

DEVOTIONAL

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

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# OVERCOMER

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8 WAYS TO LIVE A LIFE OF UNSTOPPABLE STRENGTH  
UNMOVABLE FAITH, AND UNBELIEVABLE POWER



# DAY 1

*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*

3 JOHN 4

How important is “truth” to God? Important enough that His Word uses it to describe God the Father (“You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth” [Ps. 31:5]), God the Son (“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life’” [John 14:6]), and God the Holy Spirit (“It is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth” [1 John 5:6]).

Clearly, “truth”—and all that it entails—is a central focus of God, illustrated perfectly when the apostle Paul named the belt of truth as the first and central part of the armor of God. For like a soldier’s belt, the truth holds up everything else in its place. But God wants to know, how important is truth to me?

Is the truth of God’s Word important enough to me that I will meditate daily on it, equipping myself for the constant bombardment from the Enemy, the father of lies (John 8:44)? Is the truth of Jesus being the only way to heaven, the only Savior in a postmodern polytheistic world, important enough for me to share with anyone falling hopelessly down a path of relativism? And is speaking the truth at all times important enough to me that I agree with the writer of Proverbs that “lying lips are an abomination to the LORD” (Prov. 12:22)?

There is no disputing how important the truth is to our Father. But how important is the truth to me?

DEAR GOD,

LET MY HEART AND DEVOTION TO THE TRUTH—THAT OF YOUR WORD,  
YOUR SON, AND EVERY WORD THAT LEAVES MY LIPS—MATCH YOURS.



# DAY 2

*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

Have you ever noticed that the same New Testament writer who said, “There is none righteous, no, not one” (Rom. 3:10) also instructed the follower of Christ to “put on the breastplate of righteousness” (Eph. 6:14)? So basically, he said, “No one is righteous, but guard yourself with righteousness.” How are we supposed to make sense of that?

Perhaps there is no greater and more fruitless struggle than when we try to prove our own righteousness. We heed Paul’s truth in Romans but then we raise it with our good works. Or with lengthy, scholarly-sounding prayers. Or by going to three church services a week.

Of course, these are all wonderful things, biblical actions, and signs of an overflowing love for Jesus. But none make us righteous. None free us from the guilt or sin that has plagued man since the garden and each of us individually since our conception in the womb. If we were to don a breastplate made of any of these, the first of the Enemy’s softest arrows would pierce it as though it were made of paper.

But Jesus said, “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). It is Jesus’s righteousness, offered to all who believe in His salvific work on the cross, that is given to us as a one-time gift at the moment of our salvation and can protect us from anything the Enemy throws at us. And this righteousness of Jesus’ is complete! There is nothing we can add to it. So why do we try?

DEAR GOD,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SON’S COMPLETE WORK ON THE CROSS, IN WHICH  
I HAVE RECEIVED THE RIGHTEOUSNESS HE EARNED. SIMPLY AMAZING!



# DAY 3

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

ROMANS 5:1

**H**ave you ever seen one of those As-Seen-On-TV commercials where if you order today and buy their product, you'll have an extra bonus gift thrown in with it for free? Maybe it's a flashlight to go with the outside security lights or a pillow to complement the mattress topper you are buying. Well, when we receive the gift of salvation through Jesus, we too are given a bonus gift along with it—the peace of God!

Though some will try and tell you differently, our lives do not become conflict-free when we begin following Christ. We will still go through heartaches, experience sickness and death, have financial problems, and have all the same kind of obstacles in our life that we had pre-Jesus. In fact, when Jesus told His disciples to “not worry about tomorrow” (Matt. 6:34), it wasn't because they would have nothing to worry about tomorrow, but because today was going to have enough of “its own trouble”!

But when we set our minds on the almighty God who is at the controls of every part of our day, we can rest secure that not only does He have the day under control, He's got us in His hands. And this peace of God that comes with salvation in Jesus is available for all! Unfortunately, though, much like what so often happens with the free flashlight that came with our late-night impulse purchase, this peace offered to us gets thrown into a junk drawer and is rarely utilized for the benefit God intended.

Are you using the peace of God to its full benefit?

DEAR GOD,

THANK YOU THAT NO MATTER WHAT PAIN OR CONFLICT COMES TODAY,

I CAN FIND PEACE IN KNOWING YOU ARE AT THE HELM OF IT ALL.



# DAY 4

*But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.*

MATTHEW 8:26

No one ever won a weight-lifting competition by bench-pressing the 45-pound bar dozens of times. Nobody striving to make it to the Major Leagues did so by taking walks only and never swinging the bat. And no budding mathematics genius ever got into MIT by working only on basic addition and subtraction worksheets. To excel in these areas, we need to load on the weight, swing at the best of pitching, and challenge our minds with the most complex math problems.

The same goes for our faith. For our faith in God to increase, guess what we have to have? Problems! Conflict! Stress! Of course, none of us would admit to actually wanting problems, would we? In the Old Testament, Job certainly didn't want all the devastation that came to his life. Joseph didn't want his brothers to throw him in a pit and sell him into slavery. So that's okay to not really want any of that to happen in your life.

But how awesome and amazing is our God when out of the turmoil and conflict that none of us would've asked for, we can increase our faith in Him—the very faith that Paul described as a shield that can “quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one” (Eph. 6:16)!

