



HOPE FOR EACH
DAY

365 DEVOTIONS FOR KIDS

BILLY GRAHAM

JANUARY 1

IN TUNE WITH THE MASTER

You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.

PSALM 32:7

Do you like to listen to music? When singers sing the right notes and stay in tune, it is very beautiful. But when a singer does not sing the right notes, his voice does not blend with the others, and it doesn't sound very good. All the singers have to follow the notes assigned to them in the music and sing in tune for the music to sound as good as possible.

When we don't follow God's ways for our lives, we get out of tune—out of harmony with others and with God. It doesn't sound good to anyone. We hear words of anger, or selfishness, or unhappiness. But if we follow God's way—like the singers who follow their notes—our lives will be much happier, and we will find ourselves surrounded by His beautiful music.

As this new year begins, ask God to help you tune your life every day to His Word, the Bible, so you can bring harmony and joy to those around you.

JANUARY 2

THE SUN STILL SHINES

They looked . . . and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

EXODUS 16:10

Everyone loves a sunny day, but we need cloudy days too. Without clouds there would be no rain to help plants grow. And without rain there would be no water. But after the rain, there is a beautiful rainbow and a bright sunny sky.

Sometimes we feel sad on cloudy days. But above the clouds the sky is blue and the sun is shining!

Problems can be like clouds. When trouble comes, we get worried. We forget that just as the sun is still shining above the clouds, God is still with us when we face problems. And He can turn our problems into blessings! When God led His people out of Egypt and through the wilderness, He led them by a cloud!

Sometimes our problems are small like white, fluffy clouds. Sometimes they are big and scary like big thunderstorm clouds. When you are worried or afraid, ask Jesus to help you. On happy, sunny days and on cloudy, worried days, God is right there with you, holding your hand and keeping you safe with Him.

JANUARY 3

HOW TO BE HAPPY

With You is the fountain of life.

PSALM 36:9

What makes you happy—winning a game? Getting a good grade?
Riding a roller coaster?

We all feel happy when good things happen. But can we be happy even when bad things happen?

Peace is a special kind of happiness. Jesus promised peace to everyone who trusts and follows Him: “The water I give will become a spring of water flowing inside. . . . It will give [you] eternal life. . . . My peace I give you” (John 4:14, 14:27 ICB). Jesus’ peace is like a natural spring—underground water that comes up through an opening in the earth.

Near my home is a spring that never stops flowing, no matter the weather. That is just like Jesus’ peace. We can feel the peace Jesus gives us even when bad things happen.

So when you face a problem, remember to tell Jesus all about it and ask Him for His peace.

JANUARY 4

THE PROMISE IS OURS

“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:20

David Livingstone was a missionary and explorer in Africa. There were many adventures, but it was also very hard. After sixteen long years David returned to his home in Scotland for a visit. He was skinny and weak because he had been sick so often. His left arm had been mangled by a lion and hung useless at his side.

Speaking to university students, Livingstone said, “Shall I tell you what kept me going during the hard and lonely times? It was Jesus’ promise, ‘I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”

That promise is ours too! No matter where we go—from our home to a faraway place like Africa—Jesus never leaves us. He is with us on our most exciting adventures and in our hardest days. Isn’t it good to know that we have a God who loves us so much He never leaves us all on our own?

JANUARY 5

HERE TO HELP

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

ROMANS 8:35

At the empty tomb after Jesus' resurrection, women heard an angel say that Jesus was alive. And as they ran to tell His disciples the news, Jesus came to them and said, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go on to Galilee. They will see me there" (Matthew 28:10 ICB). Jerusalem was a dangerous place for Jesus' followers, but Jesus said, "Don't be afraid."

Jesus still comes to all who love Him and says, "Don't be afraid."

He comes when you are sick. He comes when you fail a test or when you are cut from the team. He comes when scary things happen or when people are mean to you. And He says, "Don't be afraid. I'm alive, and I'm here to help you. The cross shows the depth of My love, and the resurrection shows the depth of My power. Nothing can ever separate you from Me!"

JANUARY 6

MANY MANSIONS

“In My Father’s house are many mansions. . . .
I go to prepare a place for you.”

JOHN 14:2

There was once a little boy who was riding alone on a train, and the scenery was not too interesting. A woman sitting beside him asked, “Are you tired of the long ride?”

The boy smiled and said, “I’m a little tired, but I don’t mind it much. You see, my father is going to meet me when I get there.”

Just like that boy looked forward to having his father meet him at his destination, Christians look forward to having Jesus meet us when we arrive at our destination—Heaven! Jesus said, “I go to prepare a place for you.”

You are young and have many wonderful years of life ahead of you. You have so many things to look forward to! But someday you will be old, and your life on earth will end.

Knowing that Jesus will meet us at the end of our life’s journey takes any worry away. Paul wrote, “Therefore we do not lose heart. . . . For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:16, 18). Our problems shrink when we remember we will be with Jesus forever!

JANUARY 7

BE THANKFUL

I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation.

PHILIPPIANS 4:12 NIV

Some years ago I visited a man who was wealthy and successful. But as we talked, he broke down in tears. He confessed that while he looked happy on the outside, he was actually unhappy and miserable.

A few hours later I visited another man who lived only a few miles away. His cottage was humble, and he had very little. He told me about the work he was doing for Jesus and how Jesus filled his life with meaning and purpose. All over the world, when people learn about Jesus, they are so happy it is like their faces shine.

I went away convinced that the second man was really the rich man. Although he owned very little, he had learned to be thankful for everything God had given him. Being thankful makes all the difference.