

MORNINGS
with JESUS

2026

DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT
for Your SOUL



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DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT *for Your* SOUL

365 DEVOTIONS

**SNEAK
PEEK!**

Take a look
inside

NEW YEAR'S DAY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

"Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." Matthew 6:8 (NIV)

NEW YEAR'S DAY TYPICALLY IS not one of reflection or planning for me. I get frustrated when I set goals that get derailed by stress or unplanned events. This past year was filled with such experiences. An automobile accident, broken relationships, and the deaths of close friends created ongoing challenges and losses. I awoke on January 1 feeling tired and ready for a new year to start.

I spent my devotional time thinking about the prior year's events. I had learned how much of life was out of my control. Could new beginnings with a fresh calendar reclaim anything? I wondered if goals for practical rhythms, including simple prayer practices, could help my overall well-being. I wrote down a few daily tasks that could sustain physical, emotional, and spiritual health no matter what the upcoming year held—exercising for five minutes each morning, taking vitamins, meeting a daily writing goal, and praying for three to five concerns. These felt achievable because they were small steps that could be built upon.

Posting the list on my bathroom mirror, I was reminded of hopeful beginnings and who gave them to me. I couldn't control my life, but there was Someone who did. Jesus already knew what the upcoming year held, including events I saw as unplanned. As I brought my needs to Him, while also caring for myself, He would meet those needs. New beginnings for a new year! —BRENDA L. YODER

FAITH STEP: *As you reflect on the past year, thank Jesus for always being in control. Whether you make resolutions or not, pray for Him to reveal the beginning you need.*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.
1 Chronicles 16:34 (NIV)*

NEW ENGLAND WINTERS ARE COLD, especially since we keep our thermostat on low in our house to combat the rising cost of propane. That means I'm eternally cold from October to May, even indoors. Knowing this, my husband gave me a heated vest for Christmas. It has a rechargeable battery pack that powers the coils sewn into the back of the garment, heating them up so they radiate warmth. It's an amazing invention and the perfect gift for me! Sometimes, I stop right in the middle of my busy day, close my eyes, and focus on the sensation. Taking the time to consciously bask in the warmth helps me appreciate how it envelops me with exactly what I need, protecting me from the cold.

Like all earthly things, however, it doesn't last for long. After four hours on the high setting, the battery pack becomes depleted. Because it takes a full eight hours to recharge, I have to layer up with more clothes to get through the day.

Unlike my vest, Jesus's love for me has no time limit. It endures forever. His grace is always radiating out from where He resides in my heart, spreading warmth and joy if I just stop long enough to close my eyes, focus on the sensation, and bask in the glow. No matter how much I call on Him, He never becomes depleted. Jesus constantly envelops me in the warmth of His love. —CLAIRE MCGARRY

FAITH STEP: *Put on a heated vest, get under an electric blanket, or put something on straight from the warm dryer. Close your eyes and feel Jesus's love radiate through you.*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

*Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God. Psalm 43:5 (NIV)*

WHEN I LISTED MY GOALS for the year, one was for healing of a skin condition called pityriasis rosea. But instead of writing the words out, I abbreviated my goal to “healed of pity.” At first glance, I laughed at my silly sentence. On second thought, I’d created a perfect goal: to become free of feeling sorry for myself. And I know just the One who can empower me to do that: Jesus.

Jesus has many ways to heal a sickness, a situation, or a person. He also has unlimited grace for me to overcome the pity that threatens to steal my joy when things don’t change as quickly or in the way I want.

When a sickness lingers, instead of questioning my worthiness to receive healing, I’d like to trust Jesus’s perfect timing. When my plans fall through, I want to believe that Jesus will create better ones for me. When someone else is chosen to do the job I thought I deserved, I hope to rejoice with them and be content. My goal is to believe Jesus is at work to bring all sorts of good into my life, especially when I don’t feel well.

Instead of getting a fresh sheet of paper to write my goals on, I left “healed of pity” just as it was. I think it’s a worthy goal. Not only for this year but also for life. —JEANETTE LEVELLIE

FAITH STEP: *As you write out goals, make two columns. List those that only Jesus can resolve and ones you can work to achieve with Him.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:6–7 (NIV)

I LIVE IN A TWO-STORY townhouse, so it's a little short on sunlight on the ground floor. The builders compensated by installing many light fixtures, especially in the kitchen and connected foyer, for which there are seven light switches (I kid you not). As a matter of thrift and preference, I don't always keep all the lights blazing, which has some ramifications.

My downstairs floor is a variegated, sand-colored, textured ceramic that does an amazing job of concealing dirt. One fluorescent light is too bright for my everyday taste and reveals absolutely every smidgen of dirt. If that light isn't on—and especially if I'm not wearing my glasses—my floor looks perfectly clean. But if I really want a spotless floor, I must put on my glasses and turn on all the lights to see clearly.

