



Emily
Furda

Daily Grace Devotionals January 2020

Hope
That Does Not Disappoint

emilyfurda.com/dailygracedevotionals



Hope That Does Not Disappoint- Daily Grace Devotionals January 2020

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.
Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV*

Welcome to Daily Grace Devotionals

We are women committed to growing in our Christian faith by the grace of God. Too often we become caught up in routine and our time with God is reduced to a checkmark on a list of daily activities. When we spend time with Him, we feel good about ourselves. When we don't, we're riddled with crippling shame and guilt. We strive for a perfect attendance record instead of life-giving moments with our loving God. It is our mission to change that, which is why we are called Daily Grace Devotionals.

Lay aside your striving for perfection and replace it with grace. Yes, God longs to spend time with you every day because He loves you. He also knows you're human and will have days when you don't spend time alone with Him. If you miss a day, God isn't waiting to punish you. He's a gentle, loving father welcoming you with open arms. Whether you're someone who never misses a day, you've missed months or years, or are brand new, you are welcome here.

A Note from the Director

When I was 11 years old, my worship dance teacher gave us all a small, hot pink booklet of devotionals for Christmas. That was my first devotional, and I've rarely been without a daily devotional since then.

Daily Grace Devotionals (formerly Her Binder Project and The Binder Co.) was started in 2014 by Morgan Harper Nichols to help her and others grow in their Christian faith. I started as a writer in 2016, and the more involved I became, the more this ministry and the women who read became a part of my heart. In 2018, Morgan gave this ministry to me. It is dear to both of our hearts. My joy comes when I see women come alive as they grow. Today, thousands of women from all over the world are studying together and growing in faith by the grace of God.

-Emily Furda

If you have any questions, contact me at emily@emilyfurda.com

How to Use Daily Grace Devotionals

These eBooks are designed for individual or group study for women of all ages. You can print view them in PDF format on your computer or mobile device. Each day has a daily Scripture, a short devotional, and a daily challenge to help you put into action what you've learned. Every month also includes several "Grace Days" without any scripture, devotional, or challenge, designed for you to use as you need; to catch up if you're behind, review, or to study our monthly topic more in depth on your own.

More Ways to Connect

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Use the hashtag [#DailyGraceDevotionals](https://twitter.com/DailyGraceDevos) on social media and we might feature your post on one of our pages.

If you're interested in writing for Daily Grace Devotionals as a guest writer, please visit our Facebook Group for information.

For More Downloads visit our website [emilyfurda.com/dailygracedevotionals](https://www.emilyfurda.com/dailygracedevotionals)

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Hope That Does Not Disappoint- Daily Grace Devotionals January 2020

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
Romans 5:5 NET

5
1 John 4:16
Listen to "Love You Swore" by John Mark McMillan.
youtu.be/wb5zXroj864

6
Grace Day

7
Mark 14:3-9
Listen to "Faithful" by Ryan Stevenson featuring Amy Grant.
youtu.be/VhCb094cGO4

8
Galatians 6:4-6
Make a list of at least 10 ways you've changed or things you've overcome in your life. How does this affect how you see yourself? Journal your thoughts.

9
Isaiah 62:1-4
Listen to "You Redeem" by Aaron Shust.
youtu.be/boV5ER7O90o

10
Grace Day

11
Isaiah 43:18-19
How would your hope be strengthened if you celebrated the small changes in your life? Journal your thoughts, encourage someone else who is trying to make a change in her life.

12
1 Kings 19:1-8
Listen to "Find Rest" by Francesca Battistelli.
youtu.be/tVvgug14jOg
Also, set aside some time this week to let God refresh and restore you..

13
Genesis 45
When you read Joseph's story, what stands out to you, and how does it help you hope? Journal your thoughts.

14
Exodus 14:14
Listen to "Be Still" by Seth & Nirva.
youtu.be/xLKkwmFicyE

15
Grace Day

16
Psalms 42
When you feel hopeless, do you tend to search for why you feel hopeless, or do you tend to ignore the reason behind it? Journal your thoughts.

17
Hebrews 6:19-20
Listen to "Anchor" by Colton Dixon.
youtu.be/V0v2ewdh4Hs

18
Hebrews 6:19-20
How does the meaning behind this verse impact your view of Jesus as your anchor? Journal your thoughts and write out today's scripture in your own words.

19
Grace Day

20
Matthew 24:1-14
Do you speak love but show hate with your actions? Journal your thoughts and share genuine love this week. Think about what others need, not what you want to give

21
Romans 15:13
Listen to "I Look to You" by Joel Vaughn.
youtu.be/c0AvebPfnpA

22
Psalms 18:1-6
Spend time today worshiping God. in a way that is meaningful for you.

23
Isaiah 26:3
How does praying for and focusing on God's promise of peace instead of specific outcomes lead to peace and hope? Journal your thoughts and write today's Scripture in your own words.

24
Psalms 84:11
Listen to "Thy Will" by Hillary Scott & The Scott Family.
youtu.be/Dp4WC_YZAuW

25
Grace Day

26
Luke 2:22-33
How does Simeon's story affect your ability to hope for something that may seem crazy to others? Journal your thoughts.

27
Job 42:2
Listen to "We've Got This Hope" by Ellie Holcomb.
youtu.be/OnuC_zEuqo0

28
Hebrews 10:19-23
Are you angry or questioning God? Journal your thoughts, being completely honest. Then, pray over them, asking God what He wants you to hear from Him.

