

ONE-MINUTE
PRAYERS[®]
for Wives

HOPE LYDA



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To Marc, a man of remarkable grace and strength.

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Contents

Gratitude...	5
Joy...	11
Grace...	17
Wholeness...	23
Seeking Wisdom...	29
Healing...	35
Commitment...	41
Patience...	47
Dependence...	53
Partnership...	59
Self...	65
Life...	71
Sharing...	77
Support...	83
Future...	89

Agreement...	95
Compassion...	101
Forever...	107
Give and Take...	113
Listening...	119
Sanctuary...	125
Gifts...	131
Forgiveness...	137
Honor...	143
Communication...	149
Love...	155
Belief...	161
Faithfulness...	167
For the Journey...	173

Glad for Beginnings

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good
understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.*

PSALM 111:10



What would I do without beginnings, God? When my vision gets cloudy and I cannot clearly see the gifts of the present day or the possibilities for the future, I know that I need to start my movement along the path You have prepared for me. It's the way of wisdom and understanding. It offers assurances of next steps and a forward direction even when I can't figure out what is unfolding.

When my husband and I find ourselves at cross-roads or dead ends, we know it's because we have been wandering in our own understanding. Each time is an opportunity to shed our flawed human perspective and look ahead with Your eyes. And each new beginning with You is bright with hope.

The Joy of the Harvest

*The LORD your God will bless
you in all your harvest
and in all the work of your hands,
and your joy will be complete.*

DEUTERONOMY 16:15



I don't till the earth, but I do plant seeds. I don't gather grain in the fields, but I do have a life that bears a harvest. You bless me, Lord, with work to do and seasons of growth. I tend to my marriage and watch it bloom with love. I make prayer a priority, and faith takes root. Each day's toil nourishes my family and they flourish as a result of that investment of intention. With joy I anticipate the fruit of Your labor, not mine. I believe that You have planted seeds within me that You're still tending to. I know that I'll continue to grow and reach new heights in the warmth of Your sun. I am so grateful for the harvest of Your love in my life.

A Positive Influence

When [Barnabas] arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

ACTS 11:23



Simple graciousness is lost in the frenzy that buzzes around me and, I must admit, within me some days. And because of this, Your grace has even greater positive influence. People are stunned when they receive a touch of it from someone else. Lord, I want to be a woman who extends Your grace to everyone and who never worries about whether they offer it back to me. It's okay if others are frugal with their version. That should motivate me to shower those people with more of Your mercy and love. Nobody is immune to the influence of Your sweet grace for very long. It makes us feel held and safe. And in these times of hyper-connection that results in frequent isolation, feeling held and safe changes us inside out.

Seeing God in My Marriage

*No one has ever seen God;
but if we love one another,
God lives in us and his love is
made complete in us.*

1 JOHN 4:12



There are times when I can list off the things my husband is doing wrong. What a terrible thing to admit, Lord. I am dropping that mental list and only keeping track of the ways that I see You in him. How is Your grace evident in his forgiveness? How is Your strength and help made clear in his efforts to lead us? How has his own transformation in even small ways shown to me the power of Your salvation? I realize now that this positive, faithful list can go on and on. I will be a better friend and partner and lover when I find the wholeness of Your love within my marriage. Help me to watch for You and Your love in my husband and in this relationship from this day forward.

Thirsty Marriage

*You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you, my whole body longs for you,
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.*

PSALM 63:1



God, I seek Your sustenance for my marriage. Let Your love and wisdom rain down on us. I don't want to let a hurting time turn into a dry season. Refuel our connection so that we don't let small talk become our only conversation. Restore our first instincts to be tender with one another's heart and protective of our love.

I long to feel Your hand on our marriage when we seem extra fragile. Refill us with Your living water so we become alive again and eager to put in the work, effort, care, and commitment to build on the foundation of love we have and are grateful for. Guide us to discover the deeper hope You have planted in our relationship. It will not wither, but will flourish in Your care. Refresh us, Lord.

Love Rising

*Rise up and help us; redeem us
because of your unfailing love.*

PSALM 44:26



Redeem this marriage, God. Look it over from every angle. What aspects are to be elevated? Removed? Transformed? My husband and I offer our relationship to You for Your purposes. May You rise up in our lives. May others see Your strength in our struggles. Your unfailing love is the only thing that can save our fallible, human love. We trust Your healing even in times when we harbor doubts about ourselves or the other. Thank You for allowing us to see our own flaws more clearly so that we look to Your perfection for our answers. There's nothing that we have created that can serve as our foundation. Only You and Your healing mercy provide that place for us to stand together with hope and the great peace of Your promises.