

Book 3

And More

Women of God

Dr. Gayle & Myrna Brogdon

GOD STORIES

"Come and see the works of God, Who is awesome in His deeds towards the sons of men." Psalm 66:5



This Book 3 GOD STORIES And More... Women of God are true stories that tell what God has done in, for, and through the lives of today's ordinary women so that all who read these stories may know that the Lord God is mighty and worthy to receive all praise, honor and glory. Also, interspersed in this booklet are encouraging biblical messages on how to daily live out our walk with Jesus Christ. In addition, responses from many ladies regarding the question, "Who is your favorite woman in the Bible and why?" are included throughout this booklet.

The Bible is full of stories of God using women, such as Mary Magdalene to whom the resurrected Jesus said, "Go and tell the others" (John 20:17). And God stories continue even today in and through women who believe in and know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. For "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

31-DAY DEVOTIONAL: This booklet may also be used as a 31-day devotional. As you read the stories designated for each day, contemplate on the message(s). Ask the Lord, "What do you want to reveal to me? In what way(s) may I apply to my life the message(s) and/or the scripture passage(s)? Then pray and do what He shows you.

Our prayer is that everyone who reads this booklet will draw closer to the Lord Jesus Christ! For those who don't know Jesus Christ as Savior, we pray you will.

Walking with Jesus,

Gayle & Myrna

Dr. Gayle & Myrna Brogdon

life4educators@aol.com

https://www.god-stories.com/

DAY 1: ESTHER, MY FAVORITE WOMAN IN THE BIBLE

"Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in the righteousness. And enter not into judgment with thy servant:

for in thy sight shall no man living be justified." Psalm 143:1-2



Paris Fetters Ossian, Indiana

Paris Fetters from Ossian, IN says, "Years ago, before I became extremely ill, I was very actively involved in the youth programs at church.

One year I was blessed to teach the 5th graders during Vacation Bible School and to my delight it was on the book of Esther! I was both excited and concerned as to how I was going to cover so much information in 5 days and in such little time as the event was divided up into 15-minute segments before moving on to the next event, singing, snacks, crafts... so in total I had a little over 1 hour to cover 10 chapters!

So, I prayerfully went about studying the book weeks before VBS started in order to be as prepared as possible. Now if you've read the book of Esther, you will notice that God is never specifically mentioned in print but is clearly at work throughout the events in her life.

With grand gestures and excitement, I told the story of Esther to a room full of kids on the edge of their seats. I'll never forget by midweek, the bell ringing to move on to the next event and the kids squealing for me to continue to tell the story! At week's end, I couldn't help but reflect on Esther's life and all she had to go through yet stayed strong in her faith in God."

TO PONDER:

The Book of Esther is relevant for us today. It offers us an example of how imperfect, yet faithful people can continue to live faithfully in a culture that does not acknowledge God.

s it a strugg wrong? Wh	_	-			t, and right

DAY 2: GOD GAVE MY LIFE BACK!

"The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." John 6:29

My name is Barbara Bockelman Creighton, born in Sioux City, Iowa and from a family of 11. Background matters because I always wanted to be an only child so I had developed a plan of self-centered thinking, coupled with a master touch of manipulation to get my own way. Whenever I failed to get my own way, I would find new ways of navigating the world, and that led to a dark world of narcissism. My behavior was completely double minded and godless. I was angry and truly malcontent and became an alcoholic



Barbara Creighton Bayview, Texas

I had an immediate family and a friend who prayed for me, and they often invited me to come to church. I

would decline but that didn't stop them from praying for my conversion. The first step was I gave up drugs and alcohol in 1976, because I realized that I could not be a good mom and a good drunk.

In 2010, I was invited to go to the Walk to Emmaus and what happened next was a true miracle. I was completely blown away by the love of Christ that I could see in the staff and the attendees. At the end of the retreat, they asked each one of us, what are you going to do about your new knowledge. I publicly stated that I was going to be baptized.

Life has only gotten fuller, and brighter. I love life, the Lord, and daily seek this God who has given me my life back. My favorite pastime is studying His Word, and I love this scripture. "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." John 6:29

My Favorite
Woman in
the Bible is...

Barbara Creighton from Bayview, Texas: Esther is my favorite because of her amazing courage. Esther sent back her answer to Mordecai: "Go and get all the Jews living in Susa together. Fast for me. Don't eat or drink for three days, either day or night. I and my maids will fast with you. If you will do this, I'll go to the king, even though it's

forbidden. If I die, I die." Esther 4:15

Louise Gerber from Bluffton, Indiana says, "My favorite woman of the Bible is Esther and I like to read about her in Esther 4:13-17."

TO PONDER:

What traits do you admire about Esther?	
---	--

DAY 3: ESTHER, MY FAVORITE WOMAN IN THE BIBLE

Who is your favorite woman in the Bible and why? The following ladies stated, "Esther" and here's why:



Karen Isch Bluffton, Indiana

Karen Isch from Bluffton, Indiana says, "I've always loved and respected Esther (book of Esther). She was an orphan, was entered into a "beauty contest" to become a queen to a king she didn't know or love and who wasn't of her people. Then she had to be brave and resourceful to save her people ('for such a time as this'). I believe God puts us all in situations at one time or another for just such a time to save someone or to show God's power or to solve a problem. We just have to be open and willing just like Esther"

* * * * *

Lois Drayer from Blufton, Indiana says, "Esther was a woman of inner strength and she made the most of her circumstances. Esther faithfully trusted Mordecai, her uncle, and she was chosen to be Queen. As a Jew, Esther accepted God's will. When the King issued an edict that the Jews would be killed, Esther faced death by going to the King because the rule was that anyone who entered the King's area would be killed unless the King held out his golden scepter. The King did not know at that time that Esther herself was Jewish. Esther said 'If I perish, I perish.' The King did hold out his scepter and in time issued a decree. Esther's courage to go to the King and her faith in God saved a nation."



Lois Drayer Bluffton, Indiana



Candance Hatfield Meridianville, AL

Candance Hatfield from Meridianville, Alabama says, "I love the history of how the interactions with the Jewish people and their captors/royalty is shown and her vulnerability in expressing fear and her bravery in trusting

God to help her overcome that fear."
Esther chapter 8: Esther saves the Jews

* * * * *

Bonnie Brynteson from Warroad, Minnesota says, "My life has slowed down quite a bit and I have time to think about the past wishing that I could do some things over. But God has said to me I was born 'for such a time as this' and the past is the past. I need to concentrate on the present.

So, I have thought about Esther and how God placed her where she was and used her to bring salvation to her people. Thinking about Esther reminded me of what was told to me many years ago. A woman from Africa



Bonnie Brynteson Warroad, Minnesota

laid her hands on me and said that I was going to be a blessing to my country. I thought how can that be. But while in prayer several weeks ago, I finally understood. I saw a river of water flowing from the very Throne of God. It was flowing across the United States and eventually around the world. In that picture God told me to get in the river. I hesitated but then in my mind's eye I finally stepped in deeper and deeper and deeper and felt great joy and peace. It became a place of intercession flowing around the world for a Great Harvest and it started in my country. I find great joy to have been born to be a part of what God is doing in our world today."

Veronica Ramirez from San Antonio, Texas says, "My favorite female character in the Bible is Esther because she was brave and willing to perish for her people. Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 'Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.' Esther 4:15-16"



Veronica Ramirez San Antonio, Texas



Joyce Neuenschwander from Bluffton, Indiana says, "I don't know that I have a favorite, but have always been drawn to the story of Esther, her loyalty and love for her heritage as the young Hadassah, (Esther chapter 4) but very brave in her role as Oueen Esther."

TO PONDER:

Have you read the entire book of Esther? If not, consider doing so. The story of Esther emphasizes the power of God, instructing us that we should use the blessings given by God to help others. Is there someone you know who God is leading you to help and how?

DAY 4: A WEE SMALL VOICE

"You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways." Psalm 139:3



Benay Morris Kerrville, Texas

It was 1977. My husband worked for the Forest Service in Idaho for the summer in the Payette National Forest Chamberlain Basin, also known as the Frank Church Wilderness Area. They provided us a little cabin and we had our four-month-old baby girl with us. He and his helitack crew had several responsibilities which included firefighting and trail maintenance.

One hot summer day while the crew was out on a maintenance project, I decided to surprise them and pack up some cookies and lemonade in a daypack for

refreshment for the guys while they were out on a trail. I packed up my infant daughter in my front sling and put my daypack on my back. I headed out on the trail in the direction I was given to meet up with them.

After about an hour or more walking up and down a narrow trail I found myself hiking up and down an extremely little used trail. And then I began to wonder if I'd gotten off the main trail onto what's called a deer trail. I started feeling a little panicky... and lost.

