

4 Joy-Filled Ways to Find Life in Your Time of Waiting

Life does not begin based on earthy relationships. You may be waiting to really live after you find that best friend, or spouse, or have your own children, or be part of a supportive work team or a gain a platform of ministry partners. You wait to enjoy life until you have these things, then wallow in disappointment, self-pity and depression when you don't get what you longed for. Until one day, you wake up and realize this precious time on earth is flying by.

God wants you to start living!

Before anyone in this world had a chance to accept or reject you, God already designed, accepted and loved you before you even took your first breath on this earth! How amazing is that?

Everything in your life was designed to fulfill the call on your life, and God provided the way to enjoy and love life through Jesus. “[God], making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself, as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, which are in heaven and on earth. In Him also we have received an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His own will, that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, should live for the praise of His glory” (Eph. 1:9-12).

Here are some practical ways you can start enjoying life while you wait on God's plan and timing:

1. If you are longing for a friend, start living. Draw close to Jesus, the friend who sticks closer than a brother (Prov. 18:24). Pray for God's hand-selected friendships, and ask Him to show you who you can befriend. Go volunteer at a nursing home, hospital or foster care outreach. Go find someone sitting alone at the lunch table. The possibilities are endless.

2. If you are waiting for a spouse, start living. Draw close to Jesus, the lover of your soul. Pour you love, devotion and faithfulness to the one who unconditionally and radically

loves you. Place your heart's desires for a spouse into God's hands, and enjoy your life. God would not have miss out on your heavenly assignment, whether you are single or married. If it's flowers, candy, jewelry and vacations you want, then make them happen. Treat yourself. Take a mission trip. Experience this beautiful world God gave us.

3. If you are waiting to become a parent, start living. Do not be limited by your circumstances. Change your perspective. Pour your love out to the babies and children in your extended family, church or a community. Foster or adopt children. Sponsor a child overseas. God blesses us with opportunities to parent children in a multitude of ways.

4. While you wait to connect and fit in with co-workers, start living. Ask God to help you be a shining light for Him. He may or may not have you build earthly relationships with them, but will use you in that season to be a light and living testimony. Listen, observe, pray for them and be ready to do whatever God leads you to do. When you go about His business, He will take care of yours.

5. If you are waiting for a platform of ministry partners, start living. God's platform for you may be different than what you think. Be faithful with whatever He gives you. Start sharing your testimony with one person. Volunteer and serve at your local church wherever the need is communicated. Ask God in faith for a platform to reach the world, but let revival start in your own heart and life. Do not despise small beginnings (Zech. 4:10). If you are faithful with the little, you will be ready to be faithful for the larger things God has for you (Luke 16:10).

The purpose for your life was predestined before you were ever born. The decision to enjoy your life and walk out your call from God is up to you. Proverbs 16:9 reminds us, "A man's heart devises his way, but the Lord directs his steps."

The God who created you is with you always and will give you everything you need to enjoy life.

Remember, your life does not begin based on your earthly relationships. Start living! {eoa}

Pastor Meg Hart founded *Restored Women* in 2015 and *Restored Global* in 2018, both ministries birthed into her heart from God as a result of the great revelation, redirection and restoration she experienced through Jesus.

She is an ordained pastor through Global Ministries and Relief Inc. and the Full Gospel Fellowship. She holds a master's degree in organizational leadership from Regent University and is currently in her final year as a doctoral student for the Ed.D. in performance improvement leadership.

She is the proud mother of one daughter, Mackenzie, and serves at Life Church in Williamstown, New Jersey.

This article originally appeared at .

The Romans 10:17 Way You Can Find Your Supernatural Healing

Many years ago when I first started fulfilling my calling as a healing evangelist, the Lord gave me clear instructions. I was to first teach the people why they could believe for their healing and how to receive it. And that's exactly what I do: teach and then minister.

I am a firm believer that we need to give the people a reason to believe, a foundation for their faith. And this foundation is found only in the Word of God. His Word tells us that "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). And it is this hearing by the word of God that I want to focus on in this devotional.

