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FOR
Women

365 daily devotions

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A LITTLE GOD TIME FOR WOMEN

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Devotional entries composed by Janelle Anthony Breckell, Claire Flores, Cate Mezyk, Stephanie Sample, Jacquelyn Senske, and Michelle Winger.

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THE LORD IS GOOD

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TO THOSE WHOSE HOPE IS IN HIM,

TO THE ONE WHO SEEKS HIM;

IT IS GOOD TO WAIT QUIETLY

FOR THE SALVATION OF THE LORD.

LAMENTATIONS 3:25-26 NIV



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Introduction

When life demands your attention, carve out a little God time and find a few moments of peace. A little quiet time is what we all need but can rarely find in the craziness of everyday life.

Be inspired as you reflect on these devotions, Scriptures, and prayers. As you meditate on God's Word, you will find godly wisdom and insight that strengthens your faith, encourages your heart, and brings rest to your anxious mind.

Rest in the presence of God each day and be refreshed with an abundance of joy, grace, and peace.



January

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You are so intimately aware of me, Lord.

You read my heart like an open book
and you know all the words I'm about to speak
before I even start a sentence!
You know every step I will take
before my journey even begins!

PSALM 139:3-4 TPT

JANUARY 1

Something New

*"I am about to do something new.
See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?
I will make a pathway through the wilderness.
I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."*

ISAIAH 43:19 NLT

Whether you have generated a color-coded list of goals, dreams, and an execution plan for the next 365 days or you've banned resolutions and vowed to make this just another day on the calendar, the clean slate represented by the first day of a new year is filled with an undeniable air of expectation. The excitement of a new year is not a gadget sale in comparison to the promise of a new beginning. Deep down inside, there is a part of us which thinks, "This could be my year!"

Guess what? It is your year. This day, and every one that follows, is yours. It is yours to choose who and how to love, to serve, and even to be. And the choice you made in reading this page represents the choice to take this journey in the company of your heavenly Father. That is a beautiful place to start.

**What new thing would you like to do this year?
What pathways do you need God to clear?**

About You

*Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant.
May everything you have said about me come true."
And then the angel left her."*

LUKE 1:38 NLT

In a memorable scene from a movie about teenage girls, a teacher asks a gymnasium full of young women to close their eyes and raise their hands if they've ever said anything bad about another girl. Virtually every hand is raised. The reason this scene rings true is that it *is* true. And sadly, we are often even harder on ourselves.

Property of BroadStreet Publishing. Do not duplicate. In addition to the amazing news that Mary would bear God's son, the angel who visits her in Luke 1 also tells Mary of her goodness, of her favor in God's eyes. Mary was a teenage girl. Chances are, she'd heard—and thought—something less than kind about herself on more than one occasion. Consider her brave, beautiful response.

Are you self-critical? If asked to describe yourself, what would you say?
Now think of someone who loves you. What do they say about you?
Decide today to let their words, and God's words, be the truth.
Join Mary in saying to God, "May everything you have said
about me come true."

Feeling Stuck

*The Sovereign LORD is my strength!
He makes me as surefooted as a deer,
able to tread upon the heights.*

HABAKKUK 3:19 NLT

"Local authorities are reporting blizzard conditions on the Interstate." Did your pulse just quicken, your muscles tense? No one likes to feel stuck, and blinding snow and unmoving vehicles on every side can cause even the most rational, laid-back woman to imagine leaping from her car and running over rooftops and across hoods, action hero style. What a fun way to test out the traction on your new winter boots. Or not. Anyway, stuck is stuck, right?

Maybe we feel stuck in our everyday lives. A job that doesn't utilize our gifts, a relationship that's more take than give, a habit that's edging toward addiction. Unlike that snow-covered freeway-turned-parking-lot, there is a direction to turn when circumstances have you feeling boxed in. Turn your face toward the Lord; let him fill you with the strength to move.

Where are you stuck right now? Professionally, personally, or perhaps in your prayer life, is there an area where you've simply stopped moving? Ask God for surefooted strength, and then go where he leads you.

The Father's Love

"If a man has a hundred sheep but one of the sheep gets lost, he will leave the other ninety-nine on the hill and go to look for the lost sheep. I tell you the truth, if he finds it he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that were never lost."

