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Daily Grace Devotionals May 2020

The Songs of Faith

emilyfurda.com/dailygracedevotionals

The Songs of Faith - Daily Grace Devotionals May 2020

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.
Psalm 28:7 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.

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Use the hashtag **#DailyGraceDevotionals** 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

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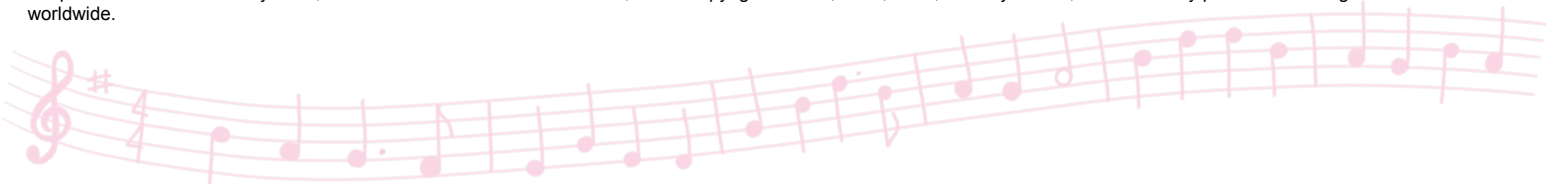
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The Songs of Faith - Daily Grace Devotionals May 2020

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts
in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and
with my song I praise him.
Psalm 28:7 NIV

1
Psalm 28:7
"Tis So Sweet to
Trust in Jesus" by
Casting Crowns
youtu.be/ZiEqKpN90W4

2
2 Corinthians 12:9
"I Need Thee" by
Babbie Mason
youtu.be/dle4tQDC4MM

3
Matthew 7:24-27
"My Hope is Built
on Nothing Less
(On Christ The
Solid Rock)" by
Phillips, Craig, &
Dean
youtu.be/Bd4reYgNEBg

4
Matthew 6:25-34
"Turn Your Eyes
Upon Jesus" by
Michael W. Smith
feat. Audrey Assad
youtu.be/L61aMWfKWgs

5
Grace Day

6
Isaiah 41:10
"Jesus, I am
Resting" by the
Martins
youtu.be/Os7F6LBr3Aw

7
Romans 8:37-39
"Victory in Jesus"
by Travis Cottrell
youtu.be/pWkH_FfI5b8

8
1 Peter 1:18-21
"Nothing but the
Blood" by Kerrie
Roberts
youtu.be/Oay88eYQbhY

9
Lamentations 3:19-24
"Great Is Thy
Faithfulness" by
Christy
Nockels/Worship
Circle Hymns
youtu.be/ERSvHnBbU4Y

10
Psalm 46:1
"It is Well With My
Soul" by Natalie
Grant
youtu.be/ljD4_ptAe1U

11
Matthew 6:5-6
"Sweet Hour of
Prayer" by Casting
Crowns
youtu.be/EwOPwAVDN7s

12
Grace Day

13
Hebrews 12:1-2
"The Old Rugged
Cross" by Sandi
Patti
youtu.be/vGdtyh6gnbc

14
1 John 4:13-18
"Love Lifted Me"
by Encounter
Music
youtu.be/BiURTxycTEc

15
1 John 4:19
"My Jesus, I Love
Thee" by Avalon
youtu.be/WO_Rxb7EGp0

16
2 Timothy 1:7
"I Surrender All" by
CeCe Winans
youtu.be/xrgnIEJKS50

17
Grace Day

18
Isaiah 30:18-19
"Softly and
Tenderly" by
Audrey Assad
youtu.be/6yOF7HkPVZg

19
Job 19:25
"He Lives" by
Lifeway Worship
youtu.be/kCGxIZXU0TY

20
Philippians 3:20-21
"I'll Fly Away" by
Avalon
youtu.be/37YubXtTqwc

21
Grace Day

22
Matthew 27:57-66, 28:1-9
"Up from the
Grave He Arose"
by David Thorton
youtu.be/QD7vK0hmG7Y

23
Matthew 10:29-31
"His Eye is On the
Sparrow" by
Natalie Grant
youtu.be/p5vMQyR2-Ps

24
Numbers 13:30-33
"Guide Me O Thou
Great Jehovah" by
Jeremy Casella,
Indelible Grace
Music
youtu.be/x-R2495-8CM

25
Romans 1:20
"How Great Thou
Art" by Natalie
Grant
youtu.be/EY0Hd2utMH0

26
Isaiah 40:11
"Leaning on the
Everlasting Arms"
by Philips, Craig,
and Dean
youtu.be/0nVUC_J3e2M

27
John 9:39-41
"I Saw the Light"
by David Cowder
Band
youtu.be/t0logEGyUjM

28
Hebrews 4:14-16
"Amazing Grace"
by Darlene
Zszech
youtu.be/WUUAwDhhjR4

29
Grace Day

30
1 Samuel 7:1-14
"Come, Thou
Fount of Every
Blessing" by CXVI
youtu.be/khyb6HlmbSw

31
Hebrews 10:19-23
"Blessed
Assurance" by
Avalon"
youtu.be/s47x1pmVVBs



The Songs of Faith - Daily Grace Devotionals May 2020

Introduction

Welcome to the Songs of Faith, the May 2020 edition of Daily Grace Devotionals.