It's not wrong to want our lives to be smooth sailing, just like the disciples had wished for their journey across the Sea of Galilee. But when the inevitable conflict arises, let's not forget who's on board the boat with us—Jesus! Let Him use this opportunity to increase your faith in Him and strengthen your shield against the Enemy's fiery arrows.

DEAR GOD,

WHEN THE NEXT STORM ARRIVES, TEACH ME TO LEAN ON YOU EVEN MORE,  
DEEPENING MY FAITH IN YOUR SOVEREIGN POWER AND STRENGTH.



# DAY 5

*Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glorifies glory in this, that he understands and knows Me.*

JEREMIAH 9:23–24

**D**o you think Bill Gates’s children ever worry when their computers go on the fritz? Of course not. They have good reason to trust that daddy can fix whatever problem arises. Similarly, do you think the wife of a plumber breaks a sweat when their toilet won’t stop running? Not in the least. Because she is confident her husband will know exactly what to do, how to do it, and what tools he needs out of his truck to do it with. These people have an “in” with the right person for the job, and that confidence brings them a peace like nothing else can.

When we place our faith in Jesus, we receive instantly and eternally the ultimate “in.” We begin a relationship with God the Father that should give us the courage to fight any and all spiritual battles that the Enemy brings our way.

To put on the “helmet of salvation,” or as Paul also put it, “the hope of salvation” (1 Thess. 5:8), is to actually put on Christ, and all that entails—the power of the Holy Spirit in us, a two-way dialogue with the Creator of the universe as He shares His wisdom with us, untold riches as co-heirs of Christ’s kingdom in heaven. These things, and much more, are assured to us. They are fixtures in our life that cannot be altered!

How silly it would be for Bill Gates’s kids to panic every time their computer freezes. But do we ever forget about the assurances for us in our helmet of salvation when the Enemy comes at us with his lies, deceptions, and evil tactics?

DEAR GOD,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF SALVATION THROUGH YOUR SON, JESUS.

IT IS NOT ONLY FOR ME TO ENJOY ETERNITY IN HEAVEN WITH YOU BUT

ALSO TO LIVE BY THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT HERE ON EARTH.



# DAY 6

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching,  
rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

Is there anything more valuable and multifunctional as the Word of God? Seriously, isn't the Bible basically a Swiss army knife for the world? It feeds our soul, gives wisdom for every area of life, and combats any and all attacks the devil may send our way. It is God's message of salvation to us, His children.

And yet, how often do we "leave it at home," so to speak, as we go throughout our day? No doubt we have our phones in our holsters, ready to pull out for any and all free minutes. Some of us actually still carry a pocketknife, for the random chance that we may need to cut a string off a piece of clothing. But are we ready with the Word of God for the countless times throughout each day that we will need God's wisdom, comfort, and battle plan against the Enemy?

The psalmist wrote, "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 19:11). Three times in the desert, Jesus—the Word Himself!—used Scripture to counterattack the devil's temptations. Why do we not always share the same high value of the eternal Word of God?

Acts 2:42 tells us that the early church "devoted" themselves to the apostles' teaching. Later, Paul admonished the young teacher and disciple Timothy to "devote" himself to the public reading of Scripture. Can we say that we are "devoted" to the Word of God?

## DEAR GOD,

THANK YOU FOR THE EASY, UNLIMITED ACCESS MOST OF US  
HAVE TODAY TO THE SAME SCRIPTURE JESUS USED IN THE DESERT  
AND THE EARLY CHRISTIANS DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO WHEN BUILDING  
YOUR CHURCH. USE IT TODAY TO DO MIRACULOUS WORK IN ME TOO.



# DAY 7

*The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.*

JAMES 5:16

Few believers in Christ are unaware of the vast calls to prayer throughout the Bible: “Men always ought to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1). “You do not have because you do not ask” (James 4:2). “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving” (Col. 4:2)—to name a few. So why is it that far too many of us fail to answer this call to devote ourselves to prayer, to “pray without ceasing” as Paul put it, and take full advantage of the unlimited access to the Father that Jesus’ death and resurrection has provided for us?

Can it be that we simply don’t feel worthy of such honor?

And certainly, at first glance, that’s not wrong is it? John the Baptist said he wasn’t even worthy to carry Jesus’ sandals. Paul admitted that he was not even worthy to be called an apostle, let alone to have received the grace and mercy that was given to him on the road to Damascus. So how could we be worthy to come to God in prayer, steadfastly, in every area of our life?

Our answer comes once again in remembering whose righteousness we have received—Jesus’. So when James says that the prayers of a righteous person has great power, he means anyone who has received the righteousness of Jesus. That’s you and me!

No, we’re not worthy on our own to come to the Father in prayer. But Jesus is, and that’s whose righteousness God sees when we come to Him in prayer. So don’t stop praying! Devote yourself to prayer! Because it is through Jesus’ righteousness that you are doing so, not your own.

DEAR GOD,

THANK YOU FOR THE DUAL GIFT OF BEING COVERED BY JESUS’ RIGHTEOUSNESS,  
WHICH IS BOTH HOW MY NAME HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN YOUR BOOK OF LIFE  
AND HOW I HAVE 24/7 ACCESS TO COME TO YOU WITH EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE.