MATTHEW 18:12-13 NCV

Regardless of how beautifully or how imperfectly your earthly father showed his love, your heavenly Father's love is utterly boundless. Rest in that thought a moment. There is nothing you can do to change how he feels about you. Nothing.

Property of BroadStreet Publishing. Do not duplicate. We spend so much time trying to make ourselves more lovable, from beauty regimens to gourmet baking, to being there for pretty much everyone. It's easy to forget we are already perfectly loved. Our Father loves us more than we can imagine. And he would do anything for us. Anything.

Who do you love most fiercely, most protectively, most desperately here on earth? What would you do for them? Know that it's a mere fraction, nearly immeasurable, of what God would do for you.

Spend some time thanking him for his great love.

Procrastination

*Those who wait for perfect weather
will never plant seeds;
those who look at every cloud
will never harvest crops.*

ECCLESIASTES 11:4 NCV

I don't want to walk in late; I think I'll just go tomorrow.

I'm feeling a little tired; I probably wouldn't do my best today, anyway.

I don't feel very creative right now. I'll do it in the morning.

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How often are circumstances ideal? How often do we think we need to wait until they are?

Right now, today, let's choose together to follow the advice of Scripture and decide that a few minutes late is better than absent. Let's acknowledge our collective fatigue, and then do today's version of our best in spite of it. Let's stop waiting for a burst of creativity, attack our projects, and see what happens. Let's honor God—and surprise ourselves at the same time.

What are you waiting for?

Compassion

*Share each other's burdens,
and in this way obey the law of Christ.*

GALATIANS 6:2 NLT

Advertisers know your secret. They know the sight of a lost puppy, starving child, or grieving mother tugs at something deep inside your female heart, giving you a powerful desire to do something—anything. They're counting on it. When we accepted Christ, and he gave us his Holy Spirit, we became aware of his heart. Specifically, we became aware of what breaks his heart. The more in tune we are with him, the more those things break our own hearts.

Jesus was pretty clear: "Feed my sheep," he commanded. His actions said the same; he fed them by the thousands. He wept for Lazarus' sisters in their grief. He wept for those who did not recognize him. He wept for us. He took on our burden of sin, the full weight of it, so we might live and know his heart.

What breaks your heart? Do you find yourself aching at the sight of a motherless child, a homeless mother, a neglected animal?
How can you act on this compassion, and obey Christ?

Growth

*I do not mean that I am already as God wants me to be.
I have not yet reached that goal,
but I continue trying to reach it and to make it mine.
Christ wants me to do that, which is the reason he made me his.*

PHILIPPIANS 3:12 NCV

Do you remember when you realized you had stopped growing? Your height was going to be your height, your shoe size your shoe size. This second fact was pretty thrilling for many of us; no more hearing Mom say, "That's too much to spend on shoes you'll outgrow in a few months." And so the collection began.

Not too long after our bones finish growing, we realize the real growth is just getting started. As we become young women, friendships either deepen or fade away as we begin to figure out who we are. No matter what our ages today, most of us are still working on that one. When we are growing in Christ, it's a process that never really ends.

How does knowing that God wants to help you become your best inspire you to attempt it this year?

The Buddy System

*"This is my command—be strong and courageous!
Do not be afraid or discouraged.
For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*

JOSHUA 1:9 NLT

Women like to travel in pairs. Men love to razz us for it, but it really does feel better to go to the restroom (or the concession stand, or the mall, or the movies, or to a child's basketball game) with another woman. It's not that it's uncomfortable being alone; it's just that most things are better with a companion. We go with our friends when they ask because we want to go.

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How great it is to realize we have a constant companion in the Holy Spirit? Once we've accepted Jesus' free gift of salvation, we'll never be alone again. He's there for all of it: he silly, the simple, and the scary. Waiting for those test results, driving a lonely road at night, or walking an unfamiliar neighborhood by day, we are not alone. He is with us wherever we go. And like a true friend, he's there because he wants to be.

Spend some quiet time feeling the ever-present Spirit of God.
Thank him for his companionship.

No Words

*Then they sat on the ground with him
for seven days and nights.
No one said a word to Job,
for they saw that his suffering was too great for words.*

JOB 2:13 NLT

Sometimes, all you need to do to be a hero is show up. We love to talk, don't we? Words of encouragement, words of comfort, words of advice. Even if you are the quiet type, you know a woman who is rarely at a loss for words.