It says that faith comes by hearing. This word "hearing" in Greek means the act of hearing, listening with our physical ears, (G189, Strong's). Faith comes when we hear the word of the Lord. And it goes on to say, "and hearing by the word of God." The meaning of this Greek word, *rhēma*, "word," is a supernatural understanding of a topic. And in this situation, it is a supernatural understanding of the healing word that I

am imparting to the participants at these healing seminars. But first, the attendees must be willing to come and sit under the healing word and hear with their physical ears. And when they fully surrender their physical ears to the word of God, their spiritual ears open up and the things that were hidden are made known and their faith arises to the occasion. As with the following case.

I was recently in Newfoundland, Canada teaching about healing and ministering it to the people. One particular night, there was a definite anointing for the healing of deaf ears. Whether the person was deaf since birth, by nerve damage or some other event, by the power of the Holy Spirit, deaf ears were being opened. There must have been about 10 to 12 people standing next to each other in the healing line, all suffering from deafness. One by one, all but one received immediately, their ears were opened and they were hearing with delight.

Why is this? It is because the *rhēma* word was being taught and they first surrendered their way of beliefs or unbelief, their lack of knowledge concerning healing to the Father in the name of Jesus. They opened up their physical ears, and the revelation of the healing word entered in as I spoke into their spiritual ear, and it took root within the spiritual heart, and they began to speak and believe, act out in faith, for their deliverance and healing from deafness.

I believe the same is true in reverse. When we become spiritually dry, dead within our spirits, and we stop inclining our physical ear to hear the word of the Lord, then our spiritual ear dries up. We become spiritually deaf, and we no longer hear God's word, our faith becomes weak, and we can become sick, even deaf in our physical ears, if we stop listening and believing the promises of God in the Bible for our healing. But these people in the testimony above heard the Good News, believed, received and were delivered and healed from deafness.

“My son, attend to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their body” (Prov. 4:20-22). {eoa}

Becky Dvorak is a prophetic healing evangelist and the author of *DARE to Believe*, *Greater Than Magic* and *The Healing Creed*. Visit her at .

This article originally appeared at .

7 Ways to Defeat Your Soul-Crippling Fear

I remember the first time I ever felt paralyzing fear. I was about 10 or 11 years old. Barely in double-digits.

I had experienced my first real-life encounter with death and it terrified me. When I say terrify, I mean that for months on end I couldn't get to sleep for hours—sometimes I'd lay there in bed over half the night terrified at the tricks my mind was playing with me.

I would lay there stiff, terrified to move even a muscle, as I tried so hard to turn off my over-active imagination.

I would go through seasons where I would be OK, and then one small word or picture would send me spiraling back down the hole of terrorizing fear.

This went on for years.

But I'm learning to use these principles from Psalm 46-50 in defeating fear in my life.

7 Ways to Defeat Fear Every Time

As we wrap up the first part of our Psalms study with Good Morning Girls, we see come to a close with these amazing principles in defeating fear and anxiety in our lives.

And this is a battle we must engage in.

We must not allow fear to rule our lives, because fear is the denial of God's sovereignty, which is His character. It is the essence of who He is.

When we fail to acknowledge His supreme power over every detail of our lives, we deny He is God.

So while the initial feeling of fear in our hearts is not sin, our failure to rule over it and defeat it is most certainly sin. The Word of God commands us time and again:

- Do not fear
- Be bold
- Be courageous
- Do not be anxious

And these are commands, they are not just good ideas for a healthy, Christian life. God has commanded us to renew our mind, take every thought captive, and to live with a sound mind as God's children.

1. Check your heart.

I want to start at chapter 50, before we even engage in the battle against fear, and here's why:

Before we can engage in a war, we must understand our battlefield and the strategy of our enemy. We must first answer the question: why and what?

Why am I anxious and afraid? What am I afraid of?

If we want to conquer our fear, we must go to the root of it,

and the root of it is always our failure to comprehend the omniscience, omnipresence, supreme power and sovereignty of God.

We have a lack of the fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of wisdom, and wisdom births in our heart a boldness and courage to face every circumstance with assurance that no matter what, God will deliver us.

Just like the three young men in Daniel 3.

They were able to say, "But even if [God] does not [deliver us] be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image which you have set up" (Dan. 3:18).

