

# She

seen heard empowered

## 14 Day Devotional



**I love the way Jesus loves us.  
I love that He created us for a specific  
purpose and not just as second class  
humans. It was intentional when God  
created woman.**



# Day 1

## Kelly Preston, Capital Church, Salt Lake City

*“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ,” Galatians 6:2.*

When you hold the door open for a mother and her kids at the grocery store, when you deliver a meal to a family in grief, when you take a phone call from a troubled friend at an inconvenient time, you are practicing Paul’s words in Galatians 6.

Often my burdens feel too heavy for me to carry, but for those closest to me, they do not feel as heavy. They jump in with enthusiasm and wisdom, and it lightens the load almost instantly! Can you recall a time when you shouldered an overwhelming task with a friend? Did it seem too heavy, or did it bring you joy to be there in a difficult time?

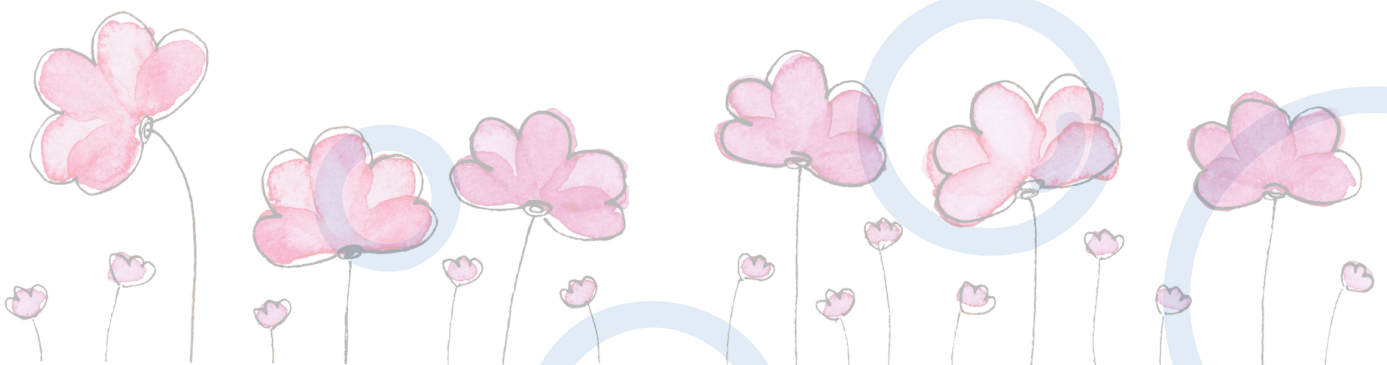
Carrying one another’s burdens is a powerful way that Christ shows us that we are seen and loved.

### **Challenge**

Let someone shoulder a burden you might be carrying today. Or reach out to someone you could walk alongside in this season. Christ often works through the presence of people in our lives. As you let someone come alongside of you and as you come alongside one of our brothers or sisters today, may you remember that you are fulfilling the sacred law and purpose of Christ.

### **Prayer**

Lord, thank you for your precious people! Please strengthen me today to shoulder the burden of another or to ask for help for myself. You are faithful, always. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.



# Day 2

## Melanie Aragon, Restoration Church, Colorado Springs

*"The angel of the Lord also said to her: 'You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery. He will be a wild donkey of a man, his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.' She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: 'You are the God who sees me,' for she said, 'I have now seen the One who sees me,'" Genesis 16:11-13.*

About a month before my oldest daughter got married, God confirmed He sees me. I was having a bad day, a good friend was dying (conflict happened with that), and I was experiencing stress of a wedding and remorse for my daughter leaving home.

I had gone to church that night and the floodgates of tears opened. I couldn't stop crying. After service, I sat there unable to move, and this sweet man came up to me and said, "Melanie, can I give you a word?" Of course, I said, "yes." He proceeded to say to me, "God sees you and all you do for others, and he loves you." I bawled like a baby! It was just what I needed at that moment to remind me He sees me, cares for me, and is able to handle all the burdens I carry.

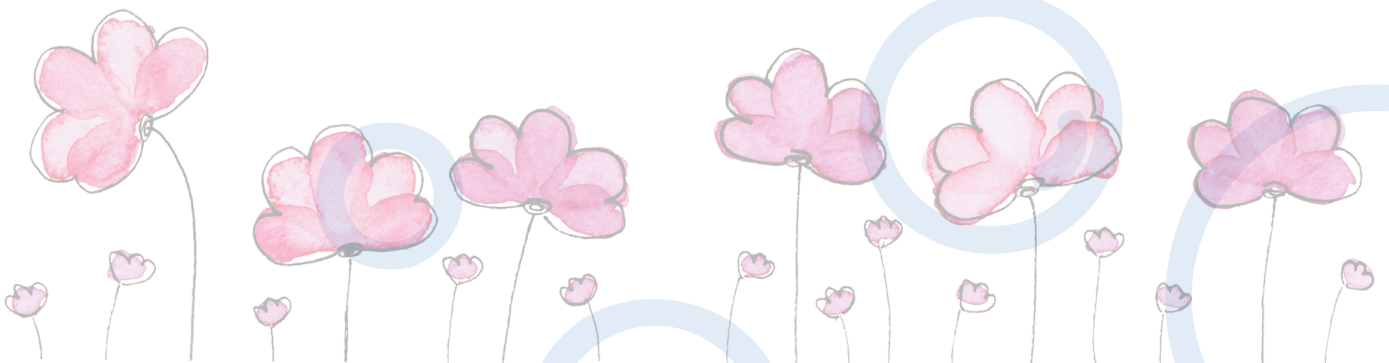
This makes me think about Hagar, Sarah's Egyptian slave, that she gave to Abraham to fill a void of not being able to have children. Hagar became pregnant, Sarah became mad. Hagar fled because of being mistreated by Sarah. Then, an angel of the Lord appeared to her and gave her a word. This is such a sweet reminder that even when you do the right thing, life doesn't always go as planned. The angel told Hagar, "The LORD has heard of her misery." She did as she was told and named her son Ishmael. The best sentence of all in these verses is, "You are the God who sees me, I have now seen the ONE who sees me." Not only was she reassured of His love, but she trusted Him with her life.

