

<u>www.jacobsladderblog.com</u>

## MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST

## A spiritual kit to encourage, strengthen, and give hope in the face of the Coronavirus



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#### INTRODUCTION

The global spread of the Coronavirus has certainly shaken all of us.

It is natural to feel anxious during this uncertain time, and it is definitely wise to take practical precautions in order to minimize the risk of infection to ourselves, our loved ones, and the general population.

However, let us not resort to panic and rash decision making. Let us not allow worry and anxiety to cause us to live timidly and in fear of our lives. Fear wants us to believe the worst possible outcome; it takes delight in our obsession over every news update, social media information, and fake news snippet.

Instead, let us keep our eyes on God and dwell in the peace that He offers us through His son Jesus Christ. Let us lean on God as our source of strength and take refuge in the High Tower of His might and power. Most of all, let us be reminded that God loves us and works all things out for our good.

We hope that you enjoy this spiritual kit that we have put together for you, and that it aids you in your faith walk during this period.



## WHAT IS IN OUR SPIRITUAL KIT?

Our spiritual kit contains Bible verses, inspiring messages, prayers, clickable resource links, and book recommendations. Additionally, we have a Spotify playlist for you to listen to and suggestions as to how you can be a light to others during this time.

How you read this eBook is up to you: You can start at the beginning and read right through, or you can focus on a specific section of the eBook that satisfies your needs.

We hope that our spiritual kit provides you with comfort and reassurance that God is greater than anything of this world, including the Coronavirus. He is the Name above all Names, the Author of our Salvation, who can split the sea, make mountains move, and cause giants to fall!

When referencing Bible passages, we use the NRSV, unless otherwise specified.

God is on the throne, and He is in control. God loves us, and He will not loosen His hold on us, assuredly not!

Be blessed and stay safe!

Madeline Kalu

Co-Founder of Jacob's Ladder Blog



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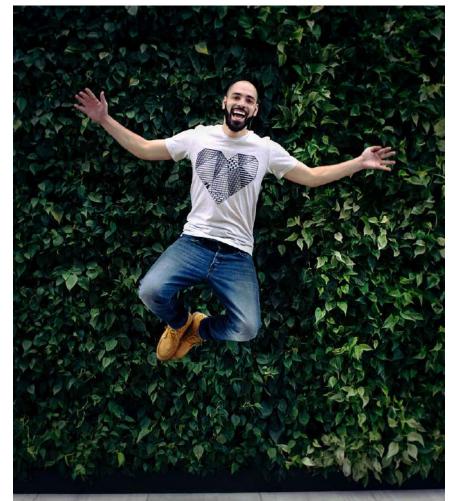
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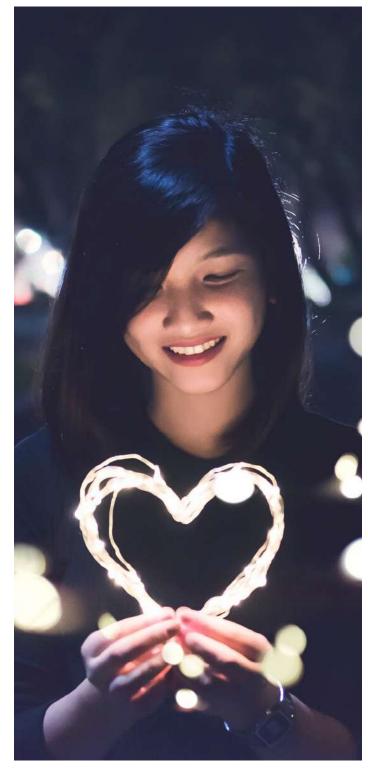


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## GOD'S PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

## GOD'S PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

In times of adversity, our immediate reaction is to feel fear. We worry about situations that are out of our control, and we become anxious about the future and the well-being of ourselves and our loved ones. This is especially the case with the Coronavirus.

However, in the Bible it states 365 times that we should not fear. That means, that God wants us to live every day of the year without fear, regardless of what is going on around us!

"You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday."

**PSALM 91:5-6 (NRSV)** 

"Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; He will not fail you or forsake you."

**DEUTERONOMY 31:6** 

"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."

**Isaiah 41:10** 

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff — they comfort me."

**PSALM 23.4** 

"I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears."

**PSALM 34:4** 

"The presence of hope in the invincible sovereignty of God drives out fear."

John Piper

"Our lives are full of supposes.

Suppose this should happen, or suppose that should happen; what could we do; how could we bear it?