29
Grace Day

30
1 Corinthians 13:12
What does it mean to you to pray in light of eternity? Journal your thoughts and listen to "Face 2 Face" by Mandisa.
youtu.be/Wpf1R7xHES

31
Isaiah 43:1-2
How has your view of hope changed this month? Journal your thoughts, and listen to "I Have This Hope" by Tenth Avenue North.
youtu.be/eBq9jHQTE44

Hope That Does Not Disappoint- Daily Grace Devotionals January 2020

Wednesday, January 1 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Romans 5:3-5

Have you ever been afraid to hope? Maybe you're at a point now where a situation, or even your life as a whole, feels hopeless.

We all experience hopelessness at one time or another. When we look at everything we and those around us go through, losing hope is a natural reaction. When life is difficult beyond comprehension, without real, concrete hope, we have no reason to keep going. Sometimes, we do try to hope in something, anything, but we still come up empty. The overwhelming disappointment can make us wall off our hearts and determine to never get our hopes up ever again.

What if there was hope, real hope, a hope that would never let you down or disappoint you? This is what today's scripture says:

Not only this, but we also rejoice in sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance, character, and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:3-5 NET

Notice, it doesn't say to rejoice because we are suffering. It shows us we can rejoice *even* when we suffer. This life will be painful, but God promises us we can have real hope that will never disappoint us. It's not hope based in circumstances or outcomes we want. It's hope God gives to us through His love.

This month, we'll be learning about this hope, real hope, and why hope from God will never disappoint us. Do you believe that kind of hope exists? No matter where you find yourself today, will you take a chance on God's love for you and the hope He offers you?

Daily Challenge

Write out this month's theme Scripture and place it where you'll see it often.

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Thursday, January 2 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Numbers 23:19

There is a fundamental question we all have at some point in our lives, but we're often afraid to admit it: How do we know it's safe to put hope in God?

We've all had even the most well-meaning people disappoint us and break our trust. When all we have to go on is our experiences with others, it's hard to imagine God being any different, but God is not a human. Today's scripture is a promise. It tells us how God is different from humans who let us down or lie to us because He's incapable of lying. When God says we can trust Him and put our hope in Him, He means it

Trusting God isn't something that comes simply because we're told to. It's through experience. It's one thing to be told you can trust. It's another thing entirely to know for yourself you can trust. God knows we're prone to compare Him and His trustworthiness to the experiences we have with flawed human beings. Even Jesus talked about it:

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! Matthew 7:11 NIV

The trustworthiness of the best human you know is nothing compared to how trustworthy God is. Maybe you've never had an example of someone who is trustworthy. God understands that, and it breaks His heart. He is patient and loving. He doesn't condemn you when you struggle to trust Him. Trusting God so you can put your hope in Him doesn't happen all at once. It is a lifelong journey that happens one experience at a time.

Daily Challenge

Do you have any doubts about God's trustworthiness? Why, or what are they? Have you ever experienced or seen something that shows you God might be trustworthy? Journal your thoughts. Remember, it's safe to be completely honest. God will not punish you.

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Friday, January 3 2020

Devotional written by Danielle Nicole
Read Jeremiah 29:11

Do you worry about the future or if God really has a plan for your life? It can be easy to look at our situations with doubt in mind, thinking "Maybe God doesn't know what He is doing, or maybe He doesn't have a plan for me." We can't see the future, and we can't see what tomorrow looks like, but He has given us this hope that will never fade.

When we look to the future, a lot of things pop into our minds, like dreams, desires, and plans. Without hope, do any of these things really matter? We can't dream without some hope in the picture. We also often worry about what is to come, and in our anxieties, we can't find peace without the hope of knowing God is here.

When seeking hope for the future, we often look in the wrong places. We might look for our situations, our jobs, school, and even for people to change. If we desire hope then, we must look to God, for all else will fail us.

Hope doesn't just mean to wait and desire, but also to trust. We know God has a plan for our lives and for what is up ahead. We must learn to trust He is in control of our dreams, our worries, and our plans. There's nothing that is out of His reach.

God promises He has a plan for our lives, one to prosper not to harm. Our hope for the future is built on this promise. It's built on these words. We have this assurance in Jesus, that no matter what we go through, no matter what tomorrow looks like, He already knows we will be okay, and there is no reason to fear.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Dreams I Dream for You" by Avalon.
youtu.be/8-w_Car6634

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Saturday, January 4 2020

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 and hope 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?

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 yolk." 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, but 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.

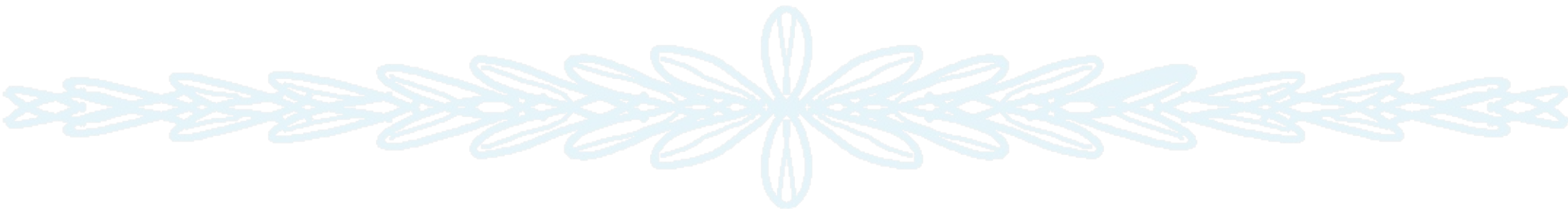
Daily Challenge

What does it mean to you to truly leave your burdens with Jesus? How do you do it?

