

HOW GOD
GROWS

a

COURAGEOUS

Girl

A DEVOTIONAL

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carey scott

SHILOH! **kidz**

An Imprint of Barbour Publishing, Inc.

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ISBN 978-1-64352-157-2

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Published by Shiloh Kidz, an imprint of Barbour Publishing, Inc., 1810 Barbour Drive, Uhrichsville, Ohio 44683, www.shilohkidz.com

Our mission is to inspire the world with the life-changing message of the Bible.



Printed in the United States of America.

06673 0919 SP

God IS growing YOU into a courageous girl!

“Be strong and have strength of heart. Do not be afraid or shake with fear because of them. For the Lord your God is the One Who goes with you. He will be faithful to you. He will not leave you alone.”

DEUTERONOMY 31:6

God has big plans for you! And you can be confident in His plans for you because every day He is growing YOU into a courageous girl. He will be your constant companion and will give you just the strength you need to choose faith over fear.

These devotions and prayers were written with you in mind. They are lovely reminders of the power you have because you're God's girl. Touching on topics that matter to you, like family, friendships, trust, hope, and prayer, these inspiring readings will help you grow a deeper relationship with God as you also grow into the courageous girl He designed you to be.

You are not weak. With Him by your side, you can stand strong—no matter what.

The courage to be yourself

*“Have I not told you? Be strong and have strength of heart!
Do not be afraid or lose faith. For the Lord your
God is with you anywhere you go.”*

JOSHUA 1:9



Sometimes you feel so alone, like no one is on your side. You think people at school don't like you or don't want to be your friend. And you're afraid to be who God made you to be because you're sure others won't like what they see.

But just as He told Joshua, God wants you to dig deep and find the courage to be yourself. He made you on purpose, and He delights in you! Even more, He promises to never unfriend you or reject you no matter what. He loves your quirky coolness!

So, when you feel alone and are scared to let others really know who you are, remember that you are amazing. Be brave enough to push through the fear and be the true you!

*God, thank You for making me. Help me love all the
quirky and cool things about who I am, and help
me have the courage to let others see them too.*

The courage to wait

Wait for the Lord. Be strong.

Let your heart be strong. Yes, wait for the Lord.

PSALM 27:14



No one likes to wait. We want what we want right now. Think about it. Isn't it torture to wait to open your birthday or Christmas presents? And standing in that long line to ride the double-loopy-loop roller coaster is agony. Even waiting for your friends to show up for a sleepover can feel like too much to handle. But learning to wait for God is often harder, and it takes courage.

What are the things you've been asking God for? Maybe you need help with a friendship or a hard class at school. Maybe you're hoping to make the team or the musical, and you've been praying about it. It's easy to give up when the answer doesn't come quickly. Waiting isn't something anybody likes.

While God always answers our prayers, sometimes it takes a while to work out the details. We need to have courage to wait and trust Him.

God, would You please give me strength to wait for Your answers to my prayers? And thanks for always hearing me when I ask.

DON'T BE AFRAID

*“Do not be afraid. For I have bought you and made you free.
I have called you by name. You are Mine!”*

ISAIAH 43:1



What are the things that scare you the most? Is it fear of monsters under your bed? Getting in trouble with your parents? Being lost? Are you afraid of heights, dogs, or losing your best friend? Fears are real, but they are not from God.

When fear starts to creep up on you, remember that God promises to never leave you alone. And because He is God and loves you so much, He will never break a promise. You may not be able to see Him with your eyes, but you can talk to Him and ask for courage. You can ask for help. And you can ask God to make you feel safe and secure. . .anytime and anywhere. He is always with you.

*God, I'm glad that I am Yours! Help me stay free from fear.
I will remember to ask for Your help when I'm scared.*

YOU ARE STRONG

Be strong. Be strong in heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

PSALM 31:24



If you love Jesus and have Him in your heart, you have access to His strength. Sometimes we feel weak because we're facing something that feels bigger than we are. Maybe your parents are getting divorced or you lost a grandparent. Maybe girls at school are being mean or you didn't make the team. Maybe your grades aren't as good as you'd like them to be or your doctor just gave you bad news about your health. These are the kinds of situations that can make you feel exhausted and ready to give up.

Remember that you are human, which means you have human-sized strength. But God has God-sized strength that will never run out! He has an endless supply to give to you! So, when you find yourself scared and feeling helpless, remember that because of Jesus you are strong! All you have to do is ask Him for courage to face your fears, and He will happily give you exactly what you need.

*God, thank You for helping me when I feel weak.
Sometimes I just need Your help.*

Fear IS NOT from God

For God did not give us a spirit of fear. He gave us a spirit of power and of love and of a good mind.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7



What a good reminder for when you feel scared about something: fear *doesn't* come from God. He doesn't use fear to make you obey. Being worried or full of anxiety is never something God wants for you. So, it's important to remember that when you feel scared about anything, it is absolutely not from God.