Songs have long been ways to pass down stories and share lessons. Some of our most basic learning often starts with a song. Many of us learned the alphabet simply by singing the letters. The same is true with hymns. Sometimes the simplest, yet most vital truths are found in them, but how often do we stop to think about what a hymn really means? Some of us could sing a whole hymnal by heart. Others of us might not know a single note. Either way, it's okay.

This month, we hope to make the unfamiliar become familiar and make the familiar come alive. Each day this month, we'll be looking at a hymn and exploring a biblical truth it teaches us. Hymns are songs of worship. Usually they're written in a way that is easy to sing by a large group of individuals and easy to remember. They teach us, encourage us, and help us worship Jesus. They're declarations of faith, prayers of desperation, and shouts of praise. Most of all, they connect us to God, and help us learn more about Him. Hymns truly are songs of faith

Instead of our usual "Daily Challenge" which involves different ways each day to make the devotional come to life, the challenge will simply be to listen to the hymn. Links to a YouTube video of each hymn will be printed with each devotional, but they're for reference only. If you have a favorite version of a hymn, feel free to listen to it. It's not about the arraignment. It's about the truth proclaimed in the lyrics and what we all can learn from it. We encourage you each day to also find a way to make the hymn come alive in a way unique to you. Journal your thoughts about what the lyrics mean to you. Share it with a friend who could use some encouragement. Create a piece of artwork, dance, or write a poem about it. Write a prayer or let it inspire a new song you write. You can memorize the daily scripture or write it out in your own words. Sometimes, you might find the deepest meaning just listening to the hymn and taking in what God wants to speak to you in a quiet moment.

It's the hope of The Daily Grace Devotionals team, that you will be encouraged, notice the presence of God more, and grow in your faith as you learn more about these Songs of Faith.

Day 1

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Written by Louisa M. R. Stead and William James Kirkpatrick

Devotional written by Emily Furda

Read Psalm 28:7

Fully trusting anyone is much easier said than done. Real trust is earned one small step at a time. It's true especially when it comes to trusting Jesus. We're often more wary of Him than we are humans. Perhaps, it's because we've been hurt so many times by people. When people betray us, it's natural to apply a guarded sense of mistrust to Him as well. Jesus knows our fearful hearts, and He's not angry when it takes us time to learn to trust Him. He is loving and longs to show us His grace. He won't turn us away just because we're wary of Him.

The only way we learn to trust anyone, including Jesus, is to develop a relationship. We need to hear about their track record with others and experience their trustworthiness as it's proven over and over and over again. Romans 10:17 tells us the importance of hearing about who Jesus is:

So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. NLT

How do we make sure we hear about Christ, not just His existence, but who He is? We immerse ourselves in things that remind us about Him. One of the biggest ways is to study His word, but sometimes, we need something to make the truths we read about Jesus in Scripture come alive to us. One of the easiest ways is through song. As you hear the truths about Jesus in song and let them take hold in your heart, you'll find it naturally becomes easier to trust Him.

Remember, we don't have to embark on this journey of trusting Jesus alone. It is His grace that will help us to trust Him more.

Written by Emily Furda

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"Tis so Sweet" by Casting Crowns youtu.be/ZiEqKpN90W4



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Day 2

I Need Thee Every Hour

Written by Annie S. Hawks and Robert Lowry

Devotional written by Danielle Nicole

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9

If we never needed to be saved from our mess, our faith would never grow. Needing to trust in God's grace to come save us builds our faith in Him and makes it so much stronger. We are not enough to sustain ourselves, but through God's grace we are sustained

Trusting God with our every situation and relying on His grace to get us through will grow our trust in Him. It reminds us to lean on Him for our every need and that we are not enough on our own.

It's when we are stuck in our sin or lost in a hopeless situation we need to look to God's grace for help. It takes having faith that His grace is strong enough to rescue us, and trusting He is able. It's fully letting go of our lives in exchange for Him. It's giving up the control and allowing God to intervene.

It might not always be easy to let down our walls or let go of our ideas of being strong enough ourselves, but it's worth it to allow grace to come into our lives. Having faith that He will save us might not always feel like a safe choice, but it's the best one to make. Even in our doubt, God's grace will not let us down.

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"I Need Thee" by Babbie Mason. <https://youtu.be/dle4tQDC4MM>



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Day 3

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (On Christ The Solid Rock)

Written by Edward Mote and William Batchelder Bradbury

Devotional written by Christine F. Perry
Read Matthew 7:24-27

Do you ever feel like the world is spinning out of control? Maybe the situations you are facing now are revealing that your coping mechanisms aren't enough. Maybe you turned to others as a first response or to a substance. It's in times like these that we are driven to examine what our foundation is based on. It causes us to examine where our Hope lies.

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus name

How often do we trust in other men or women? How often do we put our security in our finances, or how often do we act as though we are the captain of our own ship?

May our words echo this:
On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

Darkness, grief, trouble, sickness will come, but God's grace is enough to carry us through. His anchor holds us steady through each storm. He gives us the air in our lungs. He is the foundation on which we stand. He is essence of life and no one and nothing can be compared to Him. He alone is worthy of all. He is the rock on which our lives can stand!