But, if we are living in the high tower of the dwelling place of God, all these supposes will drop out of our lives

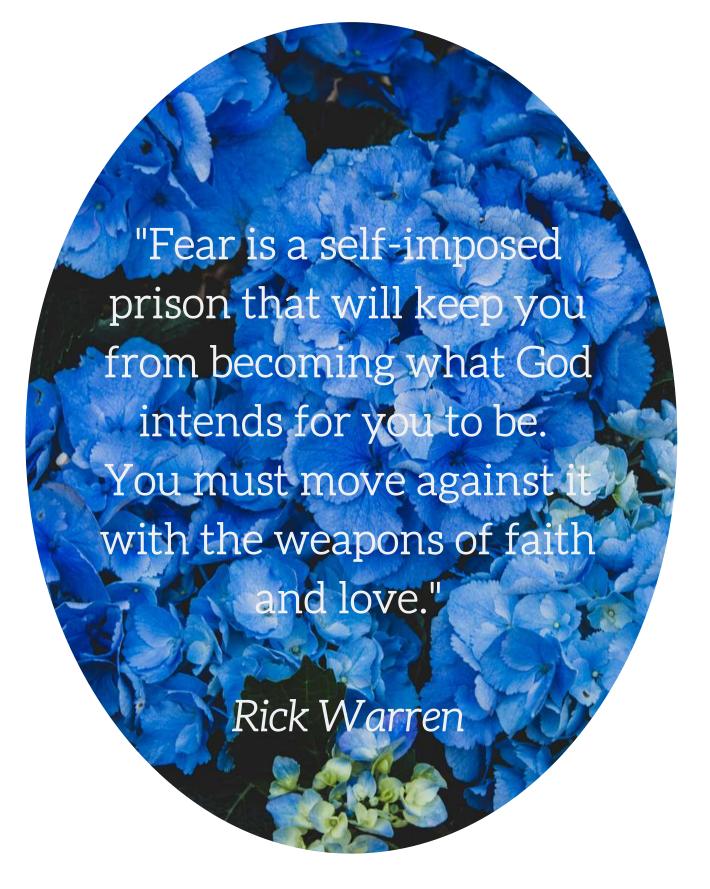
We shall be quiet from the fear of evil, for no threatenings of evil can penetrate into the high tower of God."

Hannah Whitall Smith

### GOD'S PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

**PSALM 27.1** 



"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit."

**PSALM 34:18** 

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in You."

**PSALM 56.3** 

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."

1 JOHN 4:18

'For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Do not fear, I will help you."

**ISAIAH 41:13** 

"I'm not afraid of the devil. The devil can handle me - he's got judo I never heard of.

But he can't handle the One to whom I'm joined; he can't handle the One to whom I'm united; he can't handle the One whose nature dwells in my nature."

A. W. Tozer

### PRAYER

Faithful Father,

I come to You and lay my fear and anxiety about the Coronavirus and its consequences at Your feet. It is an uncertain time for me, and I worry about my health and the health of my loved ones as well.

However, I will trust in You, and I will refuse to give in to the fear of the pestilence that stalks our earth. For I know that You are with me; You guide me through this valley and comfort me with Your staff and Your rod. You are constantly at my right hand, helping me.

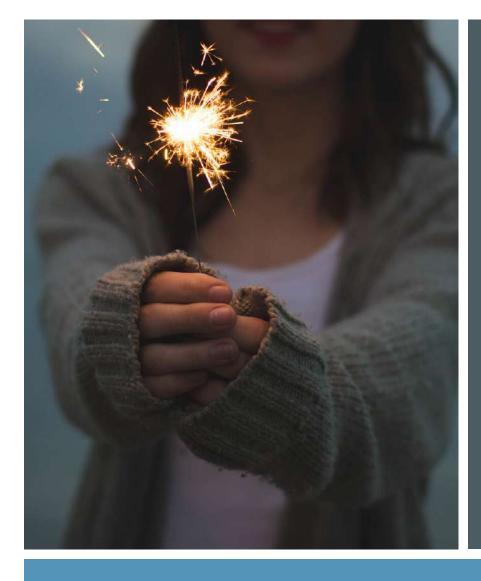
Therefore, I will step boldly in the knowledge that You will not fail me, nor will You forsake me. The presence of Your invincible sovereignty lifts my crushed spirit and heals my aching heart. You are the deliverer of my fears!

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

## DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about how God's perfect love casts out fear, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.