### Challenge

Do you have a burden that is so heavy that you don't know how to carry it? Begin searching scripture and listening for God to speak today. Write a prayer to Him asking to be seen and heard in this heavy time.

### Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for seeing us and hearing us. Even if we can't speak the right words, you are with us in every situation. Help us to know that you are listening and guiding us. Amen.





# Day 3

## Ann Vikse, Foothills Assembly of God, Fort Collins

*"The Lord will give strength unto His people;  
the Lord will bless His people with peace," Psalm 29:11.*

I'm sure you've heard the phrase, "God will never give us more than we can handle." I don't know about you, but I have never found that in the Bible. The Bible is full of stories where people had to face situations which were "more than they could handle."

For example, Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 "We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead." He allows us to face situations which are more than we can handle by ourselves so that we will learn to depend on Him.

Jesus Himself told us, "In this world you will have trouble..." but He also said, "My grace is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak." I have gone through some circumstances, when looking through human eyes, made me think, *"There's no way I will survive this."* It is impossible in my own strength, but the Lord reminds me that He gives me the strength so that I can persevere through anything.

### **Three Ways He Empowers Us**

- He empowers us with His peace. One of my favorite verses I rely on when I am going through difficult circumstances is Isaiah 26:3-4, which says, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You; because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength."
- He empowers us with His presence. Isaiah 41:10 says, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you; do not be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."
- He empowers us with His own strength. I like how the Amplified Bible states Philippians 4:13. It says, "I can do all things **[which He has called me to do]** through Him who strengthens and empowers me **[I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace]."**

### **Challenge**

Next time you feel you are "in over your head," remember that God has promised to empower us with the strength we need--not because we won't be given more than we can handle, but because He's with us, and He's all we need.

### **Prayer**

Lord, please help me remember no matter what I am going through, you are with me. You strengthen and empower me and to keep my eyes on you. You are filling my heart and mind with Your peace!

# Day 4

**Gina Brummett, Southwest First Assembly of God, Lakewood**

## ***There's a Father up Above, Looking Down in Tender Love***

Maybe you're old enough to remember the Sunday School song, "Oh, be Careful." The song cautioned little ones to mind their eyes, mouth, hands, and feet because, as the song says, "There's a Father up above, looking down in tender love." The child's behavior determined whether that was a comforting or troubling thought!

Proverbs 15:3 declares "The Lord is watching everywhere, keeping his eye on both the evil and the good." Do you find that scripture comforting or troubling?

When one of our children took up the habit of lying, I mentioned it to their pre-school teacher and wondered if the best course was to simply ignore these tall tales. Her advice: "Don't let it slide; call them into account every time. It will give them a sense of security knowing you are watching them closely enough to notice and care."

I think that's also great advice for us as God's children! Conscience, Holy Spirit conviction, a godly rebuke--they all serve as a safety net to keep us from venturing too far from God's holy standard before we repent.

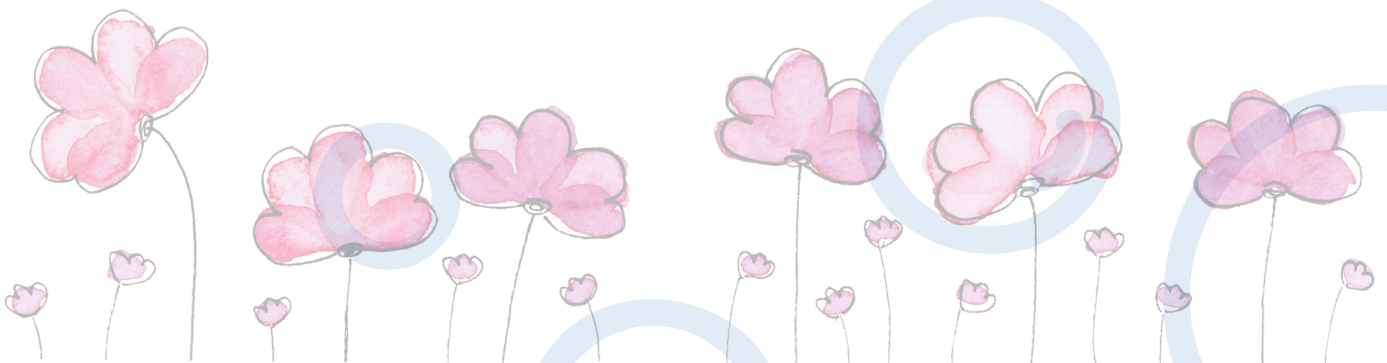
Speaking of repentance, we truly are comforted when we consider what God chooses not to see. The scriptures teach us that He removes confessed sin "as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12)." Another metaphorical verse assures us that our sin is cast into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19).

