

SWEETER THAN HONEY

*365 daily
devotions*

BroadStreet
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Devotional entries composed by Julie Adair.

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How sweet your
words taste to me;
they are sweeter than honey.
Your commandments
give me understanding;
no wonder I hate
every false way of life.

PSALM 119:103-104 NLT

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INTRODUCTION

The immediate reward of honey is its sweet taste. But honey also has incredible health benefits. Similarly, God's Word has both instant and lasting advantages. The wisdom found within its pages requires time spent searching and meditating. True understanding happens through prayer and an intimate relationship with God.

Be encouraged as you savor the Scriptures, devotions, and prayers in this devotional. God has shown immeasurable love and grace, and his undeserved kindness is revealed in his mercies that are new every morning. Taste the goodness of his lifegiving words that are both sweet and strong and be nourished by the richness of his wisdom and compassion.

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JANUARY

Gracious words
are a honeycomb,
sweet to the soul
and healing to the bones.

PROVERBS 16:24 NIV



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JANUARY 1



ABOVE ALL

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice;
let them sing joyful praises forever.
Spread your protection over them,
that all who love your name may be filled with joy.

PSALM 5:11 NLT

You are probably entering this New Year with new goals in mind. Whether they are physical, financial, or relational, this year is a fresh start for you to pursue good things. While you may already have all your goals in mind, it would be good to put this one at the top of your list: pursue Christ above all. Your relationship with him is the most important thing you can go after this year.

The Word tells us that when we take refuge in God, we rejoice. Those whose hearts are hidden in God are full of joyful praise. When we are loving the things of Christ, life is abundant, and peace filled. What could be better? It will likely require sacrifice of some things that we would normally otherwise pursue, and then also the denial of other desires. It will not be in vain. We should set our sights on the pursuit of God's goodness, and in this we will find our joy complete.

God, this New Year is yours, and my plans pale in comparison to those you have for me. Help me pursue you foremost, knowing that if a deep relationship with you is what I have at the end of this year, I have succeeded.



HIDDEN GEMS

I have hidden your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.

PSALM 119:11 NLT

Life is full, and during some seasons all you might have time for is a page from this devotional. May that page turn your thoughts to God as you chug your coffee. While you may be adopting the “something is better than nothing” mentality in more than one area of your life, your walk with God is one you don’t want to shortchange.

Scripture is powerful, and it is particularly influential when you meditate on it throughout the day. Have you ever had a song stuck in your head? That’s what you’re aiming for here. Ponder on a verse in the morning. Repeat it to yourself as you get ready for your day. Review it over your lunch break. Savor it and ask yourself, “What does this tell me about God?” or “What does this tell me about how God sees me?” When the Word is in your mind, it impacts the way you live each day, and consequently your life.

Holy Spirit, help me give time to your Word, so my mind is ruled by it. Of all the things I could think about, I know your Word is the most important. It brings life to my days.

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JANUARY 3



SUSTENANCE

Sustain me, my God, according to your promise,
and I will live; do not let my hopes be dashed.

PSALM 119:116 NIV

What keeps each of us going throughout our days? Could it be a midday nap, an afternoon cup of tea, or a walk that gets the blood flowing? Whatever the method of choice, all of us have things that help sustain us through our long days. Beyond the midday slump, our souls require sustaining, too, and whether we realize it or not we are constantly on the search for something that will fill us, satisfy our hungers, and give us a reason to wake up and go to workday after day.

God promises to sustain us, and his bearing up of our soul brings life and hope where other things fall short. We need to take account of the state of our hearts in this moment. What are we giving ourselves to in hope of satisfaction? What are we pursuing in anticipation of numbing our pain? Dear one, it is in Christ alone that our hopes will not be dashed. We can set aside all else and find our peace in him.

God, I repent of pursuing created things that give me energy for a short period of time. I know all too well that I will be disappointed in the end. Help me instead to seek you when I feel myself drifting toward false support.



BEAUTIFUL INHERITANCE

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

PSALM 16:5-6 ESV

Perhaps you woke up this morning considering all the things that are not right in your life—your finances, your marriage, your job, your health. There are countless things in life that can be put in the category of “grievances,” but today is a day for recognizing God’s goodness.

Regardless of your circumstances today, you have been chosen by God to be a part of his family, and therefore you are blessed. You have a beautiful inheritance in Christ, and while the culmination of God’s blessings has not yet arrived, the realization of his goodness starts today. Will you, like the wandering Israelites, demand relief from pain and insecurity, or will you choose Christ as your portion, the source of all you will ever need? His grace is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9), and his goodness pursues you (Psalm 23:6). May you draw peace from that knowledge.

Jesus, it is foolish of me to complain when I consider the many ways you have blessed me and given me the hope of a beautiful inheritance. Cause my heart to rest in contentment today.