Their faith in God was so unshakable, that even if God hadn't delivered them from the fire, they would still stand firm in their faith that He is God.

So, we must first examine our hearts to find the area where we have failed to allow God to be sovereign.

2. Make a choice.

Defeating fear is a choice.

It is not imparted by the laying on of hands. This I have learned by my many, many trips to the altar for prayer as a child and teen.

I just wanted to sleep peacefully, with no night terrors and no horrifying scenarios that my over-active imagination came up with to terrorize me. But the one thing I didn't understand was that God had already set me free!

He set me free 2,000 years ago when He died on the cross. Now, it was up to me to make a choice to fight for that freedom.

David in Psalm 46:2-3 says, "Therefore we will not fear:

- Even though the earth be removed
- Though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea
- Though its waters roar and foam
- Though the mountains shake with its swelling

In other words, my whole world can come crashing down around my ears and I'm worse off than Job, scraping his boils with a piece of broken pottery.

Even still, *I will not fear!*

This verse is very similar to: "Though the fig tree does not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the yield of the olive fails, and the fields produce no food; though the flocks are cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like hinds' feet, and He will make me walk on my high places.

These are verses that build our faith and encourage us to make the choice to stand firm, even when our legs are shaking and our knees are knocking together.

Eventually, we will begin to feel supernatural strength surge through us as we boldly declare in a strong voice, "Therefore I will not fear."

3. Quiet your heart,

"There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God" (Ps. 46:4).

"He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters" (Ps. 23:2).

I love the imagery in these verses.

First of all, they are places: river, streams, pastures, still waters.

God wants to lead us to a peaceful place. But we have to be willing to go. We have to be willing to leave behind the drama, the noise of social media, turn off the devices and willingly go to a place where our heart will be quieted.

I won't lie—this can be very intimidating.

One of the most intimidating things for someone who battles anxiety is silence. Pure silence. Silence so quiet that it's almost deafening.

Because in the silence, our fears suddenly become behemoth in stature.

But ignoring our fears with drama and noise won't make them go away. When we get alone in silence, we will face our fears and get to a place of quiet.

And quiet it far more than silence; it is an unflappable peace.

4. Remind yourself of God's greatness.

"Come, see the works of the Lord, who makes desolations in the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts off the spear; he burns the chariot in the fire" (Ps. 46:8-9).

One of the many reasons it is vital for us to read the Bible daily is because it builds our faith. It reminds us of the amazing and supernatural things God has done.

Sometimes we are so blinded by our present circumstance that we even lose sight of our own testimony, but the Bible reminds us of the way God intervened in impossible ways.

Sometimes, we have to take hold of our cheeks, look ourselves in the eye, and say, "Come! Behold the works of the Lord, who has done these impossible things. And if He did them then, He can do them now!"

5. Rejoice in the victory you already have.

“Clap your hands, all you people! Shout to God with a joyful voice. ... God went up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet” (Ps. 47:1, 5).

This isn't just a psalm calling people to praise God; it is a psalm of victory.

I love the Hebrew word for “clap” in verse one. It is *taqa*, and it means more than just to clap your hands together. It also means to strike a blow.

The same Hebrew word was used in Judges 4 when the woman Jael won the victory over Canaan by driving a tent peg through Sisera's temple and killing him.

The word for “drove” is the same Hebrew word: *taqa*.

Clapping our hands is more than just keeping time to a song, it is an act of warfare against the enemy. Each time we clap our hands, we drive him back. We drive him back!

We issue a death-blow of victory!

Because Christ *has* already won the victory, we just need to rejoice in that and remind the enemy that's he's already defeated.

6. Worship.

Worship is such a powerful weapon at driving back the enemy.

And Psalm 48 is such a beautiful reminder of what worship really is—an exaltation of God, a rehearsal of His attributes, an elevation of Him in our hearts.

“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised In the city of our God, in His holy mountain. ... We have thought of Your lovingkindness, O God, in the midst of Your temple. ... For this is our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to

death" (Ps. 48:1, 9, 14).

As we begin to rehearse in our heart who God is, what He has done and how great and powerful He is faith begins to grow in our heart as we become more conscious of just how mighty He truly is.

