



For the Moment Volume 2

The Binder Co. Devotionals October 2019

*Emily
Furda*

www.emilyfurda.com/thebinderco

Welcome to The Binder Co. Devotionals, a free, monthly, printable eBook for women of all ages who desire to grow deeper in God's Word on a daily basis.

About The Binder Co. Devotionals

Every aspect of The Binder Co. is run by volunteers. Once a month, we release a free printable eBook with daily devotionals, corresponding scriptures, and daily challenges to help you put your faith into action. These daily devotionals are free to read, download, and print. You can print each eBook and place it in a three ring binder or use an eReader. If you use a digital copy, be sure to have a journal or notebook handy. You can use them for yourself, your small group, friend group, or church group! You can access the free archives of eBooks at emilyfurda.com/thebinderco and in our Facebook Group.

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Write for us: Most months we accept submissions from guest writers. To learn how you can be a guest writer, visit our Facebook Group. You don't need to be a blogger or author to submit. It's open to any woman from teenagers and up.

A Note From the Director

When I was 11 years old, my worship dance teacher gave all of the dancers a small hot pink booklet of devotionals for Christmas. That was my first devotional, and I fell in love with studying God's word and learning how to apply it to my life. I've rarely been without a daily devotional since then.

The Binder Co. Devotionals (originally called Her Binder Project) was started in 2014 by Morgan Harper Nichols. It has grown more than anyone could imagine. You can learn more about Morgan at morganharpnichols.com

I started as a writer in 2016. This ministry and the women who read every day captured my heart. The more I became involved as a writer, editor, and project manager, the more it became a part of my heart.

In 2018, Morgan asked me if she could give me The Binder Co. Devotionals. I was speechless, which rarely happens. It was not an easy decision for either of us or one made lightly. My joy comes when I see women come alive as they study. I'm learning along with you. Today, thousands of women are joining this project each month, and I am so grateful for each one of you!

-Emily Furda Director, Editor In Chief emilyfurda.com instagram.com/emilyfurda

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This Month's Contributors

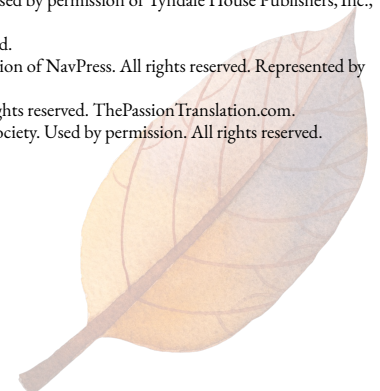
Heather Golden Horton: Writer
facebook.com/Horton_snapshots
instagram.com/heatherghorton
Twitter [@gidge1992](https://twitter.com/@gidge1992)
partnershiptasmania.wordpress.com

Diane Marie: Writer
instagram.com/crazymom2eight_dianemarie

Danielle Nicole: Writer
facebook.com/daniellenicolepeters
instagram.com/its.daniellenicole
herhopeisbuilt.wordpress.com

Christine Perry: Writer
instagram.com/thefearlessjourner
learningtobefearless.org

Emily Furda: Writer, Editor In Chief, Director
facebook.com/emilyfurda
instagram.com/emilyfurda
Twitter [@emilyfurda](https://twitter.com/@emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com



For the Moment Volume 2: The Binder Co. Devotionals October 2019

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Psalm 127:2
Memorize today's Scripture.

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Hebrews 4:10
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8
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Isaiah 30:21
How does knowing God will show you the right decisions to make change how you feel about making decisions? Journal your thoughts and memorize today's scripture.

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Matthew 11:28-29
Listen to "Burdens" by Jamie Kimmett. youtu.be/hpQrQCZ_Zwoo

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1 Thess 5:16-18
Is it possible to be honest about your pain and worship at the same time? Journal your thoughts, and listen to "Desert Song" by Natalie Grant. youtu.be/U8KkVmS_lqEg

13
James 1:17
Listen to "You're Here" by Nichole Nordeman. youtu.be/fkULb36K2sE Also, every day for the next week write down one one good thing that happened during the day. At the end of the week, journal about how it impacted you.

14
Psalm 46:5
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15
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Have you ever hoped for something to happen, but it didn't? Did you later see something good that came from it not happening or are you still waiting to see something good? Journal your thoughts.

16
1 John 1:9
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17
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What is the difference between complaining and going to God to let out your feelings? Journal your thoughts and write a prayer, letting God know what you're feeling today.

18
Isaiah 43:25
Listen to "Forgive + Forget" by Avalon. youtu.be/N11Cz6IR3rE

19
Exodus 14:14
Listen to "Fighting for Me" by Riley Clemons. youtu.be/in1uxSpvs_w0

20
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Memorize today's Scripture.

21
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22
Luke 23:39-43
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23
Romans 15:13
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24
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26
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27
Matthew 26:36-46
How does it help you to know Jesus asked God to spare Him from something painful? Journal your thoughts.

28
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29
Deuteronomy 32:10
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30
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31
Matthew 6:34
Memorize today's Scripture.



Give your entire attention to what
God is doing right now,
and don't get worked up about
what may or may not happen
tomorrow. God will help you deal
with whatever hard things come up
when the time comes.

Matthew 6:34

THE MESSAGE

Tuesday, October 1 2019

For the Moment You Need Faith
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Mark 9:20-27

What do you do when you're faced with hard moments in life?

We all face them, but just because it's a common experience, it doesn't mean they're any easier to go through. When we deal with things that push us to the brink, we need to hear from God for ourselves. Yes, God often uses others to encourage us, but there is nothing like hearing God speaking directly to our hearts. The only problem is, we often don't know where to look for God or how to hear from Him. When the moments are the most painful, God often feels the most distant.