Then I started praying because I was completely turned around and there were no markers for direction. Finally, I just yelled out my husband's name several times. I turned in every direction hoping someone would hear me.

Then within a matter of minutes, my husband came up the trail towards us. He'd said he'd heard his name called but no one else in the crew heard a sound. Anyway, God told him to follow the sound and the deer trail and rescue us. Then we all rejoiced as we hiked back to where the guys were taking a break.

* * * * *

A NEW DAY DAWNS



Don't focus on what you don't have. Focus on what you do have. You have today...a new beginning...a fresh start.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you... (Is. 60:1)" **ARISE SHINE!!**

DAY 5: LEFT FEET ARE IMPORTANT, TOO!

"How strange a body would be if it had only one part!" 1 Corinthians 12:19

To say that I don't enjoy public speaking is an understatement. There are certain circumstances that make it more bearable though. I enjoy teaching cooking or sewing, being in plays and using puppets to teach children.

I was a pastor's wife, so not being a 'platform person' has been an issue at times. Sadly, many people, mostly other women, seem to think that being in front of others teaching, preaching and leading church meetings are a requirement for being the proper pastor's wife.



Anne Corzine Ft. Worth, TX

There is something seriously wrong with that line of thinking.

Not everyone has the gifts for those things. I know I don't. My gifts are service related. The kitchen crew and set building teams are my people. 1 Corinthians 12:21-26 states that all parts of the body are indispensable and NONE are less honorable than others.

Dear friends, please do not let others with more public gifts ever make you feel that you are not good enough. God gave your gifts especially to you for a reason. That reason is that He needs you to do what only you can.

Imagine if you will, a women's conference where everyone is on the platform and there is no one to care for the children, decorate the tables, serve the lunch or clean the kitchen. What a disaster! The less visible gifts are not smaller or unimportant. They are just different. "If they were all one part, where would the body be." 1 Corinthians 12:19

MARY, MY FAVORITE WOMAN IN THE BIBLE

Dora Bernal from Brownsville, Texas says, "My favorite woman in the Bible is Mary, the mother of Jesus. Luke 1:38 says Mary responded, 'I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true.' And the angel left her. Mary didn't doubt; she believed. She was so young; yet she accepted God's will for her life. She gave birth to Jesus and as a mother she loved him, cared for him, was devoted to him. The strength of Mary as she watched him grow, played with him, loved on him, kissed his boo, boos, become a man and was crucified. The heart felt pain of a mother. She would not leave his sight until the very



Dora Bernal Brownsville, TX

end. From being her baby to being her Savior. She was with him all his life. As mothers we draw strength from the Lord; we pray and show up even when showing up is heartbreaking.

DAY 6: THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT MARY

When the angel entered her home, he greeted her and said,
"You are favored by the Lord! The Lord is with you." Luke 1:28
Mary answered, "I am the Lord's servant. Let
everything you've said happen to me." Luke 1:38
"But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:19



Brenda Garner Boaz, AL

Of all the women in the Bible, Mary has always been my favorite. As a woman and a mother of two sons, and one of them the evils of this world tried to kill, I feel a closeness to Mary. If I could be like any one woman ever born, it would be her.

This past Christmas (2022) as I stopped my normal daily reading plan, to read about the birth of Christ, I experienced love of the Gospel to a greater degree. It was refreshing! And in this capsule of a higher worship of Jesus, Mary stood out even more. I even made the statement "if I could choose a new name for myself, it would be Mary."

I don't worship Mary by any means, but the Bible is given to us to instruct us on how to live a Godly life. Mary certainly exemplified a Godly life as we see that she was favored by God. She was willing and obedient to God, and when the Shepherds sought Jesus out, making widely known what they had experienced with the angelic visitation, she pondered them (their words) in her heart. Can't you just see it? Here we have a young woman, still a child in today's standards, having just delivered her first born and most likely, very raw emotionally. It is hard enough to birth a child in the luxury of a hospital room much less a stable. And then have visitors!

Ponder is to think about (something) carefully, especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion. Not only was she wise at a very young age, she was willing and obedient to God's call and she was self-controlled. She ponders things in her heart; testing the words she hears. Oh, how I long to have her attributes. It would have been beneficial had I had them at a young age. Her attributes are why she is my favorite woman in Scripture.

Like Jesus, not much is known of her before this great announcement that she was to give birth to Jesus. She and God's Son seemed to have stepped into the scene together and their story began. Isn't this true of our Christian journey? When Jesus comes on the scene of each of our lives, our story begins.

In closing, we find Mary in the background of Jesus' life as His story continues. Mary was His vessel. I pray to be like Mary; willing, obedient, and in the background serving Him however He chooses. And being favored by God would be icing on the cake. Yes! There is something about Mary!

DAY 7: MARY, MY FAVORITE WOMAN IN THE BIBLE

"While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:6-7

In John 2:3-7 Jesus' mother said to Him, "They're just about out of wine". Jesus said "Is that any of our business, Mother----yours or mine? This isn't my time. Don't push me." She went ahead anyway, telling the servants. "Whatever He tells you, do it." Jesus then ordered the servants, "Fill the pots with water". And they filled them to the brim. This act in Cana of Galilee was the first sign Jesus gave, the first glimpse of His Glory. AND His disciples believed in Him. Jesus'



Karen Aschliman Bluffton, Indiana

mother, Mary, believed in Jesus before he turned the water into wine and tenaciously went ahead telling the servants "Whatever He tells you, do it." I love this about Mary.

I pray I'll get to meet her one day...along with my grandmothers, mother and, especially Mary Frauhiger (my mother's mother) who gathered all her siblings around her bed when my mother was 13. Mary had contacted the deadly flu and was dying. The doctor had come to their home and had put a port in her side to relieve her briefly so she could have one last talk with her eight children. She exhorted each of them to accept Jesus and repent when they became of age. They all promised her they would. Today every last one of Mary's children are with her in heaven.



Patricia Edwards Collinsville, AL



Crystal Reinhard Bluffton, IN

Mary remained faithful to God, and her unwavering faith and strength can continue to inspire us today. It was such an honor to be Jesus mother. Mary was a human being who experienced the same emotions and challenges as the rest of us. Her life even in the midst of difficult circumstances, shows us we can have hope and strength in our faith. We can look to her devotion to God as a source of inspiration and comfort in our own lives. I can't imagine the pain she felt watching Jesus on the cross.

The woman that came to mind was Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was a young girl whose world was just completely rocked upside down by an angel.... Pregnant? Scared? Confused? The shame and rejection she would soon face? Yet she had such a strong faith, demonstrated by her prayer of rejoicing, thankfulness, and praise to God in Luke 1. She was able to bless God even in all the unknowns of her future. May we magnify the Lord as Mary did.

DAY 8: GOD CONNECTED ALL THE DOTS

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

During January 2023, the first GOD STORIES booklets were printed in Brownsville, TX with many praying for the distribution of the 2000. Requests came from different areas of the USA and the shipping/postage costs were high. We (Gayle and Myrna) pondered how could we go beyond the USA with these booklets without paying expensive postage. The lightbulb went on! So, on Jan. 9, 2023 I (Myrna) texted women in Bluffton, Indiana, "We are trying to find out how to send these booklets to Kenya since we went there in 1998-2000 to establish a nonprofit educators' ministry called LIFE that still functions. Would you be willing to pray please?"



Jane Frauhiger Bluffton, IN

Within an hour I received a phone call from Jane Frauhiger offering to make printing arrangements in Bluffton, IN to save postage from mailing booklets from Texas to Bluffton. Little did she or I know that we would need to print the booklets for Kenya

in Bluffton, Indiana because...Soon after that call ended, Crystal and Audrey Reinhard from Bluffton called and Audrey said she'd be flying to Kenya in ten days with a church team and had

an extra suitcase that we could fill with **GOD STORIES** booklets. After that I chatted online with a Kenyan educator to let her know. Timing was of essence in getting the booklets printed and then to Kenya. The Indiana printer had 400 booklets ready the day before Audrey left on Jan.



Audrey & Crystal Reinhard Bluffton, Indiana

20th. With God's help, we secured a contact so the Kenyan educators could receive the booklets. They are using this powerful gospel tool to reach out with the love of Jesus Christ to others, especially the unsaved. GOD connected all the dots. And we give Him all the praise, honor and glory!

THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

When we are desperate to see the lost come to Jesus as Savior, that changes everything. Would that change everything for you?
If so, in what ways?
If not, why not?

DAY 9: MY TESTIMONY (CLIFFORD WRENCH)

"The Lord appeared to us in the past saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness." Jeremiah 31:3

At the age of 12, I received Christ while attending a revival, and was baptized later. As a child I attended Sunday School and church regularly, but got away from that after leaving home.