7. Meditate on God's truth.

Psalm 49 is a reminder of God's truth: we don't have to live in fear in this generation of evil. We shouldn't put our hope and trust in anything other than God, because wealth and power will not save us.

In my own life, I have found meditating on the truths of God's Word to be a powerful tool in refocusing my mind and emotions on God.

As I meditate on Scripture, my mind is renewed and my emotions are calmed down, and peace has room to fill my heart.

In my post "How Eastern Meditation Differs From Biblical Meditation," I explain what biblical meditation is.

We're commanded to meditate on Scripture in Joshua 1:8, "This Book of the Law must not depart from your mouth. Meditate on it day and night so that you may act carefully according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way successful, and you will be wise."

As we take time to examine our hearts, make a choice to stand in faith, quiet our hearts, rejoice in the victory Christ has already won, worship God for who He is and meditate on His Word, we will drive out fear.

The more consistent we are in doing this, we'll see fear grow weaker as our faith grows stronger. {eo}

Rosilind Jukic, a *Pacific Northwest native, is a missionary living in Croatia and married to her hero. Together they live*

in the country with their two active boys, where she enjoys fruity candles and a hot cup of herbal tea on a blustery fall evening. She holds an associate degree in practical theology and is passionate about discipling and encouraging women. Her passion for writing led her to author a number of books. She is the author of "A Little R & R," where she encourages women to find contentment in what God created them to be. She can also be found at these other places on a regular basis. You may follow her on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Google +.

This article originally appeared at .

24-Minute Dynamic Devotions That Will Change Your Life

We have 24 hours each day. Can you give to God at least 24 minutes of your day? It will be life-changing! Here are five steps to tithing your time back to God:

Step 1: Protective and Covering Prayer (5 Minutes)

Father God, I praise You and thank You for today. Thank You for another day to love and serve You and others. I give this day and my entire life to You. I cast all of my cares and worries over to You and thank You that You are with me each step. Organize my steps and help me in every decision.

I ask you to examine my heart, and please forgive me for anything I said, thought or acted upon that was not pleasing to You. Thank you for a fresh start today. Empty me of myself and fill me with You, Jesus.

I plead the protective blood of the Lord Jesus and call forth surrounding guardian, warfare, ministering and protective angels over myself, my spouse/parents, my children, my pastors (co-workers, students and so forth) and each and every one of my family, friends, loved ones and neighbors, seen and unseen. I thank You that everything we come in contact with is

blessed, safe and sanctified in the name of Jesus.

I bind all witchcraft, demonic and occult spirits acts, deeds and every devilish thing sent out against my family and me in the mighty name of Jesus. I bind astral projection and forbid its operation in the mighty name of Jesus. I bind every negative, wicked word spoken over me, against me, around me, about me or even by me, knowing or unknowingly, and cancel its assignment in the name of Jesus. I declare that the enemy is deaf, blind and mute, unable to perceive us at all and totally confounded with every door shut in the name of Jesus.

I pray Psalm 91 over myself and my family and thank You for being a protective wall of fire around us.

Psalm 91

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust." Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall find protection; His faithfulness shall be your shield and shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day; nor of the pestilence that pursues in darkness, nor of the destruction that strikes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling, there shall be no evil befall you, neither shall any plague come near your tent; for He shall give His angels charge over you to guard you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, and I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation.

Step 2: Thanksgiving and Petitions (7 Minutes)

I love you, Lord, and thank You for leading, guiding and directing me in all wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

Today I thank You for (list all your blessings)

Today I ask for (list your needs) according to Your good and perfect will and timing. I trust you and thank you that You will provide all our needs according to Your riches and glory in Christ Jesus

Today I pray for (list the needs of others).

By obedience to Your Word, I forgive (list those you need to forgive, including yourself). I thank You that You will heal every hurt and thank You for helping me walk in love.

I pray today for the mind of Christ, and that all I put my hands can and will prosper. I thank you that I am in a more than a conqueror in you. I thank you that I walk in your favor today everywhere I go!

Thank you for opportunities and opportunities to show Your love today.