Our theme verse for this month says:

Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes. Matthew 6:34 (The Message)

So, how do we keep our attention on what God is doing in the moment? How do we see God's loving presence instead of focusing on what seems like problems with no solution and pain without end? How will God help us? That's what we'll be talking about this month. We'll be looking at specific moments we face and how to find God in the middle of them.

Finding God in those moments takes faith we often don't feel like we have. We can't manufacture it or "fake it till we make it". It needs to be real. When our faith feels too small to believe Him, God has an answer for that. He will give us the faith we need to believe in Him.

In today's passage, we see a father who was desperate for Jesus to help his son. He admitted part of him believed Jesus could help, but also admitted he needed help to fully believe.

His mind and heart were at war, just like ours often are. His lack of faith didn't make Jesus turn away until he could get it right. Instead, Jesus answered the father, not with words, but with actions. Jesus performed a miracle.

God doesn't condemn us or wait for us to become holy enough to help us. He loves us enough to work in our lives even when our faith feels weak. It's safe to admit we don't have enough faith because Jesus is waiting with open arms to help us and give us the faith to believe in Him.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Give Me Faith" by Newsong. youtu.be/MxYX2O9hp8M

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
[emilyfurda.com](https://www.emilyfurda.com)



Wednesday, October 2 2019

For the Moment Life Feels Too Much
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Psalm 29:10-11

Do you ever feel as if life is too much, as if a flood of problems and responsibilities are coming at you? It can be overwhelming and it's easy to feel as if you'll be swept away.

Psalm 29:10 tells us: "The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever." NIV

When we're in the middle of a raging storm, sometimes all we can see is problems and God feels distant. It feels like hurricane force winds are swirling around us and as if the overwhelming flood of problems will never end. Even then, even when we feel as if we're overtaken, God sees us and knows us. Even though the flood waters may try to engulf us, God is greater than whatever situations we find ourselves in. His powerful peace is no match for any storm, no matter how strong and big it is.

Now is not the time to quit. Reach out to Him and let Him calm the storm inside you. He will find you, even in the hurricane of your soul.

Daily Challenge

Write today's scripture in your own words.

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Thursday, October 3 2019

For the Moment You Need to Ask for Help
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Matthew 25:31-46

Have you ever felt uncomfortable asking someone for something? It can even be awkward to ask someone for what she promised you or to give back something she borrowed. It can feel uncomfortable to ask for the simplest of things. It can be even more difficult to ask for something when you're not owed anything.

We all have times when we need something. It may be financial help, someone's skills in a certain area such as home repair, someone to help us when we're sick, or someone to listen and pray when we're hurting. We can become so focused on not wanting to be a bother that we forget the blessing someone receives when they give. We also take away one of her ways of worshipping God.

Today's reading tells us: The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40 NIV

Anytime someone gives a gift with the love of Christ, it's as if she is giving it directly to God. In the Old Testament, fragrant spices were burned as a sacrifice of worship to God. When others give from their hearts with the love of Christ, it's the same thing. God sees the sacrifice of money, time, and even invested emotions, and honors the sacrifice. It makes Him happy, and He can then honor the person who lovingly chose to give. It's okay to ask for help when you need it. By doing so, you create an opportunity for a beautiful act of worship.

Daily Challenge

Have you ever felt awkward asking for help? How does today's reading impact how you feel about asking for and giving help? Journal your thoughts?

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Friday, October 4 2019

For the Moment You Wonder if God Loves You
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Romans 8:31-39

Have you ever questioned if you were loved? Maybe you wondered if too much has happened you or if you were ever enough to be loved by God. Do you struggle to love yourself?

The truth is, we all have days when it feels like we can't be loved by God. We all have moments when we struggle to love ourselves, but Romans 8:38-39 tells us:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. NIV

God has always loved you, even when it hasn't seemed that way. He doesn't stop loving you because of what have gone through or what you have done. He doesn't stop loving you, even if you stop loving yourself. You are loved by God. You always have been, and you always will be.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "You Are Loved" by Heather Williams. youtu.be/hd7xRiqZxhk

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com



Saturday, October 5 2019

For the Moment You're Afraid God Won't Meet Your Needs
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read John 19:25-27

Did a moment stand out to you this week? What happened?
Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below..

Even in the middle of dying a horrific death on the cross, Jesus never stopped faithfully meeting the needs of others, especially the needs of His mother, Mary.

So when Jesus looked down and saw the disciple he loved standing with her, he said, "Mother, look—John will be a son to you." Then he said, "John, look—she will be a mother to you!" From that day on, John accepted Mary into his home as one of his own family. Matthew 19:26-27 TPT

It's believed that at some point before Jesus's crucifixion Joseph, Mary's husband, passed away, making her a widow. During that time, women had very little power and usually couldn't be self-sufficient. If a woman became a widow, her firstborn son was to care for her. If he passed away, the second born son would assume the role. Jesus was Mary's firstborn son, but Mary and Joseph had other sons. So, why did Jesus tell His disciple John, not one of His brothers, to take care for His mother?

Jesus saw not just Mary's physical needs but also her emotional and spiritual needs. Jesus's brothers didn't believe He was the Messiah (John 7:5). After His resurrection, Jesus's brothers did come to believe in Him, but Jesus knew Mary needed someone to care for her in that moment, as well as after He ascended into Heaven. John also gained a mother figure. Mary was someone who John could trust and confide in, especially when it came to his faith.

It may not have made sense in that moment why John was to assume the role of Mary's son, but Jesus had a good reason. If Jesus could see Mary and all of her needs in the middle of unimaginable physical, emotional, and spiritual pain, He can surely see all of our needs now. Sometimes, when Jesus provides for us, it doesn't make sense at first, but He will always faithfully provide for all of our needs, even the ones we don't know we have.

Daily Challenge

Have you or a friend ever had a need or want you didn't know you had until God met it for you? Journal about it and how it impacts how you view the future.

