testimony after his death. Then he plugged the numbers into a probability formula and added everything up. The result: a 97 percent probability that the resurrection really happened.

For you and I dear friends, there does not exist a 3% improbability! We have witnessed the proof of the empty tomb in changed lives! We know He lives! We have experienced the truth of the resurrection!

Reflections/Prayer

You Are Not Alone

Nazarene preacher Bob Benson used to ask his convention audiences to squeeze together until they could put their arms around each other's shoulders. Then, he would ask them to bow their heads in prayer while squeezing each other's shoulders to get them in touch with each other's presence and the gifts of grace conveyed by the body of Christ. Next, the crowd was asked to believe that the hand squeezing their shoulders was truly the hand of God reaching out to them through the body of Christ and the voice of God saying, "Son/Daughter, you are not alone. You are together. Let us be together." Benson then asked the crowd to take some time and thank God for all that being a member of that particular body of Christ has meant to them over the years.

How many of us would have made it had it not been for the prayers of those who have allowed themselves to be the hand of God reaching out to us through the body of Christ? Think of one person in particular who has ministered to you in a special way, and, on the count of three, everyone say that name out loud in thanksgiving and praise to God for the gift of their ministry.

Now concentrate and meditate on the shoulder on which your hand is laid. This is the other side of being a part of Christ's body. Are your hands, Benson asked, really saying to your neighbor in the pew: "This hand will cook the meals while your husband is in the hospital"; "This hand will reach into its own pocket and freely share with you in your need"; "This hand will drive you where you need to go"?

Are you really willing for your hand to be the helping, healing, giving, suffering hand of God stretched out to a broken and bleeding world? If so, think of one person or family that needs your help right now. Covenant this moment to do something for them and on the count of three, speak their name as a sealing of your covenant.

Reflections/Prayer



Inside the Soul of a New Generation

Do you know,
Do you understand
That when you
Treat me with gentleness
It raises the question in my mind
That maybe he is gentle, too.
Maybe he isn't someone
Who laughs when I am hurt.

Do you know,
Do you understand
That when you listen to my questions
And you don't laugh,
I think, "What if Jesus is interested in me, too?"

Do you know
Do you understand
That when I hear you talk about arguments
And conflict and scars from your past
That I think, "Maybe I am just a regular person
Instead of a bad, no-good, little girl who deserves abuse."

If you care,
I think maybe he cares—
And then there's this flame of hope
That burns inside of me
And for a while
I am afraid to breathe
Because it might go out.

Do you know
Do you understand
That your words are his words?
Your face,
His face
To someone like me?

Please be who you say you are.
Please, god, don't let this be another trick.
Please let this be real.
Please.

Do you know
Do you understand
That you represent
Jesus to me?

--Tim Celek & Dieter Zander

Reflections/Prayer

Simply... “be still”

Don't worry about anything; instead, Pray about everything; tell GOD your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. –Philippians 4:6



Prayer is not a normal part of life of the natural man. The bible tells us in Luke that Jesus disciples say to him, Lord teach us to pray. Through study of God's word, I believe when I pray I'm placing myself in the presence of GOD. I'm struggling to accept the gift to be quiet and to rest in the presence of GOD. For Lent, I'm giving up chaos, keeping it simple, and learning to **“be still.”**

In what ways does God challenge you to “be still?”

Reflections/Prayer

Our Companion

Get up early. Have devotions. Prep for work. Walk the dog. Hop in the car and to work...second job... walk to the dog. Visit daughter. Help with grandkids. Get some exercise. Keep in touch with friends. Clean the house-declutter! Buy food, prepare food and clean up food. Get ready for the next day.

Life is full. Not a bad full---a very good full!---just full. A gift from God. Yet it keeps going....does your life share a similar routine?

When do we have time to stop the “crazy” and just get cozy with You, God? We have done much on the “checklist”—even a well-timed devotion... and add in some few extra, just to keep life interesting. As for me, being a single woman in this season, leaves me many wonderful opportunities and independent choices.

Yet there are times when we are lonely, Father. I hear often that is true for married and single alike. Times we wish for a companion who can give us all the time in the world. So often our first response is to call someone to fill the void, scroll Facebook or listen to You Tube, watch TV or eat, even using food as a friend. Yet, *You* are our Companion. Lord, help us to cuddle up with You! You alone want to hear our take on every detail of every day, our hearts joys and grief. You wait for us to come to you.

