

Pursued by Him

My lack of trust and taking actions into my own hands led me down a path of wandering from grace. But God, in his goodness and mercy, pursued my heart.

While attempting to remove my own transgressions, I realized that I needed a Savior. God pointed me toward Jesus. As the psalmist says, God removes our transgressions as far as the east is from the west. He continues to see every detail of my life, and I am grateful that his love for me wipes away all my sins.

Are you running from God or are you running toward God? In the pages of this Bible, you will discover a God who loves you and who sent his only Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty of your sin.





Equipped to Serve

God chose Moses to lead the Israelites to the promised land. God knew Moses had doubts and fears, yet he called Moses to walk by faith.

Some days I don't feel qualified to do what God has called me to do. Especially when I think back to receiving a D in my high school art class! But I have to remind myself that God has gifted me with the ability to paint as a ministry to others. Instead of complaining when I am weary; instead of questioning whether God will give me the resources and strength to continue, I choose to pick up the paintbrush and trust that he will equip me and provide for all my needs.

Have you been anxious about something in your life? Can you trust that God will equip you and provide for all your needs?





Beauty in Surrender

During my twenties, I was trying to assume God's position in my life. "Control" was my nickname, and I struggled to surrender to God's authority. I desperately wanted to be married. I desperately wanted to make a living with my artwork. I desperately wanted to control my world. No matter how hard I tried, things were not going my way.

One day I knelt in submission and awe of the One who possesses all authority. I surrendered to him and trusted in his sovereignty. Again and again, he has proven himself to be trustworthy to provide for all my needs.

Have you surrendered your life to God? I can promise you this: He is who he says he is!





A Clean Heart

Learning about the sacrifices God required in the Old Testament to cleanse the people of Israel from their sins has given me a deeper understanding of God's holiness. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the Israelite high priest would enter the Holy of Holies behind the curtain in the temple. He would offer to God a sacrifice for his sin, as well as for the sins of the people of Israel.

The good news is that Jesus was the final sacrifice on the cross, and when he died, the curtain in the temple tore in two from top to bottom, giving us free access to God. When we repent and confess our sins to God, he cleanses us. My daily prayer echoes David's words in Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God."

Will you join me in making this your daily prayer too?





Letting Go of Fear

Every time I launch a product, publish a book or design a painting, I fear that it will fail. *Will customers see my heart through my work? Will I bring God glory through my work?*

Maybe you fear deciding where your kids will go to school, choosing a fertility treatment, embarking on a new career path, or moving forward without a spouse by your side. The good news is that fear cannot exist in the presence of our mighty King. Isaiah 41:10 tells us not to be afraid because God is with us, and he will help us. We don't have to fight fear alone.

Will you release your fear and hold firmly to God's hand?



