

A full-page background image of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with large, dark clouds tinged with pink and orange from the setting sun. Several birds are seen in flight against the colorful sky. The ocean is calm, with gentle waves washing onto a sandy beach in the foreground. The overall mood is peaceful and inspirational.

# God Has a Thousand Ways to Set You Free

Interactive Devotional  
Ten-Day Sample Gift

*Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall  
be free indeed. John 8:36*

*Marion Grace*

## Foreword

It has been a dream of mine to write a devotional for the overcoming champions of God who love His Word. I have been inspired by the outrageous love of God for me and his faithfulness to carry and restore me while experiencing several of the most soul-destroying trials I could have imagined. What the enemy intended for evil and my destruction, God turned for my good and His glory. I am a walking miracle and a testimony of the power of God's Word when you put it in your heart.

In this devotional, my purpose is to encourage you to be more than a conqueror and to live in the freedom of God. I have learned through overcoming trials that we were made to live far above what the enemy tries to throw at us. In Christ, we have all we need to win in life and His Word will give us every answer. As you look up the scriptures each day, I encourage you to read them prayerfully and in several translations. The Word of God is so rich and full and the Holy Spirit has much to teach.

These truths were discovered and implemented through pain, tears, sweat, heartache, and much prayer. I am so happy to share with you what God has taught me and I pray you will always experience His mighty power in your life.

Love in Christ,

Marion Grace

## 1. The Force of Forgiveness

I don't know about you, but I had often found the subject of forgiveness a little daunting. I used to think that to forgive meant I was letting someone away with hurting me and being a doormat. To make it even worse, I had heard it preached in threatening tones that if I did not forgive others then God would not forgive me (Matthew 6:15). Wow, that was serious. I'm sure some of you have felt the same as me, "This is impossible".

What was usually missing was the true biblical meaning of forgiveness. According to Strong's concordance #'s 863 and 575, the word forgive means, 'To send away, leave, lay aside, separate yourself from'. These are all action words, an act of your will. There is no mention of feelings or forgetting. When someone hurts you, you can decide by faith to cast it away from you and onto Jesus. At this point, it's done, no matter how you feel. This is spiritual law. The enemy will try to use your emotions against you because that is his territory. Do not play his game. Cast it away on purpose as often as you need to until the sting is gone.

The decision to forgive is for your benefit and well-being and doesn't even have to involve the other person. Let's face it, a lot of people don't know, or perhaps don't even care, that they've hurt you. We need to release bitterness, anger, and offense to keep our own peace and joy. Those toxic emotions will also prevent us from living in close fellowship with Jesus and receiving answers to our prayers. When I think about it this way, I realize that to hold on to the offense means I am letting that person control my life. I am too much of a control freak to let that happen.

The cost of holding on to hurt is too much to pay and the benefits of casting it away beyond value. If you have to start out forgiving for selfish reasons (like I did) then do it. We are all growing and God will work with us.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:30-32, Philippians 4:4-8, Proverbs 4:23-24

### Engage

Think of a time you were very hurt and angry with someone. How did these feelings affect you?

- In your mind (and emotions)
- In your spirit
- In your physical body

Be very specific and honest. We need to recognize the damage we cause ourselves by not obeying God. His commands are motivated by love and protection and He is always on our side.

## **2. Your Place Far Above**

A crow is one of the only birds that will ever dare attack an eagle. They do so because they are aggressive and travel in packs while eagles are generally solitary. The crow may even jump on the eagle's back and try and peck at it. Since the eagle cannot fight a whole pack of crows or reach the one on its back, it simply flies to its extremely high place in the sky where no other bird can. The crow has difficulty functioning at that altitude and falls away quickly.

This reminds me so much of our position in Christ through the Spirit. When the enemy, the crow, is pestering you, trying to discourage or accusing you, simply begin to worship God and go to your place in the Spirit where the enemy cannot function or stay. Get out of his turf. If we can learn this, we will be unstoppable. It will frustrate the enemy to no end when he gets praise and worship back in his face whenever he tries to speak to you. He hates it and will run every time, leaving you in your place of peace.

Praise and worship are powerful weapons. The enemy will flee, but more importantly, they will bring God's presence on the scene. When you need His peace and presence, begin to worship Him. God inhabits the praises of His people. This is your place, your turf, and the enemy cannot attain it or function in it.