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com



Sunday, October 6 2019

For the Moment You Feel You Should be Productive
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Psalm 127:2

When we're stressed out and already getting little rest, the last thing we want is one more reminder of what someone thinks we should do. How often do you hear someone say, "I hope you have a productive day" and want to curl up and cry or scream? Phrases like that are often said innocently, but usually, they just make us feel inadequate and add to our guilt-ridden anxiety. They cause us to forget what God says about work and rest:

God provides for His own. It is pointless to get up early, work hard, and go to bed late Anxiously laboring for food to eat; for God provides for those He loves, even while they are sleeping. Psalm 127:2 VOICE

If our work is anxious labor, it's not what God wants. When anxiety takes over, that's not a sign to work harder or stay up later. It's usually a sign that we're trying to make things happen on our own and not relying of the love God has for us.

Often, the pressure we feel is because we think we have to accomplish something either because of the lies we tell ourselves or the words others speak to us. We forget, that rest is accomplishing something. It restores us mentally, physically, and spiritually. God created us to need rest.

You have permission to lay down the pressure that says you must accomplish something. You have permission to rest.

Daily Challenge

Memorize today's Scripture.

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Monday, October 7 2019

For the Moment You Need to Rest
Devotional written by Christine Perry
Read Hebrews 4:10

According to Oxford Dictionary, rest is defined as:

1. Cease work or movement in order to relax, sleep, or recover strength.
2. Allow to be inactive in order to regain strength or health. *

Life is busy and short at the same time. Because of this, people often say, "I'll sleep (or rest) when I'm dead." But God asks His children to rest now. In fact, He thought rest was so important that He even set an example for us during creation.

... so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Genesis 2:2 NIV

Rest doesn't always look the way we think it will look. For Moses, it was time in the desert. For John the Baptist it was the Wilderness. For Jesus, it was time alone away from people. For Mary, it was sitting at Jesus' feet.

It can be so easy to fall into the trap of the rat race. But, in rushing, we may delay the healing or preparation God wants to do in our lives. One firm NO can be more pleasing to God than ten YESSES.

Take time to rest. Resting might look like reading a book, drawing, or spending time journaling. It might look like a walk in the morning or saying no to things that are pulling you away from the quiet you need to hear God. Whatever it may be take the time to rest. You won't regret it.

Daily Challenge

What is restful or refreshing for you? Do you find it hard to rest? Journal your thoughts and set aside time to do something restful this month.

Written by Christine Perry
[instagram.com/thefearlesssojourner](https://www.instagram.com/thefearlesssojourner)
learningtobefearless.org

*Oxford Dictionary:
<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/rest>

Tuesday, October 8 2019

For the Moment You're Tempted to Sin
Devotional Written by Emily Furda
Read Hebrews 4:14-16

What is your first reaction when you're tempted to sin or have already sinned? Do you struggle on your own, or go to God for help?

So often we think of God as someone who is a strict rule enforcer just waiting to punish us or banish us from His presence. We know He is perfect and holy, so we often think He can't possibly understand how hard it isn't to struggle with temptation. That couldn't be farther from the truth.

When Jesus walked this earth, He was sinless, but He was also tempted in every way possible. Pause and think about this for a moment. When you're tempted to gossip about the friend who hurt you, remember Jesus was tempted to gossip. When you're tempted to unleash your anger on someone, Jesus knows what that feels like. When you're struggling with the temptation of alcohol, drugs, sexual sin, or anything else, remember Jesus was tempted too. He's not condemning you. He sympathizes with you.

Jesus led a sinless life, but that doesn't mean it was easy. He also lived as fully human and fully God for about 33 years before His death and resurrection. He chose to experience the struggles you're faced with every day because He loves you. When you find yourself tempted to sin, you can ask God for help without any fear of condemnation.

If you find you have sinned, and we all do, still go to Him. Ask for His forgiveness. You can go to Him with boldness and confidence at any time knowing He loves you. He knows you're human and can't do this alone.

Daily Challenge

How does it impact you when you realize Jesus was tempted to sin? How does it impact how you feel about asking Him for help to not sin? Journal your thoughts.

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com



Wednesday, October 9 2019

For the Moment You Need Confidence
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Psalm 20:7

Do ever wish you had more confidence? Even if you're pretty sure of yourself and comfortable with who you are, there is likely at least one area where you don't feel so sure. When confidence is shaken, it's easy to feel unworthy and anything but marvelous.

We do all kinds of things to give ourselves more confidence. We make playlists to bolster our mood, obsess over our makeup, spend hours choosing the right outfit, and give ourselves a pep talk while looking in the mirror.

Today's verse shows us the only way we will have lasting confidence. It's by trusting in God. Real, unshakable confidence is a gift from God.

So, instead of doing something trying to find confidence, let yourself find rest in God's arms. Talk to Him and listen. The King of the world created you and loves you. Let His love, power, and faithfulness be where your confidence is found.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Confident" by Steffany Gretzinger and Bobby Strand. youtu.be/G3qGssYNdkU

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
[emilyfurda.com](https://www.emilyfurda.com)

Thursday, October 10 2019

For the Moment You're Making Decisions
Devotional written by Christine Perry
Read Isaiah 30:21

According to Eva M. Krockow Ph.D., the average adult makes approximately 35,000 conscious decisions a day.* Some decisions are when to turn right at a stoplight and take a quick look of the eyes. Other decisions take more than a quick look, but an attentive ear.

Decisions about which one of your passions to pursue, or which friendships to cut back on, or what job to take or to stay at, these decisions take quietness and an attitude of submission. God is faithful. If you make room for the silence and take time to rest in Him, He will guide you with a still, small voice saying:

"This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 30:21 NIV

Don't rush to make decisions. God is in control of your future.

"God is never unprepared. Your past does not surprise Him. Your present does not worry Him. Your future is not a mystery to Him." -Diana Chandler

God is faithful. He's got you covered and your future covered!