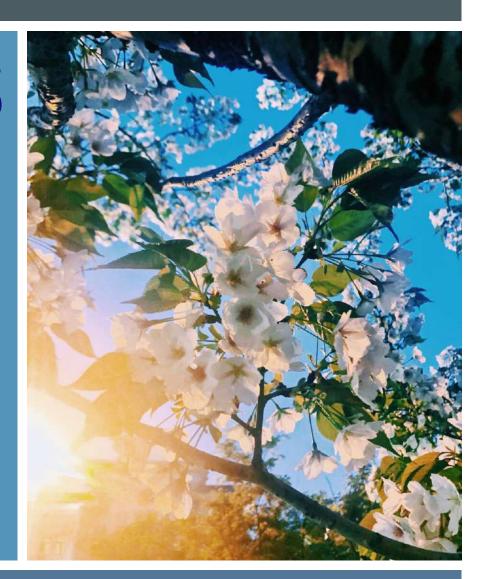


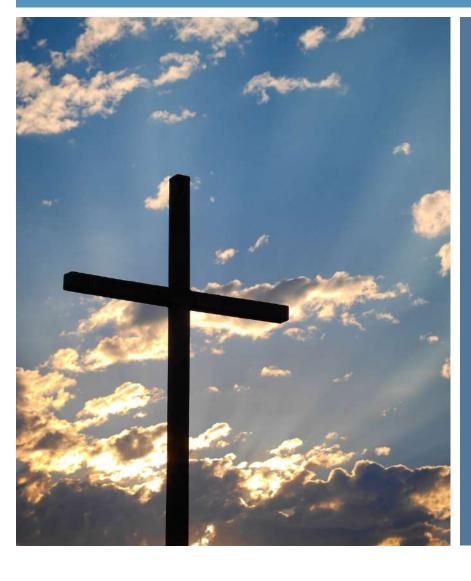
### **ARTICLES**

- <u>christianity.com</u>, 'What Does it Mean that 'Perfect Love Casts out Fear' from 1 John 4:18?", Rebecca Gordon.
- <u>desiringgod.org</u>, "Let God's Voice Cast Out Fear", Kristen Wetherell.
- <u>jacobsladderblog.com</u>, "My Strength Comes From the Joy of the Lord", Madeline Kalu.

### **BOOKS**

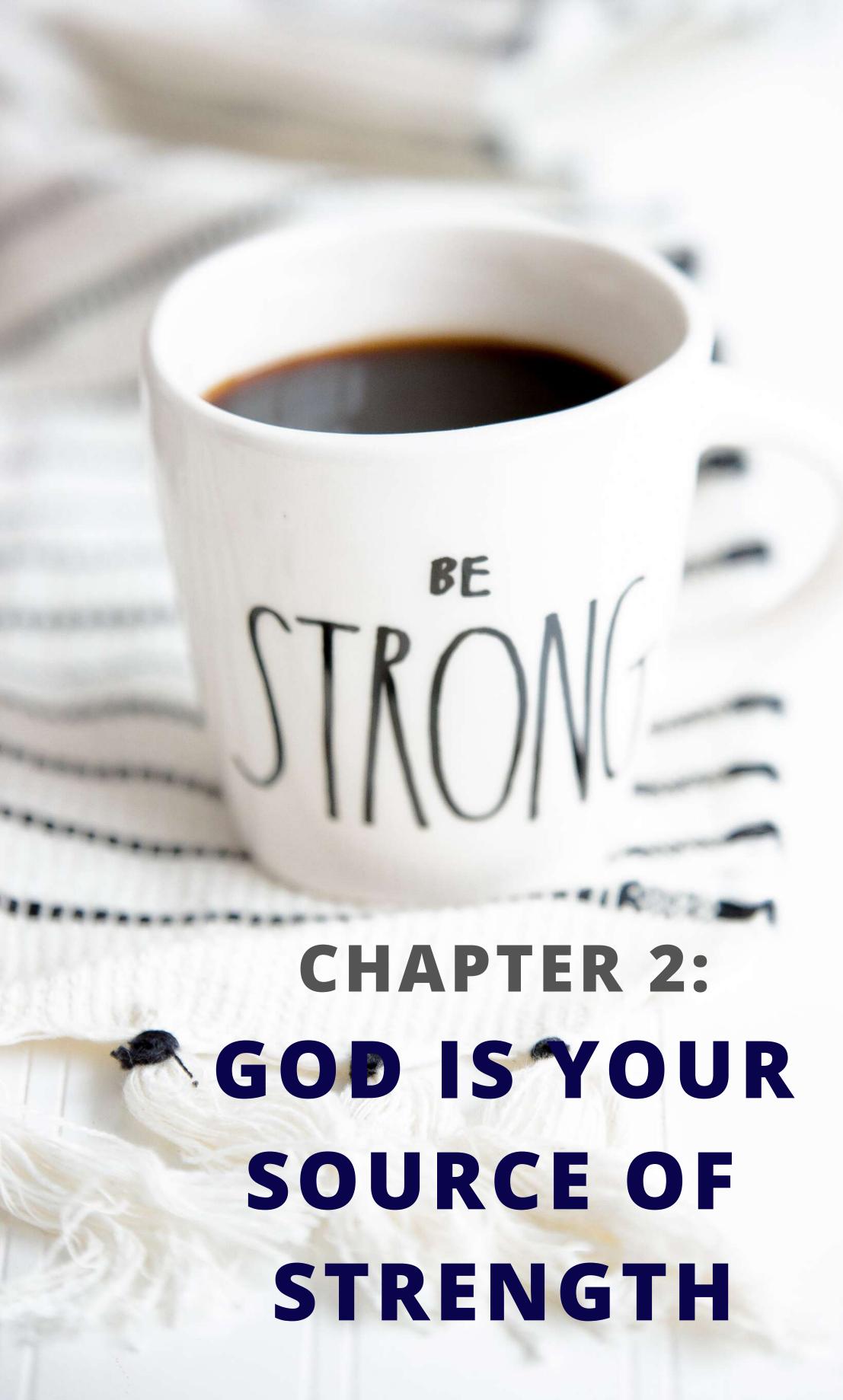
- goodreads.com, "Love Casts Out Fear: A Jihad Survivor's Journey from Revenge to Redemption", Brother Nathan, David Culross.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Fear Not: Finding Courage to Be Who God Wants You to Be", Ed Love.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God", Francis Chan.