### ***Challenge***

Today, be still in God's presence and ask Him to shine light on any wrong attitudes or actions you've not confessed. He's watching closely and ready to correct gently because of His infinite love for you.

### ***Prayer***

Heavenly Father, I thank you that You know me thoroughly and You love me completely. Search me and reveal anything that is displeasing to You. Let there be nothing that separates me from Your fellowship and favor.



# Day 5

**Pastor Margaret Austin, Friendship Assembly of God, Colorado Springs**

*"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him," 1 John 5:14-15 (ESV).*

The need to be heard seems to dominate our culture today. Whether it's making a stand by marching in the streets, shouting to have your demands heard, or longing for the attention of a loved who is looking at the cell phone while you're trying to have a conversation. "Did you hear what I just said?" You ask. "I heard you," is their response, while staring at the glowing screen of the phone.

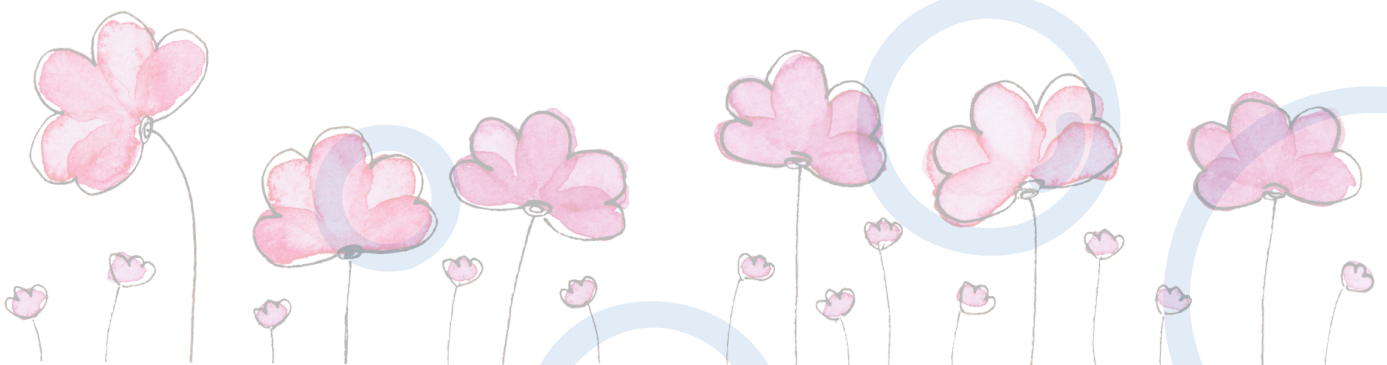
As Christians, we long to be heard by God and know that He will answer our prayers. But when answers to our prayers take too long, in our opinion, we allow doubt to enter our minds and we believe that He has not heard us. God promises in 1 John 5:14-15 to hear us and even says we can have what we ask for! There is a catch, however. We have to ask according to His will. How do we accomplish this in our prayers?

## **Challenge**

By spending time in God's Word, you will get to know Him on deeper level and learn what pleases Him. You will trust that he hears your prayers and know with confidence that he will answer. 1 John 15:13 mentions that these promises are for who believe in the name of the Son of God who is Jesus. So yes, God heard you!

## **Prayer**

Dear God, thank you for your Word that is full of promises for the believers in Christ Jesus. I take hold of the promise that You hear me when I call on You in prayer. I have peace in knowing that You will answer my prayers. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



# Day 6

## **Tierney Williamson, Friendship Assembly of God, Colorado Springs** ***Empowered Against Fear***

*"I sought the Lord, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears," Psalm 34:4.*

You might have heard that fear can be like a strong chain that binds and hinders you; you might have even experienced this yourself. But, have you ever considered that fear can also feel like carrying around an enormous weight? Is it almost too heavy to hold but you cannot seem to set it down? That was my story not that long ago.

I had stepped into a new ministry role that was completely outside of my comfort zone. I did not feel like it was something that I could refuse to help with because the empty position desperately needed someone. As the original one-month obligation extended into several months, I began to face people's criticisms and negative critique. I must admit that I also had some who spoke encouragement, but those compliments were quickly derailed by the first sign of disapproval. That was when I picked up that heavy weight of fear. I began to dread when Sunday would come around; I even experienced nightmares and loss of appetite as I anticipated what people might say to me.