Daily Challenge

How does knowing God will show you the right decisions to make change how you feel about making decisions? Journal your thoughts and memorize today's scripture.

Written by Christine Perry
[instagram.com/thefearlessojourner](https://www.instagram.com/thefearlessojourner)
[learningtobefearless.org](https://www.learningtobefearless.org)

*www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/stretching-theory/201809/how-many-decisions-do-we-make-each-day%3fam

Friday, October 11 2019

For the Moment You're Worried
Devotional written by Diane Marie
Read Matthew 11:28-29

Worry. It's part of life. We worry about little things, like whether we are having a good hair day or if we'll gain another pound if we eat that second brownie, and we worry about big things, like will we ever find the right man to marry or will our chronically sick child ever get better. It can seem like we will never find that perfect peace we are supposed to have as followers of Christ.

The Bible is filled with verses that tell us not to worry. When we worry, it means that we are not fully trusting in the Lord. We might say that we have given our worries over to the Lord, but as soon as we do, it often seems like the fear of the unknown creeps back in almost immediately. How do we find that peace?

Look at Matthew 11:29-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." NIV

Jesus says, "Come to me." It's difficult, yet so simple. Take your burdens to Christ. Take them again and again if you need to. Jesus says, "Take my yoke." A yoke is something used by a farmer to guide an animal. When we take Jesus' yoke, we allow Him to guide us. He knows best where we need to go, both in the natural and in the spiritual. Jesus says, "Learn from me." Don't just mentally take your burdens and dump them in front of Him. Take the time to sit at His feet and learn. Read, study, and pray. Spend time with Him!

We are human, and we likely will find ourselves worrying over and over again as we navigate this life. If we can learn to go to Jesus, let him guide us, and learn from Him, we will find that we truly can know peace.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Burdens" by Jamie Kimmett.
youtu.be/hpQrQCZZwo0

Written by Diane Marie
[instagram.com/crazymom2eight_dianemarie](https://www.instagram.com/crazymom2eight_dianemarie)



Saturday, October 12 2019

For the Moment You Don't Want to be Thankful
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Did a moment stand out to you this week? What happened?
Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.

Have you ever felt like you just couldn't be thankful for what you're going through? Does God really ask us to give thanks for all things, or does He ask something different from us?

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
NIV

Read those verses carefully. It says to give thanks in all circumstance. Oftentimes we misquote this scripture saying we should give thanks for all the circumstances we find ourselves in. One small word can make a huge difference. God is not asking us to be thankful for overwhelming pain. He's asking us to worship Him even though we're in the middle of it.

In all things? In the moment your child dies? In the moment your body is ravaged by illness? In the moment there are more bills than money and there is no job? In the moment when you're abandoned by the person you love? In the moment you're petrified to go to school because you're bullied?

Yes, in all those things.

Sometimes we feel like doing the exact opposite. That's okay. Today's verse also tells us to pray continually, and that means letting God know everything in our hearts, even the pain. A deep relationship with God can only come when we're deeply honest with God about our pain. We can question why it hurts so much, we can be angry at God, we can admit it's hard to give thanks about anything or worship, and we can still find something good in the middle of it all at the same time. Giving thanks can look like worship with tears streaming down our faces with raw emotions. Pain and worship can coexist, in fact, they're often meant to.

Worshipping and giving thanks, especially when we don't want to, changes us. We're reminded we're not alone. We know even when we're angry at God, He is still with us. He is still all powerful and loving, even when we don't understand why things happen. We don't worship God because He wants perfect little servants who profess forced adoration for Him. We worship God because it brings us into His arms where hope and healing for our hurting hearts is found.

Daily Challenge

Is it possible to be honest about your pain and worship at the same time? Journal your thoughts, and listen to "Desert Song" by Natalie Grant. [/youtu.be/U8KkVmSlqEq](https://youtu.be/U8KkVmSlqEq)

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com



Sunday, October 13 2019

For the Moment God Seems Nowhere to be Found

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read James 1:17

Have you ever had a day that seemed horrible and Jesus seemed far away? What if God is showing you His love for you, but you just can't quite see it? If Jesus isn't physically standing there next to you, how can you see Him?

Today's reading tells us every good gift is from God. It's easy to think of the big things as gifts from God, like a job, healing, or getting into the college we wanted. While those are good gifts, we often miss the little ways God is speaking to us every day. We miss A Jesus Moment.

When something makes us smile, that's something good. When we see a beautiful sunrise, hear our favorite song, enjoy our favorite cup of coffee, hear an encouraging word from a friend, or receive some kindness from a stranger, that is God speaking to us. That is a moment where Jesus is giving us something good to remind us He sees us and loves us.

The next time you find yourself thinking the day is completely horrible and Jesus is nowhere to be found, ask yourself if there was one good thing that happened during the day. It may seem silly or small, but if it made you smile, then it was a gift from God for you.

When we see Jesus in the small moments, we realize He's much closer than we think.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "You're Here" by Nichole Nordeman. youtu.be/fkULb36K2sE Also, every day for the next week write down one one good thing that happened during the day. At the end of the week, journal about how it impacted you.

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Monday, October 14 2019

For the Moment the Night Never Seems to End

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Psalm 46:5

Sometimes it seems as if the darkness will never end. It can feel as if you're in the middle of a moonless, starless night with dawn nowhere in sight. In those moments, trusting God can feel impossible. It can even make you wonder if God sees you or make you question if he cares about you.

Today's Scripture is a promise to hold on to no matter how dark it is or how long the darkness lasts:

God is within her, she will not fall: God will help her at break of day. Psalm 46:5 NIV

When it's nighttime, the sun hasn't stopped giving light, it just can't be seen at that moment. Some nights stretch on when you're paralyzed with fear or so overwhelmed all you can do is cry, but just like the sun never stops giving light, God never stops loving you and holding you. Even when you can't see Him, God sees you and is faithfully loving you.