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"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (On Christ The Solid Rock)" by Phillips, Craig, & Dean
youtu.be/Bd4reYgNEBq

Day 4

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
Written by Helen Howarth Lemmel
Devotional written by Diane Marie
Read Matthew 6:25-34

Stress. Anxiety. Depression. Worry. We hear these words every day because we live in such a fast-paced, hectic society. It seems everyone is worried about something. Whether it's TV, radio, or even social media, we are bombarded with images of pain and suffering from around the world. We stress about poverty, war, politics, human trafficking, sickness, and more. In our personal lives we struggle with addictions, relationships, finances, and health. These are real and legitimate concerns that make us question God's goodness. Yet, Jesus tells us not to worry. He tells us to cast our burdens on Him.

How do we do that? It seems nearly impossible to just let it all go. Real freedom, however, requires that we no longer allow ourselves to be bound up with worry. As long as we let our struggles and cares dominate our thoughts and influence our actions, we can't have the true freedom that Christ offers.

So, we need to take our eyes off the world and all of its cares and focus on Him. We need to be in his Word daily and memorize scripture we can say it to ourselves when we begin to have negative thoughts. We need to be in prayer daily, asking the Lord to guide us in areas where we lack faith. We need to consider who we're spending time with and surround ourselves with friends who will encourage us. If we need to, we should shut off the TV, radio, and phone.

We need to change our focus. It won't be easy, but the more we turn from our worries and turn to Him, the sooner we can break the chains that keep us from true freedom in Christ and experience God's goodness.

Written by Diane Marie
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"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" by Michael W. Smith feat. Audrey Assad
youtu.be/L61aMWfKWGs

Day 5

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. Take some time to look up the history of a hymn you want to learn more about. You can dive into a theme from one on your own. A concordance, online searchable Bible, or Bible app is perfect for that. 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.



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Day 6

Jesus, I am Resting
Written by Jean Sophia Pigott and James Mountain
Devotional written by Danielle Nicole
Read Isaiah 41:10

The stress of everyday life can become a lot to carry at times. It builds up so high, and we struggle to find ways to rest and feel at peace once again. This is why we need a place to just be still and breathe, a place where we can remember why we do what we do, and a place to remember why we work hard at what we work hard at.

While we can find relief from stress in things such as staying extra busy or just avoiding the feeling completely, through God we can have something better. We don't have to live in mindset of always having to just push the idea of stress into the back of our head. We shouldn't just excuse it by saying it's a part of life. It's not something we should cover up by working longer and harder. We can have true rest. We can enter into a place where our spirits can be renewed.

In God's dwelling place, we find true restoration. We can feel His love hold us close and be reminded of how important it is to rest. It may take letting go of some things, maybe even plans we have for that day, but rest should come first.

In any moment we feel overwhelmed by something, we should just take a moment with God. Dwell in His presence. We should never feel like finding rest in Him is making us weak, for it is making us stronger. Taking time with God will also improve the things we do, so there isn't really a reason to not spend time with God.

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"Jesus, I am Resting" by the Martins
youtu.be/Os7F6LBr3Aw

Day 7

Victory in Jesus
Written by E.M. Bartlett
Devotional written by Heather Golden Horton
Read Romans 8:37-39

Victorious living is something to which most aspire. We want to be certain things will pan out. We want to be the smartest, the best, the winners. Even as Christ-followers, we can find ourselves feeling a bit prideful and competitive, if we do not carefully guard our hearts. Desiring only positive outcomes is a pitfall for humanity and brings guaranteed disappointment in our flawed world.

As Christians, we are assured victory, but not a victory the rest of the world readily recognizes. True "Victory in Jesus", as the boisterous anthem so aptly describes, is in no way tied to our personal achievements. The victory that comes through Christ is a beautiful story told through the ages of Christ's love for us and His ultimate sacrifice for our disobedient ways. This victory comes when we realize our need for our Savior and the power His salvation brings. We can desperately petition Jesus as the hymn pleads, "Come and heal my broken spirit." We know, through Jesus, inner healing is possible. He made a way for us to be forgiven and liberated from our sin and brokenness.

Looking past our present circumstances, Jesus assures we will be eternally victorious. As stated in Romans 8:37, "...we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." NIV

Christ's gift for us will not ensure life will be bubbly, upbeat, and battle free. The promise is that Christ will be beside us and within us in every battle. What's more, Jesus will be with us when the battles are finished, and we are finally home in Heaven.

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"Victory in Jesus" by Travis Cottrell
youtu.be/pWkH_Ffi5b8

Day 8

Nothing but the Blood
Written by Robert Lowry
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read 1 Peter 1:18-21

How often do we do or say things because we hope it will make us good enough for God? For many of us, there is a nagging fear deep inside that what we do will never be worthy of God's love.

That's the problem. Our own efforts don't make us worthy.

When we come to God, we have nothing we can bring to earn His love or approval. It is the great equalizer among all humanity. Wealth, nationality, social standing, it doesn't matter. In God's eyes, we're humans He created in His image. We are humans who need a Savior, and salvation is freely given to us through Jesus. The moment we accept Him as our Savior and Lord, we're cleansed of all unrighteousness and sin.

Yet, even after accepting Him, we still often try to prove our worth. We give more time than we can spare, more money than we should, and sacrifice our own physical and emotional health just so we can somehow feel worthy. Yet, no matter what we do, we never feel like we're worthy in God's eyes because we're basing our worth on what we see not on how He sees us.

We forget we have already been made worthy because of the blood Jesus shed. It is a gift freely given years ago on a cross in Jerusalem. God doesn't look at us the way we do. We see flaws. He sees opportunities for His strength to flow. We see shame. He sees us with compassion. We see scars. He sees stories of survival.