My husband and I met while on active duty in the Army and we married January 1965 in San Francisco, California. At that time, we enjoyed smoking, drinking, and partying. However, in April 1965 my husband got radically saved while stationed in San Francisco, and I was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. I would try to call him at night, but it seems he was always at church. Then one time he actually told me "I really love you now." To me it meant he didn't love me when we got married. After that I decided this is a bit much to deal with; all this church going, and no more smoking or drinking. I was still smoking a lot.



Clifford Wrench South Padre Island, Texas

After several months my husband decided to take leave and came to visit. I could have taken leave, but I decided to keep working during the day. He had received great teaching at the church and they had told him not to preach to me but just be nice. They had given him some blessed oil to use if the opportunity arose. When I would come from work, the apartment was cleaned and food was prepared. He appeared to have so much peace, and I was nervous and smoking. One Sunday he attended church while I was working and asked them to pray for me. I got so mad when he told me that, and said I could pray for myself.

One evening I had pain in my left shoulder and he asked if he could pray for it. He put oil on my shoulder, prayed and the pain left immediately. I asked what was that, and he told me. Then I asked where is that church you told me about, I'd like to go. We did go to a weekly night service, and it appeared that the pastor was preaching directly to me. The pastor would not stop talking, and I decided if I left my husband would follow. I got up to go to the back of the church and instead went up to the front. The pastor asked if I wanted to be saved. I was crying and answered yes. He then asked if I wanted to be baptized. I said yes, thinking it would take place at a later date. He told the women to get me ready, and I was baptized that night. I had observed my husband and needed what he had. Later I understood why he said he loved me now.

TO PONDER:

When and how did you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior? Consider writing your conversion story down and share it with someone.

DAY 10: I'M SAVED!

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Eph. 2:8-9



Betty Thompson Plainview, Texas

My husband's youngest son did not marry until he was 34 years old. He married a woman who had a four-year-old son. Within a year they had a little boy of their own. So as grandparents we often kept them on weekends to give their parents some free time. Saturday nights involved bathing and Sunday mornings getting ready for church. We lived 25 miles from church and at that time we had a van with the capability of playing videos.

I found a series of videos by Max Lucado called Hermie and Friends. Hermie was a worm and he had friends and together

they learned many lessons. Ivan was an active little rascal who had reading difficulties and so these videos became a great teaching tool. He loved them and practically had them memorized. (Even to this day, he can quote some dialog from Hermie.)

We also took them to church with us on Wednesday nights, where Ivan loved the church dinners and often went back for seconds. We would pick them up on Sunday mornings and Ivan became the technology helper on Sunday mornings in the Junior department. When Ivan was about 10 years old, he told his mother that he wanted to be baptized. Sadly, his mother, who had stopped going to church with our son, told Ivan that he was much too young to be thinking about that. So, Ivan took no action.

He grew to be a big boy and very athletic and went off to college to play football for a couple of years. When he came back home to continue schooling, he met a young Christian girl. She was also in college and determined to finish and also determined to be pure until marriage.

I was very happy that he had found a Christian mate. During his college years Ivan attended church on special occasions. Many times, as I sat beside him, I'd sense that the Holy Spirit was dealing with him and I would pray that his heart will be softened and that he would follow the calling to accept Christ that he felt as a young boy.

When he and Kayla were married, I was honored to be invited as grandmother. They had a beautiful family wedding in early September and began attending a small church. Two weeks after they were married, I received a phone call from Ivan. He chatted for a short bit and then said, "Grandma, I have some good news to tell you. Can you guess what it is?" Without a moment's hesitation I said, "Ivan, you accepted Jesus as your Savior!" He asked, "How did you know?" I asked him if he remembered that as a 10-year-old that he had wanted to accept the Lord? He said, "Yes, I do." "Well," I said, "I felt the Holy Spirit leading me to pray for you before you were 10 and I've been praying for you ever since."

What a joy to listen to this new Christian as he said "Grandma, I feel like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders! I am so happy and I feel so free! As I was driving home from work today in the car all by myself, I just said out loud, 'I'm saved! I'm saved!"

* * * * *

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN, MY FAVORITE WOMAN IN THE BIBLE

The Samaritan woman in John 4:1-30 is one of my favorite women in the Bible! She is often referred to as 'the woman at the well'. Jesus knew every detail about this woman that was a sinner. How amazing is it he revealed himself to her and there she was standing at the well with Jesus in person!!

When I think of her, I always think of one of my favorite Bible verses John 8:7 "So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."



Kathy Carroll Brookshire, TX

I love knowing if we accept Jesus as our Savior we will never thirst again as he gives us living water and eternal life with Him!

TO PONDER:

Read John 4:1-30, 39-42. The woman at the well was quick to spread the news of her meeting with Jesus, and through this many came to believe in Him.

•	Where did the "woman at the well" go after she believed in Jesus?
•	What did she tell the men in town and why do you think they believed her?
•	Then what did the men do?

DAY 11: GOD PROVIDES

So, Abraham called the name of that place "The LORD will provide" as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." Genesis 22:14



Leigh Aten Brownsville, TX

In 2013, the company my husband worked for was making some changes. He was unaware that they were reducing their staff by 5%. In August, before my birthday, he received the call to let him know he was being laid off. We were both surprised but knew God would provide. The separation package continued to pay his regular salary for 3 months. When he asked HR if he would be receiving his regular quarterly bonus, it was an emphatic and resounding "NO"! As part of the separation package, he was advised to file for unemployment as well, which he

did.

In December, our church usually takes a special offering for the helps ministry. The same week that we had come to agreement on an amount to give, our home air conditioning broke. The amount to fix the air conditioner was roughly the same as the offering amount we had decided to give. We agreed that we would trust God and still give the offering we had planned. On Sunday, we gave the offering. Monday came, and I went to check the mailbox as usual. Inside was a check for my husband. It was the bonus that he was told he was definitely not going to receive!!! It was more than double what we gave in that offering!

Looking back, we did not know it would be over 2 years before my husband would find full-time employment. In that time, we were fully sustained! When the unemployment ran out, we received an inheritance. People from church would randomly put money in our hands. God was truly our Jehovah Jireh!!!

My Favorite
Woman in the
Bible is . . .

Leigh Aten from Brownsville, Texas says...

1 Kings 17:7-16 is about the widow woman from Zarephath. She was in a desperate situation due to famine in the land. God told Elijah to go to Zarephath and he would use this woman to provide food for him. I love this

story because this woman had every reason not to be obedient. Her plan was to use the last bit of flour she had, make one final meal for herself and her son and then they would die. She said this exactly to Elijah. Elijah responds by saying, go ahead with your plan but first bring me some food. That part always cracks me up! As if she didn't just tell him her dire circumstance! However, she was obedient and gave to the man of God first. God rewarded that simple act by multiplying her food so that it did not run out! She did not need to follow through with her plan! It is amazing how God stretches our faith, obedience and rewards! He is faithful to provide!

TO PONDER: Reflect on a time in your life when God provided. Thank Him.

DAY 12: SAY WHAT?!

"Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord." Colossians. 3:18

I married at age thirty. By that age I had already been a city councilwoman, was in management at work and been in ministry for fourteen years. The Lord gifted me the godly man of my dreams, and I loved being married, being a wife and playing house for real. Everything was beautiful until the day we didn't see eye to eye. I don't quite remember what our disagreement was about, except that my husband said one thing, and I said another. I stood my ground on the matter, as the strong independent woman that I was, until he hit his boiling point. Out came the words that I never thought I'd hear



Mimi Edge Los Fresnos, TX

from my beloved's mouth, "Honey, you need to learn to submit."

Have you ever seen a bull when he's ready to charge? Once he sees the red cape, it's like fire flares from his nostrils with smoke coming out of his ears as he paws the ground ready to hit his target. Well, that was me. All that went through my mind was, "Say what?!" as I saw RED! But I didn't move. I was stunned! Me? A minister of God, a professional woman who had been awarded several times in my career, learn to submit? I was exemplary, or so I thought. I said nothing, went in my room and went to "The Throne", (not the phone), and told God, "You need to speak to that man You gave me," and began to recount to Him what had happened (as if He wasn't there (tee-hee)). After a while, with His lovely quiet voice, the Lord spoke to me, "Do you trust me? Then submit to him and I'll do the rest." Long story short, I submitted

The Lord has been faithful in our 25-year marriage and has been our mediator in times of disagreement. I learned that when I submit, which is to surrender my will, it pleases my Father in Heaven and allows Him to do a work in me, my husband and our marriage.

COME TO ME!