God knows what is weighing on your heart. Is it health, finances, relationships, or something else? Pour out your heart to God and ask Him to show you the love He has for you and to help you. God will hear you, and He will answer you. No matter how shaky you feel, God promises you will not fall

Daily Challenge

Write today's Scripture in your own words, making it personal, and place it where you'll see it when you need a reminder that God will not let you fall.

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Tuesday, October 15 2019

For the Moment What You Hoped for Doesn't Happen

Devotional written by Christine Perry
Read Psalm 84:11

Have you ever prayed so hard for something only to hear crickets? Have you ever hoped beyond hope for something that didn't turn out as you planned? Maybe it was for a relationship to blossom into a marriage. Maybe it was a job interview you prayed would turn into a permanent job. Maybe it was healing of a much-desired baby.

Today's verse says, "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly." NKJV

This is a hard verse to read especially, when you thought what you wanted was good. It's also hard to understand this verse when you can't see good in your situation. What do you do then? What do you do when you don't see how your hopeless situation could be good?

When you find yourself here, try to think in a different perspective. Remember that God's time frame is not our time frame. The good you so long to see in your life may not come, but God promises that if it's His good for you, He won't withhold it. Sometimes, the good means heartbreak because in the long run, He's going to use that. It's such a hard concept to understand, but if we understood everything God did and everything God is, He would not be God.

This week, try and remember that sometimes the good we long to see may not be in this moment, but years down the road or even into eternity. Also know there is no good God withholds from those who walk uprightly. That is the hope we can hold onto.

Daily Challenge

Have you ever hoped for something to happen, but it didn't? Did you later see something good that came from it not happening or are you still waiting to see something good? Journal your thoughts.

Written by Christine Perry
[instagram.com/thefearlessojourner](https://www.instagram.com/thefearlessojourner)
learningtobefearless.org



Wednesday, October 16 2019

For the Moment You Can't See Your Worth
Devotional written by Danielle Nicole
Read 1 John 1:9

When we desire to see our worth, we must search for it in the right place. We could try to find it in our appearances, our success, or in what others think of us, but these things will never sustain. They will not lead us to where our true beauty is from and will quickly let us down. To find our true beauty and worth, we must look to our creator and what He says about us.

Our worth and value doesn't come from how we look but from God and who He created us to be. His love and grace for us is enough on its own to give us value. It doesn't matter what we have done in the past, or what we will do in the future, because He has already paid the price.

We need to realize, Christ gave His life for us, so we could be free from sin. He loved us so much, He made a way for us. This gives us and value and worth. It makes it possible for us to see the beauty within us which He created. He purifies us and all our unrighteousness, so we are no longer covered in ugly sin but wrapped in His grace and mercy.

We can know, even when all our eyes want to see in us is mistakes and failures, there is more to us because of Christ and what He has done. He's made it possible for us to see the beautiful creation we truly are.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Through Your Eyes" by Britt Nicole.
youtu.be/WJzaQP1GmEc

Written by Danielle Nicole
[instagram.com/its.daniellenicole](https://www.instagram.com/its.daniellenicole)
herhopeisbuilt.wordpress.com

Thursday, October 17 2019

For the Moment You Want to Complain
Devotional written by Diane Marie
Read Psalm 9

Sometimes life gets hard. Really hard. We know we need to take our burdens to the Lord, and we have every intention of taking our troubles to Him, but sometimes our prayers take a very negative turn. We find ourselves whining and complaining to God about everything that's wrong and questioning His ways. We find ourselves pleading Him to makes things right in our own way and in our own timing, instead of waiting on His.

When we read the Psalms, we can take heart that we are not alone. David, the one who was called a man after God's own heart, had a tendency to do this too. Yes, even David, the one who killed Goliath, the one who led armies, and was the king of Israel. He was a man after God's own heart, but sometimes his life was hard. Really hard. Sometimes his prayers took a negative turn.

So, what did David do when he found himself in this situation? He reminded himself to put his hope in God! He chose to take his eyes off the situation and praise Him. When we find ourselves feeling downcast, we can do the same. When we choose to have hope and choose to praise God, we will find that suddenly we can face our trials, trusting that God will deal with them in His way, and in His timing, and that will give us peace.

Daily Challenge

What is the difference between complaining and going to God to let out your feelings? Journal your thoughts and write a prayer, letting God know what you're feeling today.

Written by Diane Marie
[instagram.com/crazymom2eight_dianemarie](https://www.instagram.com/crazymom2eight_dianemarie)

Friday, October 18 2019

For the Moment You Need Forgiveness From God
Devotional written by Diane Marie
Read Isaiah 43:25

Being a Christian is not about being perfect; it's about being forgiven. Our God is faithful to forgive, and thankfully, there is nothing we can do to change that.

As we walk with God, we find that we often stumble. We struggle and we sin, allowing ourselves to be polluted by the world. We feel broken, dirty, and unworthy. How can God forgive us, again? Yet, Isaiah 43:25 assures us He is faithful to forgive us. He doesn't hide our sin or cover it up; He removes every last trace of it as though it never was, and He then forgets it! All we need to do is confess our sin, and He is faithful to make us clean.

Our God is faithful. He can be trusted. Nothing you have done will cause Him to forsake you. Take a moment to examine yourself and confess your sins. Then, thank Him for his everlasting faithfulness.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Forgive + Forget" by Avalon.
youtu.be/N11Cz6IR3rE

Written by Diane Marie
[instagram.com/crazymom2eight_dianemarie](https://www.instagram.com/crazymom2eight_dianemarie)



Saturday, October 19 2019

For the Moment You Can't Fight Anymore
Devotional written by Danielle Nicole
Read Exodus 14:14

Did a moment stand out to you this week? What happened?
Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.