Lord, in this time of lent, help us to lay aside some special times to be intimate with You, to focus on You alone—to worship You-- not to get anything – except close to You and Your heart. You alone are worth it and we hunger for You!

Reflections/Prayer

Psalm 25

A Prayer for Guidance and Protection

To you, O Lord, I offer my prayer;
2 in you, my God, I trust.
Save me from the shame of defeat;
don't let my enemies gloat over me!
3 Defeat does not come to those who trust in you,
but to those who are quick to rebel against you.
4 Teach me your ways, O Lord;
make them known to me.
5 Teach me to live according to your truth,
for you are my God, who saves me.
I always trust in you.
6 Remember, O Lord, your kindness and constant
love
which you have shown from long ago.
7 Forgive the sins and errors of my youth.
In your constant love and goodness,
remember me, Lord!
8 Because the Lord is righteous and good,
he teaches sinners the path they should follow.
9 He leads the humble in the right way
and teaches them his will.
10 With faithfulness and love he leads
all who keep his covenant and obey his com-
mands.
11 Keep your promise, Lord, and forgive my sins,
for they are many.
12 Those who have reverence for the Lord
will learn from him the path they should follow.
13 They will always be prosperous,
and their children will possess the land.
14 The Lord is the friend of those who obey him
and he affirms his covenant with them.
15 I look to the Lord for help at all times,
and he rescues me from danger.
16 Turn to me, Lord, and be merciful to me,
because I am lonely and weak.
17 Relieve me of my worries
and save me from all my troubles.
18 Consider my distress and suffering
and forgive all my sins.
19 See how many enemies I have;
see how much they hate me.
20 Protect me and save me;
keep me from defeat.
I come to you for safety.
21 May my goodness and honesty preserve me,
because I trust in you.
22 From all their troubles, O God,
save your people Israel!

Reflections/Prayer

“Jesus Your love, it takes my breath away”



I know, “they” asked us to write about a Bible verse. And this isn’t a Bible verse. It’s a phrase from a song. But that is where God speaks to me most – through music. It is in worshiping God through music and song that it is most meaningful to me. It is where I feel like God speaks to me the most. Don’t get me wrong, music isn’t the only way He speaks to me. He speaks through His Word, prayer, other people, nature, silence, and any other way He chooses. But my heart, soul, and spirit are renewed and refreshed with music. It literally takes my breath away to sing about God’s love for me - about God sending his only son, Jesus to this earth to die for me, so that I am able to spend eternity with Him. And while singing songs that have already been written are wonderful, God asks us to sing Him a new song. Sing Him something we’ve never sung before. I once heard someone say, “What if you only expressed your love to your family through greeting cards? You only used other people’s words to express your love or gratitude.” Think about that. God doesn’t want us to only use other people’s words. He wants us to use our own. So whether that is through journaling, writing God a letter, or painting Him a picture, express your love for God in a way that takes His breath away.

Heavenly Father, I pray for all who will read these words. May they be changed by your Spirit to experience you in worship today in a way that they never have. Surprise them Lord! Amen

Reflections/Prayer



“But God”

Do you ever get so overwhelmed with daily life and stress and to-do lists that you forget to turn to God? Do you feel lonely? Do you feel weak and dry spiritually? Sometimes I think it's helpful to remember that God is so much bigger and greater than we are. He remembers. He cares. He loves. So next time you find yourself in this space, remember “but God.”



“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,...and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” —Ephesians 2:4 & 6

“But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.” —Genesis 8:1

“But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster.” —1 Kings 5:4

“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” —Psalm 72:26

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” —Romans 5:8

Reflections/Prayer

The Words you Long to Hear

“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.” —Ephesians 1:6

Growing up, I never felt loved or accepted. I never felt wanted or valued. To be honest, until recently those thoughts were on repeat in my mind.

Unlovable. Unwanted. Not worthy.

I thought I just had to work harder, do more, make others happy, stay busy, prove people from my past wrong by being what they considered a “supermom” or “successful.” But then God showed up in a big way. He reminded me of an important truth. Turns out, as his child, I was already loved. I was wanted. I was made worthy through the sacrifice of Jesus. I am accepted just as I am by the Creator of the Universe. Flaws and failures and all. Suddenly my self-worth isn’t dependent on other people. It is dependent on believing and trusting that I am who God says I am.

I still struggle, as I’m sure many of us do. But when I begin to have negative thoughts like those above, well, that’s when I recite my list back to myself.

I am a child of God.

I am an heir of the kingdom.