Journal your thoughts.

Written by Diane Marie

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Sunday, January 5 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read 1 John 4:16

When storms rage intensely in our lives, it's sometime hard to know what to do. We know we're supposed to put out hope in God, but what does that mean? How do we actually do it?

Today's scripture tells us "we know and rely on the love God has for us," NIV What does it look like to rely on God's love?

Think for a moment about what it's like to be afraid of a thunderstorm as a child. A few claps of thunder wake her up, but then, it doesn't stop. As the storm gets more intense, do does her fear. She runs to her parents or someone she feels safe with for comfort and safety. She doesn't even think about it. She simply runs to find comfort because she knows they love her. She relies on their love. They can't make the loud storm stop, but she knows she's safe in their arms.

It's the same for us. When a storm suddenly shakes us or when one won't end, it's a natural response to be scared. Our circumstances may not change, but we can feel safe and secure even when the thunder is deafening. We can run to God and ask Him to comfort us. He can use scripture, music, a friend, an encouraging message, something we see on social media, or even just a quiet stillness in our hearts. He promises we can rely on His love.

If you're scared today, don't wait another second. Run to the one who can calm your every fear no matter what storm is raging around you.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Love You Swore" by John Mark McMillan.
youtu.be/wb5zXroj864

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Monday, January 6 2020

Grace Day

Today is a Grace Day designed for you to use in whatever way you need.

Are you behind when it comes to this month's schedule? Then, you can use today to catch up. Is there something you want to spend more time on? Feel free to reread a previous day or skim through multiple days. Consider going back and making up your own challenge for a day. If it was to listen to music, try journaling or memorizing the Scripture. If you'd like, use today to learn more about grace on your own. A concordance or online searchable Bible or Bible app is perfect for this. Even take today and study something completely different.

Whatever you do, remember, God isn't looking for your performance or testing how much you know. He simply wants to spend time with you, speaking to your heart and showing you His love and grace.

Tuesday, January 7 2020

Devotional written by Christine Perry
Read Mark 14:3-9

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 hoping and waiting for 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 and hoping 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 "Faithful" by Ryan Stevenson featuring Amy Grant. youtu.be/VhCb094cGO4

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Wednesday, January 8 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Galatians 6:4-6

When you look at what your friends and family members are accomplishing, do you feel weighed down? They look like they're succeeding, but you feel you feel insignificant. You want to succeed, but instead you feel like you're on a merry-go-round just going in circles. Sometimes, it feels as if you should just give up hoping you can ever be successful.

You were created with a purpose only you can fulfill. While it's good to have others who can inspire you, don't let their lives become your measuring stick for your success. Trying to have success in the same way or timing as others means you'll have to carry the weight of their unique purpose. If you try to carry it, you'll be weighed down, and your heart will feel heavy. That's when it's the easiest to lose hope. The same is true for others. No one can fulfill your purpose. The weight is too much.

True success isn't something that can be measured by outward accomplishments alone. Accomplishing anything requires many hidden moments that may seem insignificant at the time. Sometimes growth takes place in your heart long before others can see it.

Think for a minute about who you are and who you used to be. Are you more loving or more giving? Are you dealing with something in your personal life that requires you to overcome unique challenges? Be proud of your progress. You're succeeding and don't even realize it. If you're in a phase that outwardly looks like a merry-go-round, go easy on yourself before you get dizzy. Celebrate who you are. Let the reminder of the change in your life revive the hope inside of you. Savor the sweet victory of the changes no one but you and God can see.

Daily Challenge

Make a list of at least 10 ways you've changed or things you've overcome in your life. How does this affect how you see yourself? Journal your thoughts.

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Thursday, January 9 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Isaiah 62:1-4

Sometimes you can't figure out how to keep going. Something happens leaving you feeling desolate and shattered, taking all of your hope with it. Many times, difficult situations you face aren't your fault. A friend you shared your biggest secrets with betrayed you. The guy you thought you would marry ended the relationship. The person you helped study got accepted to your dream school while you're scrambling to find a backup plan. You had all the qualifications but didn't get the job. You took care of your body but ended up with a serious illness. These situations and others like them are enough to shatter anyone. Now, you don't know how to pick up the pieces.

Remember 2 things when you feel as if your life has come crashing down.

1. God delights in you. In Isaiah 62:4 the NIV translation says God will give you a new name: "Hephzibah" instead of Deserter. Hephzibah means "My delight is in her." God hasn't forgotten you. He delights in you.

2. He wants to heal your shattered heart. In the NIV translation, that same verse says He will call you "Beulah" or "married." That doesn't necessarily mean a marriage to the man of your dreams. He says your land, or your life, will be married, put back together into one whole piece. He will put together all the shattered pieces of your life, so you are whole and complete.

You can't do it alone. No matter how long you've been down or how low you feel, it's never too late to let God pick you up. When you're tempted to give up hope, let God delight over you and put the pieces of your life back together, it won't look like you imagined. It will be better than your wildest dreams.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "You Redeem" by Aaron Shust.
youtu.be/boV5ER7O90o

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Friday, January 10 2020

Grace Day

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Whatever you do, remember, God isn't looking for your performance or testing how much you know. He simply wants to spend time with you, speaking to your heart and showing you His love and grace.

