



MOMENTS WITH GOD
FOR MEN

**100 DEVOTIONS
FOR LIFE & ADVENTURE**

Our Daily Bread

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Our Daily Bread
Publishing™

Moments with God for Men: 100 Devotions for Life and Adventure

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INTRODUCTION

Life is an adventure. Even when you don't want it to be.

You sign your ten-year-old son up for baseball, and before you know it, you're the coach. And now you have to teach eighteen kids of varying skills and interest how to field ground balls, run the bases, not be scared to death of pitches, and understand the infield fly rule. And that's just practice.

The games arrive, and you suddenly realize rightfielders like to pick dandelions, third basemen don't know you're not supposed to stand on the bag all the time, and nobody ever knows how many outs there are.

And that's just one tiny part of the adventure.

There's your job, which demands more and more time every day. Your house, which never ends up looking like a Chip and Joanna Gaines reveal no matter how hard you work. And there's the rest of your family, which you're in crazy love with but you wish ran smoothly at least once a week.

And that beautiful woman you married—the love of your life. You'd do anything just to have a few minutes of uninterrupted time with her. Schedule that for about fifteen years from now.

Single guys don't miss out on the adventure. The dating scene probably has a good bit of drama attached. Expectations from family, church,

and others are always there because, after all, you have all this free time to move their furniture, fix their cars, and maybe even roof their houses. The adventures are as prevalent as the number of friends you have (“Hey, let’s go hike the Appalachian Trail this weekend”), and sometimes you’d like to just turn off your phone and watch an old *Psych* episode.

So, it’s not our goal to make your adventure more complicated by thrusting the heavy assignment of reading a devotional book on you. It is our goal with this book, though, to invite you to include the calming, loving, caring presence of Jesus Christ to help you work through your adventures and to make sure your life has the value that gives meaning to everything you do.

We’ve carefully chosen the articles in this book to guide you toward some vital things you can do to draw you closer to Jesus in a twenty-first-century way.

Two thousand years ago, twelve men had the amazing opportunity to travel the dusty roads of Israel with Jesus—experiencing first-hand the adventures of the Man from Galilee who healed sick people, raised others from the dead, and forgave sins.

That had to be the greatest adventure anyone has ever experienced! Imagine hanging out with the Creator of the universe as the crowds clamored around Him and sat at rapt attention as He spoke.

If you have trusted this Man—this God-man—as your Savior, that adventure is not over. Still today, you can experience Him in fresh, new, and exciting ways.

The articles in this book are designed to help you know the adventure of following Him and living for Him today. For instance, the articles will encourage you to read the Bible, find fellow Christians to worship and serve with, and look for opportunities to serve Him—among other things.

We want you to enjoy a life full of Moments with God—times when you can think about Him, love Him, and worship Him.

So, take some time between sports practices or taking your kids to the zoo or working hard at your job or stealing some time with your wife or playing golf with your buddies to concentrate on the One who cared enough for you to give you an eternity with himself.

You'll discover that those Moments with God will make all of life more valuable and more full of meaning than ever before.

Dave Branon
General Editor
Moments with God for Men

1

See You Next Time

1 Chronicles 16:23–36

Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim
his salvation day after day.

1 Chronicles 16:23

It was a Sunday afternoon several years ago. The whole family was gathered around the table for dinner. The five-year-old son led off the pre-meal prayer: “Dear heavenly Father, thank you for this nice day. Thank you that we could go to church and Sunday school today.” Then, to the family’s surprise, he ended with, “And we’ll see you again next week.”

What that kiddo said in his prayer is how we often view the Christian life. We easily fall into a see-you-next-time attitude about God. We forget about Him as we fulfill our daily responsibilities. We go for days at a time trying to pay the bills, keep the boss happy, and give attention to each family member. But we neglect to give God the time He deserves.

First Chronicles 16 gives us some facts about God’s power and majesty that we can think and talk about “day after day” (v. 23). We can “declare his glory” (v. 24) and recognize His hand of creation in the heavens (v. 26). We can talk of His honor and majesty, the strength He possesses, and the gladness He gives us (v. 27).

Each day brings new reasons to pray to God, to praise His name, and to proclaim His love. Let’s make our worship of Him something we do “day after day.”

LIFE MOMENT

Pick a day of the week: Tuesday, let's say. How many fewer times do you think of, talk to, read about, or sing about God on Tuesday than you do on Sunday? Is there any way to change that?

GOD MOMENT

While we set aside Sunday as the Lord's Day, God expects us to use every day to worship Him. Think of three fresh ways to worship Him during the week.

