



Daily Wisdom
for Teen Girls

Devotional
Collection

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



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Beginning a new year is like planning a party. You wake up with fresh expectations for all the good that will occur, envision the joy and companionship of loved ones, and eagerly imagine all the delicious food and sweets that will be shared. There is anticipation and excitement for the new memories you will create, the adventures you will experience, and the friendships you will strengthen.

But like a carefully planned party, the year ahead may have unforeseen challenges: bumps in the road, strangers at your door, and moments when everything goes wrong. There may be times when illness strikes a family member or you find yourself in deep trouble. There may even be moments when you have found yourself feeling totally alone.

Daily Wisdom for Teens reminds you to begin every day with the foundation of God. It encourages you to love and trust in His presence. Let this book remind you that in both moments of celebration and joy as well as times of fear and worry, God is always with you, guiding you, loving you, and holding you in His arms.

Who wouldn't want to celebrate that?

You Are a New Creation

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 NIV

New Year's often turns into an excuse for excess. There are too many relatives around the house, too much food on the table, too many football games to watch. But the day rarely lives up to its promise. It turns a little flat about midafternoon, and by evening we're relieved that it's nearly over.

The thing we like about New Year's, though, is that it marks a new beginning. Maybe last year was a bummer, but now we celebrate hope for the year to come. Tomorrow we'll probably break all our resolutions, but today we allow ourselves to dream a little.

We don't have to settle for just dreams though. As the verse above says, if you've given your life to the Lord, everything really is new. Your old sins are forgiven, and you're as clean as the falling snow. Anything *is* possible with God's help. And that is really something worth celebrating!

Father, on this day of celebration and resolutions, remind me that I have good reason to hope. You will be by my side this year, helping me make my dreams come true every day. Amen.

Use Your Abilities

*And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature,
and in favor with God and man.*

LUKE 2:52 NIV

If there had been a “gifted” class when He was a child, Jesus would have been in it. We’re really not sure how it all played out in His 100-percent divine/100-percent human nature, but He was definitely different from the other kids in the neighborhood. Yet, He was enough like them that the town elders erroneously thought of Him as “the carpenter’s son” when He came back as an adult and performed miracles! We don’t know the details about Jesus’ childhood, whether He experienced development and maturity in the same manner as we do. Yet we do know that He never sinned, never rebelled against what was right.

Scripture tells us that He “learned”—increased in wisdom—so we can assume He was “taught” in some manner. He was way ahead of the other kids around in so many ways. Talk about gifted! He was God in the flesh; He could heal disease, correct deformities, multiply meals, and resurrect the dead. He always used His divine abilities to bless others; He did not seek to gain earthly glory or to get even with His enemies or to curry favor with the ruling powers. He brought honor to His Father and help to others.

*“Lord, I want to be like You. I want to use the abilities
You’ve given me to bless those You bring into my life.
Give me the wisdom and grace to manage my gifts so
that others may be helped. In Jesus’ name, amen.”*

Take Time to Think

*Desire without knowledge is not good—
how much more will hasty feet miss the way!*

PROVERBS 19:2 NIV

You've got dreams and goals and energy to spare. Like a cat locked out of a bedroom, you want to throw yourself against all obstacles. Well, the cat never gets on the bed that way. It doesn't know how to turn the doorknob, after all.

But one night the cat tries another approach. He cries—pitifully, loudly, for minutes on end—and because you love him, *you* open the door and let him hog the bed. The cat has achieved his goal, hasn't he? He may never learn how to turn a doorknob, but he figured out a way around that problem.

Sometimes, like the cat, you must step back and think a problem through. Hitting your head against a door may not do the trick.

Father, I know what I want out of life, and I'm determined to achieve my goals with Your help. Give me the sense to figure out how to do this with the least possible amount of pain, and if my goals are not pleasing to You, put me on the right track. Amen.

In His Presence

*So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God.
There we will receive his mercy, and we will find
grace to help us when we need it most.*

HEBREWS 4:16 NLT

Abigail was only three, but she knew that when she was at Grandpoppa's house, he made the best playmate ever. Sometimes she only had to ask twice to get him to play tea party with her and several of Grandmama's stuffed animals or special dolls. He was usually pretty quick to turn on the sprinklers so Abigail could run through the grassy yard in her bare feet. More than anything, she enjoyed crawling up in his lap with her favorite book and presenting it to him to read. If he ever got tired of the same old story, he never let on. Instead, he read it each time with surprise and sincerity—like he'd never seen the words before.

What a joy to know that, just like Abigail, we can come into the presence of God and make our requests known to Him. Just like grandparents love to see joy in their grandchild's eyes, God loves to give us gifts and see us delight in time spent with Him. Whatever we have need of, we can come in and sit down with our heavenly Father and tell Him everything.