### ONLINE SERMONS

- "Perfect Love Casts Out All Fear" Pastor Chardon Lewis
- "I'm Still Scared" Pastor Steven Furtick
- "Perfect Love Casts our Fears" Pastor Kenneth
   Copeland and Pastor Bill Winston



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## GOD IS YOUR SOURCE OF STRENGTH

God does not expect us to get through a crisis situation with our own strength. He is our strong tower, who wants us to lean on Him and trust Him to bear our burdens.

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

**PHILLIPIANS 4:13** 

"I hereby command you:
Be strong and courageous;
do not be frightened or
dismayed, for the Lord your
God is with you wherever
you go."

**JOSHUA 1:9** 

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

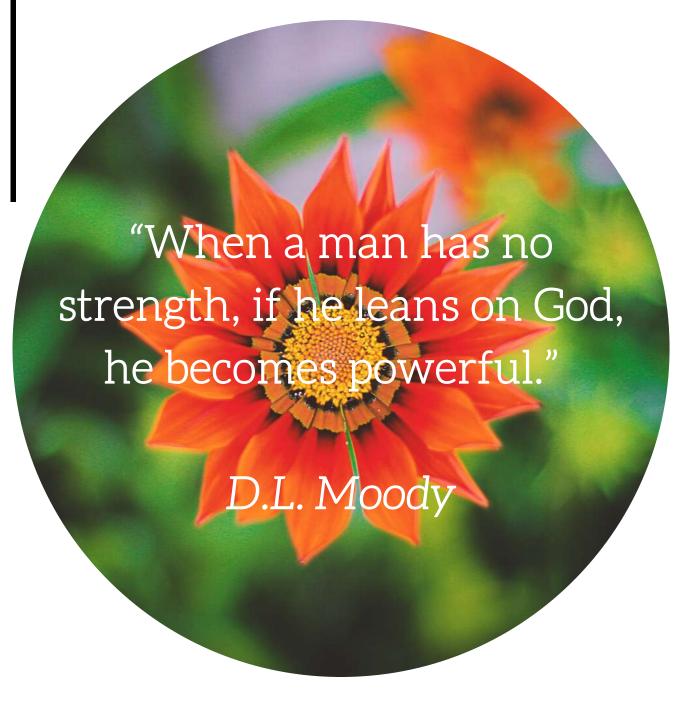
**PSALM 46:1** 

'Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Nehemiah 8:10

"But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

**ISAIAH 40:31** 



"Remember, it is not your weakness that will get in the way of God's working through you, but your delusions of strength. His strength is made perfect in our weakness! Point to His strength by being willing to admit your weakness."

Paul David Tripp

### GOD IS YOUR SOURCE OF STRENGTH

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

**ROMANS 8:37** 

"Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

**PSALM 27:14** 

"God, the Lord, is my strength;
He makes my feet like the feet
of a deer, and makes me tread
upon the heights."

HABAKKUK 3:19



"He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless."

**ISAIAH 40:29** 

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe."

**PROVERBS 18:10** 

"Seek the Lord and His strength, seek His presence continually."

1 CHRONICLES 16.11

"No one enjoys feeling weak, whether it is emotionally, spiritually or physically. There is something within the human spirit that wants to resist the thought of weakness. Many times this is nothing more than our human pride at work. Just as weakness carries a great potential for strength, pride carries an equally great potential for defeat."

Charles Stanley

### PRAYER

Almighty God,

I thank You, Lord, that Your name is a strong tower that I can run into as the world endures the outbreak of the Coronavirus.

I thank You, that You are my source of strength; You give me power when I feel faint, and You strengthen me when I feel powerless at what is happening all around me. You make my feet like the feet of a deer to help me navigate the preventative measures that are in place to hinder the spread of this virus. I can do all things through You!

Lord, during this time I will seek Your presence; I will wait on You and allow my heart to be filled with courage. For we are more than conquerors through You because You love us!

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

## DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about how God is your source of strength, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.

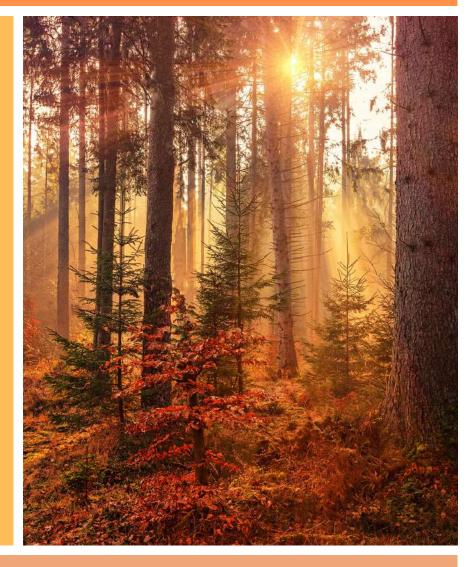


### **ARTICLES**

- <u>crosswalk.com</u>, "How to Find Strength in Tough Times", Whitney Hopler.
- <u>desiringgod.org</u>, "How to Find Strength in the Strength of God", John Piper.
- <u>jacobsladderblog.com</u>, "Lord, are You there?", Madeline Kalu.