"So, everyone, **COME TO ME!** Are you weary, carrying a heavy burden? Then **COME TO ME**. I will refresh your life, for I am your oasis. Simply join your life with mine. Learn my ways and you'll discover that I'm gentle, humble, easy to please. You will find refreshment and rest in me. For all that I require of you will be pleasant and easy to bear." Matt.11:28-30

Friend, are you weary? Jesus is patiently waiting for all those who are weary and carry heavy burdens to lay them all on Him and to run into His arms of grace. There you will find rest. Jesus is gently calling, "**COME TO ME**"!

DAY 13: READ IT AGAIN!

"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." 1 Timothy 4:13

"Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine, continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." 1 Timothy 4:16



Paris Fetters Ossian, Indiana

About 10 years ago I had to face the decision to purchase a new Bible as my old one was getting worn out. I set about researching and asking those whose spiritual walk was much stronger than mine as to what their preference was as my old Bible was small and I was wanting something more substantial to grow my faith.

Upon finally purchasing my new Ryrie Study Bible I was excited to then highlight all the scripture passages that had spoken to me over the years in my old Bible... except suddenly I couldn't locate my old Bible! I knew I had taken it with me

when we went camping and thought I had brought it into the house when we got home but it was nowhere to be found. After exhausting a search of the house, I then thoroughly searched the camper and still nothing!

Saddened that I'd lost my dearest friend in that old little Bible, I forced myself to turn the cover of my new Bible and read the "introduction" on How to use this study Bible... 1st, you must use it! 2nd, read and study wisely. It was at that moment I sensed God telling me to read it again! It was suddenly clear to me that the reason I couldn't find my old friend is because God hid it from me so I would read His love letter all over! Several days later of reading and highlighting my new Bible, I finally found my old Bible in the camper in a cabinet buried underneath a stack of board games... which we didn't even get out on our last camping trip!



"WHY DIDN'T YOU SHARE WITH ME ABOUT JESUS CHRIST?"

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" Romans 1:16

Early in our marriage, I (Myrna Brogdon) was not a born-again Christian and Gayle, having been saved as a child, was backslidden. Our lifestyle definitely reflected that. We were very close friends with a couple in Mesquite, Texas, but after moving to South Texas we lost contact with them.

Fast forward thirteen years...our marriage was in crisis; out of our three children, the two babies (Kristi and Jack) were sickly and our finances almost depleted. Then at thirty-three I became radically saved, having received Christ as my Savior, and later Gayle recommitted his life to Jesus. Our lives, marriage, finances, etc. drastically changed through the Lord's transforming power, unconditional love,

grace, and mercy.

Years later we reconnected with that couple and met them for lunch. We learned she was a Christian way back when we first knew them; yet she had never shared about Jesus Christ, even though she knew we were lost. Horrified that she had not and could have, I asked, "Why didn't you share with me about Jesus Christ?"

With downcast eyes, she hesitated, choked up and then tearfully replied, "I started to many times but was too afraid to share."

In reflection, as a Christian I don't want to ever be "ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16)." Down the road I don't want someone to ask me "Why didn't you share with me about Jesus Christ?" And to the one reading this, do you share about Jesus?

DON'T EVER STOP PRAYING FOR THAT LOVED ONE...

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

DAY 14: BEING A LYDIA TODAY

"And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshiped God, heard us: Whose heart the Lord opened that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us saying, if you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and abide there. And she constrained us." Acts 16:14-15



Cindy Geisel from Bluffton, Indiana texted the following message through her daily "Thought for Today". Cindy wrote: This account really resonates with me, especially since my cancer journey! Acts 16:14-15 talks of Lydia who had the gift of hospitality and service.

Likewise, there have been many "Lydias" who have shown hospitality to me through ministering and encouraging visits. Some have sent cards, flowers, multiple and various monetary gifts, blankets, books, journals, food, some have come to clean, some have delivered meals, and many have prayed and continue to pray for me.

It has been humbling to be on the receiving end of so many "Lydias". They have been helping my journey to be more comfortable and bearable. They create beauty in our world as they plan, prepare, and serve. They know how to make me feel loved. They open their hearts and show love, kindness, giving, and fellowship; responding to the Christian example of "Lydia".

It truly has been a blessing to be served by many "Lydias". I praise and thank God for all those who have served in this manner. If you have been one of the "Lydias", either serving me or others, I thank you from the bottom of my heart and ask that God would richly bless each and every one of you!!! You have truly been a blessing!

COMFORT OTHERS!

"Blessed be the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." 2 Cor. 1:3-4

When things happen in our Christian walk that seem coincidental, we should realize it's a "God Connection" arranged for a purpose. A woman (who was having difficulty in forgiving someone and needed ministry) shared her painful ordeal with

Comfort Others!

me (Myrna Brogdon). I had experienced a similar difficult situation awhile back. Coincidental? No, a "God Connection". Therefore, the one who needed comfort in this current trouble was readily comforted with the same comfort I had received from the Lord years ago. Therefore, in the same manner that God comforts

us in our trials, let's COMFORT OTHERS!

DAY 15: HANNAH, MY FAVORITE WOMAN IN THE BIBLE

"In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the Lord." 1 Samuel 1:10

Clifford Wrench from South Padre Island, Texas says, "My favorite woman in the Bible is Hannah, the wife of Elkanah, and mother of Samuel. I could identify with her, because after four years of marriage I was unable to conceive. During those times, I would cry and pray asking God to give me a child. Reading about Hannah gave me hope and comfort.

Hannah made a vow to the Lord if he gave her a son, she would give him back to the Lord for all the days of his life. Once Samuel was weaned, Hannah gave him to the Lord, just as she



promised. She was admired for her courage and unselfish obedience. I am happy to report that after almost five years of marriage, we had a son and we dedicated him to the Lord. Our son Mark is now 53 years old and is faithfully serving the Lord to this day."

Mary K Gerber from Bluffton, Indiana says, "Hannah is probably my favorite lady. She knew that the Lord had everything planned. I love her prayer: 1 Samuel 2:1-10."

Hannah's Prayer

And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD.

My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation.

- 2 "There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.
- ³ Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.
- ⁴ The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength.
- ⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.

- ⁶ The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
- ⁷ The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.
- 8 He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world.
- ⁹ "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail.
- The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed."

DAY 16: MY GUARDIAN ANGEL

"For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways."

Psalm 91:11



Jan Herring Bluffton, IN

After my 1993 vacation in Phoenix, AZ, the hard part was getting back home to Indiana! During a delay at the Phoenix airport, I met a very nice lady going home to the Chicago area on my flight. When finally boarding, I was told I hadn't checked in and unclaimed seats were about to be given away. I assumed my pre-assigned seat was okayed when checking in my luggage. After waiting 3½ hours, I nearly missed my flight! The lady said if I'm in Chicago overnight, to come home with her. It was to be a dinner flight, but only a snack was served.

When I deplaned in Chicago, she was waiting for me and took me to the Customer Service desk. I was starting to feel God sent her as my "guardian angel". I told her to get her luggage and go on home with her husband waiting outside. She refused to leave and learned my flight had departed. My friend Elaine planned to pick me up in Fort Wayne, Indiana, but I called her that I'd try to find a way home the next day while she was at work. She said she'd have someone get me. I scheduled the first flight the next day. I didn't have the right change to call Elaine, so the lady handed me a nickel. I told Elaine my expected arrival time and I was going home with a nice lady I met, but didn't know her name. The lady with no name laughed. She said she was "Sandie" and I introduced myself.

Then we got Sandie's luggage. It was cold, so I put on a sweatshirt from my carryon, my only luggage for the night. Her husband drove us to Lisle, IL, which I'd never heard of, 30 miles away. With snow and sleet forecast overnight, why was God sending me a half-hour away? I learned Sandie was a church organist. With no dinner on the flight and not seeing any late fast-food places open, at home she found 2 frozen meals we ate at midnight. My room was across the hall from her 23-year-old son Tom, asleep with no clue about a house guest who would use his bathroom. When I did need to use it, fortunately I didn't run into Tom. How comforting to see a plaque with part of 1 Cor. 13 and also a big picture of Jesus in the hall. Unable to sleep anymore, then I heard footsteps in the hall and the shower in Tom's (our) bathroom. His early work morning! Tom left and I never saw him. Sandie got me up, gave me breakfast on the run, and wanted my address. I stuck some money in her purse and got their names and address (to send a thank-you). It seemed we were friends more than a few hours and like a wild dream.

Having nothing to verify my morning flight, I got in a long line, but then was told to go directly to the gate. The flight had a snow delay. Finally, we boarded,

got de-iced, and flew to Fort Wayne. Patsy, another friend, was there to take me home. I had kept in touch with where I worked, so everyone cheered when I walked in the office. When my boss learned I had only 3 hours of sleep, he asked, "Why are you even here?" I already used an extra 1/2 vacation day that morning and didn't want to use more. He said, "Go home. Count the day as personal business, not vacation." Two girls gave me a lecture on going home with strangers. One thought Sandie needed one on taking home strays! Sandie sent me a lovely letter, returning most of the money I gave her. I'd not have gone home with just anyone, but felt peaceful going home with her.