Put down the striving. Put down the guilt. Put down the shame and hold onto the love of God given to you through the blood of Jesus. Nothing but the blood of Jesus will ever make you enough. Fortunately, the blood of Jesus was shed for you without condition. The gift is for you.

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"Nothing but the Blood" by Kerrie Roberts
youtu.be/Oay88eYQbhY



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Day 9

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Written by Thomas Chisholm and William Runyan

Devotional written by Emily Furda

Read Lamentations 3:19-24

Sometimes, life is overwhelming or even downright terrifying, and it's natural to wonder if God is truly faithful to us. It's okay to question if God is faithful. It's not wrong to want Him to show us if He is faithful, but sometimes all we do is question without wanting Him to answer. We never allow God to show us if He's faithful to us. Sometimes, we'd rather live in our anger than come face to face with the fear that says God might not be faithful to us.

If we're willing to make an intentional effort to look for God's faithfulness, we will find it. Seeing God's faithfulness is something that takes time. It needs to grow. We might not see His faithfulness when our hearts are breaking, when illness strikes, or when jobs are lost. Those can leave us with hard questions. So, why not start looking for answers about God's faithfulness in places it's easy to find?

Today's hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness" gives us some ideas. No one makes the sun shine its light. No human can force seasons to change. We can tend to plants to help them produce fruit or vegetables, but we can't force a plant to grow. Yet since the beginning of creation, they have existed just like they do today. The same sun shining on you, is the same sun that shined on Adam and Eve, Moses, David, and even the One who created it, Jesus.

If God can faithfully tend to this planet, can't He faithfully care for you? This is not to minimize your pain. It's okay to feel pain and search for God's faithfulness at the same time. You might have big, hard questions, but those won't change God's love for you. If you don't admit your questions, you won't be able to find answers. What's important is to keep looking for God's faithfulness and hold on to it, no matter how small or simple it seems.

Our faith in God's faithfulness will grow in big ways when we look for it in small things.

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"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" by Christy Nockels/Worship Circle Hymns

youtu.be/ERSvHnBbU4Y



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Day 10

It is Well With My Soul

Written by Horatio Gates Spafford and Philip Paul Bliss

Devotional written by Danielle Nicole

Read Psalm 46:1

Even through the unexpected trials we face, we can discover peace and hope through Jesus. Some things will happen in life that will challenge us in many ways. They will make it more difficult to feel true joy and peace, but that doesn't mean God isn't still working.

While we walk through hard times, He still holds control over it all. When we choose to look beyond our current situations, and full embrace all Jesus is, we can find rest through the storm. Some seasons of life will be more challenging than others, but because of Him we can still say "it is well with my soul".

We may not always be able to choose which situations we go through, but we can always choose to put our trust in the One who holds it all. Through His love, we can learn to have true joy and peace that isn't dependent on our circumstances.

No matter what we may face on this earth, we can trust God will be present through it all. Whatever trials come our way they are not the end of our story. They won't be able to steal our peace as we worship a God whose peace is even stronger than our hurt.

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"It is Well With My Soul" by Natalie Grant

youtu.be/ijD4_ptAe1U

Day 11

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Written by William W. Walford

Devotional written by Heather Golden Horton

Read Matthew 6:5-6

The majority of our lives are played out on the public stage: our workplaces, our places of ministry, our social media accounts, or our homes. These stages can make our relationship with God more hurried and can condition these hearts of ours to multitask. However, an important aspect of dwelling in the presence of God is focused time alone with our Father. There are distinct benefits to stepping away from distractions and leaning in close to God.

Jesus Himself spoke of the importance of going into a secret place or a quiet area, not visible to the public, to communicate with the Father. This solitary time of prayer is meant to be a consistent practice, drawing us away from the motivation of performing for others and deepening the level of our communication with God. When we step into a quiet place, we remove much of the temptation to impress others with our fancy words. We also free ourselves to unveil the innermost details of our hearts. Jesus assures us that when we privately meet with God, we are never out of God's line of vision. He is known to reward those who seek him in secret places.

Our moments with God are meant to be vibrant and vital. We can run to a place of quiet contemplation or a place where we feel freedom to express ourselves to meet with God. Though Holy Spirit abides in us, there is something special about finding a specific time and place for intentional times of prayer. We may discover these sweet, holy moments far from the gaze of a crowd may be divine rewards themselves.

Written by Heather Golden Horton

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"Sweet Hour of Prayer" by Casting Crowns

youtu.be/EwOPwAVDN7s

Day 12

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. Take some time to look up the history of a hymn you want to learn more about. You can dive into a theme from one on your own. A concordance, online searchable Bible, or Bible app is perfect for that. 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.



The Songs of Faith - Daily Grace Devotionals May 2020

Day 13

The Old Rugged Cross
Written by George Bennard
Devotional written by Diane Marie
Read Hebrews 12:1-2

While the resurrection is one of the central events of our faith, there is no resurrection without Christ's death on the cross. Take a moment to just think about the cross of Christ. It was where our beloved Savior was sacrificed for our sins. It was the instrument of His execution, possibly the most painful execution possible. He was shamed and humiliated on that cross. Jesus was mocked and ridiculed. Most painfully for Him, He was separated from His Father, God.

Jesus willingly went to the cross for us; that cannot be denied. This doesn't mean He took it lightly. He even asked God if there might be another way. He didn't want to be separated from His Father. He knew taking on the sin of the world, and the resulting, temporary, separation, would be far more painful for Him than even the physical pain He would endure. He also knew it was the only way we could ever have relationship with God and be made whole. The joy that His sacrifice brought to Him is what made Him willing to accept all that came with His death on the cross.