### BOOKS

- goodreads.com, "The Source of My Strength: Relying on the life-changing power of Jesus Christ to heal our wounded hearts", Charles F. Stanley.
- goodreads.com, "Spirit Filled Words: To Awaken the Sleeping Giant", Jessica Cager.
- <u>wmpaulyoung.com</u>, "*The Shack*", Wm. Paul Young.





### ONLINE SERMONS

- "God's Got This" Pastor Joel Osteen
- "God's strength" Pastor Francis Chan
- "Trusting God in A Storm" Tony Evans Sermons

## CHAPTER 3: THE SALVE OF SPIRITUAL COMFORT



## THE SALVE OF SPIRITUAL COMFORT

Like a parent comforts their child when they are hurting, so is God our Father, who opens His arms wide for us to run into and gives us solace.

Seek comfort in God's arms during this period, and allow Him to ease your fears and trepidations about the Coronavirus and its effects on the world.

'....for He has said, "I will never (under any circumstances) desert you, (nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless), nor will I forsake or let you down, or relax my hold on you, (assuredly not)!"

**Hebrews 13:5 (AMP)** 

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

**MATTHEW 11:28** 

"When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul."

**PSALM 94:19** 

"Snuggle in God's arms.
When you are hurting,
when you feel lonely,
left out. let Him cradle
you, comfort you,
reassure you of His allsufficient power and
love."

Kay Arthur

"For His anger is but for a moment; His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning."

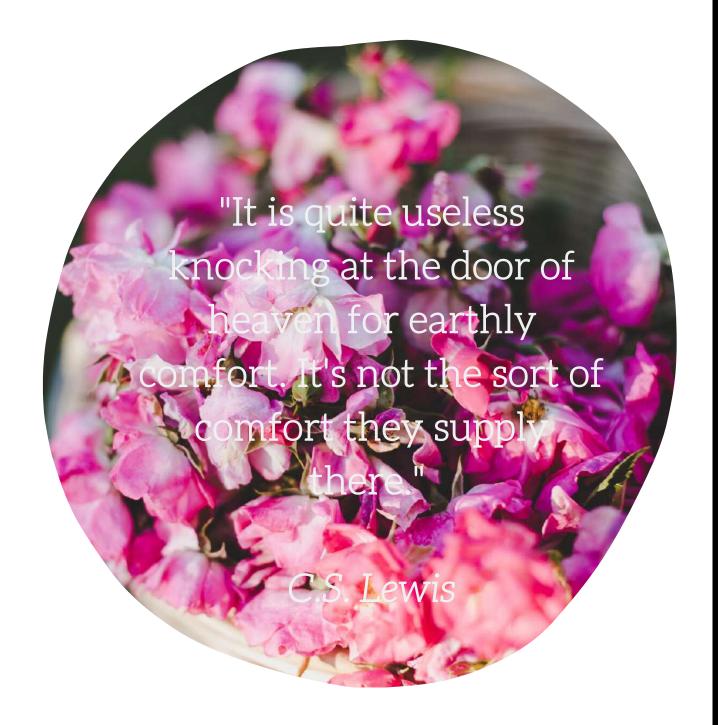
**PSALM 30:5** 

"You may readily judge whether you are a child of God or a hypocrite by seeing in what direction your soul turns in seasons of severe trial.

The hypocrite flies to the world and finds a sort of comfort there. But the child of God runs to his Father and expects consolation only from the Lord's hand."

Charles Spurgeon

## THE SALVE OF SPIRITUAL COMFORT



"The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."

**PSALM 46:7** 

"By day
the Lord commands
His steadfast love, and
at night His song is
with me, a prayer to
the God of my life."

**PSALM 42:8** 

"Let Your steadfast love become my comfort according to Your promise to Your servant."

**PSALM 119:76** 

"No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone.

God is faithful, and He will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing He will also provide the way out, so that you may be able to endure it."

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose."

**ROMANS 8:28** 

"When life caves in, you do not need reasons – you need comfort.

You do not need some answers – you need someone.

And Jesus does not come to us with an explanation – He comes to us with His presence."

Bob Benson

### PRAYER

God of my comfort, the salve to my soul,

The cares of my heart are many at the moment. I see news reports of how the Coronavirus is spreading across the world; the quarantine confinements are becoming stricter, and I become anxious that supermarket and medical supplies will run out. My heart goes out for those who have died from the virus, as well as for their loved ones, who have to come to terms with their loss amidst this global crisis.