Hope That Does Not Disappoint- Daily Grace Devotionals January 2020

Saturday, January 11 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda

Read Isaiah 43:18-19

When we want to make change in our lives, it has to start with the hope that change is possible. Sometimes, even thinking about change is overwhelming because all we see is the big goal in front of us. It's often hard to see anything but the milestones we set. We hope to be sober for the first 30 days but forget 3,600 seconds is an accomplishment. We long to graduate but forget one completed assignment is an important step.

Change doesn't happen all at once, and sometimes there may be setbacks, but those don't have to be failures that end your journey. Overcoming an addiction may mean needing to start over again, but this time, you're doing it with the knowledge of that you have gone farther in the past and the wisdom you gained by learning what to or what not to do. If you don't graduate when you want to, or if you take a different path all together, it doesn't mean you failed. It means you're taking what you've learned, both about what you've studied and about yourself, and applying it in a different way.

What if instead of focusing on goals and big milestones, you focus on the change God makes in your heart? What if instead of striving for something in the distance, you celebrate the small, but huge, steps you're taking? Why not count the seconds you've been sober instead of the days or weeks? Why not see how the psychology class you took helped you understand those around you better instead of seeing the lack of a career?

What would happen if we did that for ourselves and if we did it for others? Would our hope for a loved one to overcome something hard be more hopeful if we celebrated small changes? Sometimes, we're too stuck in the middle to see the changes that have taken place and we need others to help us see it. How about instead of waiting for a friend to reach a 6-month sobriety milestone, you celebrate day 16? Instead of waiting until the end of a semester to celebrate your hard work, why not celebrate attending class during a busy week?

There is hope for you to make it through this journey even if it takes you through what seems like a barren wasteland. God promises to make even the most desolate places ones where life is found. He sees the new things happening in your life. Do you? Your hope will grow when you let God show you what has changed instead of focusing on how far you need to go.

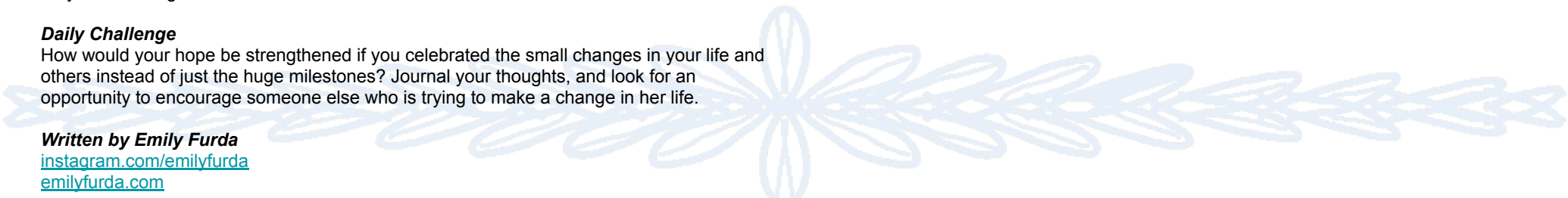
Daily Challenge

How would your hope be strengthened if you celebrated the small changes in your life and others instead of just the huge milestones? Journal your thoughts, and look for an opportunity to encourage someone else who is trying to make a change in her life.

Written by Emily Furda

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Hope That Does Not Disappoint- Daily Grace Devotionals January 2020

Sunday, January 12 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read 1 Kings 19:1-8

Have you ever achieved something you worked hard for and then felt overwhelmed? Maybe it was a tight deadline for work, renovating your home, finally breaking a bad habit, or the end of a semester of school. It doesn't seem to make sense because achieving your goal should make you happy, but while you're celebrating, you realize the rest of life doesn't stop. You still have battles to fight. You're emotionally and physically exhausted. Hopelessness can set in when it seems as if life is just a series of battles. That is something the prophet Elijah knew well.

In today's scripture, we see after Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal (that seems like a pretty big victory), Jezebel decided she wanted his life. Winning one battle was enough, but having his life threatened again was too much for him. In that moment, God didn't remind Elijah of his successes. Instead, in verse 7 He told Elijah "the journey is too much for you." NIV Then, He gave Elijah the physical rest and nourishment he needed.

We often underestimate the toll a personal battle has on our minds and bodies. When we're tired and under stress, our emotions often get the better of us. It's easy to feel hopeless, even when we've just accomplished something amazing. Giving up may seem like the only option, but God knows our frailties just like He knew Elijah's. In the end, the journey God had for Elijah wasn't too much. It was just too much for that moment. He needed to eat and sleep before he could continue. Is your journey too much, or is it just too much right now? God sees you and wants to give you exactly what you need to accomplish all the plans He has for your life. Let Him refresh you, and you'll see your hope restored.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Find Rest" by Francesca Battistelli. youtu.be/tVvgug14jOg Also, set aside some time this week to let God refresh and restore you. Take a nap, go for a walk, listen to some good music, read a book for fun, color, or anything that makes you feel refreshed.

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Monday, January 13 2020

Devotional written by Diane Marie
Read Genesis 45

Sometimes, we find ourselves in a place where our faith is weak. Things look so hopeless that we can't even imagine a positive outcome. God seems unreachable and far away. We can't seem to send our prayers past the ceiling, if we can even pray at all. How do we place the situation in God's hands and simply trust Him?

Joseph was a man who trusted God. In Genesis 37, we read how Joseph was hated by his brothers because he was favored by his father. His brothers were so jealous that they threw him into a well and left him for dead. Later, they pulled him out only to sell him as a slave to traveling merchants. Many times, Joseph was in what seemed like a hopeless situation, but God was always with him. Finally, through a remarkable set of circumstances, he was able to save his family from the famine that plagued their land.

