

KJV

DEVOTIONAL

for Women



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AND CAROLYN HADLEY



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INTRODUCTION

The King James Bible is the longest-enduring and best-selling English version of the Bible. In 1604, King James I authorized its creation, and after seven years of translation work by fifty-four translators and scholars, it was completed in 1611. At the time it was created, the KJV was significant because of the collaborative process of its creation, which utilized and united opposing theological factions.

The King James Bible has enjoyed an illustrious career, influencing language, literature, and culture. Almost every American president has been sworn into office with his hand on a King James Bible, and more than 250 common English phrases originate from the version. The KJV contains more than 788,000 words, with 12,000 of them being unique.

This devotional is written by two women: Suzanne Gosselin, a pastor's wife and stay-at-home mother of four children, and her aunt, Carolyn Hadley, a retired nurse, widow, mother of three, and grandmother of six.

Both women wanted to honor the tradition of the King James Bible, writing reflections based on verses they have known and loved since childhood. Each reflection

has been labeled with the author's name for clarity. The authors pray that as you meditate on these well-loved passages of Scripture and the truths they contain, the God of hope will fill you with all joy and peace in believing (Romans 15:13).

REMINDERS OF THE CREATOR

— Suzanne —

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

JOHN 1:3

A few years ago, we were leaving church, and I noticed my young daughter grasping handfuls of leaves, sticks, and pebbles.

“What is that?” I asked her.

“I’m keeping all of these things because they remind me of God,” she said.

I was struck by her simple observation. Nature is a powerful reminder that Jesus, through God, created and controls all things. Nothing we see would exist without Him.

This truth brings comfort when the world seems out of control. When I feel overwhelmed by the news headlines or a challenging situation in my own life, I can remember that everything that exists is here because of my loving, powerful Creator. When I wonder if the Lord will come through for me, I need only look at an intricate leaf, a blooming flower, or a towering grove of trees to see what He has already done and trust that my circumstances are in His capable hands.

SOUL SUPPORT

— Suzanne —

*And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes,
to fear the LORD our God, for our good always,
that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.*

DEUTERONOMY 6:24

Not long ago I was in a buffet line at a women's event. I noticed the woman next to me taking only a few raspberries when there were luscious egg dishes and pastries spread across the table.

"Are you on a restrictive diet?" I asked, feeling a bit sorry for her. Her reply took me aback.

"I prefer not to think of it as a restrictive diet," she said cheerfully. "I just eat what is supportive to my body."

How many times do you and I think of God's commands as restrictive? We may feel like abiding by His statutes sucks the fun out of life or is a sacrifice. But that's the wrong way to look at it.

God's commands are life-giving and supportive to our souls. In some cases, they preserve our physical lives, but they always enrich our spiritual lives. As I follow Jesus, I'm not giving up something; I'm choosing to pursue that which causes my soul to flourish.

THE WELLNESS DIET

— Carolyn —

*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or
whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

I have an unusual New Year's tradition. I literally "jump" into the next year by leaping off a stool, chair, or hearth. This was my mother-in-law's way of signaling a fresh, new start to the year. Every January, I honor her memory by doing this activity, and I hope to pass this tradition down to future generations.

A new year offers hope for positive change. My goals are to be physically and spiritually fit so I can serve the Lord to the best of my ability. This requires self-discipline and a healthy lifestyle of adequate sleep, reduced stress, and exercise.

More importantly, a new year offers me an opportunity to become more spiritually fit by surrendering myself more to Christ. I do this as I seek Him daily and allow Him to feed my soul. It may not be a new year, but why not glorify God by jumping into habits that support your physical and spiritual health?

GOD'S GOOD VOICE

Suzanne

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know
them, and they follow me.*

JOHN 10:27

When my son was four years old, he paid me an unusual compliment. "You're my best mom," he said. "Your voice sounds good."

As I pondered his simple words, I reflected that I also love *my* mother's voice. I have often called her just to hear her reassuring voice on the other end of the line. The Bible says God's sheep, believers, hear His voice and follow Him. His voice should sound attractive because He is a good and loving Father, a gentle Shepherd, and a faithful yokefellow.

The longer I walk with the Lord, the more familiar His still, small voice becomes. I hear it when my soul is overwhelmed and fearful. I hear it when I step out into His creation and see His glory. I hear it in the intimate moments where I confess something no human knows about me and hear Him say, "I love you." May I learn to listen well, and may my Shepherd's voice be a delight to hear.

