

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?



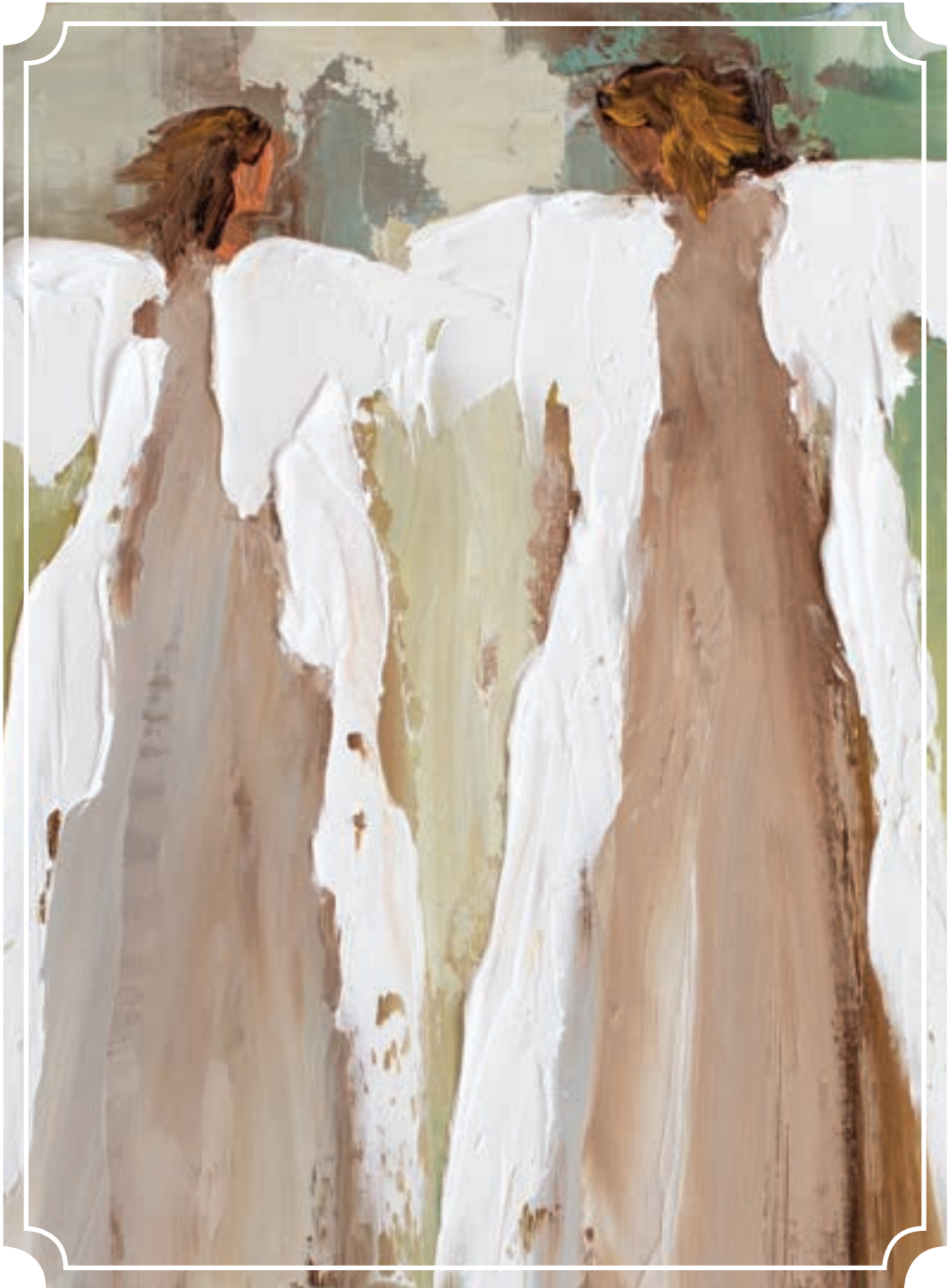


The Master Artist

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.