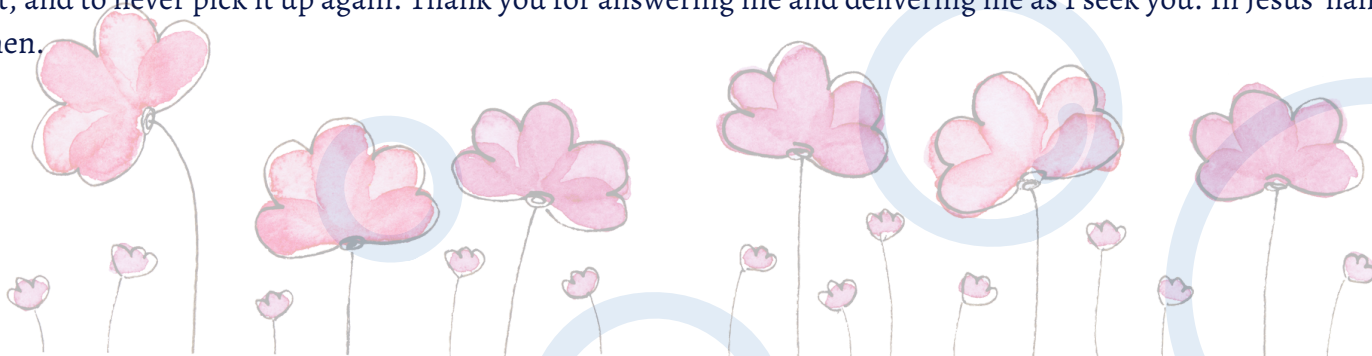
One Sunday, Jesus challenged me. During a time of prayer and worship, as I was pouring out my hurts to Him, He showed me I was carrying a small boulder with the word "FEAR" deeply etched into the side. When I looked up from the boulder, I saw a massive throne too tall to see the top and Jesus was sitting on the throne. Although I could only see His legs and feet, I immediately knew it was Him and I began to weep. He said it was time to place that "FEAR" at His feet and that's exactly what I did. When I released the boulder, I cannot describe the amount of peace and relief that I felt! Because of Jesus and His strength in me, I'm still in the same ministry position today.

### ***Challenge***

This verse, penned by King David so many years ago, is still completely true today – it happened to me! I waited too long to bring my fear to the feet of Jesus and I suffered during that time as I struggled to bear that heavy weight. Don't wait even one moment to pour out every hurt and pain to Jesus. He will answer you, deliver you, and EMPOWER you to fulfill everything He has called you to do!

### ***Prayer***

Father, thank you that Jesus understands everything I experience. Teach me to let go of fear, to place it at His feet, and to never pick it up again. Thank you for answering me and delivering me as I seek you. In Jesus' name, Amen.





# Day 1

## **Pastor Juanita Blevins, Praise Church, Walsenburg** ***The Wings of His Covering***

*"Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings," Psalm 63:7.*

My husband and I were traveling north on Interstate 25, rolling through Pueblo, shortly before 10 PM. As campus pastor in Walsenburg, living in Pueblo West, we travel to and from Walsenburg 5 days a week. It was a late Wednesday night, and we were driving home after leading a Celebrate Recovery meeting. The road was dark and sleepy.

Upon entering Pueblo, we came around a blind curve to see only brake lights; two cars at a dead stop in front of us. One car was stopped in the lane beside us and the other car was stopped on the right shoulder...and then there HE was...instantly, a car traveling the WRONG WAY up the Interstate, with one dim headlight passing us on the left shoulder! There was no time to react. The drunk driver was indeed traveling up the interstate going the wrong direction. We were in the ONLY CLEAR LANE as we whizzed by at 65 mph.

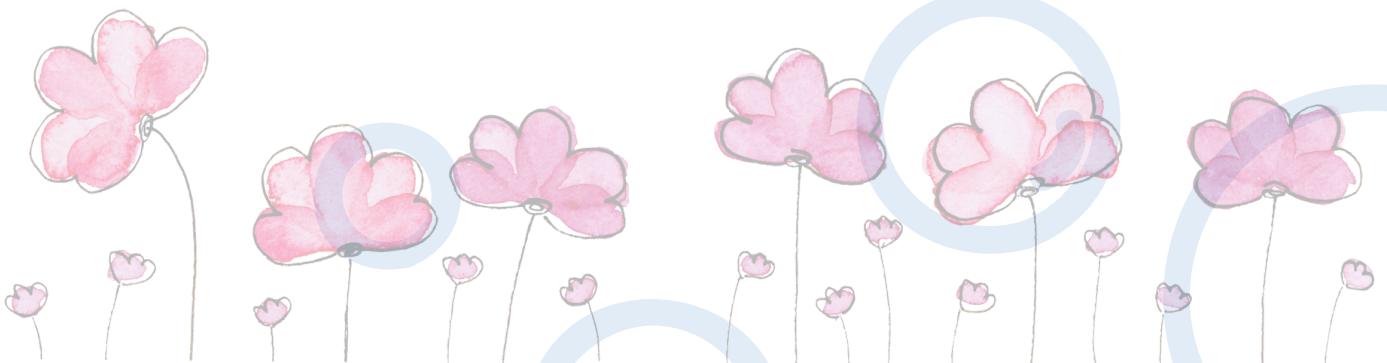
The Lord went ahead of us, he saw the road when we could not. He covered us with his protective wing. Psalm 63:7 is often quoted as a Rabbi calls the children forward and spreads a prayer shawl over them giving a beautiful visual that The Lord is our help, we can sing in the shadow of his wings! In that moment we knew we were indeed surrounded by angels who guided us safely through uninjured, covered in the shadow of his wing.