Have you ever been in a time when you felt too weak to fight, or maybe you felt like you were all alone in this war? Well, this is when you need to hold on to God's promises for your life. No matter what the fight is, God promises if we will be still, He will fight for us.

When in a fight, there might be many different options of what you could do. You could try and figure things out by yourself and go your own way or you could look to God for help. The world can promise many things, many different ways you can get to the other side of your problems, but these things will lead you farther from God. When you open up His word and read the His promises for you, there you will find the answers and guidance for the season you are walking through.

God promises He will fight for you, if you will be still. To be still, means to trust Him with your situation. It means to have peace, knowing He is in control. Though it can be a challenge to be still when the world around you is moving in this way and that, when you hold to His promises for you, that is when you we can find rest in this crazy life.

The world's promises will always fail, but God's promises have never failed and never will fail. So, even if you are fighting the hardest fight of your life, you can trust if you hold to God and follow His instructions, you will be victorious over every trial.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Fighting for Me" by Riley Clemons. youtu.be/in1uxSpvsw0

Written by Danielle Nicole
[instagram.com/its.daniellenicole](https://www.instagram.com/its.daniellenicole)
herhopeisbuilt.wordpress.com



Sunday, October 20 2019

For the Moment God's Calling on You Feels Daunting
Devotional written by Heather Golden Horton
Read Acts 1:8

Pursuing God's call to share our faith with the world around us can often feel daunting, like repetitively hitting a brick wall. Whether we have family members or friends who are do not share our belief in God or we have been called to specific area or people group to share the truth of Jesus's gift of salvation, the work can burden our hearts with a heaviness. We may feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task, feel inadequate, or fear rejection from those we love most. Occasionally, we might imagine that God has placed the weight of the entire world's salvation upon our shaky backs.

Rather than feeling powerless, we can choose to breathe in God's truth instead of dwelling on the feelings that are crushing us. We can be certain that we have the same power of the Holy Spirit that God used to empower the Early Church long ago. It was never God's plan for us to be wearied by the response of others to His gospel. God's plan has always been to empower us as witnesses to what we have seen and heard to those in our path who, like us, need Him.

As we look ahead and ask God to open opportunities for us to be His witnesses, we can be assured of His power. We can allow this power to guide our prayer life for those who have not recognized Him as their Lord. We can allow this power to strengthen us when we are feeling uneasy about God's call. Seeing this truth from God's Word can transform us from feeling the weariness about sharing our faith to prayerful, powerful people who can share and leave the results to God.

Daily Challenge

Memorize today's Scripture.

Written by Heather Golden Horton
[instagram.com/heatherghorton](https://www.instagram.com/heatherghorton)
partnershiptasmania.wordpress.com

Monday, October 21 2019

For the Moment You Feel Burdened by Expectations
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Micah 6:8

Sometimes, life leaves us feeling weary. Expectations from family, friends, coworkers, and teachers can be overwhelming. Then, we add our own expectations we place on ourselves. We want to be thinner, curvier, have better hair, finally learn how to contour our makeup, work harder, be more successful, serve more, eat better, exercise more, finish the 837 Pinterest projects we've started... The list could go on forever. In fact, it often does. It plays on endless repeat in our heads like a bad song we want to forget the lyrics to but can't.

Then we add what we think is the hardest of all: the expectations we think God places on us. What exactly are those expectations? Can you name them? What does God want from you? This is what He wants:

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 NIV

Live justly.
Love mercy.
Walk humbly with God.

Three things. How does that compare to the list of things you play over and over in your mind? It simplifies them doesn't it? We didn't even have to make a fancy Pinterest worthy bulletin board to sort it out!

Those expectations you've laid on yourself and others have laid on you, it's time to lay them down at the feet of Jesus. Let Him give you freedom from every false expectation. Stand up tall without their crushing weight. Remember you are a daughter of the King of Kings. You are enough.

Daily Challenge

How does today's reading impact you when you think of the expectations on you? Journal your thoughts. Also, memorize today's Scripture and/or write it in your own words.

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Tuesday, October 22 2019

For the Moment You Think It's Too Late to be Forgiven
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Luke 23:39-43

Have you ever felt as if you didn't deserve hope and forgiveness, as if you're just another person who messed up, or a stranger to God?

When Jesus was crucified on the cross, He was innocent, yet died a horrific death along with two other men who were sentenced to death for crimes they committed. While Jesus was dying the most painful and humiliating of deaths, it became a public spectacle. The crowd mocked Him, and the Roman soldiers enjoyed His torment. Then, one of the two criminals who was being crucified next to Jesus used his last breaths to insult Jesus.

In the middle of his own pain and torture, with his last breaths, the other man spoke up. He realized he deserved to die. He also realized Jesus was innocent. He took his last breaths to first defend Jesus. Then, he asked one thing: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Luke 23:42 NIV

Isn't that a prayer we all have at times? We know we've sinned, but we desperately hope Jesus won't forget us.

In the middle of the unfathomable agony and public humiliation, Jesus said: "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43 NIV

The man on that cross was no stranger to Jesus, and neither are you. He didn't just remember the man; He forgave Him so he could have eternal life. The next time you're tempted to think you're a stranger to God because of your sin, keep in mind the man on that cross. All he wanted was to be remembered, something we all long for, but Jesus gave him so much more. He gave him forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus wants to give the same to you. You are remembered, and it's never too late for you to be forgiven by God.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Never too Late" by Kutless.
youtu.be/UyMzq_9518M

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com



Wednesday, October 23 2019

For the Moment You Feel Disappointed
Devotional written by Heather Golden Horton
Read Romans 15:13

Disappointment is not something that often creeps quietly into our lives. It most often pops up forcefully and slaps our resolve unexpectedly when our harsh reality is not what our heart had envisioned. Disappointing situations may leave in their wake weary, hopeless hearts. Our tired hearts can feel too jaded to reach with any hope to dream again. We may feel weighted down by thoughts of powerlessness or loss of control.