Seated on High

God presides over every event—big or small. To be sovereign, he must be all-knowing. His sovereignty is so comforting to me. When I hear loved ones express their worry, I remind them that God is not pacing back and forth in heaven wondering what to do. Rather, he is seated on his throne.

We may not always understand why things happen, but we can trust that God knows about it all, and his plans will not fail. So today, do not worry about tomorrow or the things that come your way—rest in the sovereignty of God.





Big God, Big Things

I know we serve a big God, but sometimes I am guilty of keeping him in a small box.

Several years ago, when painting was a hobby and I was busy leading Bible studies, our lesson for the day was “Big God, Small Boxes.” I had painted a special angel for a celebrity musician who had lost his daughter in a tragic accident. Out of obedience to the Lord, I sent the painting to the family but told my Bible study group that I probably would not hear from them. God had bigger plans. Not only did I meet the family, but we became dear friends.

What are you asking God to do in your life? Take him out of that small box and believe he will do BIG things!





The Power of God

Did you know that God is all-powerful? He spoke all things into being and all things—every cell, every breath, every life—are sustained by him. Nothing is too difficult for him.

As I look back on my journey of painting angels, I can say that God is who he says he is. I tend to overcomplicate situations, but having this awareness of God's power when encountering many tests and trials—in marriage, parenting adult children and running several companies while still pursuing my artwork—has taught me to give everything back to God. When I give everything to the all-powerful God, I see him move and reign in my life.

What do you need to give back to God today? Believe that nothing is too difficult for God Almighty.





Shining God's Light

I find comfort in knowing that God is with me . . . always. He challenges me to not only live in the world but to reflect his light in a world full of darkness.

Every morning I pray that through my actions and artwork others would see the Lord. I yearn for others to experience God. I pray that they will see him as I strive to love others, be a peacemaker, show grace and be merciful. God is our greatest hope and the only One who can redeem and restore the brokenness in our lives.

How can you shine your light so others see God?





Great Love

As an artist, I have experienced God's love through the creative process. His patient love allows me to take my time in developing my artistic skills. His kind love allows me to find joy and fulfillment in my work. His forgiving love allows me to learn from my mistakes and grow as an artist. Furthermore, God's inspiring love provides me with endless ideas to create beautiful and meaningful artwork. Creating art reminds me of God's constant presence and the love he has shown me through Jesus. Because of his great love, he gets all the glory!

Where do you see God's love in your life?





Living Transformed

My bright, newly renovated studio had been under construction for weeks. Sorting and packing, moving and organizing, building and refinishing—each step required time and consideration. The now beautiful space reminds me that there is a process to transformation.

When we enter into a relationship with Jesus, we begin a process of sorting through our habits, reorganizing our priorities and refining our character. Jesus willingly takes our burdens and offers us his righteousness. The process may be messy, but the result is a beautiful, transformed life.

What needs reconstructing in your life? Have you invited the Lord to transform you from the inside out?





No Favoritism

God is righteous and holy, fair and equitable. We can trust him to do what is right.

As a mother of four, I try to be fair by ensuring everything is equal among my four children. “If I buy you a dress, then you get one too!” This can be quite difficult with three daughters close in age and can put a hurt on my dollar.

God has demonstrated his love for us by showing no favoritism. He sent Jesus to die on the cross in our place, taking the punishment we deserved for our sins; he then raised Jesus back to life so we could live with him forever. What a comfort to know that we have a heavenly Parent who wants to lavish his unconditional love upon us.





Love and Joy

We live in a fallen world. I see the evidence of that in the tragedies that are reported through the news or social media on a daily basis. The one thing I cling to is God's Word, which reveals the truth about his character. No matter what happens in this life, I know God is good. The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 8:28 that God causes all things to work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Over the years, countless clients have come through my doors sharing their stories of heartache and loss. But in the midst of pain, there is a deep, settled joy that comes from knowing the Creator. I don't know what you are going through today, but I know that God is good. He sees you and he loves you, today and always!