### ***Challenge***

We tend to stare at our lives and glance at God. However, we would be wise to stare at God and glance at our lives. God knows us and see us, He sends his angels to guard us, and He covers us in the shadow of His wings. Which car are you in this day? The one traveling the wrong way in the dark of the night? Or are you singing in the shadow of his wings?

### ***Prayer***

Dear heavenly Father, you know us, and you clearly see us. Your mighty hand of protection spreads over us, guiding us and keeping us safe, even when the world around us is going the wrong direction. We thank you that you are all-knowing and that we can trust you even in the dark of night.



# Day 8

## Pastor Tonya Blessing A Bowshot Away

*"Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, 'I cannot watch the boy die.' And as she sat there, she began to sob. God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, 'What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.' Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So, she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer," Genesis 21:14-20.*

I was recently watching a movie where the heroine of the story, in order to be heard, ended up yelling. The response from another character in the fictionalized life drama astounded me. "I am sorry that you felt the need to yell in order to be heard." In the verses above, there is no indication that Hagar was yelling. She was crying, and I assume yelling in her heart. No one but God can hear the cries of our hearts.

Life was not fair to Hagar. She found herself in an impossible position. Sarah, the wife of Hagar's master, was not able to have children. Hagar slept with Abraham and bore him a son. When Sarah in her old age gave birth to Isaac,, a promised child by God, Hagar and her son were no longer needed. Hagar and Ishmael were given food and water and cast aside.

Rejection, loss of position, and being adrift often takes away a person's physical voice. At times, there are no words to express pain and agony. Yet, hearts scream in suffering. Jesus understands suffering. He paid the price at Calvary with His suffering to aid us in our suffering.

When Hagar believed that her son when die, she laid him under some bushes and walked "a bowshot away." The distance has two different meanings. Some historians believe that the measured distance would be approximately one half of a mile; the distance an arrow could fly when launched from a bow. Other historians believe that the term relates to how far a bow string could be drawn.

### Challenge

It is hard to understand how Hagar could walk away. Ishmael at the time was about sixteen years old. He wasn't a young child, but to any mother seeing their child suffer produces incomparable heartache. Perhaps she had to look away because her heart could not hold any more pain and grief. When she released her son, God moved on her and Ishmael's behalf. I find it interesting that the measurement used involves a bow, and then later Scripture mentions that Ishmael became an archer. Whatever you are facing today, God sees, God hears, and God wants to empower us.

# Day 9

## **Bethany Rosenow, Ralston Creek Community Church, Arvada** ***God Sees Our Hidden Pain***

*“But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love...we wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield,” Psalm 33:18 & 20.*

One December, early in our marriage, we were surprised and thrilled to find out that we were pregnant for the first time. We were serving in ministry 1,700 miles away from our families, but we immediately shared the news with them and our ministry team. Sadly, within days of telling everyone, I miscarried. We were shocked and hurt. I felt embarrassed to go back to all those who had just celebrated with us and tell them that we had lost the baby. We were young and immature. We didn't know how common miscarriages were; no one ever talked about it. We didn't know what to do with the sad news, so we didn't talk about it either and just tried to move forward.

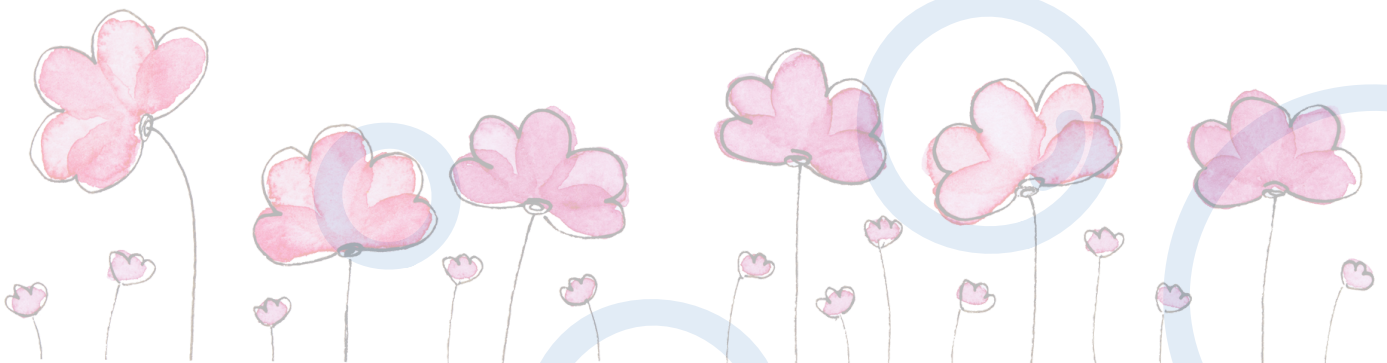
As time went by, I was grieving and depressed, but I didn't know how to deal with it and I felt alone. Months went by and it worsened as Mother's Day was approaching. That's when I received a card from a family member living across the country. I had not shared my struggle, but she knew. The Holy Spirit had placed me on her heart, and she had obediently reached out. I cried as I read her written encouragement, prayers, and Bible verses. I realized I was not alone. I spent some time in prayer and realized that God knew everything deep down that I had not allowed myself to think or express. He saw me, understood me, and knew what I needed at that moment.

