



Daily Encouragement for Women

# EVERYDAY INSPIRATION from God's Word

BARBOUR BOOKS An Imprint of Barbour Publishing, Inc.

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Print ISBN 978-1-68322-578-2

eBook Editions: Adobe Digital Edition (.epub) 978-1-68322-807-3 Kindle and MobiPocket Edition (.prc) 978-1-68322-808-0

Text originally appeared in the Today God Wants You to Know series: You Are Blessed, You Are Loved, You Have a Purpose, and You Are Beautiful. All published by Barbour Publishing.

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Published by Barbour Books, an imprint of Barbour Publishing, Inc., 1810 Barbour Drive, Uhrichsville, Ohio 44683, www.barbourbooks.com

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



Printed in the United States of America.

#### INTRODUCTION

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. PSALM 119:105 NIV

Where do you turn for inspiration? When you need a reminder of your worth, your purpose, your joy? The world tells us that we can find affirmation in our job, in our family, in a new item of clothing, or even in the number of likes we get on social media. But all of these things (even the good ones), are off the mark.

True encouragement, food for the heart and soul, comes from our Father God, in His Word. In this daily devotional you'll find bite-sized reminders of your worth, your purpose, your blessed life, and your beauty.... You are celebrated by the Creator of the universe who calls you by name.



## Day 1 GOD'S ABUNDANCE

God is able to bless you abundantly. 2 CORINTHIANS 9:8 NIV

The literal meaning of these Greek words adds still another layer to our understanding of God's blessings. When Paul wrote this sentence to the Corinthians, he was talking about God's powersomething that is over and above anything else we've ever encountered-to give grace and kindness to us that are also over and above anything we can even imagine. God's blessings are as abundant as His power to shower them upon us. None of our fears and doubts can ever limit either one!

### *Day 2* YOU ARE GOD'S FRIEND

"J'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, J've named you friends because J've let you in on everything J've heard from the Father." JOHN 15:15 MSG

#### 5

My best friend and I have known each other for over two decades. We know each other's strengths, faults, and weaknesses—and we still love to spend time together.

God considers you His friend. He knows everything about you, including your flaws, yet He still loves you deeply. He wants to spend time with you!

#### *Day 3* FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works. PSALM 139:14 KJV

From time to time, most of us complain about our bodies. Maybe our nose is too long, our eyes too round, and our mouth too wide. We forget that God's master plan specifically included our features. When the psalmist suggests that we were "fearfully made," he is telling us to consider our bodies with a kind of reverence. We are looking at God's handiwork. And He made no mistakes, so maybe we should complain less and praise more.

#### *Day 4* FAVES AND RAVES

I delight to do Your will, O my God. PSALM 40:8 NKJV

#### 5

Every one of us has a few favorite things, to quote the inimitable Julie Andrews. Rather than bright copper kettles, yours might be centered around coffee flavors, shoes, and lotions. We have favorite restaurants and events and holidays.

The psalmist said that his delight was an action. Put in a modern context, his delight was not just an Instagram photo of someone else's action; he delighted in *doing* God's will. Today, take a fresh look at God's law and then act on it. Let it become your new fave.

## *Дау 5* THRIVING

I am like an olive tree, thriving in the house of God. I will always trust in God's unfailing love. PSALM 52:8 NLT

Children need love to thrive. So do all of us older folks. Without love, our hearts would be sad and lonely. Our lives would be narrow and unfulfilling. In fact, love is the most important of all the many spiritual blessings we've received. All God's blessings, both spiritual and physical, are wrapped up in His love. Because He loves us, He will never stop blessing us. His love never fails.

### *Дау 6* YOU ARE CHOSEN

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 PETER 2:9 ESV

#### 5

My mom and I used to hunt for Nancy Drew books at antiques stores. When I found a book I was hunting for, it was a thrill. I knew that chosen piece was special to me and unlike the rest.

In the same way, you've been handpicked for God's family. You are special to Him!

#### Day 7 WORKED IN SOMETHING GOOD

That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good. ROMANS 8:28 MSG

Paul chose a very specific Greek word to convey the idea that the details of our lives (the good, the bad, and the ugly) all "work together" for our benefit. We get the English word *synergism* from this term. It means that all those details or circumstances cooperate or contribute toward God's stated goal. We certainly do not always understand what is being accomplished. But we can have confidence that it is being worked into something good.

#### *Дау 8* LOVE FOR BEAUTY

She makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. PROVERBS 31:22 NKJV

We don't know for sure just when women started caring about clothes. But a yearning for pretty clothing seems to be written on the very DNA of women.

The woman commended by God in Proverbs 31 wore fine clothing, made well and of the best color (purple was a luxury in that time).

