



Especially for

From

Date







Daily Grace

Devotional Journal
for Women







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Devotional Journal
for Women



Anita Higman & Hillary McMullen

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Introduction



Ever since that wayward moment in Eden, we humans have been stumbling around on this fallen earth, bruised and broken in every way imaginable. But God never forgot His children. He sent us a rescuer, a supernatural hero—Jesus—who knows our fears and trials and pain. He came to illuminate our darkened souls with pure holy light and to offer us the gift of heaven.

But Jesus also cares about the here and now. He wants to have a relationship with us—including those heart-to-heart talks that offer guidance and mercy and healing. These divine blessings arrive new every day just like the manna that appeared miraculously on the desert floor for the people of Israel. So come with us and hear the whispers of heaven. Come embrace His love and light. Come gather the sustenance of God's daily grace.





*Love has its source in God,
for love is the very
essence of His being.*

KAY ARTHUR



Embracing
God's Passion



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Such Endearing Intentions

*“I led them with cords of human kindness,
with ties of love. To them I was like
one who lifts a little child to the cheek,
and I bent down to feed them.”*

HOSEA 11:4 NIV



Throughout God’s Word, He shows people the many facets of His character—His justice, His majesty, His mercy, His love. But perhaps none of the verses in the Bible are as telling of His intense passion for His beloved as when He talks of His devotion to Israel in the verse above. Since God is unchanging in nature, we know He feels this same affectionate way about His children today.

It’s easy to imagine the intimate action of an earthly doting daddy lifting his child up to his face. To feel the breath of his child on his cheek. To hear the beat of her heart. To be even nearer to that precious one he loves so dearly. But what about that same scene played out with God as the Father—the holy one who people envision as unapproachable, as if He lives on the far side of a distant mountain no one can travel to? To see the God of the universe with such endearing intentions toward His creatures is too much to hope for, isn’t it? And yet it was the very image that God wanted mankind to see, to know . . .to embrace. —AH



*God, thank You for Your incredible tenderness
and unimaginable love for me. Amen.*

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How Majestic Is Your Name

*LORD, our Lord, how majestic is
your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory in the heavens.*

PSALM 8:1 NIV



Isn't it wonderful to experience the beauty of the earth that comes from God's creative passion? For instance, the enchantment of a firefly's dance, the music of water, the gossamer mist on an alpine trail, or celestial bodies glittering on a velvet sky?

In the midst of creating, people sense a closeness to God, the ultimate designer, inventor, architect, and author. It would be impossible for them not to want to create and then gaze upward with a spirit of worship. In fact, the urgency to create can be like a full-term baby eager to be born. That artistic life force in each human is in his or her very being, because that is the same essence found in God's character. And just as people hold up their creations to the light and pronounce them good, so does God.

To know this imaginative and passionate side of God, how can you not be changed? How can you not want to embrace God's grace through Christ so that you can be in His presence for all time? God wants to show you the place He has prepared for you—a place where His creative passion has enough surprises to last you an eternity. —AH



*God, the intricacy and beauty of Your
creation is astounding. Thank You for giving
me the ability to create. Amen.*

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I Will Betroth You to Me

*“I will betroth you to me forever;
I will betroth you in righteousness and justice,
in love and compassion.”*

HOSEA 2:19 NIV



Everybody enjoys a wedding. God must love weddings too. The Bible is full of references to them, including the Lord referring to Himself as the bridegroom. One instance when God connects Himself to the imagery of brides-and-grooms-to-be is in the book of Hosea. The Almighty says, “I will betroth you to me forever.” He’s not just referring to the nation of Israel here, but to you personally. *Betrothed* doesn’t come up a lot in modern conversation, but people still get strong impressions from the word.

When God created mankind, it was a little like an arranged marriage. God had hoped the first couple would want to enjoy intimate and sweet fellowship with Him for all time. He never meant for Adam and Eve to be torn from the walks and talks they enjoyed with Him in the cool of the evening. God intended to love them and watch over them, but the first couple—Adam and Eve—opted to divorce God through their sinful choice. A prideful decision, which every person has made since then.

The “happily ever after” news in the midst of this separation is that there can be reconciliation, through Christ. The bridegroom awaits your answer. Will you take His hand? —AH



*God, I want to be reunited with You.
Please be my lifelong companion. Amen.*

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The Hound of Heaven

“If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.”

MATTHEW 18:12–14 NIV



Just as God is passionate about His creatures, so is He passionate about the redemption of their fallen state. Jesus’ desire is that no man or woman should perish, so He will go after you like a shepherd searching tirelessly for his lost sheep. There is no lamb so lost that He cannot find it, no sin so ensnaring that He cannot free the lamb from its trap.

In the poem “The Hound of Heaven,” Francis Thompson wrote how God will lovingly pursue every living soul even when they flee from Him and hide:

*I sped. . .
From those strong Feet that followed,
followed after.
But with unhurrying chase,
And unperturbèd pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
They beat. . .*

Yes, God is the ever-loving shepherd searching for you, the ever-chasing hound of heaven pursuing you, because more than anything He wants to love, redeem, and cherish you. Will you let God catch you? —AH



*God, I'm thankful that
Your love relentlessly pursues me. Amen.*

An Everlasting Love

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”

JEREMIAH 31:3 NIV



This world is fallen—fractured. Try picturing an exquisite hand-blown ball made of flawless crystal rolling perilously down a hill, and then imagine all that beauty shattering into a thousand pieces. That’s our earth when it fell. Not much left but scraps of glory found in the rubble of what’s left of God’s masterwork—which was to be a timeless creation of resplendent grandeur inhabited by perfect, free-willed creatures.

Knowing about the earth’s destruction and yearning for its restoration can make its inhabitants lose heart. Every day people rummage around in the debris of what was once whole and beautiful, trying to piece together some semblance of that paradise lost. The enemy would like nothing better than for you to be so disheartened and despondent that you start to mistrust the one who made the earth, not the one who encouraged its fall. But that persuasion is as evil and as perilous as Adam and Eve’s disobedience in the garden. God’s love for His creatures is still as resplendent and timeless as His original creation. Never forget. Never lose heart in the one who made the beauty. Flee from the one who came to destroy it. —AH



God, when I see suffering and injustice in the world, help me not to distrust or blame You. You bring restoration. Amen.

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With Great Love

We were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:8 ESV



Overconfidence in one's opinions can sometimes make that person prideful, narrow-minded, and disrespectful of the beliefs of others. As possessors of biblical truth, Christians must avoid this attitude. Spreading the gospel is more than winning an argument, proving a point, or spouting biblical knowledge. Believers should be able to listen to the views, concerns, and questions of others without lashing out in anger or pride.

Evangelism cannot be done without love and great respect. If there is no genuine care for the person, a Christian's words lose their impact and worth. The gospel is best presented through a believer's attitude and lifestyle—in random kindness to friends, strangers, and enemies and in having an unearthly joy and peace in circumstances that would normally cause anxiety or frustration.

True evangelism is much more than repeating key verses and doctrines; it's sharing pieces of yourself and being open, vulnerable, and honest so that others feel free to do the same. It's extending grace and patience where it's least deserved because we have received the same loving treatment from our Savior. It is only then that a Christian is spreading the gospel in its purest form. —HM



God, above all, help me to love. That is the surest way of sharing the good news. Amen.

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