### ***Challenge***

That is the beautiful thing about our omniscient God: He is all-knowing and all-seeing. Even our hidden pain is seen by our loving Savior who wants to comfort, heal, and bring peace. Take comfort in knowing that whatever you are going through or whatever pain you may carry from the past, God sees you and He loves you. Give it to Him and let Him carry it for you. He will help you and give you hope. He loves you!

### ***Prayer***

Loving Father, thank you for intimately knowing and seeing every part of us. Please comfort and heal the broken places in us. Give us peace to trust you and give those broken places to you. We rely on you as our only source of hope and true joy. Help us to be obedient when your Spirit prompts us to pray or encourage someone, so that they might also understand that you love them and are the God who sees them. Amen.



# Day 10

## **Lori Tapparo, Journey Church, Strasburg** **God Heard Me**

*In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears," (Psalm 18:6).*

Awhile ago, one of my best friends abruptly kicked me out of her life. I was devastated, and confused as to what happened. I cried myself to sleep more times than I can count, agonizing over this situation. In desperation, I cried out to the Lord and asked Him to show me anything that would help because I was hurting so bad.

God, who is always faithful, heard my cries and answered my prayers. He showed me why this was allowed to happen. God heard my prayers, and he gave me the answers. That meant the world to me. The consequences (which turned out to be good) would never have happened if left up to me. God found a way to use this situation to steer me in the right direction, His direction. Not only did he show me why, he softened my heart to accept my part of the conflict and to forgive her without her even asking.

### **Challenge**

When things happen that make no sense, or that you would never have done on your own, ask the Lord to show you why. He is so faithful to answer when we ask! God has a plan for your life, and sometimes has to get us out of our own way to make it happen.

### **Prayer**

Lord, I ask for the lady reading this that you would give her strength to ask for your plan, that she may not have to go through heart ache to find it, but instead would just ASK you.



# Day 11

## Shellie Wooten, LIFE Church, Salt Lake City *Looking Back to Look Forward*

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go," (Joshua 1:9).*

The lines in the road dotted the minutes passing as I sped by them. I had many miles ahead in my journey and the road behind was now becoming part of my history. This marked the first long drive of my young life. With my car packed door to door, ceiling to floor, with all I needed to live, the road ahead held my attention with great anticipation as I was beginning a new chapter. On that drive, I had a conversation with God. My conversation went something like this, "God, with this step of going into college, I just need to know this is the right decision for my life. I need that reassurance that you are with me and I am not making this decision without you."

In that moment, peace filled my car and I had this overwhelming presence of God as he spoke directly to me, "This is your path." I began to weep. It was an experience I will never forget. I am not sure what I would have done if He had answered me differently. However, on that day, I had the confidence to know that He heard me and He answered.

This marked a pivotal moment in my young life, as it was the first time I ventured from under the care of my parents. I would make my own decisions. As I embarked on this new adventure, I did not want to go alone. I was entering a place where I knew nearly no one. When God spoke to my heart, I had experienced that God was with me, and I would never be alone.

Through this encounter, it was the beginning of my intense training on how to trust God with my whole life. He lovingly allowed me to experience His perfect peace. With this peace, I could start to recognize Him when life became convoluted with other voices and distractions that vied for my attention. As I have continued trusting God with each decision through the years, he has guided my steps. I am grateful. So many times I have gone back to that pivotal moment and remembered His incredibly tangible presence. I look back to gain strength to move forward.

### **Challenge**

What are the moments in your life where God showed up in a real way? How do you find yourself gaining strength from the good things God has done? Let me reassure you of some things I know to be true. When you are need of strength or courage, He is with you. When you are struggling with fear, He is with you. When you are dismayed, he is with you. He hears you when you call out to Him, and He answers. The best part of trusting in Him is that the Lord God is with you wherever you go.

### **Prayer**

Dear heavenly Father, thank you speaking to us through your Word and invading our hearts with your presence. You are the giver of strength and courage. You show up in countless ways, especially when life becomes difficult. Thank you for giving us confidence so we don't have to fear for tomorrow because you are with us wherever we go. Speak to my friend today in a way that she hears you and encounters you, Almighty God. We love you, Lord! In Jesus' precious name, amen.

# Day 12

## Pastor Chris Griffin, The Sanctuary, Fort Morgan **SUDDENLY SEEN....at the corner of Barrenness and Shame**

*"David asked, 'Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?'...Ziba answered the king, 'There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet.' 'Where is he?' the king asked. Ziba answered, 'He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar.' So King David had him brought from Lo Debar...When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, 'Mephibosheth!'...'Don't be afraid, for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.' Mephibosheth bowed down and said, 'What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?' Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul's steward, and said to him, 'I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.'... And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table; he was lame in both feet," (2 Samuel 9:1-13).*

The story of Mephibosheth begins in 2 Samuel 4:4. When his grandfather King Saul and his father Prince Jonathan died in battle, the nurse grabbed him and ran. Why did she do that? Because if the king was dead, his family was in jeopardy. The old king's family would be obliterated so that the new king would not have any challenges to his throne. Unfortunately, the nurse dropped him and broke both of his feet. He was hidden away at a place called Lo Debar--literally, "no pasture," the place of barrenness.