How hard it must have been for His family and disciples to see their beloved Jesus hanging there bloody and bruised, in excruciating pain, struggling to breathe, how hard to see Him laid in the tomb. Then Sunday morning came! Glorious Sunday morning! He rose from the dead.

Our sins are no more because Jesus went to the cross for us.

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

"The Old Rugged Cross" by Sandi Patti
[youtu.be/vGdtyh6gnbc](https://www.youtube.be/vGdtyh6gnbc)

Day 14

Love Lifted Me
Written by James Rowe
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read 1 John 4:13-18

When we first put our faith in Jesus, we are cleansed from our sin, but that doesn't mean we no longer sin. We are human, and we will continue to make mistakes and sin. So, what do we do when we find ourselves sinning once again? How do we lift ourselves out of our own mess?

We don't. We cannot lift ourselves out of our sins. God is the only one who can lift us out of our mess, but often we're hesitant to let Him rescue us. Why do we avoid the only One who can rescue us? Is it because we're afraid of Him?

We become afraid He'll be angry at us for sinning. We're often even more afraid when we made a conscious choice to sin. Sometimes we're torn in our hearts. We want to follow God, but we also don't always want to give up our sins. In our heads we know God offers something better and greater than anything we could turn to, but in our hearts, we're afraid. We're often afraid God will punish us instead of love us, but 1 John 4:18 tell us: There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. NIV

When you're struggling with sin, whether it's something you fell into, a mistake you purposely made, or sin you're not sure you want to give up, God, in His perfect love, wants to lift you up and out of your sin. You don't need to be afraid of Him. He wants to show you what it is like to have your heart filled with perfect love instead of fear. He will teach you and lead you so you don't keep sinning, but He knows your frailty, humanity, and even your stubbornness. No matter how many times you sin, when nothing else can help you, His perfect love is there to lift you.

Written by Emily Furda
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"Love Lifted Me" by Encounter Music
[youtu.be/BiURTxYcTEc](https://www.youtube.be/BiURTxYcTEc)

Day 15

My Jesus, I Love Thee
Written by William Ralph Featherstone and Adoniram Judson Gordon
Devotional written by Heather Golden Horton
Read 1 John 4:19

Jesus is more than a mere hero in a story or a name tucked in the crinkly pages of a history book. Jesus, fully man and fully God, is the very essence of love wrapped in flesh, who completely gave Himself to rescue us. We are quick to say with our lips how we adore Jesus. It is practically commonplace to spout our love for Jesus in times we label as worship; however, before our hearts can earnestly sing, "My Jesus, I Love Thee", we must allow ourselves to truly know Jesus.

As we seek to know Jesus deeply, we realize He desires to be known by us. Christ loved us before we ever heard His name or the good news of salvation. Jesus is the originator of our story of love. His love for us is the powerful reason we are able to love Him. Jesus is the gift of God who paid for our redemption. Our love for Him is born out of adoration and gratitude because He gave us breath and new life.

To love Jesus supremely is to walk in His presence, enjoying His company and allowing Him to change us. We humbly recognize we had a desperate need for His gift of grace and forgiveness when we were walking in disobedience to God's plan.

Long after that day Christ transformed our heart, we still can enjoy a lasting relationship with Jesus, learning from Him as we follow His ways. The more we focus on the reality of Jesus in our day to day lives, the more reasons we find to treasure Jesus with every step on our journey between now and Heaven. Our hearts can genuinely reply to His love, "If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

Written by Heather Golden Horton
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"My Jesus, I Love Thee" by Avalon
[youtu.be/WO_Rxb7EGp0](https://www.youtube.be/WO_Rxb7EGp0)



The Songs of Faith - Daily Grace Devotionals May 2020

Day 16

I Surrender All

Written by J.W. Van Deventer and W.S. Weeden

Devotional written by Danielle Nicole

Read 2 Timothy 1:7

Whether you're in the middle of a fight with fear or a battle against anxiety, you are not alone. You were never called to live fearfully but to give it all to the One who is in control of it all.

While your fears may seem so much stronger than anything else in your life, when you learn how to surrender it all to Him, you will begin to see how God is still mightier than it all. When you choose to let go of the things causing you to worry, you are no longer allowing those things to have power over your life.

Giving it all to God will change everything. You can start experiencing peace in a way like never before, for it won't be based on your circumstances. You will have a new confidence because you will be leaning on Him, rather than yourself. Instead of fear filling your life, God's presence will.

Surrender moves aside your fears and worries and allows God to come in and bring you peace. No matter what you may be up against today, know when you choose to give it all to Him, you will no longer be held down by anything you fear.

Written by Danielle Nicole

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"I Surrender All" by CeCe Winans youtu.be/xrqnlEJKS50



The Songs of Faith - Daily Grace Devotionals May 2020

Day 17

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. Take some time to look up the history of a hymn you want to learn more about. You can dive into a theme from one on your own. A concordance, online searchable Bible, or Bible app is perfect for that. 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.

Day 18

Softly and Tenderly

Written by Will L. Thompson

Devotional written by Christine F Perry

Read Isaiah 30:18-19

There are times in life when we are left broken. There are times in life when we are left hardened. There are times when we question if we will ever feel whole again.