God wants you to be beautiful by caring for yourself in the best manner you can. Honor His gift of femininity.

#### *Дау 9* BEAUTIFULLY OUTFITTED

Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. PROVERBS 31:25 NKJV

Speaking of clothing...the beautiful woman of God has two items in her closet. Strength and honor. They are her basic wardrobe pieces, her essentials. She may accessorize with other things, but she is never without these.

They originate with God. He is the source of strength and the way to honor. Putting Him in first place ensures that these pieces of clothing are just your size.

And you will rejoice in the future because you wear them.

### Day 10 SECURE

Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment. 1 JOHN 4:18 NLT

Sometimes love hurts. Even the people who love us most let us down—and we let them down. When we say or do the wrong thing, they may pull back from us. We fear we might lose their love. We worry they'll leave us, even if it's only through death. But God's love is perfect. It will never let us down. He never pulls away from us, no matter what we do. We are totally secure.

# Day 11 YOU ARE NOT ALONE

For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." HEBREWS 13:5 NLT

The older I get, the more I come across situations I have no idea how to handle. I think, *I just want* someone to tell me what to do!

One day, the Lord brought me to Hebrews 13:5, and I was reminded that God is with us through every situation we face. If we need help or direction, we can trust that voice on the inside to provide us with the right way to go.

#### *Дау 12* STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF A FRIEND

And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. 1 SAMUEL 23:16 KJV

When you "strengthen someone's hand," you encourage them. You speak words of affirmation; you remind them of God's faithfulness and you urge them to immerse themselves in His grace. This Hebrew phrase carries the idea of directing someone to be courageous in spite of their circumstances. Like Jonathan, we all have friends who need to be encouraged. Look around. Whose hand can you strengthen today?

# *Day 13* WE ARE GOD'S KIDS

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. PSALM 100:3 NASB

The Beatles struck a chord when they sang, "All the lonely people, where do they all come from? All the lonely people, where do they all belong?" A sense of belonging is absolutely crucial to everyone's health and well-being. We need to have an emotional "home." The psalmist addresses that basic need and assures us that indeed we are God's. We belong to Him and "live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28 NIV) in His pasture. Such comfort!

# *Day 14* QUIETED, BEAUTIFUL YOU

I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. PSALM 34:4 NKJV

Your fears make you uniquely you. They reveal what frightens you and show the shape of your personality. In your anxieties, the way your mind works is clearly seen.

Your fears do not put off the Master. He can handle them. He can soothe and calm your spirit. He sees the beauty within and wants to bring it out. Give your fears to Him. You can be delivered.

# Day 15 SIMPLY LOVE

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. 1 JOHN 4:16 NLT

We often make our spiritual lives so complicated. We focus on theology. We believe our church has got it right, and we worry about those folks in the church down the road who have got it all wrong. But the Bible says it's really quite simple: when we live in love, we are living in God. God is living in us. His blessing flows through us and out into the world.

#### *Дау 16* YOU CAN BE PATIENT

Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance. HEBREWS 6:12 NLT

Because God loves you, you don't have to be concerned about when you will see your prayers answered. All you have to do is trust that they will be answered.

In many situations we bring to the Lord, multiple unknowns are in play–including the feelings and prayers of other people. God is the only one who sees everything and orchestrates life in a way that only He can. Trust Him to do so.

#### Day 17 SPIRITUAL FOOTPRINTS

The things which you have heard from me... entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 TIMOTHY 2:2 NASB

Recording a mother's spiritual journey is a powerful way to influence generations to come. Children can likely reiterate the tenets of our personal faith, but how can we influence grandchildren? How can we leave spiritual footprints? One way is to write in our Bibles and keep them for our families. Journaling will leave a trail of faith, and so will marking up a favorite hymnbook. Let's start thinking of ways to make the spiritual footprints obvious.

#### *Дау 18* PAST AND PRESENT BEAUTY

But Mary quietly treasured these things in her heart and often thought about them. LUKE 2:19 TLB

Every memory you have is colored by your perception, your emotion, your vantage point. Your memories, to a large degree, are you. We women treasure memories of special days, events, and emotions.

Today, God wants you to know that you are as beautiful to Him as on that long-ago day when your hair was coiffed and your dress was princess-like. You wish for past beauty, but the reality is that to Him, you are always lovely.

# *Day 19* STRONG HEARTS

"Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!" NEHEMIAH 8:10 NLT

The Hebrew word used in this verse is *chedvah*, meaning "rejoicing, gladness." Depression weakens our hearts and separates us from others. But we have a relationship with the Creator of the universe, and He shares His eternal gladness with us. His joy makes us strong, able to face the challenges of life, able to reach out to others. Just as God shares His gladness with us, we are meant to share our joy with everyone we meet.