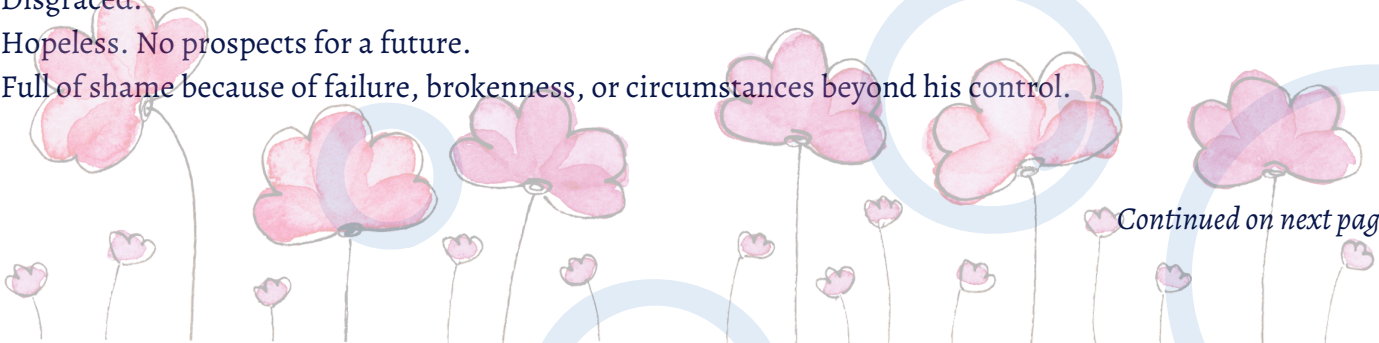
Mephibosheth is living in the middle of nowhere, hiding out. Frankly, he prefers NOT to be SEEN. What's going on in his heart?

- I was in line for the throne. I have failed.
- I'm a hunted man if anyone finds out I'm here.
- I have no identity and no inheritance.
- My family is gone. There is no one to protect me and I can't protect myself.
- I cannot contribute or be productive.
- I am just surviving out here in the wilderness.

Can you imagine how he felt?

- Disappointment that he failed, through no fault of his own.
- Exposed and unprotected.
- Disgraced.
- Hopeless. No prospects for a future.
- Full of shame because of failure, brokenness, or circumstances beyond his control.

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## Day 12

However, when Mephibosheth is brought before David, while he's fearfully facedown at David's feet, he hears David giving orders.

- "I will show him kindness for the sake of Jonathan."
- "Restore all the land and have the servants take care of it for him."
- "He'll be eating at my table every night--just like my own sons."

Mephibosheth is still crippled, and now he eats at the king's table. He is protected. He is productive. He has everything he needs. There is hope for a future. He doesn't have to hide anymore. SUDDENLY, he is SEEN. And it is more wonderful than he could have possibly imagined.

I think you and I can relate to Mephibosheth.

Things have happened in our lives that have brought shame and condemnation on us. These things include choices we made where sometimes we knew better and sometimes we didn't know better. Sometimes we were being rebellious. Sometimes we were doing the best we knew and it didn't turn out how we wished. Sometimes, like Mephibosheth, we feel shame over things that we had no control over, for things that others have done to us. Sometimes we didn't trust God. Sometimes we lived as if there is no God.

Like Mephibosheth, when you fall on your face before God in desperation, He speaks words over you that you did not expect.

- *"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness," (Jeremiah 31:3).*
- *"A bruised reed I will not break, and a smoldering wick I will not snuff out," (Isaiah 42:3).*
- *"Seek me and I will hear and deliver you from all of your fears," (Psalm 34:4).*
- *"Those who look to Me are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame," (Psalm 34:5).*
- *"There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus," (Romans 8:1).*

God SEES you and SUDDENLY delivers you from shame and barrenness – not because of anything you did, but because of a promise He made to Himself before the world began.

### Challenge

If you're afraid to be SEEN right now, trust that God has nothing but love in His heart for you, His baby girl. Stop, fall on your face before Him, and listen for the healing words He will speak over you.

### Prayer

Thank you, Father, that even when we're afraid to be seen, you see us in Truth. You pursue us because you promised yourself to never turn your heart away from us. Thank you for seeing us and loving us still, for speaking words over our hearts that are unexpected, undeserved, and also healing. You, God, are the hope of our lives. Thank you for seeing us.



# Day 13

Natasha Hansen

## ***Give them Something to Eat***

*"But Jesus said, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' ... And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over," Matthew 13:16; 20 (ESV).*

"Trust in me and give them something to eat, I will take care of the rest" was rolling through my heart and mind this past March at our annual kick-off of our food pantry ministry. This was our fifth season of feeding our community. Through the previous seasons, I had seen God provide need after need, and all that he had asked of me and our team was to be obedient and trust Him. Not once were we ever short on the supply of food needed to keep up with the ever-increasing demand.