Scripture: Psalm 8:2, 22:3, Psalm 149

### **Engage**

I encourage you to set a time in the morning before your day begins to worship God along with some anointed music (readily available on YouTube). As a test, do this for five days straight and write down how it made a difference, no matter how small, in your day-to-day life. Did you notice that you were less stressed? More peaceful? Did things go better for you? You will notice it if you are looking for it. I trust and pray that this exercise will encourage you to make it a life practice. I can testify that it is making a life-and-death difference in mine.



### **3. You can be in on God's Plan**

Have you ever heard a Christian say, "Oh brother, God's will is so mysterious, you never know what GOWWWD (religious emphasis added LOL) will do"? This bugs me so much. Do you ever wish people would just read the next verse? The scripture is I Corinthians 2:9,10 and people love to quote, "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard...". It may help to look at this from the definition of the word used for 'man'. It is Strong's # 444 and means an ordinary man gazing intently at something but not able to figure it out or imagine it. It is really clear in the Passion Translation.

Now move on to verse ten. "But God has revealed them to us by his Spirit". Praise God We are not just ordinary men gazing at something without a clue. We are the renewed children of God with His Spirit inside of us. He is longing to show us these things if we will ask Him and then spend time listening. We are never meant to be in the dark. Think about it and that old religious attitude will make no sense. We are His co-laborers - his body and as such, He wants and needs to share His plan. After all, we are His hands and feet on this earth and God does nothing without us.

Scripture: I Corinthians 2: 1-16

#### **Engage**

I mentioned above about listening to the Spirit. This often involves spending quiet time meditating on scripture or something God has placed in your heart. Don't be afraid of the word meditate because God invented it. New Age just stole it and corrupted it because it is such a powerful tool. I say we take it back by force.

Take a passage in this reading today that touches your spirit and practice listening to God to see what He would say to you personally through it. There is no limit to the depth of wisdom in one verse from God. Write what you hear in a journal. I am a big fan of journalling because you can look back at what God showed you or did for you, then use it as a weapon when the enemy comes to discourage you.

#### 4. You've Got it All

Have you ever found yourself reading the passage on the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5) and feeling a little inadequate? I used to. In fact, all the supposed 'you musts' in a lot of Christian teaching are part of why I got so discouraged and fell out of fellowship with Jesus for a time. I had no idea how all this could be done. There is a similar passage in II Peter 1 that speaks of adding goodness, knowledge, self-control, godliness, mercy, and love. Sigh. As I was reading the whole passage recently, a lightbulb went off inside my spirit.

Verse three says everything we need to live a life of godliness had already been deposited in us by the power of Jesus. This word 'power' is *dunamis* (Strong's 1411) and means miraculous force and ability. The word 'given' infers lavishly and gratuitously. Verse four goes on to say that through this (what he has deposited in us) we also have in us all His magnificent and priceless promises. All this within us is the power (miraculous force and ability) to be a partner in His divine nature. The question has never been about the abundant supply of power God has placed inside us; it has always been how we show it out.

This all sounded so wonderful-but impossible- until God showed me the key. It is in the rich experience of knowing Him. Most translations use the word knowledge and it can be easily misinterpreted as head knowledge or just knowing about Jesus. No, this is so much more. It is an experiential, fully discerning, and intimate relationship with Him. This is achieved only through spending time with Jesus; being in His presence. As I spend more and more time in Jesus' presence; in His word or worshiping, the more He can bring these qualities out through me. He is the one who does it. When I notice I am not walking as I should, instead of feeling condemnation over my performance I realize I just need to spend more time with Him and I get to it. No stress, No pressure, Just the love of my Saviour.

Scripture: II Peter 1:1-11

#### Engage

After you have had your time with God in the morning, I would challenge you to pick one of the fruits of the Spirit that you would normally chafe at. Pray over this and ask God to show this part of his nature through you to someone who needs it that day. Just one. I can guarantee that as you see God loving through you it will encourage you to press in. You may even get excited about it. The Bible is full of, "In Him" and "Through Him" so let Him in. Spend time in His presence and watch Him move.

## 5. His Word is Life and Health to You

God's Word is so full of life and power that we will never be able to exhaust all its meaning. What we can do is apply what we know. As someone who is dealing with cancer, I am very interested in what God says about healing. I have learned that there are many ways to be healed but the one I want to talk about today is the one we all have access to. We may not all experience the gifts of healing in the working of a miracle but we all can fill ourselves with His Word.