*Heavenly Father, thank You for always welcoming me into
Your presence. I have assurance that You know what
I have need of and that I can always rest
in Your mercy and grace. Amen.*

Are You Keeping Your Promises?

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 PETER 3:9 NIV

A week has passed since you made your New Year's resolutions. How many of them are you still keeping? Well, we're all human. Promises come easily to us and are just as easily forgotten.

Of all the promises we make and break, perhaps the most tragic are those we make to God. "Get me out of this and I promise. . ." Every time we say something like that, in the back of our minds we can hear God say, "Oh, sure!" And yet we keep promising, for whom else can we turn to in times of real crisis?

Isn't it wonderful to know "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish"? As often as we make and break our little promises, God never breaks a one. Once His word is given, it's forever.

*Father, help me be more faithful at keeping my word.
My track record is pretty bad, but I look to You and
Your promises as examples to follow. Amen.*

Promises of God

*“For the LORD your God is living among you.
He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you
with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears.
He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”*

ZEPHANIAH 3:17 NLT

Look at all the promises packed into this one verse of scripture! God is with you. He is your mighty Savior. He delights in you with gladness. He calms your fears with His love. He rejoices over you with joyful songs. Wow! What a bundle of hope is found here for the believer. Like a parent attuned to their newborn baby's cries, so is your heavenly Father's heart for you. He delights in being your Father. He knows when the storms of life are raging all around you. He senses your need to be held close and for your fears to be calmed. It is in those times that He is for you a Prince of Peace, a Comforter. He rejoices over you with joyful songs. Can you imagine that God loves you so much that you cause Him to sing? God sings over you. And the songs He sings are joyful. He loves you with an unconditional, everlasting love. Face this day knowing that your God is with you. He calms you. And He sings over you. You are blessed to be a child of the King.

*Father, thank You for loving me the way
You do. You are all I need. Amen.*

The Heart of God

“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

MATTHEW 6:14-15 NLT

Forgiveness is closely related to trust. God knows it's your greatest need and so provided a Savior for you. In return, you choose to respond to Him in faith, trusting Him to save you. Then you're to extend forgiveness to others—both the news of God's forgiveness in Christ and your forgiveness to those who have wronged you personally.

Saying “I'm sorry” is a start, but it can only express your regrets. To ask someone to forgive you is to put the power in their hands—to say, “In order to make this right, I need you to let go of the wrong I've done you.” It's a gift to forgive and be forgiven.

God loves to turn your mistakes into blessings, but forgiveness is key to that. When you put your trust in God (Psalm 7:1), He will help you deal with the consequences of all the things that need to be forgiven.

God, I trust You to turn mistakes into blessings. Help me to forgive and to seek forgiveness from others. Amen.

Love One Another

I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands.

2 JOHN 5-6 NIV

Sometimes being a Christian gets confusing. Pressures bear down, and your love grows cold. Spiritual winter sets in. So, you start looking for something you've missed, some new trick to alter your life.

The truth is you probably don't need a trick. You just need to get a handle on the old truth that's stared you in the face for a long time. Then you need to obey what you know.

When your love for God grows cold, take a fresh look at what He's already said. Draw close to the fire of His Word, and your life will alight.

When the cold, dull days of winter make you feel dull too, renew your love for God. Warm yourself at the scriptures just as you'd seek the heat of a fireplace.

Jesus, I already know so much about You, but sometimes I don't use that knowledge in my life. Help me bridge the gap between my head and heart. Amen.

Being a Good Example

*Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young.
Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way
you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.*

1 TIMOTHY 4:12 NLT

When someone's referred to as a "good example," most likely that person is middle-aged or older. We tend to look to those who are older than we are for inspiration, figuring they have more experience and wisdom. That is not necessarily true; there are plenty of old fools around.

Don't rule yourself out of the good example population because you're young. Being a good example has nothing to do with age and everything to do with how you live your life. You can be a good example in kindergarten, providing you don't run with scissors.

You don't have to be a Goody Two-Shoes, but you should try to live your life with courage and fairness and faith. If you can do that long enough, you're on your way toward becoming a good example. A good reputation opens doors that might otherwise stay closed to you.

*Lord, I'm not sure I want to be a good example. Maybe for now
I'll just concentrate on doing the right thing day by day and
see how it works out. Teach me how I should act. Amen.*

When Words Fail Me

*Before a word is on my tongue you,
LORD, know it completely.*

PSALM 139:4 NIV

Pastor John's message on Sunday morning had been about prayer. After the service, Melissa, a teenager in the congregation, asked the pastor if they could speak privately.

"Pastor," she said, "I can't pray. Your prayers sound so beautiful. But when I pray, I sometimes have no words, and when I do, they sound. . .well. . .stupid."