How did Joseph keep his faith during all these trials? He kept his eyes on what God could do through him. Consider how he responded to his brothers.

And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. Genesis 45:5 NIV

He saw the bigger picture. We can learn a lot about faith from Joseph. We can also look back on our own lives and see the good that has come from what we considered dire situations. Remembering God's faithfulness to others and in our own lives, we can confidently put our faith in Him and renew our hope even in our darkest moments.

He is always with you!

Daily Challenge

When you read Joseph's story, what stands out to you, and how does it help you hope? Journal your thoughts.

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

Tuesday, January 14 2020

Devotional written by Danielle Nicole
Read Exodus 14:14

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 you will be still, He will faithfully fight for you.

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

God faithfully promises He will fight for us, if we 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 we hold to His promises for us, we can find rest in this crazy life.

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

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Be Still" by Seth & Nirva. youtu.be/xLKkwmFicyE

Written by Danielle Nicole
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Hope That Does Not Disappoint- Daily Grace Devotionals January 2020

Wednesday, January 15 2020

Grace Day

Today is a Grace Day designed for you to use in whatever way you need.

Are you behind when it comes to this month's schedule? Then, you can use today to catch up. Is there something you want to spend more time on? Feel free to reread a previous day or skim through multiple days. Consider going back and making up your own challenge for a day. If it was to listen to music, try journaling or memorizing the Scripture. If you'd like, use today to learn more about grace on your own. A concordance or online searchable Bible or Bible app is perfect for this. Even take today and study something completely different.

Whatever you do, remember, God isn't looking for your performance or testing how much you know. He simply wants to spend time with you, speaking to your heart and showing you His love and grace.

Thursday, January 16 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda

Read Psalm 42

Have you ever been in a place where you've felt hopeless, and you couldn't move past it? Maybe you're there now. You pray and worship, but still it drags on. Nothing seems to lift the cloud in your soul. You can even begin to wonder if something is wrong with you as a Christian because you can't seem to find hope.

In today's reading, before the psalmist tells himself to put his hope in God, he asks himself why he feels so distraught. He takes time to examine his heart and mind. It's a crucial step we often don't take. So many times, when we feel a pervasive hopelessness we don't even know why because we skip right over this. Sometimes, it's intentional. We want a solution without facing the problem. Other times, we brush aside what we think we should be handling without painful emotions, not realizing we're supposed to feel.

When we take time to think and journal or talk with a friend or counselor about what we're going through, things become clear. We often don't realize we're in the middle something huge that would threaten anyone's ability to hope because we're used to it and are living in survival mode. It may be something from our past. Other times, we're holding onto a belief that holds us back. When we know why we feel hopeless, we can address it. It may take some journaling, prayer, some self-care time, support from friends, or even counseling with a licensed counselor to help us understand why we feel the way we do. Once we know why we feel the way we do, we can bring our pain to God and let Him heal our hearts. Sometimes, it's a process that takes a while, and that's okay. Hoping in Him becomes much easier when we no longer have some mysterious "why" hanging over us because we've faced it and given it to the One who can heal it.

Daily Challenge

When you feel hopeless, do you tend to search for why you feel hopeless, or do you tend to ignore the reason behind it? Journal your thoughts and about past situations or one you're currently facing.

Written by Emily Furda

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Friday, January 17 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda

Read Hebrews 6:19-20

Hope is something we all need, but at times it's hard to find. When storms in life crash against us like waves in the ocean that threaten to destroy a boat, it can be tempting to grab the nearest life preserver and try to outswim the storm, hoping to make it safely to shore.

What if there was something more reliable than clinging to a life preserver while trying to outswim the storm?

Today's scripture tells us hope is like an anchor for our souls. When a ship lowers its anchor, it's done for safety. The captain of that ship knows the ship can safely ride out the wind and waves, no matter how dark it seems, because the hope for the safety of the ship isn't in wishful thinking or feeble attempts. It's in the security of an anchor tethered to the ocean floor. The waves will still crash, but in the middle of the storm, the ship and everyone on it, will be safe.

When the captain puts his hope in the anchor, he can't see where it lands, but he knows it's dependable. He knows staying tethered in place may seem scary, but it's the safest place to be because of what is holding the boat in place.

When we put our hope in what we can see and what we can do, it may feel safer, but just like a life preserver in a hurricane, it's not reliable. When we place our hope in Jesus, we can't see what He's doing beneath the surface, but we can trust that He will never let us sink.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Anchor" by Colton Dixon.

youtu.be/V0v2ewdh4Hs

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Hope That Does Not Disappoint- Daily Grace Devotionals January 2020

Saturday, January 18 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda

Read Hebrews 6:19-20

Yesterday, we talked about what it means to have hope as secure as an anchor. Today, we're going to dive a little deeper into the significance of how Jesus is described in these verses and why it is so important.

During Biblical times, the Spirit of God resided in the Holy of Holies in the temple. It was separated by an elaborate veil, or curtain and could only be accessed once a year by the High Priest on the Day of Atonement. It was when the sins of the Jewish people were forgiven as a sacrifice was made by the High Priest of Israel. If anyone other than the High Priest dared to enter the Holy of Holies, they would immediately die.

In today's Scripture, Jesus is called a priest in the order of Melchizedek. God told Moses to ordain Aaron, who was from the tribe of Levi, and his descendants as priests. Jesus's earthly father was a descendent of Judah, not Levi. So, how can Jesus be our High Priest if he wasn't a descendent of Levi?