*Each day brings new reasons to pray to God,
to praise His name, and to proclaim His love.*

2

Longing for God

Nehemiah 1:5-11

Even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen.

Nehemiah 1:9

When Conner and Sarah Smith moved five miles up the road, their cat S'mores expressed his displeasure by running away. One day Sarah saw a current photo of their old farmhouse on social media. There was S'mores in the picture!

Happily, the Smiths went to retrieve him. S'mores ran away again. Guess where he went? This time, the family who had purchased their house agreed to keep S'mores too. The Smiths couldn't stop the inevitable; S'mores would always return "home."

Nehemiah served in a prestigious position in the king's court in Susa, which was in Babylon, but his heart was elsewhere. He had just heard news of the sad condition of Jerusalem, "the city where my ancestors are buried" (Nehemiah 2:3). And so he prayed, "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, . . . 'if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name'" (1:8-9).

Home is where the heart is, they say. In Nehemiah's case, longing for home was more than being tied to the land. It was communion with God that he most desired. Jerusalem was "the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name."

LIFE MOMENT

What is the best memory you have of a home where you once lived—perhaps your "growing up" home?

GOD MOMENT

What events in your life make you long for God? Is it at church when you listen to God's Word being taught? Is it listening to Christian music on your truck's radio? Or something else?

*It was communion with God that
Nehemiah most desired.*

Beyond Amazing

Psalm 19:1-6

The heavens are the work of your hands.

Psalm 102:25

In 1977, the United States launched a rocket into space. On board was a small craft called *Voyager I*, a probe that was designed to explore the outer planets of our solar system. After *Voyager I* was done sending back photos and data from Jupiter and its neighbors, it didn't stop working. It just kept going.

Today, more than forty-five years later, that tiny vehicle is still going—traveling at a speed of over 38,000 miles per hour. And it's approximately fifteen billion miles from the sun! That's mind-boggling! Brilliant scientists have sent a ship that has crossed into interstellar space. It's astounding. It's amazing.

But it's absolutely puny when compared with what God has done. This is like hearing someone brag to the architect of the Empire State Building that he had traveled to the second floor in an elevator.

We have barely begun to explore the vastness of God's creation. But every small step by mankind should continue to put us in absolute awe of God's power and creativity. Think of this: While we have left the realm of one star with a spaceship, the Creator of the stars "calls forth each of them by name" (Isaiah 40:26). After all, He made them.

Exploring the universe is amazing. But exploring the God who made it all? That's beyond amazing!

LIFE MOMENT

What is your favorite part of the ongoing space program—the moon landing of 1969 or more recent developments relating to Mars? Or something else?

GOD MOMENT

What does it tell us about God's creation that mankind can figure out where planets will be in the solar system and can calculate the exact way gravity and other forces will work now and into the future? Does that say anything about an intelligent design of the universe?

*Every small step by mankind should
continue to put us in absolute awe
of God's power and creativity.*

4

The Power of the Gospel

Romans 1:1-7, 14-17

I am so eager to preach the gospel
also to you who are in Rome.

Romans 1:15

Ancient Rome had its own version of “the gospel”—the good news. According to the poet Virgil, Zeus, king of the gods, had decreed for the Romans a kingdom without end or boundaries. The gods had chosen Augustus as divine son and savior of the world by ushering in a golden age of peace and prosperity.

This, however, wasn't everyone's idea of good news. For many it was an unwelcome reality enforced by the heavy hand of the emperor's army and executioners. The glory of the empire was built on the backs of enslaved people who served without legal personhood or property at the pleasure of masters who ruled over them.

This was the world in which Paul introduced himself as a servant of Christ (Romans 1:1). Jesus—how Paul had once hated that name! Jesus himself had suffered for admitting to being the king of the Jews and Savior of the world.

This was the good news Paul would explain in the rest of his letter to the Romans. This gospel was “the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes” (v. 16). Oh, how it was needed by those who suffered under Caesar! Here was the news of a crucified and resurrected

Savior—the liberator who conquered His enemies by showing how much He loved them.

LIFE MOMENT

Was there ever a time in your life when you disliked the idea of Christianity for some reason? If not, why do you think others sometimes feel that way?

GOD MOMENT

Take a moment to be grateful for the “power of God that brings salvation” and the amazing difference the gospel has made in your life.

The gospel is “the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16).

All Too Human

Romans 7:14-25

The trouble is with me, for I am all too human.