Property of BroadStreet Publishing. Do not duplicate. But occasionally, there really are no words. Someone you love is hurting, and you truly don't know what to say. Your presence says it all. Know that, in those moments you feel lost for words, if God occupies the central place in your heart, he'll make your heart known.

How easy or difficult would it be for you to simply be with someone in their sorrow and not try to "fix" them? Do you know someone who would be blessed today by the silent, loving presence of someone who loves them?

JANUARY 10

Follow the Arrow

*Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,
"This is the way, walk in it,"
Whenever you turn to the right hand
or whenever you turn to the left."*

ISAIAH 30:21 NKJV

Decisions, decisions. It seems a week never goes by without our needing to make at least one important choice. Whether job related, relationship motivated, or something as seemingly innocent as how to spend a free Friday, wouldn't it be nice to have an arrow pointing us in the right direction especially if we are **Struggling, Publishing, or not turning?**

According to the Word, we have exactly that. When we truly desire to walk the path God sets us on, and when we earnestly seek his voice, he promises to lead us in the right direction. His ever-present Spirit is right there, ready to put us back on the path each time we wander off.

**Consider the decisions before you right now.
Who are you turning to for guidance?
Lay your options before God and then listen for his voice.**

The Joy of Certainty

*You will show me the path of life;
in Your presence is fullness of joy;
at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

PSALM 16:11 NKJV

Yesterday we read about hearing God's voice behind us, leading us down the path he's chosen for our lives. Perhaps this idea isn't entirely comforting to you. What about free will? What if I want to wander off the path a little bit? The idea of just blindly following someone, even God himself, can seem a little daunting. What if his path is no fun?

Property of BroadStreet Publishing. Do not duplicate. Rest assured. You are not blindfolded, and he is not pushing you down his—or any—path. You will only hear his voice if you are listening, and the choice to follow his lead is entirely yours. But what a wonderful choice it is! Consider Psalm 16.

He doesn't just tell us which way to go, he shows us the path. And even better, because he is with us, joy and pleasure are ours—forever. Rest in that lovely assurance today and pray for the courage to surrender to his lead.

JANUARY 12

You Are Perfect

*By a single offering he has perfected for all time
those who are being sanctified.*

HEBREWS 10:14 ESV

Stop, go back, and read that again. You are perfect. Looking in the mirror, or thinking back over your day, it is easy to forget or disbelieve those words. Don't let that happen. A wrinkle here, a bulge there, an unkind word, or a jealous thought cannot change the way the Father sees you. And it's how he wants you to see yourself.

The dictionary uses 258 words to explain what it means to be perfect, but we only need to know this: We are *complete*. When he chose to die on the cross for our sins, Jesus took away every flaw from those of us who love him. He finished what we never could; he made us perfect.

If possible, go to the mirror you see yourself in most often. Stand before it and ask God to show you what he sees when he looks at you. See past the flaws, past any hurt or anger in your eyes, past any perceived imperfection. See yourself complete, just as you were meant to be.

Can you see yourself as perfect?

Confident in Incompetence

*It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own.
Our qualification comes from God.*

2 CORINTHIANS 3:5 NLT

Whether bringing a brand new baby home from the hospital, giving your first major presentation at work, or simply making your first Thanksgiving meal, there's probably been at least one moment in your life that had you thinking, *I have no idea what I'm doing. I'm not qualified.* So what did you do? Chances are, you put a smile on your face, dove in, and did your best.

The older we get, the more we realize how truly helpless we are. We also, beautifully, realize it's okay. There is great freedom in admitting our shortcomings and allowing the Father to be our strength. No matter what he asks of us, we are confident in our incompetence. We may not be capable, but God is more than qualified to carry out his plans through us. All we need to do is swallow our pride and let him lead us.

What dream or calling would you be able to fulfill if you were to embrace God's competence as your own?

Choosing Well

“Fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD alone. But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve... But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.”

JOSHUA 24:14-15 NLT

How different would life be if you decided, today, to be done with your job? Whether CEO, barista, or dance instructor, your choice would be noticed. Lives would change. What would happen if you simply chose not to ~~Get out of bed tomorrow? Even publishing of hair color has the~~ potential to affect our trajectory. Our decisions matter, and not just here on earth.

God is interested in the choices you make. He has plans for you and desires for your life, but you have the final say. You get to choose. When it comes to the big stuff, all of heaven is waiting for your decision.