However, Your steadfast love is my consolation; Your open arms offer refuge that I can find comfort in. In Your presence, I can rest.

Lord, I know that during this season of pestilence and uncertainty that You will not leave me to fend for myself. You will not desert me, nor will You forsake me. You will provide me with the strength to endure, as You work out all things for my good.

Sorrow and worry may last for a while, but Your joy and mercy will come with the dawn of a new day.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

## DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about how God spiritually soothes us, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.



### **ARTICLES**

- <u>christiantoday.com</u>, "*Resting in God's comfort*", Rachel Barlett.
- <a href="mailto:christiantoday.com">christiantoday.com</a>, "God Wants You in His Comfort Zone, Not Your Own", Patrick Mabilog.
- <u>crosswalk.com</u>, "9 Hopeful Truths for When God Seems Distant", Madeline Kalu.

### BOOKS

- <u>christianbook.com</u>, "*The God of All Comfort*", Hannah Whitall Smith.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Stories of Comfort for a Healthy Soul", Christine M. Anderson.
- <u>barnesandnoble.com</u>, "*God's Word is Poetry to the Soul*", Albert Ramirez.





### ONLINE SERMONS

- "It had to happen" Elevation Worship
- "The strength and comfort of the Holy Spirit" <u>Joyce Meyer</u>
- "God of all comfort" Andrew Farley Ministries



# CHAPTER 4: LIVING IN THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST



## LIVING IN THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

When trials and tribulations threaten to compromise our state of mind and rob us of our peace, remember that Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, has bequeathed His own peace to us (John 14:27).

Therefore, don't get stressed by what you see on the news about the Coronavirus, and don't panic and start emptying the supermarket shelves. Instead, live in the peace of Jesus Christ that you inherited when you gave your life to Him!

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

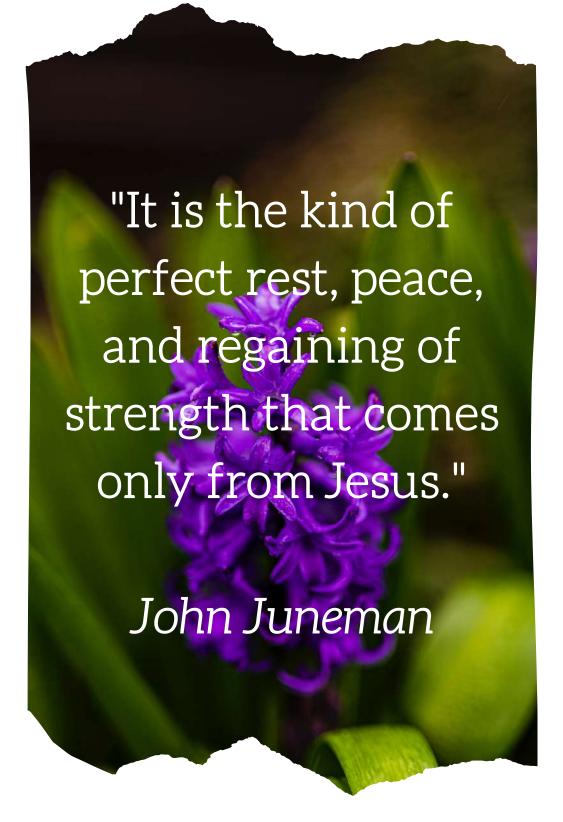
**JOHN 14:27** 

"For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation."

**PSALM 62:1** 

"For we who have believed enter that rest."

**HEBREWS 4:3** 



"Those of steadfast mind You keep in peace — in peace because they trust in You."

**ISAIAH 26:3** 

"No matter how dark things become, someone is always with you – and that someone is God. He helps by giving you peace and a positive mental attitude."

Norman Vincent Peale

## LIVING IN THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

"The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

**EXODUS 14:14** 

"A great many people are trying to make peace, but that has already been done. God has not left it for us to do; all we have to do - is to enter into it."

Dwight L. Moody

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

PHILIPPIANS 4:7

"I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"

**JOHN 16.33** 

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful."

**COLOSSIANS 3:15** 

"God can work peace through us only if He has worked peace in us... Those who are in the best of circumstances but without God can never find peace, but those in the worst of circumstances but with God need never lack peace."

John MacArthur

### PRAYER

Father God,

Thank You Lord, for bringing Your precious Son to us to bequeath to us the gift of peace.

It is during this uncertain time, where the spread of the Coronavirus has caused the world to come to a halt, that we need to access the peace that You have so readily given to us.