JANUARY 5



TRULY GOOD

You are good and do only good;
teach me your decrees.

PSALM 119:68 NLT

Who among us would knowingly let ourselves be led by false teachers or deceivers claiming to have our best interests in mind? Every day we are up against the deceptions of this world, and many times we allow ourselves to be misled by that which looks good but actually plots to destroy us. Materialism, consumerism, and influencers who emphasize what feels good rather than obedience to Christ—they are all ploys of the enemy to wean our hearts from the source of all that is good.

How are we to combat these sweet deceptions except by steeping our minds in what is good and true? The entire book of Psalms tells us that God is good and only does good—shouldn't it be God we seek to learn from? Let's accept the challenge today to note what seemingly good things are being influential at a personal level. How do they compare to the truth of Scripture?

God, forgive me for allowing myself to be swayed by things that look and sound good but really are empty. These things, I know, will leave me aching. Help me to fill up on the truth of your Word so that I am not tempted to binge on lesser things.



JANUARY 6



VICTORY IN CHRIST

“For your sake we are killed all day long;
we were regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

ROMANS 8:36-37 NASB

Chances are we are all under attack today. Regardless of our cognizance of the spiritual forces which seek to deter us from walking in God's path, they are real and present. Scripture tells us that we who belong to Christ are like sheep being led to the slaughter every day. In other words, we are constantly under attack due to our relationship with Jesus. Satan wants nothing more than to create doubt instead of trust, disassemble our relationships, and lead us to a false belief that it's best when we take the wheel.

We have the power when we realize this, though. The victory is ours when we are aware of the attack, we speak against our enemy, and we can then claim triumph over him in the name of Jesus. Today, remember that there is literally nothing that can separate you from the love of Jesus. Be aware of your enemy but walk in the victory that is yours through Christ.

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for the power that is mine to wage war against the enemy. Thank you for reminders of the battle that I face, but also of the victory that is mine because I am your child.



JANUARY 7



BOAST-WORTHY

“Those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the LORD, have spoken!”

JEREMIAH 9:23-24 NLT

We're proud of our strengths. Whether it's our beauty, talent, or intelligence, we take pride in the things which we are good at. But better than anything that we possess on our own is the ability to know and understand the things of God. And what does God, who is all-powerful and all-knowing, desire that we boast in?

God, in his glorious humility, desires that the things we brag on are things that the world would find rather weak and dull. We can proudly profess the love that does not grow tired, the mercy extended to the undeserving, and the triumph in the right thing when the right thing is terribly difficult. Next time we feel the need to justify ourselves by sharing our own good qualities, let's remember the things Christ finds boast worthy.

God, you remind me that the things that the world finds pleasing mean nothing to you. May these things—love and mercy, justice and righteousness—be the same things I treasure and boast in.



JANUARY 8



COURAGE

LORD, you are my shield,
my wonderful God who gives me courage.

PSALM 3:3 NCV

As a child or young adult, courage might seem like something called upon for great, meaningful accomplishments like saving someone from drowning, perhaps. But as we grow older, we learn that courage is most necessary when life's pressures mount, struggle knocks on the door, or the burden of pain causes our shoulders to slump. It is not only in the life-altering moments of heroism when we need courage. We will call on it the mornings after a fight with our spouse, when our child uses words like knives, the day our job lets us go, or when depression creeps in.

On these days, it is vital to remember the source of our strength. It is imperative that we do not shut the door to block out the world without first turning our gaze heavenward. On these days we must lay hold of the courage that our wonderful God offers us. We can lift up our heads because our help is on the way even before we pray.

Jesus, life is sweet when I trust you. I know that regardless of my struggle you are with me, and you are the source of my courage and joy. Help me look to you today.

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MADE RIGHTEOUS

As for me, by your abundant graciousness
I will enter your house,
at your holy temple I will bow in reverence for you.

PSALM 5:7 NASB

None of us is perfect; we all have our flaws and secret sins. It is easy to see the unrighteousness of those who lead wicked lives, who boast about evil, or take pleasure in wrongdoing. When we compare ourselves to those who are outwardly immoral, we tend to feel that we are doing a pretty good job. In reality, sin is sin, and no one is righteous in his own merit. But what grace has been extended to those of us who have trusted Jesus; because we are covered in the blood of Christ, the Father sees us as righteous and welcomes us as if we have done no wrong.

We each can thank Jesus for his abundant grace. We deserved death, but God in his mercy brought us into his house. Today, when we see the depravity of the world around and we are tempted to consider ourselves virtuous, remember that it is only by the sweet grace of Christ that we can draw near to God.