When we've been left broken or hardened, it's hard to see God clearly because we often are looking at Him through our painful experience. When our emotions fail to see God's tender side, maybe this hymn will serve as a reminder for us: A reminder that He is long-suffering. A reminder that He suffers alongside us. A reminder that He is gracious even when we lash out. A reminder that He is a God who rises up to show us compassion, and it is His kindness that leads us to repentance.

Softly and tenderly Jesus calls us to come back, either come back to our first love, or for those who have yet to trust Him, to come to trust Him as their Savior. Whatever it may be, God is gentle and humble in heart. In Him, we will find rest for our souls.

Written by Christine Perry

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"Softly and Tenderly" by Audrey Assad
youtu.be/6yOF7HkPVZg

Day 19

He Lives

Written by Alfred H. Ackley

Devotional Written by Christine F Perry

Read Job 19:25

As humans, it is easy to be overwhelmed by our circumstances. In good circumstances our tendency is to be in a good mood. In bad circumstances our tendency is to be in a bad mood. But in every circumstance, He Lives. Jesus is alive and well on His throne! He is the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.

In Job chapter one, Job lost his children, his livelihood, and life as he knew it. The hymn "He Lives" talks about a deep faith in Savior who is alive. We know that God is right there with us in the midst of it all. We know that God is a refuge and help in times of need.

The better we know the Lord, the sweeter life will be. The better we know the Lord, the more strength we find to endure because of Him. The better we know the Lord, the less the cares of this world will take root in us.

Jesus is "the Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find. None other is so loving, so good and kind."

As we listen to this hymn let us reflect on God's love, His goodness, and His kindness present with us in every moment.

Written by Christine Perry

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"He Lives" by Lifeway Worship
youtu.be/kCGxlZXU0TY



The Songs of Faith - Daily Grace Devotionals May 2020

Day 20

I'll Fly Away

Written by Albert E. Brumley

Devotional written by Diane Marie

Read Philippians 3:20-21

Sometimes, life just seems too difficult to bear. We hear that God won't allow us to go through more than we can handle, but we clearly have moments when we aren't handling life well at all. At those moments, we can feel weary and defeated. The reality is, we can't handle it alone. God not only doesn't expect us to, He doesn't want us to. The truth is that He won't allow us to go through more than He can handle.

Often, we look at a situation and can't possibly see a way out. What are we to do in those moments? Sometimes it helps to remember that life here is temporary, but eternity is forever. Yes, we do have to learn to trust God in the here and now, but having an eternal perspective on things can have a huge effect on our outlook. We are citizens of heaven and one glorious day we will breathe our last here and find ourselves in the presence of the Lord. One glorious day, we'll find ourselves in a place where joy will never end. Never.

It almost sounds too good to be true. No sickness. No pain. A new, transformed body. We can't even imagine the things He has prepared for us! But it is true. We are citizens of heaven, and one day we will finally be home.

Written by Diane Marie

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"I'll Fly Away" by Avalon

youtu.be/37YuBXtTqwc

Day 21

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. Take some time to look up the history of a hymn you want to learn more about. You can dive into a theme from one on your own. A concordance, online searchable Bible, or Bible app is perfect for that. Even take today and study something completely different.

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Day 22

Up from the Grave He Arose

Written by Robert Lowry

Devotional written by Emily Furda

Read Matthew 27:57-66, 28:1-9

When Jesus's body was laid in the tomb after, the Pharisees and Romans did all they could to make sure the disciples didn't steal His body, even though the disciples had no desire to take it. They even sealed the stone blocking the entrance and placed guards in front of it.

None of their human efforts could stop Jesus.

There was an earthquake so strong that it broke the seal around the tomb. Then, an angel appeared on the stone that had just rolled away from the entrance. The guards became so overcome with fear, it was as if they had died. Jesus didn't need anyone's help Him get out of the tomb, He had the power to do that Himself.

The resurrection of Jesus, and the way it happened, vividly shows us there is nothing Jesus can't conquer. No one, but God alone, is capable of putting a spirit back into a body after death. It's a physical and spiritual miracle. How He came out of the tomb showed us no person is more powerful than He is. No one rolled away the stone to let Him out. Again, it was a miracle.

If death was incapable of holding back Jesus, is there anything in the earthly or heavenly realm that can stop His power? This isn't to say things will always work out the way we want them to, but it shows us God always has plans much bigger than we do. He truly thinks and works in ways we can't imagine.

Written by Emily Furda

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"Up from the Grave He Arose" by David

Thorton <https://youtu.be/QD7vK0hmG7Y>



The Songs of Faith - Daily Grace Devotionals May 2020

Day 23

His Eye is On the Sparrow
Written by Civilla D. Martin
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Matthew 10:29-31

Sometimes, we look at ourselves and wonder if we have any value at all. We wonder if our lives are something God even pays attention to. We question if we're too insignificant or too worthless for God to even notice us.

Jesus says something priceless about your worth in today's scripture.

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Matthew 10:29-31 NIV

Jesus was referring to sparrows that were sold in the temple for offerings to God. Usually, someone would buy doves. If they couldn't afford those, they would buy sparrows. Their offering would be given to the priests to offer as a sacrifice to God. Two sparrows were sold for one penny.

A penny is the lowest amount of money that exists, but to humans, a single sparrow wasn't even worth that much.