Do you know what He did give you? Access to His power and strength and a clear mind to choose the right things and make good decisions. He packed you full of awesomeness, and He'll even share His awesomeness when you need it. The last thing God wants is for you to be afraid, worried, or stressed out. That's not His plan for someone He loves so deeply.

Keep your chin up, and ask God for what you need every day. And never forget that you are amazing!

*God, thank You for giving me Your goodness.
Please help me live fearlessly every day and in every way.*

you will have trouble, but. . .

"I have told you these things so you may have peace in Me. In the world you will have much trouble.

But take hope! I have power over the world!"

JOHN 16:33



When Jesus says He has power over the world, it means that *nothing* will ever be too big for Him to handle. It means that *nothing* is above Him or equal to Him. It means that *nothing* will catch Him off guard or be too hard to figure out. What that means for you is that Jesus has your back.

The Bible says that you will have trouble, but it's your relationship with Jesus that gives you the courage to work through it. Think about it. Where is life hard for you right now? Are you struggling with a friend or fighting with your sibling? Are you in trouble with your parents or a teacher? Jesus has a plan that will bring you peace, so be brave and ask Him for help. He will help you find the way.

*God, will You please help me? I'm in trouble
and need to fix things that are messed up.*

When People Are Mean

*So we can say for sure, "The Lord is my Helper.
I am not afraid of anything man can do to me."*

HEBREWS 13:6



Chances are you know some people who are just nasty. Maybe it's someone in your math class or on your soccer team. It could be a mean girl in your neighborhood or a rude boy in youth group. It could even be someone in your own family who is cranky and takes their bad attitude out on you. Whenever people like this get the chance, they say things and do things that make you feel unlovable, unlikable, and like you just don't fit in.

Have you ever talked to God about it? Today's verse reminds you that He is the One always willing to help you when you're in a tough place. The writer of this scripture knows it for sure and makes a courageous choice by saying he isn't afraid of the meanies. Because he is sure that God will help, he decides not to let them steal his joy. Where do you need that kind of courage?

*God, help me be strong so I don't doubt
myself when others are mean.*

God's strength gives you courage

*This is the last thing I want to say:
Be strong with the Lord's strength.*

EPHESIANS 6:10



We often save the best for last, don't we? We eat our dessert last. We save the biggest present to open last. We wait until the very end to tell the punch line of a joke and share the best part of the story after all the other details. The end is usually saved for the most important.

In this letter, Paul saved a big gold nugget of truth for the end. He reminded his readers that their strength came from God. Paul himself knew that his courage to stand strong in scary times was because of the Lord, and he wanted to make sure we understood that too.

You may be strong and able to work through hard things on your own. Parents and friends might help too. But when you reach the end of your own abilities and are feeling scared or worried about how everything will turn out, ask for God's help. He'll give you supernatural courage.

*God, I need Your help to figure things out.
Please give me strength.*

KEEP MOVING FORWARD

“But now be strong, Zerubbabel,” says the Lord. “Be strong, Joshua son of Jehozadak, head religious leader. And be strong, all you people of the land,” says the Lord. “Do the work, for I am with you,” says the Lord of All.”

HAGGAI 2:4



Sometimes we let our fears paralyze us. Rather than do the next right thing, we give up. Instead of trying again, we walk away. We lose our confidence and end up quitting the team, leaving the group, or ending a friendship.

It takes courage to keep moving forward when things are hard. You have to dig deep to find the grit to keep trying when you feel hopeless and helpless. But God promises to give you the power so you can do what needs to be done. He promises to be there with you all the way and to help you be fearless.

What is God asking you to do that feels big? Remember that you are strong and courageous with Him!

God, I need You to help me move forward. Thank You for standing with me through it all and giving me what I need.

Help others to be bold

Every one helps each other, and says to his brother, "Be strong!"

ISAIAH 41:6



Sometimes you need help to feel courageous, but other times it's your friends and family who need it. Did you know that God made you to need other people? He decided life would be better if you were surrounded with parents, siblings, and besties who encouraged you. That's right, you were never meant to be alone in your struggles.

Can you think of someone who always makes you feel brave? Someone who gives you the guts to stand up for yourself? Someone who loves you and makes you feel confident? They are a gift from God, and you are blessed to have them!

Now think about this. Who needs you to be their cheerleader right now? Who's in a tough place and needs a pep talk? Who needs to be reminded that God is bigger than their fear? Ask God to give them a big dose of His courage today!

God, help me see the people in my life who need me to remind them to be strong and bold. I want to help them when they need it.