



ENCOURAGEMENT FOR RIGHT NOW

Find just what you need for just the right time...

Hope, Faith, Trust, Perspective & Peace.





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*and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who
asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the
one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you,
if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?
Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If
you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to
your children, how much more will your Father who
is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!*

MATTHEW 7:7-11 (ESV)

FORGET ABOUT THE REST OF THE YEAR FOR A SECOND.

Forget about the month.

Forget about the week.

Now forget about what you have to do by tomorrow, then about what you have to do in the next couple of hours.

Think about this moment — right now.

How are you feeling? Are you stressed because you feel like you need to be everywhere at once? Are you still reeling from that hurtful thing said to you? Do you feel like you're about to lose your mind because nothing — nothing — is going according to plan?

This little book is filled with reminders of who you may have lost sight of in the midst of today, someone we all lose sight of sometimes: Jesus.

As you read through these devotions, remember that Jesus is the giver of all these gifts. Matthew 7:11 says, "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (ESV)

At the end of each devotion, there will be a space for you to write one thing down you know to be true. Use those lines as a way to encourage yourself in what you're currently facing. Then, when you need to refer back to that page, your own words will serve as a reminder!



Faith. Hope. Reassurance. Patience. Whatever it is you need at this very moment, you can ask Him, the giver of all good gifts, and He will gladly give it to you.

*Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.*

*He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.*

PSALM 1:1-3





right now I need

FAITH



MY FATHER IS ALWAYS AT WORK

“Jesus said, ‘My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.’” John 5:17 (NIV)

In 1 Kings 18:41-45, there’s a story about a prophet named Elijah. God had caused a three-and-a-half-year drought in Israel because His people followed foreign gods. Miracle after miracle occurred during those years, but it’s what happened at the end of the drought that may catch your attention.

Elijah sent a message to King Ahab to let him know that the 42-month dry spell was coming to an end, even though there wasn’t a cloud in the sky. After delivering the news, Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.

“‘Go and look toward the sea,’ he told his servant” (1 Kings 18:43a NIV). He wanted him to see if there was a cloud.

“There’s nothing there,” (1 Kings 18:43b NIV) the servant said upon his return. Six times Elijah sent the servant back down the mountain to see if there was a cloud. Six times he returned reporting there was not.

Elijah said a seventh time, “Go back” (v. 43).

He observed the sky and came back to tell Elijah the news, “A cloud as small as a man’s hand is rising from the sea” (1 Kings 18:44b NIV).

If you remember anything about rain cycles from elementary school, you might recall that water falls from the sky into oceans, rivers and lakes. The sun heats the water, and it evaporates as water vapor. The vapor rises from the earth into the atmosphere, cools, then forms droplets called condensation.

Little droplets get together and form bigger droplets. Eventually those droplets form clouds. When the droplets get too heavy, they fall back to the earth as precipitation into oceans, rivers and lakes. Then the cycle starts all over again.

God was working during the servant’s first run down the mountain; the servant just couldn’t see it. As Jesus said, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working” (John 5:17). Just because you can’t see God working doesn’t mean He’s not.

No matter what you’re praying about today, don’t give up. God is always working ... even if we can’t see it.



In the space below, write one thing you know to be true based off what you read today:

A series of 20 horizontal dotted lines for writing.



FOLLOW ME

“The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, ‘Follow me.’” John 1:43 (NIV)

A flashlight is a great tool. If you’ve ever used one camping or when your power went out, you know that during those times a little light can be invaluable.

But a flashlight isn’t the same as daylight — it doesn’t give us the ability to see the entire path, just enough to take one or two steps. And when you can only see one step ahead of you, it’s easy to get anxious.

Taking the next step is something Jesus recommended a very long time ago. “Come and you will see.” “Follow me.” These were the words Jesus spoke to the disciples as He called them. He didn’t sit them down and reveal what the next three years would hold. He knew they would be overwhelmed; possibly even turn around. He chose to keep it simple. “Follow me” was all He said. Take the next step ...

We all wonder about our future sometimes. Will all my dreams come true? What college will I attend? What career path do I take? Will my kids be alright? Will my husband find the right job? Jesus knows the answers to your questions. But, in wisdom, He will only reveal enough light for you to take the next step.

Jesus knows. He knows which answers are “yes” and which ones are “no.” He knows when and where to reveal to you your next step. Your part is simply to take the next step in obedience.

You’ll learn that when He says “no,” it’s often a stepping stone to His amazing “yes.” When you step forward in trust and obedience, blessing is down the path. And even those pathways that held pain were part of the process. They will be stepping stones in your journey of choosing obedience over worry, fear and control.

Now, when fear and doubt surface in the dark ... silence the “what ifs.” Remember Jesus’ words, “Follow me,” and get back on the path that is flickering just ahead. Simply take the next step — a step of trust. Ask Him what you need to do for just today. Walk away from worry by expressing your concerns to Jesus and trust His ability to take care of each and every step.