Late that summer I received another letter from Sandie, and sent a wedding invitation to tell her I was getting married. Our honeymoon flight home had a Chicago layover, so I called her, pleasantly surprising her to hear from me on my honeymoon! That Christmas she sent several ornaments she made especially for us. On the back of each she printed a special memory or message. The Christmas tree ornaments remind me how much God loves me, sending a "guardian angel" to get me home from Phoenix. Many years we've prayed for each other and kept in touch by phone, mail, e-mail, Facebook, and twice at restaurants when we were in Florida at the same time. Her husband Art e-mailed me in May 2023 that she passed away that day. I miss Sandie, but know my "guardian angel" is in Heaven.

* * * * * *

KEEP SOWING...GOD GIVES THE INCREASE!

Read Mark 4:1-20.

Have you ever shared God's Word and/or your born-again experience or even prayed for someone with their permission and they initially were receptive, but then had a hard time declaring it? And maybe someone implied that the recipient's final negative response was your fault.

Don't be surprised! Jesus experienced that, too. God revealed in Mark 4 that the Sower's responsibility is to sow the Word of God. Never does it say, the Sower is responsible for the recipient's response. Therefore, Precious One, be of good cheer and KEEP SOWING...GOD GIVES THE INCREASE!



DAY 17: MY FAVORITE WOMAN IN THE BIBLE



Val Leman from Decatur, Indiana says, "Abigail cared about all their people, family, servants etc. In spite of her husband, she humbled herself. They all knew David was the up-and-coming king. Her husband was stingy and selfish."



Beth Aschliman from Bluffton, Indiana says, "Abigail was wise and very brave. She acted quickly or many men would have lost their lives. I always pictured her as very beautiful as well."



Coleen Culp from Bluffton, Indiana says, "My favorite woman in the Bible is Abigail. When told of a threatening situation, Abigail showed wisdom and courage. She went out to meet King David with gifts and humility and persuaded him not to cause further bloodshed, and the deaths of innocent people." 1 Samuel 25



Rachel Isch from Bluffton, Indiana says, "I've never really thought about who my favorite woman in the Bible is, but mulling it over, I'm thinking Rahab. I suppose many of us have had a sketchy past, but God didn't look at that. He loved Rahab enough to honor her with a spot in his incredible plan to bring Jesus into the world. And she was wise enough to acknowledge there was a unique power in the God of Israel. He looks at each of us as part of his incredible plan to build the Kingdom, and by his grace we have wisdom like Rahab to acknowledge the One who sayes."



Millie Shepherd from Alvin, Texas says that there are many women in the Bible that I admire for various reasons. I have combined 2 nameless women as my favorites because they both minister to me when I find myself getting desperate for a solution to a particular situation in my life. They had faith, tenacity and determination. I refer to the widow mentioned in Luke 18:1-8 and the Syrophoenician Woman in Matthew 15:21-24 and Mark 7: 24-30

Wanda Moser from Bluffton, Indiana says "I like the scripture about Martha and Mary in Luke 10:38-42. Martha was distracted with much serving and Mary sat at Jesus feet, and He praised Mary, for choosing to sit and listen to Him rather than Martha anxiously laboring. I like both women, I need to find the balance between the two. We need both. There's a time to be still and find rest for our soul and a time to labor. As a side note, as I have pondered, we live in a busy world and it's easy to get



distracted as Martha did and be in a hurry, and miss an opportunity of not seizing the moment. Embrace the here and now. I was reading in my devotional Friday morning and it talked about Mary and Martha and I felt that was my confirmation to share. Luke 10:42 says, 'But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from

her."

Maria Ellwood from Santa Maria, Texas says, "The two sisters, Mary and Martha, were so privileged to have Jesus and his disciples for dinner. There was much to do to prepare for all the guests. Martha was doing all the work and Mary was not helping at all, she was sitting at Jesus' feet listening to his teaching. I identified with Martha wanting to have everything ready for everyone in the house. In my desire to please the



Lord, I would hurry to have plenty of food hot and ready to serve on time. Yet when Martha wanted to get help from Mary, Jesus told Martha she was 'troubled about many things.' Jesus appreciated all that Martha was doing, but He said Mary 'had chosen that good part'; spending time with Him and listening to him. I now know that what pleases the Lord more than all my volunteering and good works is to spend quality time with Him reading his Word, praying, worshipping, sitting still and resting in his presence."

TO PONDER:

There are many women in the Bible that weren't selected as being a favorite by the ladies featured in this Book 3. Yet God used each woman in the Bible at a specific time and place for His plan and purposes to be fulfilled. Maybe your favorite woman in the Bible is one of those not mentioned, such as, Anna the Prophetess, Deborah, Dorcas, Elizabeth, Eve, Mary Magdalene, Miriam, Phobe, Priscilla, Rachel, Rhoda, Sarah, etc. or possibly your favorite is already included in Book 3. Regardless, who is your favorite woman in the Bible? Why?

DAY 18: GOD ANSWERED MY FERVENT PRAYER

"The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and He delivers them." Psalm 34:7.

"For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways..." Psalm 91:11



Doreen Steffen Bluffton, Indiana

For many years, I had a 50-mile commute to my job in Wilmington, Delaware. On one of my trips home one dark, snowy winter evening, I noticed I needed gas, but I was tired and knew I could make it home. I planned to get it the next morning before I started out.

The next morning, I simply forgot, and started out for work. With all that commuting, I knew where most of the gas stations were, and I was well-aware of the stretch of highway where there were no gas stations. On that particular morning, I was well into my trip when I glanced at the gas gauge. I immediately knew I was in trouble. I was on empty and there

would be no stations for quite a few miles.

I prayed <u>fervently.</u> As I think back to that prayer, I realize it was different than many of my prayers. It's hard to explain, but I knew God was my only hope, and I was depending on Him completely. I wasn't just saying the words, I felt them.

I did as much as I could do by setting the cruise control at a slower speed. I kept praying and kept getting closer and closer to the gas station. After what seemed like hours, I could see it in the far distance. I kept driving on the empty tank of gas. Surely the car was powered by angels that day because I did make it to the gas station and -- here's the best part: my car died at the exact moment I pulled up exactly in front of the gas pump. **God answered my fervent prayer!** How thankful I was, and am to this very day.

FELT BETRAYED??



Myrna Brogdon Los Fresnos, TX and Bluffton, IN

Have you ever told in "confidence" someone something, only to find that they shared it with others? Oh, how betrayed you and I (Myrna Brogdon) felt! "Confidence in an unfaithful man in a time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint." (Proverbs 25:19) If you have ever had a foot out of joint or a tooth that is broken you quickly realize both cause pain. Therefore, be extra careful who you confide in, because they can really hurt you. "Lord, help me to be the person that places my confidence in You. You are always faithful, confidential and

have integrity. And, Lord, may I reflect these qualities so that I am a blessing to others...not a pain! In Jesus name. Amen!"

DAY 19: RUTH, MY FAVORITE WOMAN IN THE BIBLE

But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God." Ruth 1:16

Myra Ringger from Bluffton, Indiana says, "I have always been impressed how unselfishly Ruth was willing to follow her mother-in-law, Naomi. She left all that was familiar to a land where she would be considered a foreigner being a Moabite. She could not see what was ahead but trusted in the One true God, totally rejecting her Moabite gods. A good example for all of us."

Mary Cavazos from Brownsville, Texas says, "Ruth is one of my favorite women IN the Bible. Even though Ruth and Naomi both suffered losses, Ruth refused to let that make her bitter. I love her loyalty, her work ethic, her kindness and gentleness towards her mother-in-law. I love that she provided not only for herself but for Naomi as well. Such a beautiful picture of love and sacrifice."

Carol Gerber from Ossian, Indiana says, "I've always loved Ruth's story of being faithful in following her mother-in-law Naomi after her husband died even though Naomi told her to go back to her people. Ruth 1:16 says: And Ruth said, 'Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee; for either thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodges, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." Through all her following she became the wife of Boaz and had a son Obed which was the lineage of David therefore the lineage of Christ."

Laura Owens, Port Isabel, Texas says, "Ruth is a Moabite woman who becomes a widow. Ruth decides to follow her mother-in-law, Naomi. I can identify with Ruth because she marries Boaz her Kingsman redeemer. Ruth's life was redeemed and she is an ancestor to David and our Lord Jesus." Ruth 1:16-17

Linda Dubach from Bluffton, Indiana says that we learn the faithfulness and mercy of God in the book of Ruth, story of Ruth and Naomi, and Mary and Martha, Luke 10:38-42.