Our Comforter

I worship God while I am painting angels; I don't worship the angels, but I worship the Creator of the angels. I begin by mixing oils while worship music fills the room. Then I allow the Holy Spirit to move from the depths of my soul onto the canvas. I pray over every painting created in my studio and have heard countless people comment on how these ethereal paintings bring comfort during seasons of loss or seasons of joy.

The apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 1:4 that God comforts us. He longs to wrap his loving arms around us . . . through a painting, through a friend, through a handwritten note or through his Word.

Will you let him wrap his loving arms around you today?





Glory to God

What started as a passion for painting has become a business that is bigger than I could have ever asked for or imagined. As I reflect on my life today, all I can say is “Only God.” He knew the plans he had for me. From my first angel painting in 2003 to all the divine appointments along the way, God has shown me his favor. When I am asked how I grew my business, my answer is: “Only God. Always God. Forever God.” All that I do is for his glory.

What moments can you look back on and say, “Only God”?





A Grace-Filled Savior

Grace is God's unmerited favor, his forgiveness of debt that cannot be repaid.

I love that word: *grace*. I don't deserve grace, but because of God's great love, he has given me grace. When did you first believe that God had given you grace? Have you, by grace, believed that God ransomed you, rescuing you through his Son, Jesus Christ, who died on a cross for you?

My hope is secure because of Jesus' sacrifice, and I have a relationship with the living God who clothes me in his righteousness. What an honor to be a daughter of the King!





Jesus Is Enough

Sometimes while I'm painting, I get lost in worship music. Some of the songs remind me that no matter what I gain or lose, God is all I need. I love praising the King of kings while listening to songs that remind me of truth. When I begin to doubt myself, I am reminded that Jesus is enough. The word "enough" means that I don't have to search anywhere else for salvation, provision or strength. I can place my full confidence in Christ because he is the only One who will satisfy my soul.

Do you believe Jesus is enough for you?





Faithful to the End

God is faithful to keep his covenants and fulfill his promises. Philippians 1:6 says that we can be confident that God is going to finish the work he has begun in us.

What promises are you waiting on God to fulfill in your life? Don't give up hope. God is the same yesterday, today and forever; he is faithful to the end.

My prayer list is a mile long and some days I wonder, *How much longer must I wait, Lord?* But God is faithful to all his promises. We must stand firm in faith and hold on to hope as we trust God to come through on his promises.





Peace in His Presence

Every day we are faced with opportunities to dwell either in God's presence or on our fears. Be it fear of the unknown, losing a loved one, making a bad decision, random acts of violence, or a medical diagnosis, fear robs us of God's power, love and self-discipline. Fear can cause us to react in irrational ways. I don't want to live in fear. I want to open my heart, lift my hands and share my concerns with an ever-present God. I know he longs to hear from me, and I trust that he will fill me with his peace.

Will you choose to dwell in God's presence today?





Don't Give Up

All God's acts are accomplished through his infinite wisdom. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that God's Word is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword. That verse was embedded in my heart during my teenage years; what a gift it was to know that wisdom and truth are found in God's Word.

If you need wisdom, I encourage you to start right here—in God's Word. Pray his Word out loud for all your needs. He will guide you every step of the way. Whether you are praying about relationships, finances, children, the future—whatever you need wisdom for—don't give up praying before the miracle happens. Keep seeking. Keep asking. His wisdom is infinite, and he longs to listen when we come to him in prayer.





New Every Morning

The apostle Peter says in 2 Peter 3:9 that God is patient with us and desires all to come to repentance.

In my twenties, I wandered. I knew God and I believed in God, but I kept him at arm's length, insistent upon doing things my own way. One day I fell on my knees and cried out to God, asking him for mercy and forgiveness. I surrendered my life to him in that moment, and his peace that passes all understanding flooded my heart. As I paint my way through life, there are still highs and lows; however, I am grateful for God's mercy and love.

What do you need to surrender? Do you know how much God loves you? His mercies and compassions are new every morning!