Jesus died on the cross for me.

I am accepted just as I am.

I am loved.

I am valuable.

I don’t have to prove myself anymore.

I AM WHO **GOD** SAYS I
AM

Hang On!

“And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.” —2 Corinthians 3:18

~

You have endured everything from inconvenience to hardship with every circumstance lending to the understanding of life, people and yourself. The lessons learned have been invaluable and ultimately have had the potential of making you stronger than you have ever been as you trust Me in all things. You are truly being transformed into My image, says the Lord.

'SMALL STRAWS IN A SOFT WIND' by MARSHA BURNS

Reflections/Prayer

Sit with Me

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” —
Romans 8:28

~

Do you ever find a swirl of chaos around you, pulling you in? Your thoughts and emotions all strung out, causing havoc and turmoil in your heart, soul, body and deeper in your spirit? Defeated by that co-worker's harshness - didn't get the job you hoped for - kids off on a prodigal wandering. . . Nothing is right and it's all too much! Even silence is so loud you can't think!

Then, this gently came to me:

"Set a watch over your mind and emotions so that you don't get carried away from truth and reality. You must be quiet enough to perceive and discern spiritually so that you know what I am doing and where I am taking you, says the Lord. That which the enemy has meant to be evil or harmful to you, I will turn to your benefit. Make every effort to get in the flow of My Spirit."

Reflections/Prayer

God's Whisper

“He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.”—Psalm 18:19

~

Keep your emotions in check and stand fearless in the face of adversity. Fear is the antithesis of faith and will interfere with your ability to trust Me, says the Lord. Know that I am for you and that I will give you the wisdom necessary to lead you out of your current quagmire. You will again stand on solid spiritual ground, says the Lord.



Faith > Fear

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Reflections/Prayer

Turn

Cast not away, therefore, your confidence, which hath great reward. For you have need of patience, that, after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise. —Hebrews 10:35-36

I want you to turn away from what you can do for Me. I want you to turn to the understanding that I Am! I know you think that you know what's best for you, and you fear surrendering to Me. You want to know and to understand, but, your rest comes from TRUSTING ME, even when you don't know or understand. I know that those in your past, who were supposed to be FOR you, have disappointed you, but I am not those people. I am Your Creator. Your Heavenly Father. I know you are tired of waiting and have grown weary in the process. I am calling you today to be careful for nothing, but to bring your requests to Me, to trust Me with them. As you give Me your requests, I will give you peace that passes understanding. I am asking you to believe that I know what is best for you. I am the Maker of miracles and I allow you to see them only when you realize that it is not you making them. For you are human and I am supernatural. Be still and know that I am God.

Reflections/Prayer

To the end...

But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you.—Romans 8:10-11

I bring you to the place at the end of yourself. The place where you don't know what to do. I bring you here and ask you to wait for a time. You remind Me of My caterpillars squirming before I wrap them in their silks. I feel your desire to flee and your overwhelming desire to JUST DO something, but I am asking you to be still. I want you to understand that you do not have the power to do what needs doing. You can't change these circumstances. I have called you to be still. Being still requires great faith. I ask you, here in your stillness, "have you placed your hope in Me?" Hope in Me is beyond what you can do and know and see. As you are waiting here there are things I have to teach you. One thing for you to learn- is that nothing in all creation can separate you from My love. Another thing- is that in your union with My Son, you will rise above all circumstances. Nothing can keep you down because there is no greater power than Jesus. In your waiting, you, just like My caterpillars, are being transformed. Do you believe Me for things greater than you can hear or see or that your mind can conceive? These greater things, are the things I have for you! God

Reflections/Prayer

Battlefield

It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written ‘Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.’—1 Cor 1:30-31

Rest, My weary warrior, for I stand on your behalf. I have fought and I have won. Look upon Me, coming from battle victorious. See the scars on My hands and the blood on my brow. I don't call you to war the same way I have fought, but I call you to be still and know that I am God. The battle is not yours. The work I have for you to do is to believe in Me. I want you to know that it isn't from your hand that My kingdom comes. You are human and I am supernatural. I will not give My glory to another. But I want you to see what I do on your behalf. When you know that it isn't you and humbly ask for My provision, then you will see My miracles. As long as you strive in your own strength, I will resist you, but when you realize that you can't do it then I give you My grace. My grace is sufficient. I am planting you to display My splendor. I will not in any way fail you, nor give you up, nor leave you without support. ~Jesus

Reflections/Prayer