Amidst swirling disappointments, we can be thankful that we intimately know the God who gives hope and power. Our God is able to fill us with beautiful things like joy and peace in the face of weariness and discouragement. Our setbacks and obstacles are no match for our huge God. We can call on His name in honest prayer and trust that He can empower us to face the bleakest disappointment. Choosing to park our minds on His promises found in the Bible can help hope slowly returns to our lives. Connecting to God, the source of our power, is key to moving through these trying days. His Word is vital in moving our hearts along a journey from weary hopelessness to a place of renewed resolve and vision.

We can choose to hope in Him, being confident that He cares for our fragile hearts. We are seen. We are known. We have One who walks with us, carrying all the necessities for this road. We are never powerless in our soul grief or empty dreams. He is traveling with us through disappointing seasons, bringing an abundance of joy, peace, and hope.

Daily Challenge

How does God help you in a personal way to hope when you're overwhelmed with disappointment. Journal your thoughts and write a prayer, telling God how you feel today.

Written by Heather Golden Horton
[instagram.com/heatherghorton](https://www.instagram.com/heatherghorton)
partnershiptasmania.wordpress.com

Thursday, October 24 2019

For the Moment You're Waiting for the Future
Devotional written by Christine Perry
Read Mark 14:8-9

Have you ever been waiting for God to answer? Maybe it's for something you believe He's called you to or a relationship. What do you do when you've been waiting years for it to come to pass?

This is a very hard place to be. It's a place where you have to live surrendered. It's a place where you have to keep telling yourself, "This is something I cannot control, and I cannot make anything happen." As humans we want to make things happen, but when it comes to a calling — we do our part and God has to do the rest.

So, what do we do in the meantime? We do what the woman in Mark 14 did. We pour out what we have in service and worship to Jesus. We cannot control our circumstances, but we can control how we choose to live while waiting for those promises to be fulfilled.

Imagine when we get to heaven, through faith in Jesus Christ, and Jesus says to us, "You did what you could. What you have done will be spoken of in your memory." Just because we haven't received all God has promised yet doesn't mean we can't be building a legacy now.

So, while you are waiting, remember God's faithfulness and see how you can serve. Sometimes, when we serve others, we are reminded of God's faithfulness through the ones we are serving.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Legacy" by Sanctus Real.
youtu.be/xwFrwm1-lwI

Written by Christine Perry
[instagram.com/thefearlessojourner](https://www.instagram.com/thefearlessojourner)
learningtobefearless.org

Friday, October 25 2019

For the Moment You Want to Push God Away
Devotional written by Christine Perry
Read 1 Corinthians 1:9

Have you found yourself wishing God wasn't faithful? For instance, think of a time when you found yourself as a prodigal or you found yourself hurt by life's circumstances. Have you ever tried to distance yourself from God? Because You knew you'd have to face the "hard thing" in your life that you've been avoiding.

Have you ever wondered why God kept pursuing you? Maybe it was through people or maybe through favor. Yet, all you wanted was space, or to sit in self-pity. God is faithful even when we are not. He is loving even when we are not. He is kind even when we are not. God is who He says He is. He will not and does not change— no matter what. If you're in a mountaintop season, God's thoughts towards you are the same as in your valley season.

God often wants to do more with our lives than we want to. He allows hard seasons to shape us and then, through those lessons, He uses us, even if we didn't want those seasons to begin with.

God is faithful because God is faithful. He cannot and will not change. So, instead of running or pushing Him away, turn back to Him and let Him mold you and make you into something new, even if you still don't understand. That is where faith comes in.

Daily Challenge

Have you ever tried to push God away? What happened and did you eventually run to Him or are you still trying to push Him away? Journal your thoughts.

Written by Christine Perry
[instagram.com/thefearlessojourner](https://www.instagram.com/thefearlessojourner)
learningtobefearless.org



Saturday, October 26 2019

For the Moment Everything is Falling Apart
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Colossians 1:15-17

Did a moment stand out to you this week? What happened?
Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.

Do you ever feel as if you just can't hold it together anymore? You grasp for any kind of stability, but everything you do comes up short. Even if one area seems to be going well, you look over your shoulder and see ten other areas where you have zero control. The truth is, you can't control anything, and that is good news because God promises to hold all things together.

You can take off the weight of trying to control circumstances because it was never meant for you to carry in the first place. God created this world and is more than capable of caring for everything and everyone in it, including you. God is so much better at being in control than you could ever be.

We don't always understand why difficult things happen, especially when we're doing what we know God has called us to do, but God sees the beginning, the ending, and everything in between. It can be hard to trust, but when we let our chaotic present and uncertain future in the hands of our all-loving God, we can find peace. Rest knowing you're not in control, and that's a good thing. Your loving Heavenly Father promises to hold all things together, including you.

Daily Challenge

What does the phrase "God holds all things together" mean to you? Journal your thoughts and listen to "You Hold it All Together" by All Sons & Daughters. youtu.be/PkalShCfEi8

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com



Sunday, October 27 2019

For the Moment It's Hard to be Faithful
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Matthew 26:36-46

We often forget Jesus had a human body when He walked this earth which meant He could feel unfathomable physical and emotional pain. When we know something painful may come, we often ask God if there is some other way His will can be accomplished. Jesus did the same thing.

The night before Jesus was crucified, He knew it would happen the next day. Jesus knew exactly what it would feel like, and He didn't want to do it. He didn't just pray once asking God if it was possible for God for things to change, He asked three times. Jesus wanted to escape the torture He would endure. Jesus lived a sinless life, so, that means it wasn't a sin to not want to do something or to ask God if it was possible to for it to be done another way, a way that didn't mean He would have to suffer a humiliating and horrific death.