While the angels are probably not sitting around debating which shade of red you should try at your next salon visit, know that heaven is truly interested in how you choose to conduct your life. God waits for you to choose life—to choose him—every day.

Walk Steady

*Direct my footsteps according to your word;
let no sin rule over me.*

PSALM 119:133 NIV

What is it about high heels? Every family album contains a photo of an adorable toddler attempting to walk in Mama's shoes, and every woman remembers her first wobbly attempt to appear graceful in that first pair of pumps. How did she make it look so easy, so elegant? Most of us also have a memory of a not-so-graceful stumble or even a twisted ankle; yet, somehow the stiletto retains its appeal. Who hasn't relied on the steady arm of an escort or companion in far more sensible footwear?

Walking with Jesus is a little like learning to walk in four-inch heels. Others make it look so easy, gliding along apparently sinless while we feel shaky and uncertain, prone to stumble at any moment. Will we take a wrong step? Fall flat on our faces? (Do anyone else's feet hurt?) Lean on the strong arm of the Savior; allow him to steady you and direct your steps.

*In which aspect of your walk do you feel the most steady and certain?
The least? Share your confidence and your concerns with the Savior
and invite him to lead you in both.*

You Are Cherished

I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:38-39 NIV

It's good to be loved, isn't it? What feeling really compares to knowing someone has run through the rain, cancelled an international flight, driven all night—for you? Even if we've never experienced it, we've imagined it in our hearts. Or else we've had the realization that we, too, would move heaven and earth for the one we love. The most powerful husband, child, parent, sibling, or dear friend, to love and be loved deeply just may be the best feeling there is.

How much love you have given or received is a mere sampling of the way Jesus feels about you. You are cherished, loved beyond reason or measure. The one who really can move heaven and earth would do so in a heartbeat—for you.

Let the incredible words above wash over you as you realize there is nothing, absolutely nothing, Jesus wouldn't do for you.

A Troubled Heart

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

JOHN 14:27 NIV

I can't get a moment's peace. Sound familiar? We all go through seasons where it seems every corner hides a new challenge to our serenity, assuming we've actually achieved any semblance of serenity in the first place. Why is it so hard to find peace in this world? Because we're looking in this world.

Property of BroadStreet Publishing. Do not duplicate. After his resurrection, before Jesus ascended into heaven, he left his disciples with something they'd never had before: peace. More specifically, he gave them his peace, a gift not of this world. Whatever the world can offer us can also be taken from us. Any security, happiness, or temporary reprieve from suffering is just that: temporary. Only the things of heaven are permanent and cannot be taken away.

Do not let your heart be troubled, Jesus tells us. This means we have a choice. Share the things with him that threaten your peace, and then remember they have no hold on you. You are his, and his peace is yours.

JANUARY 18

Hearing God

*Faith comes from hearing,
and hearing through the word of Christ.*

ROMANS 10:17 ESV

The best way to know if something is true, or right, is to hear it for yourself—straight from the source. You believe you nailed the interview, but you don't believe you got the job until you get the phone call. You feel you might be pregnant, but you wait for the test results before telling anyone. The same is true for bad news, at least ideally. You get wind of a rumor about a friend's indiscretion, but you wait for her side of the story before believing a word.

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What about God? How can we hear from him? How do we discern his will for our lives? We may not have a hotline, but we do have his book. God speaks to us through his Word, so if you are waiting for confirmation, direction, validation, or conviction, pick it up. Read, and listen.

How often do you feel God speaking to you through his Word?
Are your conversations as frequent and meaningful as you'd like?
Share you heart with him right now and listen for his reply.

He Is Faithful

*Your faithfulness flows from one generation to the next;
all that you have created sits firmly in place to testify of you.*

PSALM 119:90 TPT

What's the oldest thing you own? How long have you had it, and what does it mean to you? Whether a decades-old diamond ring, twenty-year-old car, or a tattered baby blanket hanging together by threads, you probably know it won't last forever. How about your longest relationship? How many years have you been connected to this person through the good and the bad? One way we decide where to place our faith is longevity. History matters.

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Consider now what God made: the earth we live on. Scientists estimate it to be 4.5 billion years old, give or take fifty million. Whether we think it's been around that long or six to ten thousand years, it's some quality workmanship. If we're looking for someone to trust, we won't find better credentials than that.

Through every storm, every disaster, every war, and every attack of the enemy, our earth stands. Ponder all God has made and all he has done and share your heart with him regarding his faithfulness.