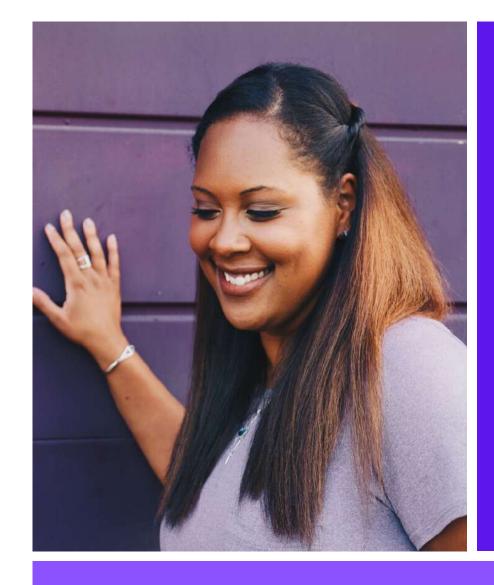
For You alone, will my soul wait in silence, Lord; as a believer in Your love and mercy will I enter into Your rest. I will let Your peace rule my heart, and I will be still while You fight for the health of the world.

Your peace will guard my mind and not allow me to resort to my own understanding of this situation. I will trust You, for You are my Father and the Author of My Salvation. I know that You will never fail me nor forsake me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

## DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about how you can live in the peace of Jesus Christ, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.



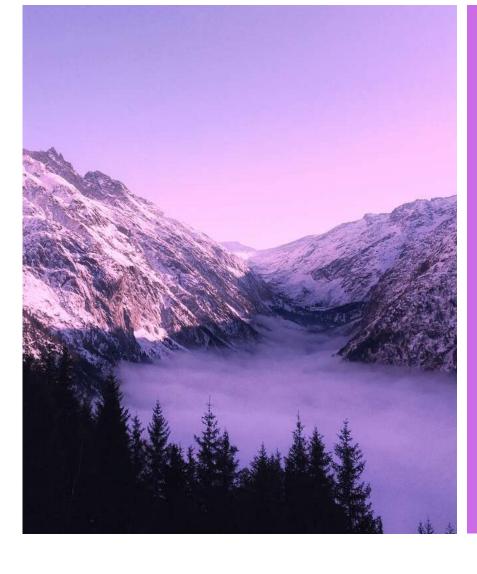
#### **ARTICLES**

- <a href="mailto:crosswalk.com">crosswalk.com</a>, "How to spread peace in a pandemic", Caroline Madison.
- <a href="mailto:christianity.com">christianity.com</a>, "3 Keys to Having Peace Today", Dave Jenkins.
- <u>jacobsladderblog.com</u>, "Why we must purposefully pursue peace", Madeline Kalu.

### BOOKS

- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Wait and See: Finding Peace in God's Pauses and Plans", Wendy Pope.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Finding Peace: God's Promise of a Life Free from Regret, Anxiety, and Fear", Dr. Charles Stanley.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Believe 365-Day Devotional: What I Believe. Who I Am Becoming", Randy and Rozanne Frazee.





### ONLINE SERMONS

- "Peace under Pressure" Pastor Mike Todd
- "Experiencing inner peace" <u>Dr. Charles</u>
   <u>Stanley</u>
- "Peace is closer than you think" <u>Pastor</u>
   <u>Carl Lentz</u>



### CHAPTER 5:

## FAITH CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS

## FAITH CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS

In Matthew 17:20, it states that all we need is faith the size of a mustard seed to move a mountain.

Faith comes by stepping out in the midst of uncertainty and placing your hope and belief in God. Faith means you are choosing to trust Him to find a way out of your circumstances, when you personally don't see a way.

If your faith is wavering at the moment, start with just a mustard seed size of trust in the goodness of God. He will honor your step of faith and move your mountains for you!

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

**HEBREWS 11:1** 

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

'For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.'

**MATTHEW 17.20** 

"So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ."

**ROMANS 10:17** 



"One often sees a call only in retrospect. This too is God's design. God often reinforces our faith after we trust Him, not before."

Ravi Zacharias

# FAITH CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS

'Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

**JOHN 11.40** 

'Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, "Be taken up and thrown into the sea," and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you.'

**MARK 11:23** 



'But He answered,
"It is written, 'One
does not live by
bread alone, but by
every word that
comes from the
mouth of God.'"

**MATTHEW 4:4** 

"But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever."

**PSALM 52:8** 

"The greater your knowledge of the goodness and grace of God on your life, the more likely you are to praise Him in the storm."

Matt Chandler

# PRAYER

Wonderful Father,

The wave of COVID-19 is spreading across the world, and my fear is growing with it; but I will counter it with my faith in You. I will take refuge in Your word and Your promises that You will never forsake us.

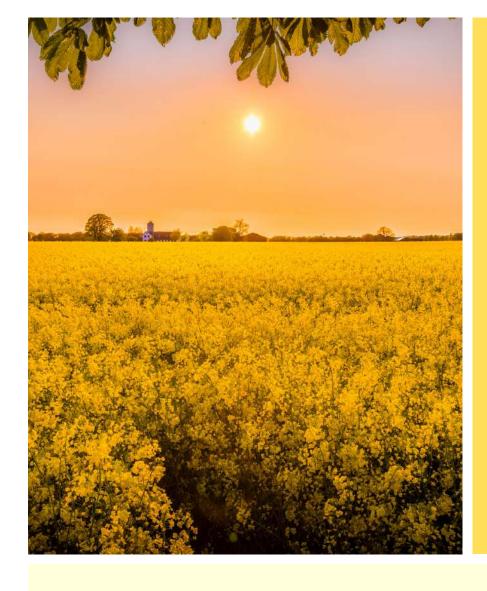
Even if my faith is as small as a mustard seed, it is all You need to move the mountains of adversity and doubt that are afflicting me. I will do my part and step out in trust; in turn, I know You will do Your part, and make possible what looks impossible by Your spirit.