Mary Cavazos Olmito, TX



Carol Gerber Ossian, Indiana



Laura Owens Port Isabel, TX

DAY 20: GOD'S PROMISES

"The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them."

Psalm 34:7



Mary Cavazos Olmito, Texas

A few years back, my daughter and her husband were living in Harlingen, Texas. My husband and I were trying to mentor and speak God's word into their lives. We had gotten each of our adult children a book of God's Promises and spoke to them about standing on these promises.

One day my daughter called me terrified because she felt her dad, who has mental issues, was going to come around harassing them. I told her to get her book of promises for

protection and stand believing, because God's word is true.

She and her husband started declaring God's promises. Her father came by, but the hedge of protection kept him from setting foot on her property. He paced back and forth on the street, but never stepped foot on their actual property. God is faithful!

* * * * *

BE STILL!

"Be still and know I am God!" Psalm 46:10



Tami Johnson Harlingen, Texas

Whenever I see a chocolate Hostess cupcake (you know the kind with the white creamy center and the white squiggle across the top), it takes me back to elementary school. My best friend, CeCille, and I would bring those cupcakes in our lunches. Being the competitive girls we were, we would race to see who could eat a cupcake the fastest—we could cram an entire cupcake in our mouths at one time. It's a wonder we didn't choke right there in the lunch room.

Harlingen, Texas One morning a couple of years ago I was on my way to work, and I saw a sunrise so magnificent that it simply took my breath away. The Lord brought the cupcake eating races back to my mind. I thought about how I had never enjoyed the taste of those cupcakes at all because I was trying to swallow them so very fast. I pulled my car over and stopped to enjoy that sunrise.

The Word of God says in Psalm 46:10 -- "Be still and know I am God!" Sometimes we are racing through life so fast we are not noticing all the beauty the Lord has created. We miss out on all the things He wants to show us and speak to us. Today.....just be still and look, be still and see, be still and KNOW.

DAY 21: THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD

Ida Ruth Rodriguez from Brownsville, Texas says that the woman with the issue of blood is her favorite woman in the Bible (Mark 5:25-34).

There are three accounts in the New Testament about a woman who suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding and, in my opinion, the best account is found in the gospel of Mark. This woman had spent all her life savings on doctors who couldn't heal her.

She must have heard stories of Jesus the Great Healer, and because the crowds were following Him, she heard He was nearby. In her desperation, and armed with tremendous faith, she found the strength and courage to



Ida Ruth Rodriguez Brownsville, Texas

go out in public to seek Jesus when the law clearly forbade it. How immense was her faith?

This lady believed that if she could only touch His clothes, specifically the hem of His garment, she would be healed! Only the hem, so Jesus would not be considered unclean according to law because she had touched his arm or leg.

In order to do this, she more than likely had to crouch down or kneel low to the ground as the crowd avoided stepping on her, completely in a vulnerable position of humility. The moment she touched Jesus' garment she received her miracle!

When Jesus felt the power go out of Him, the woman came forward with fear and trembling and confessed that it was her. Jesus' response to her was, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction." How immense is your faith?

TO PONDER:

Read Mark 5:25-34. What is the Lord showing you?



DAY 22: DO YOU SEE WHAT OTHERS DON'T SEE?

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.". Matt. 9:36-38



Myrna Brogdon Los Fresnos, TX and Bluffton, IN

I was a Title I reading teacher in Skidmore, Texas in 1977. As I relaxed behind my desk between my reading classes, I remembered vividly the dream I had the night before and chuckled out loud. It so depicted my life. Six months earlier I had gotten radically saved. Thereafter, I read my Bible and prayed four to five hours each day because I was so hungry and thirsty to know Jesus Christ. I was thrilled that now my spiritual life was even being played out in my dreams.

Having forgotten that my teacher assistant, Jackie Smith, was in the room close to me, I was brought back to reality by her

questions, "Why are you laughing? Tell me, what's so funny?"

Prior to my salvation, Jackie and I had been close friends for four years, both of us living worldly lifestyles. Now my eyes were open to see her spiritual condition. I saw she was lost, helpless and didn't know my Jesus; therefore, being moved by His compassion for her, I prayed for an opportunity to share Christ with her—to be that worker sent out in the harvest field. Hearing her questions, I realized this was my open door to share in a relaxed and natural manner.

"Jackie, I had a dream last night. I was walking down the middle of a highway in a 'Work Zone' that had a sign posted which read 'Men at Work'. Many men with brightly colored vests and hardhats were working on the road removing the potholes. There I was walking unashamedly in front of them wearing a huge sandwich board sign that read 'God at Work.' Jackie, that's exactly what Jesus is doing with me. He's removing the potholes in my life. I love Him for it, and I'm not ashamed of what He's doing in me."

I continued sharing and asked her if she wanted to receive Him as her Savior. Even though she declined that day, I knew one day my prayers would be answered and that the seeds sown that day would later be harvested. And they were. Several years later Jackie went to church and received Jesus Christ as her Savior. And several years later she went home to be with the Lord.

TO PONDER:

In Matthew 9:36-38 Jesus saw the crowds and His heart was moved with compassion
for them. His eyes saw beyond their physical condition. When you look at people,
what do you see?

DAY 23: WHAT? GIVE IT ALL?

In 1971, when I was 24 years old, single and in college, and I had just received the glorious experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I was attending "Revival Services" in Garland, Texas. One night during those powerful meetings, the Evangelist was taking up the offering for the expenses and he did something that I had never seen in the denomination that I was affiliated with.

He asked everyone to pray to ask the Lord what He wanted them to give in the offering. Then he said as they received the amount, they were to shout out the amount so that everyone could rejoice in the giving. Since I was new in the Spirit filled life, I wanted to



Bobby and Lynn Crow Missionaries in CD. Victoria, Tam. Mexico for 45 years

do what God asked of me, so I prayed. But the answer was NOT WHAT I EXPECTED! He spoke to me and said give \$25.00. This had to be the enemy trying to rob me of my money because that's all I had in my bank account until payday a week away. So, I rebuked the devil and prayed again. Again, I received the amount of \$25.00. So, without any hesitation I shouted out \$25.00.

Can anyone explain what happens in our hearts when we know we have been obedient to God? Peace that passes understanding engulfed me and a joy came like never before. My grandfather was in the hospital in Brownsville, Texas very sick. On my way home from the service, God spoke to me and said, Grandpa just came home. My heart was sad but I rejoiced in receiving the news from my heavenly Father. The next morning Mom calls at work to say Grandpa went to be with the Lord. She asked if I could come home for the funeral? But I had NO MONEY. That morning when I returned to my desk from my break there was an envelope covered with names. As I looked at it, I saw names from my bosses, co-workers and others. Then in the middle was the words MONEY FOR LYNN TO GO TO HER GRANDPA'S FUNERAL. I found out the Lord spoke to a Spirit filled girl in our office and told her I had no money to go to the funeral and for her to ask for donations. It was enough money received to fly roundtrip and for extra expenses. Plus, the company paid me my salary for those days at the funeral. I asked the Lord why did He do that for me and this is what He said; "Lynn, yesterday when I told you to give it all, you did. If you will be obedient to MY VOICE and my instructions, I will always speak to others to be obedient to help meet your needs!"

That was 52 years ago when I learned the principle of GIVING; tithes, offerings and sacrificial gifts! And I have stood on that truth for all these years without FAIL! BEING OBEDIENT AND LIVING TO GIVE!

DAY 24: I'VE FALLEN AND CAN'T GET UP

When I said, "My foot is slipping your unfailing love, LORD, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy." Psalms 94:18-19



Debbie Diehl Harlingen, Texas

Have you ever taken a tumble due to the law of gravity? Recently, I fell down due to the buildup of ice and single-digit temperatures. Since I was JUST taking out the trash at my sister's house in northern Indiana, I went outside in nothing but a short-sleeved t-shirt, light knit pants, my shoes and socks. My sister lives at the end of a long street, which leads to nowhere. Every time I tried to stand up, I lost control and landed on the slippery ice again and again and ...

After nearly 10 minutes, I began to cry out as loudly as I could, "Help! I've fallen and can't get up!"

Ten minutes later, my loud cries for help stopped and tears started to flow. Because I was freezing, desperate, and didn't want to turn into a pillar of ice, I started crying out to God for help.

Ever so softly, the Holy Spirit answered me by saying, "Like a toddler, scooch on your bottom into the nearby snow."

I followed His leading, warmed my hands on my belly, and then made an attempt to get up via the yoga dog pose (an upside down "V"). Alas, 30 minutes later, I was safe and thawing in the garage.