However, at the beginning of this season, I found myself being challenged with trusting in his faithfulness. On a typical week, we have twelve pallets of food to distribute, and on week one of this season, we only had six. My confidence that "God's got this" slowly slipped away. I started to worry about how we would feed each family. Before we began serving food that day, I gathered our team to pray. In faith, I told our team that we were going to trust that God was going to multiply the loaves and fish and feed every family waiting in our parking lot. By the end of our time, 298 families were fed and several boxes of bread and shrimp were left over. God multiplied the loaves and fish, or in this particular instance, loaves and shrimp!

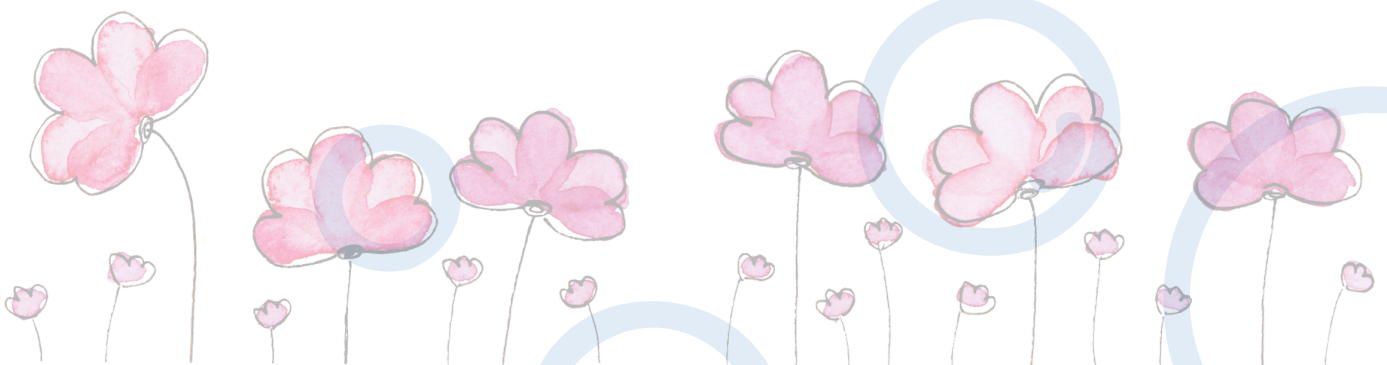
We were all reminded that when Jesus asks us to do anything for Him, He gives us the ability to depend on Him to supply the means to accomplish it, just as He had empowered his disciples to feed the enormous crowd with little to no food. If we're willing to be obedient and put our trust in God's faithfulness, He provides the means for us to live a life that is empowered by Him.

### ***Challenge***

As His disciples, God has called each of us. Our circumstances may feel inadequate, and that is okay. When He calls you and empowers you, all He needs is your trust and obedience. He will provide the way.

### ***Prayer***

Lord, we thank you that you are enough. Today, we trust in your faithfulness, and are confident that you will provide all we require for the calling you have placed on our lives. We trust in your power and strength alone. Amen.





# Day 14

## Pastor Tonya Jewel Blessing Four Prophetic Sisters

*"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy," (Acts 2:16–18, ESV).*

The Bible tells us in Acts 21 that Philip the evangelist has four unmarried daughters who were prophets. In 1 Corinthians 14, scripture instructs believers to follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. The Lord has clearly called and anointed women to declare His words.

In the Old Testament, the label “prophetess” is attributed to five women: Miriam (Exodus 15:20), Deborah (Judges 4:4), Huldah (2 Kings 22:14), Noadiah (Nehemiah 6:15), and “the prophetess” (Isaiah 8:3). Scripture describes a woman prophet as someone through whom God speaks to His people.

The general prophetic model that is seen in the Old Testament reflects prophets speaking to nations or to key leaders within nations. In the New Testament, the gift of prophecy is for the church body, and for the personal encouragement and edification of others. There also unique modern day prophets who hear from God regarding national and world events.

The prophet Jeremiah makes personal holiness and purity a litmus test for genuine prophecy (Jeremiah 23:9-10). Similarly, Jesus advises his disciples to expose false prophets by drawing attention to their behavior (Matthew 7:15-23, CBC International).

The Bible also says not to despise prophecy. The prophetic voice has a place in and outside the local church. As Christian women, we should be encouraged and eager to declare God’s Word. Prophesying is speaking the Truth about Jesus. Exercising this gift should not be intimidating. Speaking spiritual truth does not have to be laced with fancy words or gestures. The way of love that describes prophecy in 1 Corinthians 14 refers to the 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter. 1 Corinthians 13:2 says, “If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

### Challenge

When sharing prophetic words, our mannerisms and character should include patience, kindness, nothing envious, boastful, proud, or self-seeking. We are Truth bearers who have an attitude of rejoicing, protecting, trusting, hoping, and preserving.

### Prayer

Lord, please use us to declare your Truth. Help us not to be intimidated by prophetic decrees, but to embrace your calling and anointing to speak life-giving words.

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