Proverbs 4 tells us to pay close attention to God's word and never let it away from our eyes and heart. The reason is that it is life (strength, revive, repair, restore, and make whole) to us and health (literally medicine, a cure, healing, and remedy) to all our flesh. God is not a liar so if He says we can be healed if we get enough of His Word in our hearts then I am going to do it. My part is easy.

Hebrews 4:12 describes God's word as 'quick'. This word is old English for 'make alive'. There is so much life in God's word, not only for our eternal soul but for our bodies here on earth where we need it. God put a lot in His Word about our full salvation so please don't leave any of it on the table. This particular revelation of healing resonates in my spirit and eventually, I will get enough of God's word in me to burn off this cancer. How about you and your situation?

Scripture: Proverbs 4:20-22, John 6:63 (zoe life)

### Engage

I am sure you have heard of the Bible reading program called *Read the Bible in a year*. My church does it and perhaps yours does as well. If not, you can get a schedule online. This is a great habit as you will be regularly filling your heart with God's healing word. The scriptures do not have to be about healing to do this. All scripture is life-giving. As you read every day say, "God's word is healing me right now". Say it in faith and watch how God will work in your body.

## **6. The Father's Heart of love**

We all love the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15. I know I do because I have been one. What really speaks to me is the way the father in the story keeps going up to the road every day to look in case his son is coming home. His heart is longing for the son. This is a picture of how our heavenly Father longs for us when we stray- He misses us. We are on his heart and mind even when disobedient.

When we do come back to our senses and turn back home to father God, He sees us and opens His arms wide to receive us. The father in the story ran toward his son when he saw him a great way off. This speaks to me of God's passion for us and the unconditional acceptance and restoration back to our place. Personally, I never felt any condemnation or judgment for why I had strayed. God never put me to the test or required me to make up for the lost time. It was all under the blood of Jesus anyway. Just like that natural father, God doesn't want to waste time talking about what happened or listening to our self-critical speeches. None of this is about what we can do. It is all about what Jesus did. He simply loves us, carries us, and gives us back our life. It's as if no time had passed. When you think about it, in God's economy, no real time has passed.

Do not ever let the enemy convince you that God is angry or that you have ruined anything because you got discouraged and out of fellowship. He is big enough to restore the few minutes of eternity that you wasted and He is so happy to have you back. Jump into those loving arms as I did and just carry on like the beloved child you always have been.

Scripture: Luke 15:11- 24

### **Engage**

We are so bound by time consciousness here on earth but if you consider God's perspective of eternity, it will set you free. Compare the amount of time you may have been out of fellowship with a toddler throwing a five-minute tantrum. What parent would give it any thought at all—let alone judge the child? If anything, we often find it humorous. The enemy wants to make it big and costly but it does not have to be. Forgive yourself and get back on track. That's why grace is there.



## **7. Gaze Deeply**

We are instructed many times in God's Word to pay attention, incline our ears, meditate, listen, forget not, and attend to what God says. I love the way the Passion translation puts it in James 1:25, to gaze deeply. The original word is *look* and means to bend beside, to lean into, and to keep beside you. It carries the idea of something extremely important to us. When we love the Word and respond to it in our lives, that is when we will receive the strength it offers and experience God's blessing in all we do.

God's Word has the answer to everything we need but wisdom is cultivated through relationship—which takes time and effort. The Holy Spirit works with our spirit to reveal what God is saying to us when we place importance and priority on the Word.

Our society wants quick and easy, but a five-minute glance at God in the morning will often result in mistakes being made and wasted time. Give God the attention He requires and watch your day ( and life) unfold in His perfect will.

Scripture: Proverbs 2: 1-12

### **Engage**

Pick one of your favorite promises of God in His Word and do what this passage is telling you. Get in a quiet place and prayerfully meditate on the verse over and over. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you deeper meaning or something you have not seen before. There is nothing more exciting or encouraging than getting fresh manna from heaven.

## **8. More Than a Pat Answer**

I know it probably bugs you as much as it bugs me. You are going through a hard time and share it with a Christian friend and all you get is a flippant, “Cast your care sister (or brother)”, and the steam starts to come out your ears. Me too. Despite this, I do not want you to miss the power of this advice given in I Peter 5:7, Casting all your care upon Him; for He cares for you.