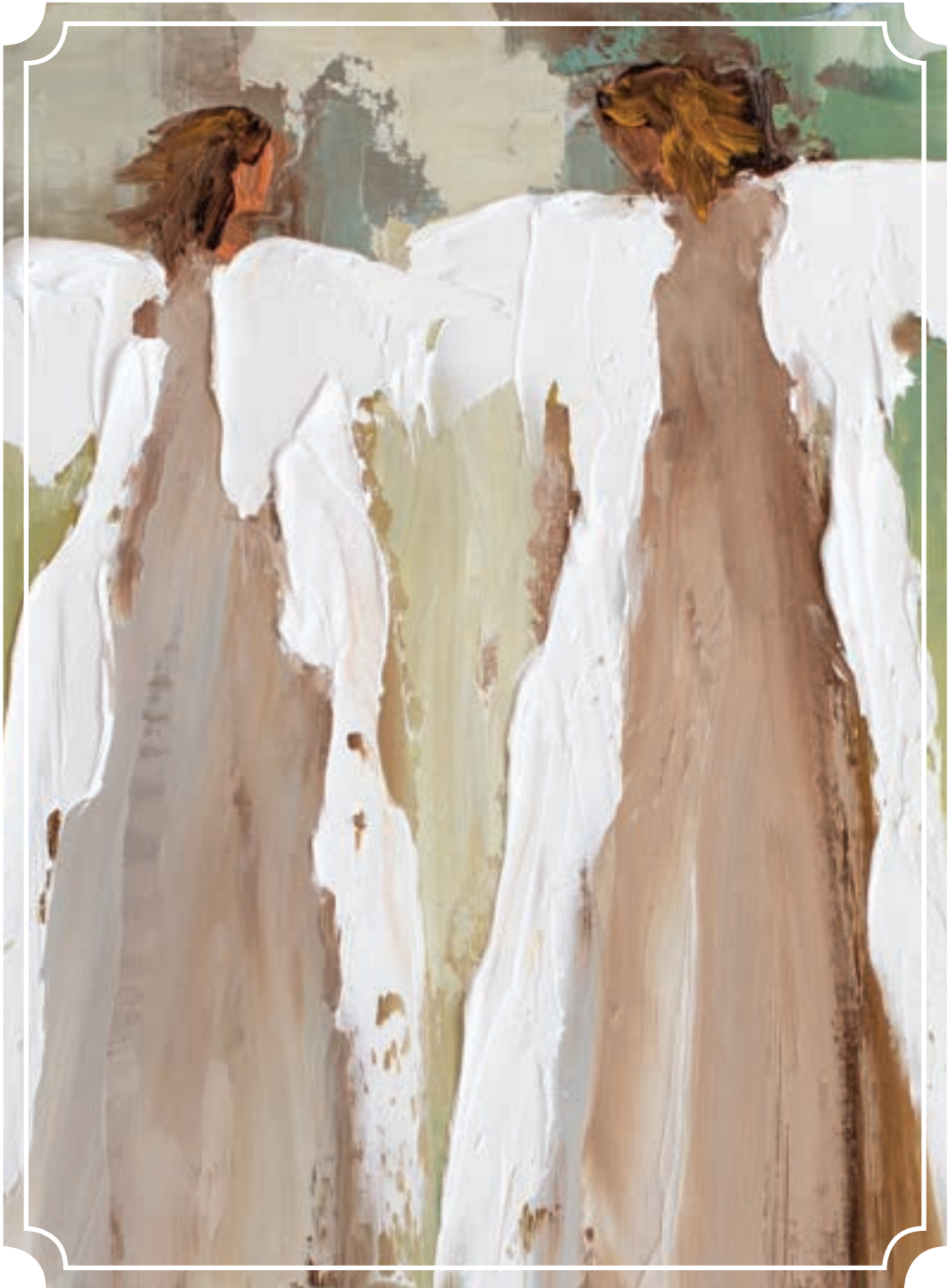


The Master Artist

As I look back over my life, I see the brushstrokes of the master Artist. Through the brokenness, the heartaches, and even the joys, God was constantly adding color and texture to my life. I had to learn to rely on him, the One who sees me and wants what is best for me. The truth is, he loves his children unconditionally, and his plans are always to give us hope and a future.

When you look back at the path your life has taken, do you see the faithfulness of God in your life? Where do you see his hand at work? Rejoice and give thanks to the One who loves you and has a plan for your life.





Practicing Patience

God's patience is evident throughout the Bible. When God required the Israelites to wander in the wilderness for forty years, he cared for them. When Jonah refused to go to Nineveh, God allowed Jonah to experience the consequences of disobedience and mercifully restored Jonah when he repented.

Like the Israelites and Jonah, God has been patient with me too. He gently reminds me to persevere through difficulties and to trust in his purpose for my life. As I keep my eyes on him, he guides me and teaches me to be more patient with others.

When has God been patient with you?
When have you been patient with others?





Guided by Wisdom

Change is inevitable for all of us . . . Our appearance, our jobs, our family stages, our health, our responsibilities: everything—except God—changes. God is the only One who remains the same. Change can make us feel afraid, frustrated and discouraged, but when we follow the One who is leading us, we find wisdom to navigate the ever-changing terrain.

Whether you are experiencing new parenthood, becoming an empty nester, caring for an ailing parent, walking through a divorce, whatever it may be, keep trusting God to lead you. He is steadfast and immovable. Look to him for wisdom to navigate the changes you face today.