Oh Lord, you are so gracious. Thank you for covering me in righteousness when I deserved death. Let me live today with a thankful spirit.



JANUARY 10



TRUE LOVE

Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD,
for our hope is in you alone.

PSALM 33:22 NLT

Chick flicks and rom coms have long given us a definition of love which modern women so often cling to in their search for romance. Love is willing to chase us through the airport to stop our flight. Love will give up hopes and dreams in order to fulfill ours. Love will deny family relationships in order to pursue one true love. Rarely, if ever, do we see a display of love that goes beyond the initial attraction and pursuit.

This sets us up for misunderstanding real love, but it's time to set things straight. Real love is quieter but no less extraordinary. Real love is faithful. Real love continues to show up despite our inadequacies. Real love sees the best and the worst and chooses to accept both. Real love allows room for mistakes, growth, and setbacks; it always hopes for better. Real love is Christ.

Jesus, thank you for demonstrating true love—love that is unfailing, everlasting, always patient, and always hopeful. Forgive me for assuming that love is only loud and bold. Help me see the beauty in your quiet, faithful love.



TRUSTWORTHY

Everything he does is good and fair;
all his orders can be trusted.

PSALM 111:7 NCV

In today's world, maybe more than ever before, doubt is everywhere. We suspect everyone and everything; wariness always precedes believing the best of someone. It is no surprise, then, that our view of God's Word and his call to us as believers is also met with hesitation.

Yet Scripture could not be clearer about the trustworthiness of God and his Word. Imagine knowing someone who always did what was right and good, brought comfort in the midst of trial, found the good in every situation, and followed through on every single promise. That is our God. He is completely good, and his Word is entirely trustworthy. Is he asking you to do something about which you have been uncertain? Has he called you to action, but you've been doubtful that he'll see you through? Hesitate no more, friend.

God, thank you that I can trust you completely. Forgive me for doubting your Word. Help me learn to depend upon your goodness to lead me through my days. Let me not delay in obeying your commands.



JANUARY 12



GRACE IN EVERY SEASON

My soul clings to the dust;
give me life according to your word!

PSALM 119:25 ESV

Life can be heavy. For the Christ-follower, hard times are guaranteed (John 16:33). We have days when our souls feel dragged through the dust—when our lungs just can't seem to breathe in enough air. Those days, or weeks, or months can drag on until we have lost all hope. It is not easy to say or easy to hear, but it is vital to understand that those times are a form of grace.

When life is simple, pleasant, or straightforward we tend to think that it is our own capability which has caused things to level out for us. We forget that we are but a vapor and our entire existence is dependent on the Creator's mercy. But when the burdens begin to stack up, when our backs and hearts break under the pressure, it is then in that painful grace-filled season, that we remember who sustains us. If life is heavy today, cry out as the psalmist did for life according to his Word. He promises to strengthen us.

Oh Lord, thank you that every season of life is full of your grace. Give me strength for today as I trust in you.

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GODLY LIFE

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2 PETER 1:3 NIV

Perhaps you woke up this morning unprepared for the day. The kids slept poorly, your project's deadline got moved up, and the coffee maker wouldn't work. You want nothing more than to return to bed and hit the restart button. But life awaits. How will you respond? It is tempting to think that on those days God understands our angst and will surely tolerate a less-than-ideal attitude coming from us.

But we know better. Peter tells us that God's divine power has given us *everything* we need for living a godly life. This isn't just on the days when we get enough sleep and coffee but maybe specifically on the days when everything seems to go wrong. By his goodness we have been called, not to get by with our teeth clenched and our hearts set on the end of this awful day. Instead, we have been called to live a life of humility, patience, self-sacrifice, and joy. This is how Jesus lived. Take a moment and ask for God's grace to live a godly life today.

God, help me today to choose joy. You have given me all I need, not just to endure this day but to make it sweet and beneficial. May it be so according to your grace.



JANUARY 14



REFUGE

Taste and see that the LORD is good.
Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

PSALM 34:8 NLT

What do you take refuge in? We all have something. Maybe for you it is a good workout to burn away the day's stress, or the time at night when the kids are finally in bed, or perhaps it is the accolades you receive on social media. A refuge is a safe place—a place where we run and hide from the troubles of our lives. But what happens when the very thing we count on for our safe place is unavailable to us?

Scripture tells us to taste and see—to experience with our senses and with our whole being—that the Lord is good. He is a good place to hide ourselves when things are getting tough. His refuge offers peace for our minds and joy for our hearts. It is not dependent on things going a certain way; it cannot be taken from us when the day takes unexpected turns. We need to check our hearts today and make sure we are hiding ourselves in the certainty of Christ.

God, I admit that I rely on created things to relieve my stress and bring me joy. I know that true and lasting joy is only found in you. Help me take hold of that today.

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