While, to some, a sparrow might have seemed almost worthless, it was a sacrifice treasured by God when it was sincerely offered to Him. Humans might not have placed much monetary value on it, but God did. Humans saw something almost worthless. God saw something priceless. Jesus didn't just say your life is as precious as a sparrow, He said your life is worth more than many sparrows.

Even in the moments when you alone and wondering if God sees you or cares about you, He wants you to know He places the greatest value on you. He knows when a sparrow falls to the ground, and He knows when your life is falling apart. He knows your joy your heartache. He knows your hopes and your fears. He knows every minute detail about you and each one matters to Him. His eyes are always on you with gentle, loving care.

Even in those moments when you see yourself as worthless, God sees you as priceless.

Written by Emily Furda
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"His Eye is On the Sparrow" by Natalie Grant youtu.be/p5vMQyR2-Ps



The Songs of Faith - Daily Grace Devotionals May 2020

Day 24

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
Written by William Williams; Translated by Peter Williams
Devotional written by Christine F. Perry
Read Numbers 13:30-33

Have you ever hit a wall? Maybe it was an emotional wall, a physical wall, a mental wall, a spiritual wall. There are many walls we will face in life. And sometimes, on the other side of those walls is something God promised. Yes! There may be something God promised on the other side of your wall.

Look at Caleb. He and Joshua were two of twelve who were courageous enough to fight the enemies in the land that God promised them, but the other ten men were scared. So, for forty years they wandered around instead of enjoying what God promised them.

There are times in our lives God will say, "Here I've given you this land, but you need to clear it out first." Friends, clearing the land may look like working with God to remove doubt. It might look like fighting past our anxiety or pushing forward despite the fear that threatens to cripple us. Courage means moving forward despite the fear we may feel. In Zephaniah 3:17 it says:

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.
NIV

So, know that whatever is in front of you is no greater than the God inside you and singing over you. He delights in you and gives you a spirit filled with power, a sound mind, and love, not a spirit of fear. You are His daughter, and you need not be afraid to fight the battles you've been given to fight. He is more than enough, and He is able to get you to the promised land. He is faithful to do His part. Be faithful to do yours.

Written by Christine Perry
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Daily Challenge
"Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah" by Jeremy Casella, Indelible Grace Music
youtu.be/x-R2495-8CM

Day 25

How Great Thou Art
Written by Carl Boberg
Devotional written by Diane Marie
Read Romans 1:20

The Bible often uses the words "the world" as a metaphor for humanity and its sin. This, however, doesn't mean the earth in the physical sense is bad. As a matter of fact, the world that God created is good, as God clearly stated in Genesis right after He created it. This means not only the earth, but the entire universe. Not only is it good, but it reflects the awesomeness of God.

Whether you gaze at the stars, take a walk in nature, or explore the depths of the ocean, you will see the greatness of God everywhere. He is an amazing creator and the universe isn't just a happy accident. If you truly open your mind, you can't help but realize God must be real. He has left His fingerprints everywhere. We won't be able to stand before Him and say we didn't know Him or there was no proof for His existence. We will have no excuse. God loves "the world" in the metaphorical sense. He loves all of humanity, even in our sin. That's why He sent His son to die for us.

One day, we will see God face to face and worship Him in Heaven. Until then, look around at creation. How great is He who created it? How great is He who created us? How can we not be in awe of Him and His love for us?

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

"How Great Thou Art" by Natalie Grant
youtu.be/EY0Hd2utMH0

Day 26

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
Written by Anthony J. Showalter, and Elisha Hoffman.
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Isaiah 40:11

Sometimes, we all wish we could just have someone hold us, someone to wipe our tears, tell us everything will be okay, and to carry us. Every day we hear of or experience unimaginable pain. It leaves our souls weary, restless, and overwhelmed. It's in those moments we need to remember we do have someone who can, and will, carry us. We have a Savior in Jesus who longs to hold us.

When a child is afraid, sometimes all she needs is someone to carry her. She might be afraid of the dark, but having someone safe who can hold her, makes those fears disappear. It's not that the darkness is gone, it's that she has someone bigger and stronger than her to protect her that calms her fears, and it's the same for us.

When you're scared and overwhelmed you do have someone to lean on. Jesus wants you to lean on Him. His arms will never grow tired or weary. No fear is too small, too silly, or too big. Jesus is waiting to carry you in His loving arms.

Written by Emily Furda
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"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" by Philips, Craig, and Dean
youtu.be/0nVUC_J3e2M



The Songs of Faith - Daily Grace Devotionals May 2020

Day 27

I Saw the Light

Written by Hank Williams

Devotional written by Diane Marie

Read John 9:39-41

While most of John Chapter 9 deals with the healing of a man blind since birth, near the end of the chapter, Jesus uses the event to teach a greater truth. He explains He has come for judgement so that not only would the blind see, but the sighted would become blind. He did not mean this in the natural sense, but in the supernatural. The Pharisees were confused by this statement and questioned Jesus' words.

The Pharisees didn't realize it, but they too were blind. They were blinded by their false sense of righteousness. They thought that they were above everyone else because of their strict adherence to the law. We know, however, that no matter how hard we try, we can't ever be good enough to enter heaven, yet the Pharisees looked down on the lowly "sinners." They were blinded by their own pride.

Our eyes are opened, in the spiritual sense, when we "see" ourselves as sinners in need of grace. We are no longer blind when we humbly acknowledge our need for a savior. We should never forget that, until the day Jesus opened our eyes to our own sin and we repented and accepted Him, we were blind since birth. God sent His son, Jesus, to earth and He has performed the great miracle in our life. We can see!