Do you know the same thing applies when we fall away from God? We can try to get up and fail in our own weak attempts to right whatever put us in that position. We can even cry out to and/or beg others for help with either a loud voice or a soft whimper.

It's when we cry out in desperation to the Lord, that the Holy Spirit leads us to higher, safer ground. If you have fallen away from God's presence, may I encourage you to cry out to our Father and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you back into the WARMTH and SAFETY of His presence.

If you have fallen, you CAN get up with God's help! (Psalms 94:18-19)



DAY 25: LIVE GOD'S WORD

"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them" Ps. 119:165

One day I (Myrna Brogdon) had been driving round and round in a full parking lot and finally spied an empty spot. Just as I was turning into it, another car suddenly crossed in front of me and took it. I was about to react in anger and be VERY offended when the words, "Great peace have they that love thy law and nothing shall offend them" (Psalm 119:165) came to mind. I knew God



was telling me how to react. I thanked the Lord and chose not to be angry or offended. God's peace flooded me.

UNDERSTANDING MESSIANIC PROPHECY

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever. Is. 40:8

She was a nice Jewish girl, born and raised in upstate New York to Conservative Jewish parents and Orthodox Jewish grandparents. After college she started teaching in Southern California. He was a handsome Marine Lieutenant from West Texas stationed in Southern California at the close of the Vietnam era who happened to live next door to the nice Jewish school teacher.

One day he invited her to a program that was about Jesus in the Passover at his church. He thought she would enjoy the speaker since she was Jewish. Her perspective was who should know more about the



Russell and Benay Morris Kerrville, Texas

subject than she would, a nice Jewish girl from New York!! The program piqued her interest.

The Sunday night special service was presented by an ordained Baptist minister who happened to also be Jewish and was joined by his musical family. This program confused her. However, the seed was planted. Many questions evolved from this presentation. She attended Sunday school at the church for "intellectual stimulation she thought." She would **not** sing the hymns if they included the word "Jesus or Christ" in the lyrics. Because that was totally unacceptable - it was like a curse word for her to utter it. She challenged the thought that she, one of God's "chosen people, a child of God" needed to make a 'profession of faith.' - Weren't her people destined for eternity anyway? It required a combination of God's word and the realization that she would not lose any of her traditions or faith as shown by the West Texas Marine neighbor in accepting Jesus as the Messiah.

They were married about a year and half later by the ordained Jewish Baptist minister in California and recently celebrated 48 years of marriage. Shalom!

DAY 26: GOD ANSWERS WHEN WE PRAY!

"His great works are marvelous. He performs miracles without number." Job 9:10



Brownsville, TX for three days.

Ever since I was a child my parents expected me to attend church every Sunday. I knew about Jesus Christ but never professed him as my Lord and Savior. In November, 1984 we visited my husband's family in San Antonio. My sisterin-law shared that she had accepted Christ and was born again. She claimed that the pastor at the church she visited had prayed for her and she was healed. I thought this can't be possible. The Jesus I know is crucified on the cross. I see him every Sunday at church. Driving back home I prayed, "Jesus, please show me the truth. Do You really heal?" I prayed this

Monday morning, I returned to my classroom with my eager 4th grade students. A few minutes into our block reading time my student Suyen asked me to go to the nurse because her head hurt. I asked her if she could wait until our reading time was over and she agreed. At that time our school was implementing a reading program and students could not leave the room unless they had an emergency.

Towards the end of the school day while I picked up my students from their physical education class, the first thing I saw was Suyen laying on the ground. Her face was an ash color and she appeared to be convulsing. Fear and concern for her well-being consumed me at that moment. After school the following day I went to visit her and saw that she was in ICU hooked up to a respirator. I prayed not thinking about what I had asked God to reveal to me.

The next day the principal called me into his office to let me know that she had a brain aneurysm and the doctors did not think she would make it. Sunday afternoon I called her mom and she told me there was no change. As soon as I dismissed my class on Monday, I rushed to the hospital. Upon arrival I asked the volunteer at the front desk if I could see Suyen. She looked at a roster in front of her and said, "Suyen is no longer here." My heart sank. I thought she must have passed. I returned to school, got her address and rushed to her house. As her mom opened the door, I saw Suyen sitting on a rocking chair. Her mom shared that Monday morning her dad went to see her, held her hand and Suyen opened her eyes and began to talk to him. According to Suyen's mom the doctors had no answer for what happened. They sent her home without medication being that when they ran tests, scans, etc. they found nothing. What a miracle! That certainly was Jesus showing me that He is alive and creates miracles today. A few days later as I was flipping the tv channels this man caught my attention. The man speaking was Ben Kinchlow of the 700 Club. He was preaching salvation and I invited Christ into my life and have been serving him ever since.

DAY 27: GOD ANSWERS

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." Matthew 7:7-8

One prayer my mom regularly prayed was that she and my dad would be ambulatory until their final days. Because my mom was blind, she relied on my dad for many things. This was an important prayer for her.

My dad was a type 2 diabetic and one year, he had a very bad foot infection. It got so bad that we were concerned when he refused to go see a doctor. Finally, he agreed to go to the hospital. My mom called me and my husband early one morning and we drove them to



Leigh Aten Brownsville, TX

the hospital. When we arrived, the emergency room was very calm. He was immediately seen. As it turned out, not only did he have gangrene but his blood was septic. This was incredibly serious and he was possibly at the point of death. We were all praying! We waited as they took him into surgery. All the while, we were wondering if he would have his leg amputated. That would be devastating for him as well as my mom. But God is amazing in His great mercy!!! Not only was his life saved, his leg was saved too! He only had his toes amputated on that foot. This was the grace of God!!! After about a month in the hospital and rehabilitation, he was able to go home. He and my mom both were ambulatory until they went to be with the Lord! God's faithfulness extends to the Heavens!

O! LORD HEAR MY PRAYER

"Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee." Psalm 102:1

As I (Myrna Brogdon) look at my early 1900s paper needlepoint sampler, "O! Lord, hear my prayer", I wonder about the life of the young lady who diligently stitched it and why she chose that message? Did "O Lord, hear my prayer" represent her favorite scripture passage, Psalm 102? "Hear my prayer, O Lord, and



let my cry come unto thee." Psalm 102:1

Or was it the fervent cry of her heart to God for an unsaved loved one? And did she hang it in a prominent place in her home as a constant reminder to daily trust and expect the Lord to answer? Then I think of my own deep, heartfelt yearnings and fervently cry aloud, "O! Lord, hear my prayer." What fervent prayer are you believing the Lord for?

DAY 28: BLESSINGS IN STRANGE PLACES

"For every good and perfect gift is from above." James 1:17



Anne Corzine Ft. Worth, TX

In the fall of 1970, we took our 5-month-old baby and went to Bible college in Springfield, Missouri. We graduated in the spring of 1973 with our degrees, a 3-year-old and a 6-week-old baby.

During the first year we qualified for government commodities. There were wonderful things like cheese and peanut butter and less wonderful things like powdered eggs. After that program came to an end, our grocery budget was about \$10.00 a week. That included baby food and cleaning products. Thank God for trips back home when we would return with our little Toyota Corolla packed with groceries!

There was also laundry to do. We managed to keep our clothes clean by doing 2 loads a week at the laundromat across the street, but the diapers were another matter. Disposable diapers weren't a thing then and we couldn't have afforded them anyway.

Every week I washed dozens of cloth diapers in the bathtub. The weather wasn't always suitable for drying them on the line, so sometimes we'd have to scrape up the spare change and take them to the dryer.

On many occasions there would be a crisp five-dollar bill in the dryer with the warm diapers. We knew it was from the lovely older couple on the opposite corner but they never acknowledged it.

Even though the blessings came from human hands, it was truly a gift from God.

GOD WILL MAKE A WAY!

You may be facing a dead end right now — financial, emotional, or relational — but if you will trust God and keep on moving in faith, even when you don't see a way, He will make a way. In the meantime, do what Proverbs 3:5-6 says: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."



DAY 29: WHAT? SIFTED AS WHEAT?

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, But take heart! I have overcome the world."" John 16:33.

Luke 22:31-32 says, "Simon, Simon, (Peter) Satan has asked to sift (winnow) you as wheat, but I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." This is a warning and prophecy from Jesus to Peter, that Satan had asked the Heavenly Father for permission to trouble him; to send tribulations, and God gave him permission. It would be a test of his faith. Jesus implies his faith will waver, but return. Then he tells him, after the trials of his faith when it has returned, use his renewed faith to strengthen and encourage the faith of the other disciples.



Myrna Brogdon Los Fresnos, TX and Bluffton, IN

Years ago, the Lord used this passage to let us know, "You both are going to go through some major, painful ordeals and trials (sifted as wheat) and you'll find out what's in you! I will be interceding for you that your faith may not fail." Perplexed, we questioned, "What? Sifted as wheat?" We knew the Lord was forewarning us, but our minds began to wander and wonder what was going to happen and we even asked ourselves if we really were hearing correctly.