When God didn't change the circumstances, Jesus chose to faithfully lay down His will for the will of His father, God. Jesus knew He would experience unfathomable physical pain as well as emotional pain unlike anyone had ever felt before or since. Being faithful didn't mean it wouldn't be painful, but He willingly chose to suffer beyond our comprehension.

Just like Jesus, we don't want to go through something painful. When we hope and pray, begging to not have to endure something painful, it's not a sin and it doesn't mean we don't want to be faithful. It means we're human.

Jesus knows what it feels like to experience great pain while remaining faithful to God. He is here to help us as every step of the way, even when we don't want to go through the pain.

Daily Challenge

How does it help you to know Jesus asked God to spare Him from something painful? Journal your thoughts.

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
[emilyfurda.com](https://www.emilyfurda.com)

Monday, October 28 2019

For the Moment You Feel Pressured to Change
Devotional written by Danielle Nicole
Read Proverbs 16:3

Sometimes you may put a lot of pressure on yourself to change things and set new goals. The fear of not being able to become a better person might begin to weigh heavy on your heart, and it can be easy lose sight of your worth. You might become overwhelmed by all the goals you feel you need to set, and when you aren't able to meet them, you put yourself down.

Desiring to become a better version of yourself and establishing new goals is a wonderful thing, but you can't let the pressure of accomplishing these things break you down. You can give this to God, you can lay it all down at His feet, and find freedom from all this stress.

Another thing to remember, just because others are starting new goals, it doesn't mean you have to as well. You know what is best for yourself, and it isn't the best time for this. Pray about it. If you really do feel led to try something new, God will help you.

Though it can be hard to lay these things down, especially when you're so surrounded by the doubt of failing, it's the best way to find success in this situation. God knows what you need to be able to do all the things the future will have to offer; you just need to surrender it to Him.

Daily Challenge

What would you say to a friend who is trying to change or might be tempted to change in the future because she feels pressured to do so, instead of growing and changing in God's timing? What kind of advice or loving words would you share? Write a letter to yourself, as if you were giving that advice to a friend.

Written by Danielle Nicole
[instagram.com/its.daniellenicole](https://www.instagram.com/its.daniellenicole)
herhopeisbuilt.wordpress.com

Tuesday, October 29 2019

For the Moment You Need Protected
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Deuteronomy 32:10

The term "apple of my eye" is often used as a term of endearment, meaning someone loves you so much that you're the only person he can focus on. Have you ever wondered where that phrase came from? No matter long you stare into the mirror, shine a flashlight, and pull at your eyelids, you'll never see an apple in the middle of you eye. Instead of seeing a Red Delicious apple, you'll end up with a red and swollen eye. (It's something a curious but misguided five-year-old may have done.)

It turns out the apple of your eye refers to the pupil, the most sensitive part of your eye. Our eyes are so precious that God gave us reflexes to automatically protect them. Think about how quickly blink your eyes if something is flying towards your face. It happens fast and without you thinking about it. Your eyes are so precious that even a speck of dust is guarded against.

In Deuteronomy 32:10 it says: "He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye." NIV

God guards you with even greater care than our bodies guard our eyes. He knows you're fragile yet extremely important. He also knows on your own you're defenseless, and you need protected. He cares for you in so many ways you don't even realize. God is omnipresent, capable of being everywhere at all times. His love for you is great, and His sight is set always set on you. He is always there for you, in the blink of an eye.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Your Love Defends Me" by Hannah Kerr. youtu.be/X58UYv1ZdRc

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
[emilyfurda.com](https://www.emilyfurda.com)



Wednesday, October 30 2019

For the Moment You Need Peace
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read John 4:10-15

When Jesus met the woman at the well in John 4 she had one thing on her mind. She needed water to meet her physical needs. Jesus offered her His spiritual living water so she'd never thirst again, but she still had her eyes on her physical circumstances. She wanted to never have to come to that well and carry a heavy water jar ever again. She had yet to see the bigger picture.

Even though we have the benefit of knowing what Jesus meant when He said He has "living water," just like that woman, we still tend to focus only on our desire or need right in front of us when we go to Jesus.

Yes, we do have physical things we should pray for, but do we really trust God will take care of us no matter what happens? What happens when we pray, and situations don't change? Maybe the prayer is for a relationship to be mended, but it never is. Maybe it's a struggle with a chronic illness. You know God can heal, but He hasn't.

God does want us to come to Him and ask for Him to change circumstances, but what if we also asked Him to change us? What if we asked Him to give us peace no matter what happens?

We don't always understand why God doesn't fix things this side of heaven. When our focus is on our circumstances, our emotions are tossed around based on what does or doesn't happen. but today's verse tells us:

Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. Psalm 34:15 NIV

It is possible to feel at peace no matter what happens, but we have to be intentional about asking God for His peace. Even in the middle of the unthinkable, it is the living water of God's peace that will sustain us.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "More Than Anything" by Natalie Grant. youtu.be/unG_kIy9IY

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Thursday, October 31 2019

For the Moment You're not Prepared For
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Matthew 6:34

We face many unpredictable moments throughout our lives. This month, we've touched on just a few of those. What about the unpredictable moments, the moments we're unprepared for?

We often try to be ready for anything. Some preparation is wise, like taking a warm jacket in the morning when the forecast says it will get colder by evening. Other times, we can be obsessive. We become so afraid of what might go wrong that we forget to live life. Even when we try to live in the moment, we sometimes find ourselves suddenly facing something we don't know how to handle. It can leave us in shock and unable to even think clearly.

At the beginning of the month, we talked about God giving us faith. That includes faith to trust Him for the moments that have yet to happen. The second half of our theme verse tells us:

...God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.
Matthew 6:34 (The Message)

Let go of the worry about what could happen tomorrow, next month, or next year. God will help you through whatever happens, whenever it happens. His help is always there For The Moment, no matter what it is.

Daily Challenge

Memorize today's Scripture.

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Did a moment stand out to you this week?
What happened?
Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.