The answer goes back to Melchizedek. In Genesis 14:18-20, long before God gave the Old Testament law to Moses, we read about a brief encounter with him. After Abraham, who is considered the father of the Jewish people, rescued his nephew, Lot, Melchizedek came to bless him. He was the king of Salem, and it's important to know the meaning of Melchizedek's name and the meaning of Salem.

Melchizedek's name is derived from two Hebrew root words: melek and tsedeq (Strong's 4442). Melek means king (Strong's 4428), and tsedeq means rightness or righteousness (Strong's 6664). Salem means peaceful (Strong's 8004). When it's all put together, Melchizedek's name means King of righteousness who is from peace. Jesus is the only one who is completely righteous, and He became our sacrifice to make peace between us and God. So, it makes complete sense for Him to be an earthly descendent of a man who known as a king of righteousness from peace.

The Levitical priesthood wasn't meant to last forever, but Jesus wasn't a Levitical priest. After He became the ultimate, final sacrifice for our sins, there was no need for an earthly high priest. This verse tells us Jesus wasn't a priest who would one day be obsolete. He is our priest forever because He made the presence of God accessible to us all when He gave us His Holy Spirit. The moment He died on the cross, the curtain separating the Holy of Holies in the temple was ripped in two from top to bottom. No human could've done it. God was showing us all that His presence was no longer restricted to one man. Jesus is both our sacrifice for sin and our high priest who ripped away the curtain standing us and God. Jesus is our hope that can never be taken away. His presence is for every one of us.

Daily Challenge

How does your view of Jesus as your anchor of hope change when you learn the meaning behind this verse? Journal your thoughts and write out today's scripture in your own words.

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For further background reading, see Genesis 14, Exodus 29, Leviticus 16, Matthew 27:50-51

Hope That Does Not Disappoint- Daily Grace Devotionals January 2020

Sunday, January 19 2020

Grace Day

Today is a Grace Day designed for you to use in whatever way you need.

Are you behind when it comes to this month's schedule? Then, you can use today to catch up. Is there something you want to spend more time on? Feel free to reread a previous day or skim through multiple days. Consider going back and making up your own challenge for a day. If it was to listen to music, try journaling or memorizing the Scripture. If you'd like, use today to learn more about grace on your own. A concordance or online searchable Bible or Bible app is perfect for this. Even take today and study something completely different.

Whatever you do, remember, God isn't looking for your performance or testing how much you know. He simply wants to spend time with you, speaking to your heart and showing you His love and grace.

Monday, January 20 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Matthew 24:1-14

When we look at the world around us, hope can seem like a lost cause. Hatred, war, racism, poverty, and natural disasters are everywhere you look. People even commit evil acts while claiming it's in the name of Jesus. In today's Scripture, Jesus told us all of these horrible things would happen before He returns bringing with Him eternal peace. So, how do we hold on to hope?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said it well: "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

We do have to accept that this side of heaven we will face disappointments. Accepting that is hard, but it's necessary. This world will always have evil, but we know the hope we have isn't in this world or what we can see. It is eternal and from Jesus. In today's Scripture Jesus said this:

and because lawlessness will increase so much, the love of many will grow cold. But the person who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole inhabited earth as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.
Matthew 24:12-14 NET

Just because others become cold and refuse to show love doesn't mean we have to. Part of enduring until the end means we continue to share the love of Jesus. We can bring hope even in the face of hopelessness. We can't do that with only words. People are looking at our actions. Will we be women who speak about love, share inspiring quotes and memes but show hate by our actions? Will we be women who rise up and share the gospel of Jesus's love one act at a time?
What will you do?

Daily Challenge

Do you speak about love but show hate with your actions? Journal your thoughts. Also, share genuine love this week. Hold the door for someone. Check on a friend. Pick up someone's trash. Clear the snow off of someone's driveway. Compliment someone to their manager. Think about what they need not what you want to give.

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Tuesday, January 21 2020

Devotional written by Danielle Nicole
Read Romans 15:13

When we feel hopeless, we can run to a lot of different things, but only one will satisfy our souls. When we put our hope in God, we are surrendering our control and having complete faith and confidence in God. We are putting aside our plans for our lives and choosing to find real peace. Hope allows us to trust Him with all of who we are, leaning on Him to take care of our futures, fears, worries, and dreams.

Having hope may sound easier said than done, but in Romans 15:13 it says: "so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." NIV

It isn't through us, other people, or things, but the power of the Holy Spirit where we find hope. Hope was created by God, so to find it, we have to look to Him.

God gives us joy and peace when we are trusting Him because He wants us to be filled with hope. He is showing us that when we put our trust into Him, we have true joy within us and a peace that surpasses all understanding. This shows us we can put our hope in Him, because He is surely capable of taking care of us, even in the trusting process.

Storms of life come, and darkness falls over us, but through Jesus, we have hope. Uncertainty can seem to overtake us, but there is real peace when we seek Him. Our hope is based on the power of the Holy Spirit, so no matter what we may be facing, the Holy Spirit will carry us through.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "I Look to You" by Joel Vaughn.
youtu.be/c0AvebPfnpA

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Hope That Does Not Disappoint- Daily Grace Devotionals January 2020

Wednesday, January 22 2020

Devotional written by Diane Marie
Read Psalm 18:1-6

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

Spend time today worshipping God. You can use music but try to think of other ways as well. Try writing a poem, drawing, doodling, painting, creating something, making a craft. Do anything that is meaningful to you.