I love You and glorify Your name. Thank You for saving me and loving me. Help me become more like You, Jesus.

Step 3: Meditation (2 Minutes)

Meditate on one verse or passage. Write it on a card or sticky note and read it aloud now and throughout the day. If you are struggling in an area, find a verse that you can focus on (healing, forgiveness, peace and so on.)

Step 4: Worship (5 Minutes)

Play or sing a song of worship to God. Spend time in your prayer language.

Step 5: Be Silent (5 Minutes)

Grab a notebook, journal or voice recorder, and as you worship God be still for a moment to hear from Him. He may give you a word, phrase, vision or confirmation. If you do not hear anything, do not become discouraged. He is always working on your behalf. That silent moment may be just the peace you need before starting your day.

Remember ... be consistent. This time does not take long, and you have to make a quality decision to get up early, find a quiet place (even if it is the bathroom or car). If there is noise and distraction around you, get earplugs, put on instrumental worship music or ask God to help you focus.

Be sincere. This is not a checklist for you to cross off; it

is a guide to start your day in prayer. Be open and honest with God. If you forget to pray, do not fall into condemnation. Repent and move forward. There is no condemnation in Christ.

God longs to spend time with you. He is waiting with open arms!

Give Him all the time you can. Everything else can wait. {eoa}
Pastor Meg Hart founded *Restored Women* in 2015 and *Restored Global* in 2018, both ministries birthed into her heart from God as a result of the great revelation, redirection and restoration she experienced through Jesus.

She is an ordained pastor through Global Ministries and Relief Inc. and the Full Gospel Fellowship. She holds a master's degree in organizational leadership from Regent University and is currently in her final year as a doctoral student for the Ed.D. in performance improvement leadership.

She is a proud mother of her daughter, Mackenzie, and serves at Life Church in Williamstown, New Jersey.

This article originally appeared at .

Understanding These Vital Truths Will Transform Your Prayer Life

It was January 2005. I was 19 years old and had just arrived in Charlotte, North Carolina, for a worship conference. At that conference, I met a woman named Susan and had a five-minute conversation with her that would end up changing my life.

I'd heard about Susan before and had even seen her from afar on several different occasions. One thing about this woman was clearly apparent to me: She knew God and had a deep prayer life. She didn't exude any special charisma. She didn't shout.

She didn't even stand up most of the time. She would just sit there, eyes closed—a position that, if I tried it, would put me to sleep in about five minutes.

I asked Susan about her prayer life and started to share how I'd been dealing with pain and even shame over not having much of a prayer life, because I would be so distracted when I went to pray that I'd just give up.

Susan's response was quick, unassuming and matter-of-fact. "Justin, there is never a wasted time of prayer. Even if you're distracted, even if you don't feel anything in the moment, I guarantee you three things are happening: 1) Things in the heavens are shifting, 2) You are being changed, and 3) God's heart is being deeply moved."

My prayer life changed that day.

Sometimes a lack of confidence that God is pleased with me or that He will even hear my prayers will determine whether or not I pray. If I've already counted myself out of the game, why would I even show up to play?

That day began a journey of confidence—the confidence to keep coming before Him.

And you know what happened? I was still distracted a lot. My mind would still wander. But over the days and weeks, I began to find myself being more focused for longer periods of time. As my confidence that God was moved by my prayers grew, so did my connection to Him. As I began to believe that even my weakest, most uninspired prayers counted, my ability and desire to persist in prayer increased.

Though your love may feel weak, it's real in His eyes. He loves even your weakest attempt to spend time with Him. The times when you're most distracted, God sees the intention of your heart and is moved by it.

Do you feel bold and confident to come before Him today? If not, I encourage you to begin talking to the Lord about it. Ask Him to show you the truths He showed Susan, that every prayer that you pray is shifting things, changing your heart and moving the heart of God. {eoa}

Justin Rizzo was born and raised in Buffalo, New York, where he developed a passion and love for music at an early age. He began playing a variety of instruments and started leading worship at age 12. He has released five albums and been featured on multiple compilation projects along with writing and producing two full-length musicals. In addition, he travels extensively to lead worship and speak at conferences and events around the world. Justin is currently a full-time staff member at the International House of Prayer of Kansas City, Missouri, where he serves as a worship leader, songwriter, composer and blogger.