LIVING HOW WE OUGHT

— Suzanne —

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

TITUS 2:11-13

When we look at the world around us, there are many messages telling us how we ought to live. *Do what makes you happy*, some cry. *Do what makes other people happy*, others shout. The competing voices in our culture can make us feel tossed in the waves of popular opinion and worldly wisdom. Sometimes it's hard to know where to turn our eyes, where we should focus.

Paul answered this very question when he told Titus how the saved should live in light of God's grace. The unmerited gift of salvation should motivate us to turn away from ungodliness and live measured, righteous lives in Christ. And as we do, we look forward to a great hope—the day the trials of this life are over and our risen Savior returns to make all things new.

THE LONE SEAGULL

Carolyn

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary
the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh
about, seeking whom he may devour.*

1 PETER 5:8

A few years ago, my family took a beach vacation to Florida. One morning, I took in the beautiful panorama from the balcony of our condo. The reflection of the blue-green water, the waves crashing on the white sandy shoreline, the swaying palm trees, and the jabbering of seagulls all fought for my attention and delighted my senses.

Just then, I noticed a lone seagull hovering in the air at a distance behind a colony of seagulls flying in V formation. *Had it been late in joining the group?* I wondered. *Was it rejected by others? Or did it want to be the leader and refuse to fall in line?* Whatever the reason, this seagull was on a solo flight.

As believers, we may sometimes feel as if we're flying solo. But there is strength in numbers. Flying alone can be a liability. We can find protection and strength in God and His people. We must keep watch for Satan's attempts to undermine God's purposes in our lives. And the safest place to do that is in Christian community. God grants us strength in numbers.

TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE

— Suzanne —

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10

One of the most uncomfortable things for me is needing help. I greatly prefer to handle problems on my own rather than have my weaknesses revealed. But sometimes a second person is not only helpful but absolutely necessary!

God designed us to be interdependent. This is seen in how He established families at the start of creation and how He designed the church to function—a diverse body of believers working together to accomplish God's purposes. We need other people to help and encourage us. Think of a situation where you simply could not have gotten by without another's help. How did God use that person in your life? How can you support someone today?

BE KIND

— Suzanne —

*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, even as God for
Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

EPHESIANS 4:32

Not long ago, I stepped into line at a convenience store just as a young man with cerebral palsy approached the counter in a motorized wheelchair. Over the next few minutes, I watched the cashier patiently help the man purchase a soft drink, leaning in to understand his slurred speech.

Even though the man had difficulty with the steps of making his purchase, the other customers remained unbothered and even helped him retrieve his wallet to pay. When the purchase was complete, the cashier went above and beyond, pouring the man's soft drink into his insulated cup.

"Have a good day, everyone!" the man said as he wheeled away.

The situation touched me. It reminded me of God's kindness in saving me when I could do nothing for myself. When we show kindness to others, we not only make ourselves a blessing to our fellow man, but we also reflect the character of our compassionate God. That's a great reason to be kind today!

DECLARING MY PRAISE

Carolyn

*Let everything that hath breath praise
the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.*

PSALM 150:6

One summer evening, after enjoying a wonderful meal and sweet fellowship with a group of friends, my husband and I blended our voices with eight others to sing the doxology on the restaurant's front porch.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

These familiar words written by Thomas Ken make up one of the most widely sung hymns of all time. The song reminds us that all blessings and good gifts flow from God above. The doxology has become one of my family's favorite anthems to sing at family gatherings and holidays.

That evening on the restaurant porch, those who passed by asked if we were a choir, and we kindly told them no. We simply could not contain our praise! Two of those men, including my husband, have gone to be with the Lord since that night, but this sweet memory remains. As long as we have breath, may God find us faithful to give Him the praise He deserves.

FAITHFUL GOD

— Suzanne —

*If we believe not, yet he abideth
faithful: he cannot deny himself.*

2 TIMOTHY 2:13

Understanding God's faithfulness can be difficult at times because it is so contrary to our human expression of it. His commitment to His promises is integral to His character. It's impossible for Him to be anything but faithful.

The hymnist Thomas Chisholm put it beautifully in his famous hymn: "Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father / There is no shadow of turning with Thee / Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not / As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be."

Perhaps the greatest truth is that God's faithfulness is not dependent on my actions. I can think of many times I have been unfaithful. I have reneged on a promise, failed to trust God, or neglected to obey His commands. But when I fail to believe, God's character remains unchanged. As I realize this important truth, I am freed to rest on His character and trust in His work in my life.