Romans 7:14 NLT

British writer Evelyn Waugh wielded his words in a way that accentuated his character flaws. Eventually the novelist converted to Christianity, yet he still struggled. One day a woman asked him, “Mr. Waugh, how can you behave as you do and still call yourself a Christian?” He replied, “Madam, I may be as bad as you say. But believe me, were it not for my religion, I would scarcely be a human being.”

Waugh was waging the internal battle the apostle Paul described: “I want to do what is right, but I can’t” (Romans 7:18 NLT). He also said, “The trouble is not with the law . . . [It] is with me, for I am all too human” (v. 14 NLT). He further explained, “In my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me. . . . Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?” (vv. 22–24). And then the exultant answer: “Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (v. 25).

When we come in faith to Christ, admitting our wrongdoing and need of a Savior, we immediately become a new creation. But our spiritual formation remains a lifelong journey. As John the disciple observed: “Now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been

made known. But . . . when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2).

LIFE MOMENT

Has anyone ever said to you, “How can you do/say that and call yourself a Christian?” Was that a learning experience or did it just make you upset?

GOD MOMENT

Our efforts are weak in trying to be the kind of Christian we should be. What do you find is most helpful in steering you toward being the person you want to be in Christ?

*Our spiritual formation remains
a lifelong journey.*

God Hears Everything

1 Kings 18:25-27, 30-38

Let it be known today that you are God.

1 Kings 18:36

One of the longest-recorded postal delays in history lasted eighty-nine years. In 2008 a homeowner in the UK received a party invitation originally mailed in 1919 to a former resident of her address. The note was placed in her mailbox via the Royal Mail, but the reason behind its long delay remains a mystery.

Even the best human efforts at communication sometimes let us down, but Scripture clearly tells us that God never fails to hear His faithful people. In 1 Kings 18, Elijah demonstrated the striking contrast between the pagan god Baal and Jehovah God. In a showdown to demonstrate who the true God was, after Baal's prophets had prayed for hours, Elijah taunted them: "Shout louder! . . . Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened" (v. 27). Then Elijah prayed for Jehovah to answer so His people might return to faith, and God's power was clearly displayed.

While our prayers may not always be answered as immediately as Elijah's was, or as dramatically, we can be assured that God hears them (Psalm 34:17). The Bible reminds us that He treasures our prayers so much that He keeps them before Him in "golden bowls," like precious

incense (Revelation 5:8). God will answer every prayer in His own perfect wisdom and way. There are no lost letters in heaven.

LIFE MOMENT

How do you feel if you message someone, and the recipient doesn't get back to you right away? We love instantaneous responses.

GOD MOMENT

What have you been praying about recently that God is not answering? What do you know about God's responses to prayer in Scripture that can help you as you wait? Perhaps do a search of "prayer" in the Bible to see what you can learn.

God will answer every prayer in His own perfect wisdom and way.

CONTRIBUTORS

James Banks
John Blase
Amy Boucher Pye
Dave Branon
Winn Collier
Bill Crowder
Mart DeHaan
Tim Gustafson
Kirsten Holmberg
Adam Holz
Arthur Jackson
Julie Ackerman Link
Glenn Packiam
Patricia Raybon
David Roper
Lisa M. Samra
Mike Wittmer

To learn more about the writers of *Our Daily Bread*,
visit odb.org/all-authors.

GENERAL EDITOR

Dave Branon retired in 2021 after a forty-year career as a writer and editor with Our Daily Bread Ministries. Dave has written for the *Our Daily Bread* devotional since 1988—more than 1,200 articles. He has also written 20 books, which include *Beyond the Valley: Finding Hope in Life's Losses* and *Lands of the Bible Today*. He and his wife, Sue, who have four children and eight grandchildren, live in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Adventure awaits when you pursue a life of faith.

For every man, the trail marked out before us is one of ups and downs, joys and sorrows. The one constant is our guide through these hills and valleys: God and His love for us.

Moments with God for Men is a devotional collection that invites you to find purpose in every circumstance as you pursue Jesus and draw closer to Him. The 100 readings in this book will challenge you to tackle the everyday adventures of modern life in fresh, relevant ways. Each entry includes a “life moment” and a “God moment” to strengthen your walk with Christ and forge a bolder faith.

Meet the demands of your day head-on with the truth of Scripture and encouragement from the Man of Galilee who healed the sick, raised the dead, and forgave sins.

Discover the difference a few moments with God will make for every member of your family. Other titles in the series include *Moments with God for Women* and *Moments with God for Kids*.

Our Daily Bread is distributed around the world and is translated into more than 50 languages. Each month millions of readers turn to the pages of this beloved devotional for inspiration, comfort, peace, and hope. Visit odb.org for more information.

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