This article originally appeared at .

Bible Verses to Shut Down Your Fear of Death for Good

Our days are numbered. That sounds so ominous, doesn't it? Or maybe it sounds like cheesy dialogue in a B movie: "Your days are numbered, pal."

But think about it. This earthly body doesn't last forever. And it would seem way too senseless if the measure of our life is merely a function of some random toss of the dice.

That's why I derive so much comfort from Bible verses that remind me of God's sovereign control, especially in life and

death.

For example, Psalm 139:16 tells us God knows the end of our life before it begins: “Your eyes saw me unformed, yet in Your book all my days were written, before any of them came into being.”

And Psalm 116:15 reminds us that in the end, regardless of what others think or know: “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones.”

Death can be scary, especially if you’re not certain of what happens next. Theories abound. Do we simply cease to exist? Is there really a heaven? If there is, what’s it like? And what about hell?

These are not merely academic questions for me. With my husband’s recent passing, I need to be sure of the answers—and I found that certainty in the following verses:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, yet shall he live” (John 11:25).

“Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God. Believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, you may be also” (John 14:1-3).

Yet, for some—even Christians—death is not as frightening as the process of dying. Many of us have either heard or said: “I hope I die in my sleep. I don’t want to suffer. Let me just slip away from this life to the next.”

That isn't always the way it happens, is it? We live in a broken, sin-sick world, and the consequences of this condition include pain and suffering, even for the strongest believers.

As Jim Denison, founder of the Denison Forum, has said, "Even the most passionate worship does not exempt us from suffering and death. Whether we are deeply in love with Jesus or we have vehemently rejected his word, we can still fall victim to random violence, natural disasters, and terrible diseases."

So where does that leave us? Where does it leave me, as I remember the pain my husband suffered before he died?

It leaves me remembering that our suffering is for a moment in light of eternity. It leaves me remembering:

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us" (Rom. 8:18) and "Our light affliction, which lasts but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:17-18).

Keeping this eternal perspective does not come naturally. I need the ever-present ministry of the Holy Spirit in my life to continually remind me of these truths. Especially when my physical circumstances conspire to cause me to forget we were created for more than this earthly life.

But if you and I can maintain an eternal perspective, even in the face of dying and death, then we become living testimonies to the truth of God's Word and the glory that is to come.

This world is not our destination. It is merely a bus stop. A train station. For the Christian, this is a bed-and-breakfast stopover on the way to our permanent mansion. And the experiences of pain, dying and death remind us not to get too

comfortable in a place that's meant to be temporary.

Our days are, indeed, numbered ... and I'm grateful for that assurance.

How about you? {eoa}

Ava Pennington is a writer, speaker and Bible teacher. She writes for nationally circulated magazines and is published in 32 anthologies, including 25 Chicken Soup for the Soul books. She also authored Daily Reflections on the Names of God: A Devotional, endorsed by Kay Arthur. Learn more at .

This article originally appeared at .

WATCH: South African Evangelist Preaches With Spirit-Powered Passion

Tamryn Klintworth, a fiery South African evangelist, has followed God's call to reach the nations for Christ. In this brief video, she shares her passion for her ministry in a service at The River at Tampa Bay, Rodney and Adonica Howard-Browne's congregation. Watch as God moves through this powerful warrior!

6 Amazing Prayers to Make Your Whole House a War Room

Have you seen the movie [War Room](#)?

I'll never forget the first time I watched that movie. It motivated me to take my prayer life from a list to a [strategy](#) that would defeat the enemy trying to take out my family.

There was only one problem.

We live in a small house where every corner is creatively used as a living space. So, I knew I'd have to get creative.

Then one morning, very early, I shot up out of bed having dreamed something that completely revolutionized how I view my war room.

I had dreamed that I had made my whole house a war room!

Often while cleaning my house, I'll find an instructional video or documentary on YouTube to listen to, because doing those menial tasks can get really boring.

But after my dream, I began doing something new. I began making my whole house a [war room](#). Rather than grabbing my cell phone and ear buds, I began to [pray prayers](#) over every room in the house.