I think the enemy of our souls wants to minimize these things by making them seem or be received as trite or cliché when they are actually the most powerful things that can set us free. God told us to cast (throw away from us like dung) our cares because we were not created or designed to carry them. We cannot function in our life or calling effectively when burdened down. I learned this the hard way as I was so steeped in anger, bitterness, resentment, and unforgiveness that I developed cancer in my body. I gave the enemy opportunity to “devour” me. Don’t take my word for it, check out the Mayo Clinic report on these toxic thoughts.

You may not feel the effects right away but keep saying it (I cast all my care) by faith until it resonates in you. It will. Thank God I have been doing this long enough that I see the results. Instead of cares, keep thoughts of peace. This is what we are designed for. Peace is the word ‘shalom’ and means, ‘happy, well, health, rest, whole, perfectly complete in mind and body’. This is directly the opposite of the effects of care. Do not let the enemy of your soul steal this from you by making a pat answer offend you. It’s a trick.

Scripture: I Peter 5:6-11

### **Engage**

If there is something particular that is bothering you lately, pay attention to how often your thoughts turn toward it in a day. It may surprise you. Go to God’s Word and find a scripture that contains a promise of God regarding this. Write it out and speak it every time that bothersome thought comes. The answer to a fiery dart is to respond to it with something else that brings peace. This is ‘casting your care’ in action.

## 9. Great is the Peace of my Children

I am a mother of three so a big priority in my prayer time is praying for my children. More than ever before the enemy is dangling temptations at their fingertips and if not for our confidence in God, it could cause us to become fearful. We do have reason to be confident though. God has given us many scriptures to pray over them.

Isaiah 54:13 All your children will be taught of the Lord, and great will be the peace of your children.

Isaiah 54:17 No weapon formed against you will prosper, and every tongue that rises against you in judgment will be condemned.

Psalms 91:4 He will cover you with His feathers and under his wing, you will take refuge. His truth will be your shield and buckler.

Psalms 5:12 For you, O Lord, will bless the righteous, and with favor surround them with a shield.

Isaiah 49:25 I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

These are just a few of my favorites to get you started. You have the authority to pray out these words of God as a priest before Him (one who intercedes) then turn around and declare it like a king (one with authority). We can be confident that His word will not return void and we have the petitions we ask of Him. Place your children in God's care; leave them there and you live in peace.

Scripture: 1 John 3:18-23, 5:13-15

### Engage

Revelation 1:6 and 5: 10 tell us that we have been made kings and priests before God on this earth. It's one thing to know that we can stand like a priest and pray for people but we need to know that we can take that next step into the all-important kingly anointing.

What do you picture when you think of a king? Is it someone with unquestionable authority? Someone who commands and is obeyed? Someone with confidence? This is who you are in Christ. Begin today to speak out what God has done for you and promised you in His Word. Be very mindful that you are asking according to His will written in His Word so you can be confident He is listening and will perform His word. Meditate on this.

## **10. Our Power is in the Name of Jesus**

When Jesus left this earth he told us in Matthew 28:18, "All power (authority) has been given to me in heaven and earth. Go, therefore..." We see again in Mark 16: 15,17,18 that in His name we will do the works He has assigned to us. Everything we are and do is in the power of the name of Jesus and what mighty power that is (Philippians 2:9). This is why the enemy tries so hard to water down the importance of His name.

I have noticed when listening to public prayers that the name of Jesus is sometimes substituted with, "In His name", "In Your Son's name", "In the name", or "By His name". I don't know how many times I may have heard this without noticing but one day it screamed so loud in my spirit. They were not saying the name of Jesus in these prayers. Why would this be?

I am guessing that the enemy has subtly slipped in the thought that the name of Jesus might offend some people and should not be used in public. They may not even realize what they are doing. We need to guard against this deception. All our power is in the name of Jesus and we need to say it strong. There is no power in the words his, your, or son's so any prayer prayed like this lacks power and authority. This is what the enemy wants.

If people get offended at you that's fine, you are in good company. Speak His word and lift your prayer in the mighty name of Jesus and see His power manifest in your life.

Scripture: Acts 3:4-16

### **Engage**

I challenge you to do a Bible search of every reference to "In His name". It will inspire and encourage you to see all that is available to you because you are in Him. Do not let any of these go unclaimed in your life. When you pray these things over yourself be very mindful to pray in JESUS' name.