



7 Day Journal for Moms

Finding Joy in the Midst of Uncertainty

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Readings from *The Good Life: What Jesus Teaches About Finding True Happiness*.

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We are living in a unique time in history. Parents are being stretched as they figure out how to care for their families during a pandemic. Depending on your circumstances, you may be out of work, working from home, looking for childcare so you can work outside of the home. You may be preparing to homeschool your children or send them off to school in the midst of uncertainty. As I have spoken with moms in our community, I have seen anxiety and fear as they navigate the many decisions they have to make. My encouragement to these moms is always to keep their eyes on Jesus. Focus on the Cross rather than the chaos. This journal is a resource to help moms focus on King Jesus. My prayer is that it will lead you away from anxiety and into worship. God the Father is holding you and your family now and always. Turn to Him. There you will find security and joy.

In Him,

Pastor Derwin

Day 1

Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

James 1:2-4

As God's people, the church is adaptable to any environment. In Christ, we are a resilient and remarkable people because our God is resilient and remarkable. We, Jesus' church, can have a deeper, more faithful experience of what it means to follow and embody his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. James says that trials are used by God to stimulate our growth in endurance, and endurance enhances our capacity for spiritual maturity as disciples of Jesus. Persecution is like holy fertilizer that sinks into the soil of our hearts and minds, producing Christlikeness as we respond to Jesus in faith.

Day 2

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own understanding;
in all your ways know him,
and he will make your paths straight.
Proverbs 3:5-6*

Good gracious. Persecution and suffering? These are not fun, nor will they ever be fun. But I have to trust Jesus when I do not understand. Where else can I go? Who else has the words of eternal life but him? No one.

Day 3

Then Abraham reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

He replied, "Here I am."

Then he said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from me." Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. And Abraham named that place The Lord Will Provide, so today it is said, "It will be provided on the Lord's mountain." Genesis 22:10-14

Just as Abraham was tested, we will be too. God, in his sovereign goodness, will take persecution and shape it to test us, to teach us how to rely on him for everything we need. This is the good life. Even when it doesn't look like it, he is in control.

Day 4

The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Romans 8:16-17

When we are tested, God produces endurance in us. Endurance expresses a God-inspired, Christ-exalting determination in the face of adversity. Endurance allows us not to grow in bitterness or pettiness, but to be patient with a culture that is fractured and hurt. The good life is found in becoming who you were meant to be. The good life is being cultivated in us. The good life is a life in which God orchestrates everything to make us look like the Author of life, King Jesus. The good life is becoming good.

Day 5

*For the Lord God is a sun and shield.
The Lord grants favor and honor;
he does not withhold the good
from those who live with integrity.
Happy is the person who trusts in you,
Lord of Armies!
Psalm 84:11-12*

Persecution (and suffering) can't steal our joy because our joy never came from our circumstances in the first place. We are looking at God, not our surroundings. He even takes the ups and downs of life and reshapes them into a blessing that makes us more like who we were meant to be. Even when we lose, we win. Why? Because in God's kingdom there is no losing, only lessons that teach and equip us.

Day 6

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.” Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may reside in me. So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Think deeply on what Paul says: “Take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and in difficulties, for the sake of Christ” (v.10). Taking pleasure means to be happy. We are to be happy when our weaknesses are revealed, when we are insulted, when we experience hardships, persecutions, and difficulties for Christ’s sake. Why? Because in these moments, we rely on the power of Christ that resides in us. We are at our strongest when we are at our weakest.

Day 7

He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works.

Titus 2:14

God redeems us with his sin-cleansing blood, making us his own, and out of joyous new heart, we want to share and be his goodness in the world. Life on the margins requires a deeper level of understanding of the beauty of our faith, a higher commitment to be the church in the world, and a strong cultivation of discipleship. The 21st century church must go back and learn from the 1st century church so we can be a faithful church in the present, leading to a better future. By being pushed to the margins, we are being pushed closer to Jesus and his redemptive purposes for our lives.

About the Author



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