Before I was done cleaning, I had prayed over my entire family and home in a way I never had before and it not only [revolutionized my prayer life](#), it completely changed how I viewed housework.

6 Amazing Prayers to Make Your Whole House a War Room

I promise you, if you begin praying prayers like this over your home—maybe not these exact prayers, maybe God will lead

you to pray prayers and verses that He has laid on your heart—you will begin seeing an amazing transformation in your home.

And you'll stop viewing homemaking as a menial task and begin seeing it as a beautiful act of worship.

1. War Room Prayer for the Bedrooms:

As you make the beds, lay your hand on each pillow and pray for each member of your family.

Heavenly Father, I pray that You will bless and keep _____ . Make Your face to shine upon them and be gracious to them. Fill them with Your grace and love so that wherever they go, their actions will be a good testimony. Guard and keep them as they are with their friends, that they will stand strong and never compromise their values. Bless them as they sleep tonight; as Your Word says You give to Your beloved even in their sleep.

2. War Room Prayer for the Living Room:

As you dust the furniture and pick up odds and ends lying around, pray over your family time and entertainment.

Heavenly Father, I pray that our entertainment will glorify you. May we never fill our home with those things that grieve your Holy Spirit. Give us discernment to know when to turn off the TV or computer. Guard our hearts against immorality and protect our lives from the destruction of pornography. Help us to raise our children with godly values and discernment, that they will have the strength to stand alone and walk away, even when all their friends choose to entertain themselves with the world.

3. War Room Prayer for the Dining Room:

As you wipe down the table and chairs, pray over your family conversation.

Heavenly Father, bless the time we spend together as a family. May we encourage one another and not criticize. Fill our home with joy and laughter and our hearts with love, grace and understanding for one another. Even in our disagreement, may we disagree gracefully and with love.

4. War Room Prayer for the Kitchen:

As you wipe down the counters and appliances.

Heavenly Father, Your Word says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." I pray that as we eat our meals together, that we will also taste Your goodness. May we always be grateful for all You've given us. May our hearts never forget—even in the hard times—that You have blessed us beyond what we deserve. Thank You for our home, thank You for a loving family, thank You for everything You have given us. You have been good!

5. War Room Prayer for the Bathroom:

As you wipe down the sink and mirror.

Heavenly Father, Ephesians tells us how to prepare our Spirits to go to war. I pray that as we get ready each day that we will not forget to get ready spiritually go out into world where we will face temptation and compromise. As we wash our face, brush our teeth, do our hair and makeup, may we remember to also clothe ourselves in salvation, righteousness, truth, the gospel of peace, faith and Your Word, which is on our heart. May we be spiritually ready to leave our home, even as we are physically ready.

6. War Room Prayer for the Front Door:

As you wipe down your front door.

Heavenly Father, I pray for everyone who walks through this door that they will feel Your love, joy and peace in our home. Fill our home with the warmth of hospitality so that our guests feel at home with us. May our conversations be

encouraging, and may we find ways to build up and edify everyone who visits our home. When they leave, I pray that they will be richer for having been in our home. {eoa}

Rosilind Jukic, a Pacific Northwest native, is a missionary living in Croatia and married to her hero. Together they live in the country with their two active boys, where she enjoys fruity candles and a hot cup of herbal tea on a blustery fall evening. She holds an associate degree in practical theology and is passionate about discipling and encouraging women. Her passion for writing led her to author a number of books. She is the author of “A Little R & R,” where she encourages women to find contentment in what God created them to be. She can also be found at these other places on a regular basis. You may follow her on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Google +.

This article originally appeared at .

Read articles like this one and other Spirit-led content in our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.

Why You Can Count on God to Free You From Fear

Fear.

Some people refer to it as “false evidence appearing real.”

And even if that's the case, it's hard to deny its effect on our emotions, perspective and decision-making.

But being afraid is not socially acceptable for adults, so instead we worry, become anxious or, if we're good Christians—we just become concerned.

In this life, there are days filled with disturbing news, unexpected occurrences and painful moments that send us to our knees. But God is greater, and He is prepared for everything we face.