Written by Diane Marie

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"I Saw the Light" by David Cowder Band

youtu.be/t0logEGyUjM

Day 28

Amazing Grace

Written by John Newton

Read Hebrews 4:14-16

Devotional written by Emily Furda

God's grace is ever present throughout our lives, but do we always realize it? Grace be explained as receiving something good that is unearned.

Our spiritual lives start with grace. We're not saved because of anything we do. We're saved by the grace of God when we put our faith in Jesus. That alone is amazing. Pause and think about that for a moment. Our eternal destinies are changed simply because we choose to accept God's grace. We make it seem so hard, but really, it's a simple action on our part. Jesus is the one who did the unimaginable by dying on the cross to save us

His saving grace, amazing as it is, doesn't end there. Every day, God teaches us, guides us, and helps us to grow. He doesn't expect us to have it all together after one prayers. He knows we will never be perfect this side of heaven, and that's why His grace exists, to forgive us and teach us.

When we go through pain and face situations that threaten our existence, God, in His grace, will lead us. It doesn't matter if the situation was unavoidable or something we caused ourselves, God's grace is always there when we come to Him. He wants us to come to Him, often and in any situation.

From the beginning of our lives on earth, to our dying breath, it's God's grace that leads us, saves us, and comforts us. Our lives don't end when we breathe our last. After our last breath on earth, we take our first breath in Heaven. Because of God's grace, we will live eternally, free from pain and sorrow, in the presence of the One who gave us life.

Written by Emily Furda

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"Amazing Grace" by Darlene Zschech

youtu.be/WUUAwDhhjR4

Day 29

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. Take some time to look up the history of a hymn you want to learn more about. You can dive into a theme from one on your own. A concordance, online searchable Bible, or Bible app is perfect for that. Even take today and study something completely different.

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The Songs of Faith - Daily Grace Devotionals May 2020

Day 30

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Written by Robert Robinson; Alterer: Martin Madan
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read 1 Samuel 7:1-14

Even a priceless instrument in the hands of the most skilled musician can only produce beautiful music if it's tuned properly. When a violin or guitar goes out of tune, it's not a sign of poor craftsmanship or an unskilled musician. It's a sign the instrument needs a little loving care to sound its best. Strings come loose or become too tightly wound and need adjusted. Tuning their instruments before they start to play is a fundamental step most musicians learn in the very beginning, but even the best sometimes forget, and the result is not pleasant to listen to.

Just like a musical instrument needs some tuning, so do our hearts. It's easy to get swept away in our daily routines and find ourselves feeling as if something is off. The first verse of Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing is a prayer asking God to tune our hearts to praise Him and remember His grace.

How do we make a habit of bringing our hearts to God before we find ourselves singing all the wrong notes? Verse two tells us:
"Here I raise my Ebenezer, Here there by Thy great help I've come"

What is an "Ebenezer"? The song is not referring to a character in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. It's referring to 1 Samuel 7:12. Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."
NIV

Ebenezer means "stone of the help, also a commemorative stone".* After the people of Israel won a great battle, Samuel placed a stone monument as a reminder to the people of who God is and what God did for them. Sometimes, we just need a reminder. We need to raise something to remind us of all God has done and will do for us. Needing a reminder doesn't mean we're not grateful to God. It just means we're human. We all can have our own personal "Ebenezer". It might not be a gigantic stone monument in your backyard, but it could be setting an alarm on your phone each day. Maybe it's keeping Scripture written out and tucked in places you'll see it often like your refrigerator or your purse.

Remember, God isn't waiting to punish you when you find yourself out of tune. It's by His grace you've been saved and by His grace you will continue to grow in Him. There isn't any heart so out of tune that God cannot repair it with His gentle love.

Written by Emily Furda
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"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" by CXVI
youtu.be/khyb6HLMBsw

*Strong's 72

Day 31

Blessed Assurance
Written by Fanny Crosby
Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Hebrews 10:19-23

The more we learn about God's grace, mercy, and love, the more we are assured in our faith in Him, but sometimes, we still have doubts. Doubting isn't a sign of not loving God. Being honest about our doubts can be a sign of us pushing in closer to Him and wanting a deeper relationship. How can we know God if we don't ask questions? How do we understand His ways if we never admit we're confused? How do we let God comfort us, if we never admit we're weak?

Often, we think having great faith means never wavering and never admitting weakness. In fact, it's the opposite. It takes faith in God's love for us to admit we need Him. It takes belief in His security to break down and weep. The strongest faith is often demonstrated by the collapsing of weak knees.

It's in those moments, where the sacred meets the broken, that our assurance of God's love for us is found. Confidence in His power and presence only comes when we allow ourselves to question if He is present. Having questions, is the only way to find answers.

When we allow our walls to fall, we find we don't crumble apart. Instead, we collapse into God's loving arms. In the middle of pain, our hearts are held. It is there we will find our own song of faith stirring in our own hearts. At times, it's barely a whisper. Other times, it's a resounding chorus. The strength of our heart's song doesn't determine its sincerity or value. It doesn't matter if we feel feeble or invincible. The certainty of our faith isn't based on our emotions. It's based on the unwavering love of God who calls us His own. The melody of our unique song of faith in our hearts is written by our Savior. When we listen close enough, we'll find He isn't waiting for us to sing, He's leading our chorus and singing with us every day.

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