God, Himself, is light. Just as my brilliant kitchen lights reveal the hidden dirt, in His light, I can see clearly how very much I need the purifying light of the world, Jesus. When I see my sin, I can gratefully repent and return to Jesus, who cleanses me from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). In Jesus's equalizing light, I can walk in right fellowship with God and others—and on a clean floor no less! —ISABELLA CAMPOLATTARO

FAITH STEP: *Pray for Jesus to illuminate any areas of unconfessed sin in your life. Then walk into your most brightly lit room and thank Him.*

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. Psalm 91:4 (NIV)

YOU NEVER KNOW HOW YOU'LL react in a crisis, but recently I found out. As my husband drove us to a homeschool conference in North Dakota, twelve hours into our eighteen-hour journey we hit black ice. The trailer we were pulling fishtailed violently and rolled into the ditch, threatening to pull over our truck with it.

“Hold on, everyone, we’re going to roll!” he called out. Abruptly awakened from the passenger seat, I automatically shouted, “Jesus!”

Seconds later, the truck’s wheels miraculously gripped the road, and the trailer astonishingly flipped back onto its wheels and jumped back onto the roadway.

I breathed a sigh of relief, glad that Jesus’s attentiveness and mercy are not contingent upon the length or eloquence of my prayers but, instead, on His steadfast love and kindness.

You never know how you’ll react in a crisis, but thankfully my first response was to cry out in prayer. I might have been sleeping, but Jesus wasn’t. —TRICIA GOYER

FAITH STEP: *Make an auto emergency kit. Include a flashlight, blanket, bottled water, and first-aid supplies. Include a piece of paper with Psalm 91:4 or a favorite verse written on it to calm you if you ever need to cry out to Jesus on the road.*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:5 (ESV)

EVERY YEAR, I SELECT A word to focus on, but this year I selected a phrase: all things new. We had lost our home and everything we owned to a wildfire that swept through our community. For almost three years, we worked through the insurance process to receive our payment to replace our contents and rebuild. It was a tedious and exhausting process where we had to create an extensive spreadsheet listing every item in our home that we could remember. My mind constantly focused on what we had lost.

Finally, we reached an agreement with our insurance company. I no longer had to add items to a seemingly endless inventory. This was a significant switch in my thought life. I could now put behind me trying to remember all we had lost and dream about our future.

As I was praying about my word for the year, I came across Jesus's promise to make all things new. Everything we will put in our home will be new to us. We will find a new couch, plates, linens, measuring cups, books, and more. This phrase seemed appropriate for me. Not just because of the new home and items that will fill it but because of the unique opportunity I have to allow Jesus to do new things in my life. The hopeful anticipation of newness was a needed shift in my daily outlook. Forgetting what was lost, I focused on the new things Jesus is doing. —JEANNIE BLACKMER

FAITH STEP: *Write in your journal about something new Jesus is doing in your life.*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. 1 Samuel 23:16 (NIV)

EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING, A DOZEN friends and I meet on Zoom to discuss the Bible study we're doing. Afterward, the leader assigns partners with whom we share prayer requests and encourage in little ways until we meet again the following week.

I consider these women, whose age differences span thirty years, my sisters in faith. Our love for Jesus bonds us. Our Zoom room provides a safe place to be transparent without fear of being judged. We share our wins and losses, assured the others will celebrate our joys and feel our sorrows. Most of all, we commit to encouraging one another's relationship with Jesus so we can best flourish through thick and thin.

My sisters in faith demonstrated their commitment when a loved one's death left me feeling devastated. They listened with empathy as I processed my pain and then, one after another, spoke words of comfort before asking Jesus to hold me close to His heart.

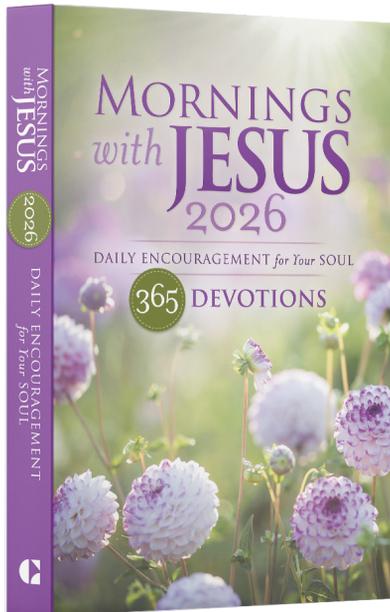
They helped me find spiritual strength as I invested time and energy into the life of a local friend caught in a heartbreaking situation. They saw my emotional fatigue and asked Jesus to fill me with wisdom and discernment.

Jonathan did much the same for David. He knew David was scared for his life, so he went out of his way to find him in the wilderness. Then he spoke truth into David's life to help him regain a right perspective. By doing so, he helped David find strength in God.

That's what good friends do, right? —GRACE FOX

FAITH STEP: *Who, in Christ, is a sister in faith to you? Reach out and encourage her by Zoom or FaceTime today.*

Start Each Day Refreshed and Renewed by Jesus



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