Have you embraced it?

JANUARY 20

Remain Faithful

*Hold on to loyal love and don't let go,
and be faithful to all that you've been taught.
Let your life be shaped by integrity,
with truth written upon your heart.*

PROVERBS 3:3 TPT

A video of a small, white dog entering a hospital through the automatic doors and wandering its halls made national news recently. A short investigation revealed the dog's owner had been taken to the hospital earlier for cancer treatment. The dog bolted from the yard earlier that day and ran all the way, nearly two miles, to the hospital to see her owner. No one is sure how she knew where to go. She was led by love.

God desires that kind of faithfulness from us. He wants his daughters to seek him, to love him, with all of our hearts. May nothing stop us from returning his faithfulness with our own! Even, or perhaps especially, if we don't know where we are going, let us be led by love to show our faithfulness to our Father.

Do you see how much your Abba loves you? He desires your faithfulness so much he wants you to write it on your heart. What would it take for you to seek him that way, to bolt from the safety of your surroundings in search of him?

Owning Sin

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

1 JOHN 1:8-10 NIV

Think of a time you blatantly denied something you had done. Maybe as a little girl, melted chocolate covering your face and hands, you swore you hadn't had any cookies. Perhaps more recently you lied to a girlfriend about betraying a confidence, or to your husband about the cost of a pair of jeans.

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First off, don't beat yourself up. We are human, and it's hard to accept, and even harder to admit, when we've disappointed someone. As long as we've admitted our mistake, we are free to move on. Let's not miss that first part: we must admit it. Why? It's the reason Jesus died for us.

We are sinners. This fact is the whole reason for Jesus' life and death.
Ask him to show you any sin you are denying or are unaware of,
so you can confess it and be set free.

Surrendered Heart

*O my son, give me your heart.
May your eyes take delight in following my ways.*

PROVERBS 23:26 NLT

Watching the news we learn the losing army in a war has surrendered to their enemy. The fugitive has finally surrendered to police after a long standoff. Perhaps, closer to home, someone you know has surrendered to addiction. So how, given all these examples, are we supposed to feel good about surrendering to God? As women, it can feel particularly scary to allow ourselves to be vulnerable. Doesn't surrender mean defeat, giving up?

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It would if God were our enemy. But because he is for us and not against us, surrender means something else altogether. It means freedom. Surrender also means abandoning ourselves to God and no longer resisting him, accepting his plans and his perfect will for our lives. We don't have to strive anymore once we give him our hearts.

Is there an area of your heart you are struggling to hold onto? Consider that his plans are perfect, that his will for you is peace. What would it take for you to surrender your whole heart to him, and end the struggle?

Real Hunger

*Poor people will eat until they are full;
those who look to the LORD will praise him.*

May your hearts live forever!

PSALM 22:26 NCV

When was the last time you exclaimed, "I'm starving!"? How about, "I'm so full!"? Many of us say both things in a week. Occasionally at the beginning and end of a single meal. Clearly when we examine these terms literally, and in the greater context of a hungry world, we are not starving if we have the means to become full only minutes later. Chances are we don't even begin to know what that kind of hunger feels like. So, what are we saying?

We are recognizing, by the empty, gnawing feeling in our bellies, an unmet need. Fortunately for most of the sisters reading these words, those physical needs can be easily taken care of. Why does the emptiness so often remain though? Because this is not our home. Jesus is our home, and until he returns, our hunger—in one way or another—will remain.

*The next time you feel hunger, whether physical or emotional,
turn to Jesus and thank him for the reminder that he is the only thing
that truly satisfies.*

Hope or Wish

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

ROMANS 15:13 NIV

What differentiates hope from a wish? Think about the lottery. Does one hope to win, or wish to win? How about a promotion, a pregnancy, or a proposal? Both hoping and wishing contain desire, but for wishing, that is where it ends. Hope goes deeper. The strong desire for something good to happen is coupled with a reason to believe that it will.

We see then how vital hope is, and why it's such a beautiful gift. Desire without hope is empty, but together they bring joy, expectancy, and peace. When we put our hope in Christ, he becomes our reason to believe good things will happen. He is our hope.

Allow this blessing from Romans to wash over you today as the Holy Spirit fills you with hope, joy, and peace. Believe good things will happen; you have a wonderful reason to.