Soon after this, we flew to another city/state and while there we went to a church service. The pastor preached a sermon based on Luke 22:31-32. "What? He's preaching directly to us." Through this sermon the Lord confirmed everything He had already spoken to us. Therefore, we declared to one another that no matter what happened, we would keep believing, keep trusting, keep praising and thanking God.

It wasn't long before we began experiencing a strong "sifting" -- a major trial, which was the hardest one we have ever walked through. We, along with others, dealt with a situation and decisions that impacted hundreds and hundreds of people. It was a great test of our faith. Then another trial hit! Almost as hard. BAM! AND MORE! All these extremely difficult occurrences happened within a span of many years. Yet the Lord was there with us through it all. We praise our Lord that He renewed our faith so we could strengthen and encourage the faith of others.

Precious One, Luke 22:31-32 applies to every Believer, because both Jesus and Paul warned us that God would allow tribulation to come into the lives of every Christian for exactly the same reason it was to come to Peter: to test and strengthen our faith. This is one of the promises of Jesus, just as much as blessings and salvation to the faithful. He said "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

DAY 30: IF IT WASN'T FOR MY GOD...

"For we walk by faith, not by sight". 2 Corinthians 5:7



Hilda Flores Brownsville, TX

We were happily awaiting the arrival of our second child. In August of 1985 our son was born. I had a c-section with him due to fetal distress. He had pooped in the bag. I remember the doctor telling my husband and me that for the health and safety of our son, he was recommending a c-section. He told us he could deliver him naturally, but our baby would need to have his lungs pumped immediately after birth. Without hesitation my husband and I immediately said let's do the c-section! So, on August 6, 1985, our son was born! He was a perfect, beautiful, and healthy baby boy! He weighed 8 ½ pounds! Mom and son were doing well.

Four years later we planned our second child. We had been hoping for a girl to have our pair, a girl and a boy. However, every time I had a sonogram our baby would be positioned in a way that the nurse and doctor could not tell the gender. Nevertheless, they both said if they had to guess it would be a boy! In my heart, my prayer was, "Lord, keep me and our baby healthy and let me deliver a natural birth. And if it's your will let it be a girl! Then the time came, it was a long labor. I went to the hospital at 1:00am and my baby girl was born on June 4, 1989, at 12:31pm. Thank you, Jesus! She was perfect, beautiful, and healthy! After the delivery everything seemed fine, my husband left to have lunch and bring our son to meet his little sister.

Then the nurse came in to take me to my regular room. I sat up on the side of the delivery bed and when I stepped down, I fell to the floor! I tried to get up and I couldn't stand up! The nurse had to help me up. And I immediately panicked because I told her my leg is completely numb and I don't have any feeling! I asked her, "Is this normal?!" I remember the nurse saying, you just delivered your baby, the epidural has probably not worn-off yet, give it some time. But I knew something was terribly wrong!

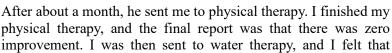
That afternoon I tried to be strong when my family came to see me. However, by nighttime when I was all alone, I was crying. I was so scared! I kept asking God why is this happening?

That night, I remember my dear uncle Roy sneaking into the hospital at 9:45pm after visiting hours! He had no idea what had happened to me after giving birth. He and my aunt had been at the hospital earlier that afternoon to congratulate us and meet my daughter. When he walked in, I was crying, and I asked him, Uncle Roy what are you doing here! He said God sent me to see you! I started sobbing so hard! He

hugged me and prayed for me. He said God told me that everything is going to be alright mijita. My uncle leaves and then Pastor Chuck Meyers, he is a wonderful man of God, called me at 10:00pm and prayed for me! That was ALL GOD! If it wasn't for my GOD, I don't know how I would have made it through that difficult time.

To make a long story short, a neurologist came to see me at the hospital and his diagnosis was that due to my long and hard labor my baby's head had put pressure on my sciatic nerve and that resulted in my injury. I was sent home on crutches.

At home, especially at night when my baby would cry, I would automatically get up and every time I fell to the floor! It was a scary time for me and my husband. I also had to be careful shaving because I didn't have feeling in my right leg. My OB-GYN told me that this happens 1 in a million births.





helped. I kept doing my exercises daily. Eventually, I went from using crutches to knee brace. Then my neurologist gave me some terrible news. He said I would have to learn to live with my sciatic nerve damage, just like veterans do, and I would never be able to wear high heels!

When we left his office, I was sobbing so hard! How could you tell a young 29-year-old mother of two that she would never be able to wear high heels or be able to run again! Upon arriving at my mom's house after that doctor appointment, Pastor Meyers pulled up and he said God put it in his heart to come pray for me! He had no idea we had a doctor's appointment, but GOD did! GOD is sooo good all the time!

My whole church was praying for me. About four or five months later, one Sunday morning, I remember being up front for prayer and the Pastor asked the ladies to gather around me and pray for me. Sister Garza gave me a word and said, "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement for our peace was upon Him. And by His stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5)."

She said, "Hilda, you are healed."

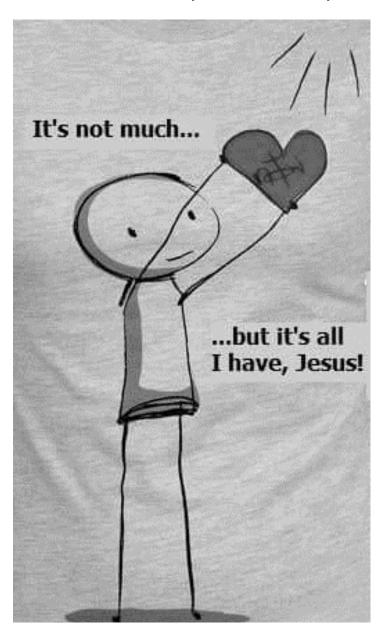
I said, "Yes, I am healed! The word God gave me was: 'for we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7)

My healing was not automatic! BUT it did come! In less than a year God healed me completely! I was able to wear my high heels again! I was able to run again! NO MORE KNEE Brace! Thank you, Jesus! GOD has the last word, not the doctors! If it wasn't for my God...

DAY 31: LORD, I GIVE YOU MY HEART!

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

"Lord, I give **YOU** my heart! Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake...Lord, have Your way in me! I surrender my life to **YOU**!"



DO YOU WANT JESUS CHRIST TO BE YOUR SAVIOR AND LORD?

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 ESV

Here is a simple prayer to pray with earnest from your heart if you have not yet given your life to Jesus Christ and want to invite Him into yours:

I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe that He died for my sins and that You, God raised Him to life. I repent of my sins and ask forgiveness. I choose now to turn from my sins and every part of my life that does not please You. I give myself to You. I want to trust Jesus Christ as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do Your will. Come reign in my heart, fill me with Your love and Your life, and help me to become a person who is truly loving—a person like You. Live in me and love through me. The Bible says if I confess with my mouth that "Jesus is Lord," and believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead, I will be saved (Rom. 10:9). I believe with my heart and I confess with my mouth that Jesus is the Lord and Savior of my life. Thank You, God. In Jesus name. Amen.

If you have prayed this prayer in earnest, you can also know that the angels in heaven are rejoicing because of your commitment to follow Christ. May God Bless You.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast." Ephesians 2:8-9



THANK YOU!

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

Proverbs 27:17

Above all, words can never fully express our heart full of love and gratitude towards You, Jesus Christ, for Who You are, what You've done for and are doing in and through ordinary people **ALL** for Your Honor and Glory!

We thank each of the Christian ladies who shared in this **Book 3 GOD STORIES And More...Women of God** their favorite women in the Bible and why and/or their personal story of what the Lord Jesus Christ did in, through and for them.

Thank you for reading **Book 3 GOD STORIES And More...Women of God.** If you have been touched by the Lord through this booklet, please take a few minutes and share with us at life4educators@aol.com.

With Christ's love,

Gayle & Myrna

life4educators@aol.com
https://www.god-stories.com/

DONATIONS

* * * * *

Book 3 GOD STORIES And More...Women of God is a great gospel tool of LABORERS IN FIELDS OF EDUCATION, INC. (LIFE), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) ministry. Consider donating towards the printing cost. Your donation of any amount will be helpful in our partnership with you to get these gospel stories into the hands of those whose lives could be encouraged and changed. All donations to LIFE are tax-deductible.

Please make your donation payable to: LIFE, P. O. Box 1453, Los Fresnos, Texas 78566.

We want to say a BIG THANK YOU in advance for you becoming partners with us in this gospel outreach endeavor!