The one who knows the end from the beginning was not ignorant of the events of our day. And still He speaks over the turmoil swirling about and the anxiety circling within. "Peace, be still" (Mark 4:39).

Even the disciples marveled at Jesus' ability to speak to the wind and waves and cause them to cease their tumult. And they had walked with Him—this God who put on flesh and humbly lived in their midst—as He did miracle after miracle and taught them mysteries from ages past.

Jesus displayed His authority over all things, unlike the prolific teachers of their day.

And now, seated on the throne of God, the one who created all things seen and unseen has been given all authority in heaven and on earth, and this God loves you. "When they saw Him, they worshipped Him. But some doubted. Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth'" (Matt. 28:17-18).

The God of all the earth can still be pleased with lives such as ours. The Lord is faithful and is so committed to His purposes for us that He has not forsaken His promises regarding His care for His children, despite the depths of our own weakness.

Do not fear, for you shall not be ashamed nor be humiliated; for you shall not be put to shame, for you shall forget the shame of your youth and shall not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of Hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He shall be called the God of the whole earth (Isa. 54:4-5).

But this is not all the Lord has to say about the topic. Luke 12 provides further evidence of the futility of worry.

Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, what you will eat, nor for your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouses nor barns. Yet God feeds them. How much more valuable are you than birds? Who of you by worrying can add one cubit to his height? If you then cannot do what is least, why are you anxious about the other things?"

"Consider how the lilies grow. They neither spin nor weave. Yet I say to you that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?" (Luke 12:22-28).

And familiar passages such as Jeremiah 29:11 remind us of why God is so calm when our blood pressure rises over little things like monthly bills: "For I know the plans that I have for you, says the Lord, plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

If we need further evidence, He's given us further reassurance in His Word: "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to

His purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

We read this truth, but sometimes we don't quite believe it.

The amazing thing about the Word of God is that regardless of how we feel, the truth remains.

God is greater than fear. He is greater than all things. He is the maker of all things, seen and unseen.

And He makes Himself available to all who call upon Him in their time of need. In times of crisis, times of brokenness, pain, hurt, sickness, He remains Emmanuel, God with us: "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, yes, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isa. 41:10).

He is unlimited in His goodness, strength and power and resilient in perseverance and hope.

There is no situation He cannot redeem. There is no relationship He cannot reconcile. There is no fracture He cannot heal. There is no failure He cannot transform.

And there is no scenario in which He has ever failed. Even nailed to a cross, suffering, bleeding and dying, He won for everyone for all time.

He has overcome, and He will prevail over every troubling, sinful and impossible situation so His glory will be seen.
{eoa}

Fia Curley serves on the NightWatch at IHOPKC, participating in prayer, worship and intercession from midnight to 6 a.m. She enjoys blending her passion for prayer, worship and journalism as she labors with the Lord to see His goodness revealed to families, government leaders and immigrants from non-Christian nations.

This article originally appeared at .

This Common Biblical Phrase Adds Fuel to Your Faith

One of my favorite phrases in the Bible is “but God.”

The phrase is peppered throughout Scripture. And it makes my heart smile every time I come across one of those verses.

They bring a vertical perspective to my horizontal circumstances.

They remind me that my circumstances are not permanent.

And they proclaim that when my situation appears hopeless, the God of hope is still on His throne.

Check out some of my favorites:

- “But as for you, you intended to harm me, but God intended it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many lives” (Gen. 50:20).
- “But God shall redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, for He shall receive me. Selah” (Ps. 49:15).
- “My flesh and my heart fails, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever” (Ps. 73:26).
- “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).
- “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty” (1 Cor. 1:27).

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise.

Life is difficult, *but God* is real.

Problems multiply, *but God* is the original problem-solver.

People will disappoint, *but God* is faithful.

Satan attacks, *but God* is our defender.

What other "But God" statements can you add to this list?
{eoa}

Ava Pennington is a writer, speaker and Bible teacher. She writes for nationally circulated magazines and is published in 32 anthologies, including 25 *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books. She also authored *Daily Reflections on the Names of God: A Devotional*, endorsed by Kay Arthur. Learn more at .

This article originally appeared at .