Written by Diane Marie

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Thursday, January 23 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Isaiah 26:3

When we pray for something we want to happen, it's easy to put our hope in the outcome we want instead of God's sovereign love, even though He promises to lovingly care for us no matter what happens. So, how do we put our hope in God and His will instead of outcomes?

We pray for peace no matter what happens. We can still pray for what we hope to happen, but if we first ask God to give us His peace no matter what happens, it shifts our focus from the circumstances we can't control to the God who lovingly cares for us.

When we lay down our will and pray for peace no matter what happens, our hope will be secure because it's in the God who never changes instead of circumstances that can blow us over and fill us with dread. We can pour out our hearts to God knowing He hears our desperate cries. He may not always answer our prayer for circumstances to change the way we'd like them to, but He always answers our prayers for peace.

Today's scripture tells us:

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

When we put out hope in outcomes and situations around us, we're ruled by circumstances and our emotions. If we put our hope in our loving God's supernatural peace, we will be able to withstand anything that comes our way.

Daily Challenge

How does praying for and focusing on God's promise of peace instead of specific outcomes lead to peace and hope for you? Journal your thoughts and write today's Scripture in your own words.

Written by Emily Furda

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Friday, January 24 2020

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 timeframe is not our timeframe. 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

Listen to "Thy Will" by Hillary Scott & The Scott Family.
youtu.be/Dp4WC_YZAuw

Written by Christine Perry

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Hope That Does Not Disappoint- Daily Grace Devotionals January 2020

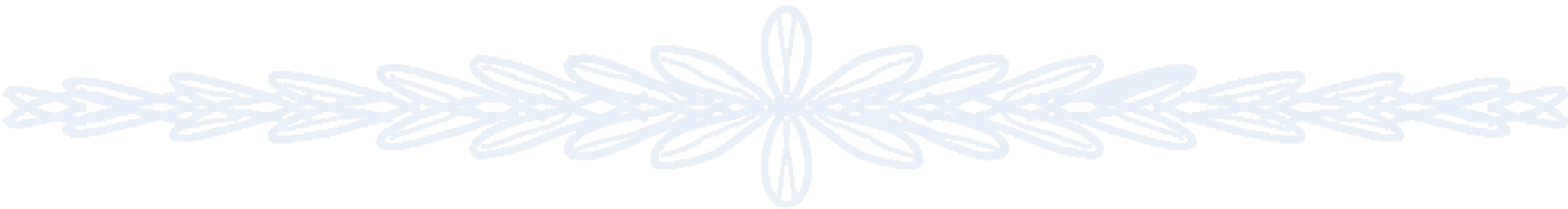
Saturday, January 25 2020

Grace Day

Today is a Grace Day designed for you to use in whatever way you need.

Are you behind when it comes to this month's schedule? Then, you can use today to catch up. Is there something you want to spend more time on? Feel free to reread a previous day or skim through multiple days. Consider going back and making up your own challenge for a day. If it was to listen to music, try journaling or memorizing the Scripture. If you'd like, use today to learn more about grace on your own. A concordance or online searchable Bible or Bible app is perfect for this. Even take today and study something completely different.

Whatever you do, remember, God isn't looking for your performance or testing how much you know. He simply wants to spend time with you, speaking to your heart and showing you His love and grace.



Hope That Does Not Disappoint- Daily Grace Devotionals January 2020

Sunday, January 26 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Luke 2:22-33

Are you hoping for something to come to pass, something you know God has promised you? Today's scripture talks about Simeon. God promised him something amazing, but he had to wait to see it. We don't know much about him. He was holding on to hope for the day Israel would be restored to the way God intended it to be. We're told he was promised he wouldn't die before he saw the Messiah in person. So, it's likely he was older in age. Imagine Simeon, spending his entire life believing he would see Jesus. How many people thought he was crazy for holding on to such a promise? Did he question if he was crazy for holding on to such a promise?

Then one day, he felt an urge to go to the temple. It may have been a day like any other. While he was standing in the temple, suddenly, in comes a couple with their newborn son to dedicate him to the Lord. They likely looked like just another family at the temple, but because he knew the voice of God, Simeon knew differently. He knew baby Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah. Can you imagine the joy on his face as he held the tiny baby in his arms? He was literally holding his promise in his arms. After years of waiting and hoping, he received his promise and He worshiped God.

It could've been easy for Simeon to give up and think he'd never meet the Messiah, but he didn't give up. Because he believed, he was able to celebrate when he saw his promise come to pass. Simeon was a human being just like you. If God will keep His promise to Simeon, surely, He will keep His promise to you.

Daily Challenge

How does Simeon's story affect your ability to hope for something that may seem crazy to others? Journal your thoughts.

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Monday, January 27 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Job 42:2

Job was a man who, through no fault of his own, endured suffering beyond comprehension. Job was given so much bad news in such a short time, that one messenger couldn't even finish speaking before the next arrived. His livestock and servants were stolen or killed, his children were killed, and finally illness plagued his body. Those around him assumed one of two incorrect conclusions. They assumed Job either sinned or God was evil, but Job knew better than that, and he knew He could place His hope in God.

Does any of that sound familiar to you? Maybe you haven't had your camels stolen, but perhaps your reputation was damaged, your finances seem hopeless, relationships seem broken beyond repair, or your body is plagued with illness. When those things happen, hope is hard to come by. While God allowed horrible things to happen to Job, He also had clear boundaries. Satan wasn't allowed to take Job's life (Job 2:6). It might not have seemed like it, but God was in control.