Her pastor smiled reassuringly. "Melissa, God doesn't care how fancy your words are. He cares about what's in your heart. Without you telling Him, God already knows your thoughts and desires. When you pray, speak to Him as if you're talking with your loving Father."

Sometimes Christians feel so overwhelmed by their needs or by the greatness of God that they simply can't pray. When the words won't come, God helps to create them. Paul says in Romans 8:26 (NLT), "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words."

God hears your prayers even before you pray them. When you don't know what to say and the words won't come, you can simply ask God to help you by praying on your behalf.

*Dear God, I'm grateful today that in
my silence You still hear me. Amen.*

Against Our Nature

*“You have heard that it has been said, ‘You must love your neighbor and hate those who hate you.’ But I tell you, love those who hate you. (*Respect and give thanks for those who say bad things to you. Do good to those who hate you.) Pray for those who do bad things to you and who make it hard for you. Then you may be the sons of your Father Who is in heaven. His sun shines on bad people and on good people. He sends rain on those who are right with God and on those who are not right with God.*

MATTHEW 5:43-45 NLV

Boy. Jesus didn't believe in doing things the easy way, did He? Loving the people who wish us harm, the people who curse us and shame us and make our lives miserable. . .that goes against every natural instinct we have.

Yet that's the point, isn't it? We are sinful by nature. When we live for Christ, He calls us to die to our natural instincts and develop a new nature. If He called us to do what comes naturally, everyone would follow Christ. However, everyone would also be self-centered and greedy, because that's who we are.

No, Christ calls us to turn against what *feels* right and do what *is* right. He tells us if we want to be great, we must be servants, and if we want to be rich, we must give up all our stuff. Perhaps the hardest thing He requires of us is the mandate He lays out in this verse: Love those who hate us. Pray good things for those who persecute us. Then, we will develop the family resemblance He longs for us to have, so everyone will know we are children of God.

Dear Father, help me to truly love those who don't love me. Amen.

Get Above It All

*Keep your minds thinking about things in heaven.
Do not think about things on the earth.*

COLOSSIANS 3:2 NLV

If you've ever taken a trip by airplane, you know with one glimpse from the window at thirty thousand feet how the world seems small. With your feet on the ground, you may feel small in a big world; and it's easy for the challenges of life and the circumstances from day to day to press in on you. But looking down from above the clouds, things can become clear as you have the chance to get above it all.

Sometimes the most difficult challenges you face play out in your head—where a struggle to control the outcome and work out the details of life can consume you. Once removed—far away from the details—you can see things from a higher perspective. Close your eyes and push out the thoughts that try to grab you and keep you tied to the things of the world.

Reach out to God and let your spirit soar. Give your concerns to Him and let Him work out the details. Rest in Him and He'll carry you above it all, every step of the way.

God, You are far above any detail of life that concerns me. Help me to trust You today for answers to those things that seem to bring me down. I purposefully set my heart and mind on You today. Amen.

Why Are You Afraid?

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

MARK 4:39-40 NLT

One day, Jesus and His disciples were on a boat heading to the other side of the lake. Then a storm came up. Jesus was so secure, He'd fallen asleep. The disciples weren't feeling very secure, however. They tried to be brave, but things were getting out of hand—even for those among Jesus' disciples who had made their living on boats. Finally, they woke Jesus and He calmed the storm.

Jesus was speaking to His disciples, but He was also speaking to you when He asked, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" Trust is a main part of faith, but too often fear is a first response, not faith. Burdens become personal, not shared. Outcomes include best efforts, not God's help.

When the storm was the worst for the disciples, Jesus was with them. And when He spoke, things immediately became calm.

Lord, You want me to replace fear with faith and anxiety with trust. You give examples of what that looks like, and I'm left to remember that even mighty men and women of the Bible struggled with trust. Help me learn what they learned and in doing so, trust You. Amen.

Answer Me!

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

PSALM 4:1 NIV

Have you ever felt like God wasn't listening? We've all felt that from time to time. David felt it when he slept in a cold, hard cave night after night while being pursued by Saul's men. He felt it when his son Absalom turned against him. Time and again in his life, David felt abandoned by God. And yet, David was called a man after God's own heart.

No matter how old we are, there will be times when we feel abandoned by God. There will be times when our faith grows weak. That's okay. It's normal.

But David didn't give up. He kept crying out to God, kept falling to his knees in worship, kept storming God's presence with his pleas. David knew God wouldn't hide His face for long, for he knew what we might sometimes forget: God is love. He loves us without condition and without limit. And He is never far from those He loves.

No matter how distant God may seem, we need to keep talking to Him. Keep praying. Keep pouring out our hearts. We can know, as David knew, that God will answer in His time.

*Dear Father, thank You for always hearing my prayers.
Help me to trust You even when You seem distant. Amen.*