We see in today's passage God always rescues those who trust in Him. We are promised that no matter what happens to us, God will be with us and help us as well. Ultimately, God did spare Job's life. Not only that, Job was able to truly enjoy being alive.

No matter what you're facing, remember God has a plan and will always be with you. Hoping in God will never be in vain.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "We've Got This Hope" by Ellie Holcomb.
https://youtu.be/OnuC_zEugo0

Written by Emily Furda
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Tuesday, January 28 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Hebrews 10:19-23

What do you do when the pain feels too much? You know God promises a life of abundance, but it never seems to happen for you. You're always falling short in one area. It may be finances, relationships, family, or your health. Something always seems to be missing. You try to desperately hold it all together hoping to feel complete, but eventually it all falls apart and so do you.

It's easy to feel embarrassed and hide from God. Sometimes it feels as if you must have it all together before you can go to Him, but that's not the case. He loves you now, just as you are. In today's passage it says to come to Him with a sincere heart. So, go to Him with all of your doubts and pain. Be completely honest. Have an ugly cry if you need to. Let Him know if you're angry with Him or feel as if He's not being faithful to you. He can't heal you and make you complete if you don't give Him a chance.

It's often easier to go to friends or family when you feel as if God isn't listening to you, but they can't hear from God for you. Only you can hear Him whisper to your heart. Only He can give you hope.

Bring your brokenness to the only One who can heal it. He wants to restore your hope, but that can only happen when you spend time in His presence with a heart fully open to Him. He knows no person, achievement, or material thing can fill the void only He can. He's waiting to love on you. Let Him be faithful and transform you into the daughter He created you to be.

Daily Challenge

Are there areas in your life that feel overwhelming? Are you angry, disappointed, or questioning God? Journal your thoughts, being completely honest. Then, pray over them. Ask God what He wants to speak to you.

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Hope That Does Not Disappoint- Daily Grace Devotionals January 2020

Wednesday, January 29 2020

Grace Day

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Are you behind when it comes to this month's schedule? Then, you can use today to catch up. Is there something you want to spend more time on? Feel free to reread a previous day or skim through multiple days. Consider going back and making up your own challenge for a day. If it was to listen to music, try journaling or memorizing the Scripture. If you'd like, use today to learn more about grace on your own. A concordance or online searchable Bible or Bible app is perfect for this. Even take today and study something completely different.

Whatever you do, remember, God isn't looking for your performance or testing how much you know. He simply wants to spend time with you, speaking to your heart and showing you His love and grace.

Thursday, January 30 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda

Read 1 Corinthians 13:12

Sometimes, it's hard to understand what's going on around us. We have situations big and small weighing on our minds, everything from running late to work to wondering if we'll ever be healed from a serious illness. It's not just one big thing that knocks us down. It's combination of them all. Maybe we hold it together when a doctor gives us much dreaded news but completely crumble when we can't find our favorite pen. As today's scripture tells us, we don't see the full picture this side of heaven. It's like trying to see your reflection in a mirror when it's dark. You may be able to make out your face but try to apply eyeliner and you're likely drawing on your nose instead. It's easy to lose hope and cry ourselves to sleep as tears fall on pillow.

While we can't see what's ahead for specific situations, we can have hope for our future, both here on earth and our eternity. What if instead of trying to make out every detail in our lives, we ask God to help us gain a different perspective? What if instead of a hopeless night with tears staining our pillows, we decided to "PILOE" instead?

Pray In Light Of Eternity

When we ask God to guide our prayers with an eternal view, we change. Situations still matter, but how they matter changes. Instead of fixating on every tiny thing that could go wrong, we're focused on the one who makes all things right. We realize we don't need all the answers in order to hold onto hope because our hope is in Jesus not what might or might not happen. We may still shed some tears, and that's okay. There is a difference between crying when we think everything is lost and crying knowing we have hope. While we may not know what will happen this side of heaven, we do know eternal life, face to face with Jesus, awaits us. We know our eternity is secure, and one day everything will be perfected.

Daily Challenge

What does it mean to you to pray in light of eternity? Journal your thoughts and listen to "Face 2 Face" by Mandisa. youtu.be/Wpfl7R7xHEs

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Friday, January 31 2020

Devotional written by Emily Furda

Read Isaiah 43:1-2

As long as we live here, somewhere between Eden and Heaven, there will be circumstances that break us and bring us to our knees, but it's on our knees when, us battle worn soldiers will find our hope that will not disappoint us.

When you're overwhelmed and can't see a way out, remember, you don't need to see a way out. Navigating the way isn't your job. God is the one who sees the beginning, the end, and where you are right now. He knows exactly how to lovingly navigate your way.

God doesn't just see you as some nameless face in a crowd of people. He's not coldly pointing the way you should. He knows your name and the unique path you're on. He knows when you're afraid of the dark and when all you want to do is hide. He doesn't just come to you. He calls you by name and says you belong to Him. You can't take a single step without God's loving presence with you. Today's scripture doesn't just say God will be with you when you face impossibly hard things, it says you will make it through those hard things with Him by your side.

There will be a day when the heartache and pain of what you're walking through will end, be it this side of heaven or when you see Him face to face. No matter how long it takes, God will be with you every step of the way.

Wherever you are today, wherever you go, and whatever you experience, you are not alone. You have hope, real hope, and that hope will not disappoint you.

Daily Challenge

How has your view of hope changed this month? Journal your thoughts, and listen to "I Have This Hope" by Tenth Avenue North. youtu.be/eBg9jHQe44

Written by Emily Furda
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