I will hope with assurance for an end to this pandemic, and I will be convicted that I will see Your glory manifest through this crisis. I believe in You, and I trust in Your loving mercy!

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about how faith in God can move mountains, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.

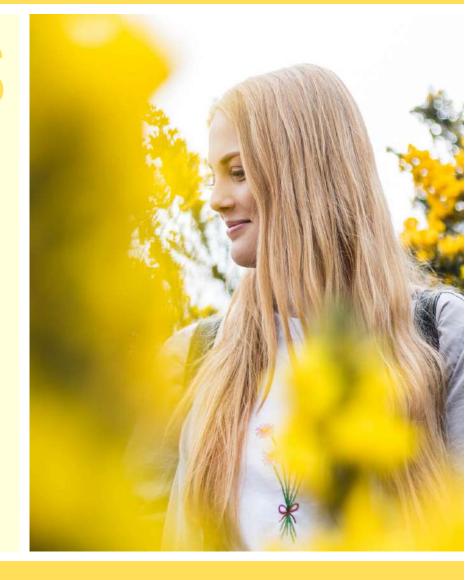


### **ARTICLES**

- <u>crosswalk.com</u>, "How Do I Walk by Faith in the Middle of Widespread Fear?", Anne Peterson.
- <u>rhema.org</u>, "Faith's Foundation", Darrell Huffman.
- <u>jacobsladderblog.com</u>, "3 ways that God is using a dry season to strengthen my faith", Madeline Kalu.

### BOOKS

- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Faith Shift: Finding Your Way Forward When Everything You Believe Is Coming Apart", Kathy Escobar.
- goodreads.com, "Heaven is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back", by Todd Burpo, Lynn Vincent.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus", Pastor Kyle Idleman.





# ONLINE SERMONS

- "Walking by Faith" Pastor Joyce Meyers
- "Victory over the virus" Paul Daugherty
- "Learn How To Replace Your Fears With Faith"
   Pastor Rick Warren

# CHAPTER 6: CREATED TO BE COURAGEOUS



# CREATED TO BE COURAGEOUS

God did not create us to live fearful, timid lives - He created us to be courageous!

Therefore, walk boldly in the face of the Coronavirus, for you are a Child of the Most High God!

"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

**JOSHUA 1:9** 



"Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me."

**MICAH 7:8** 

"For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of selfdiscipline."

**2 TIMOTHY 1.7** 

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

**PSALM 27:1** 

"The heart and soul of the Christian life is learning to hear God's voice, and then developing the courage to do what He asks us to do."

Bill Hybels

# CREATED TO BE COURAGEOUS

"Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

"Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong."

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

"Be strong and of good courage, and act. Do not be afraid or dismayed; for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished."

**1 CHRONICLES 28:20** 

"Do not ask for fears to be removed; ask for courage equal to the fears."

Jack Hyles

"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."

2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-9

"If God is for us, who is against us?"

**ROMANS 8:31** 

"God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile."

Max Lucado

# PRAYER

Almighty God,

Although the Coronavirus is sweeping across the world, and more and more stricter measures are being taken to keep it under control, I will stand firm and be courageous. I will not be afraid, neither will I be dismayed, for You are with me; Your light shines constantly on me.

You Lord, are my source of courage, You are my stronghold and my Salvation. You have not given me a spirit of fear, but of courage, strength, and a sound mind. With You for me, who can be against me?

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about how you have been created to be courageous, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.



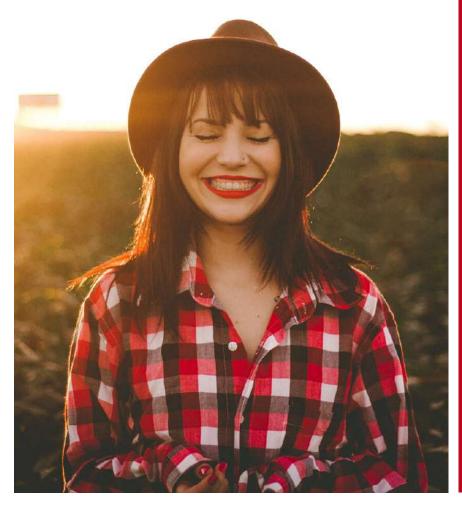
### **ARTICLES**

- <u>ymi.today</u>, "COVID-19: Calm your farm and carry on with life", Michele Ong.
- <u>desiringgod.org</u>, "What courage might Corona unleash?", Marshall Segal.
- <u>christiancourier..com</u>, "A Profile in Christian Courage", Jason Jackson.

### **BOOKS**

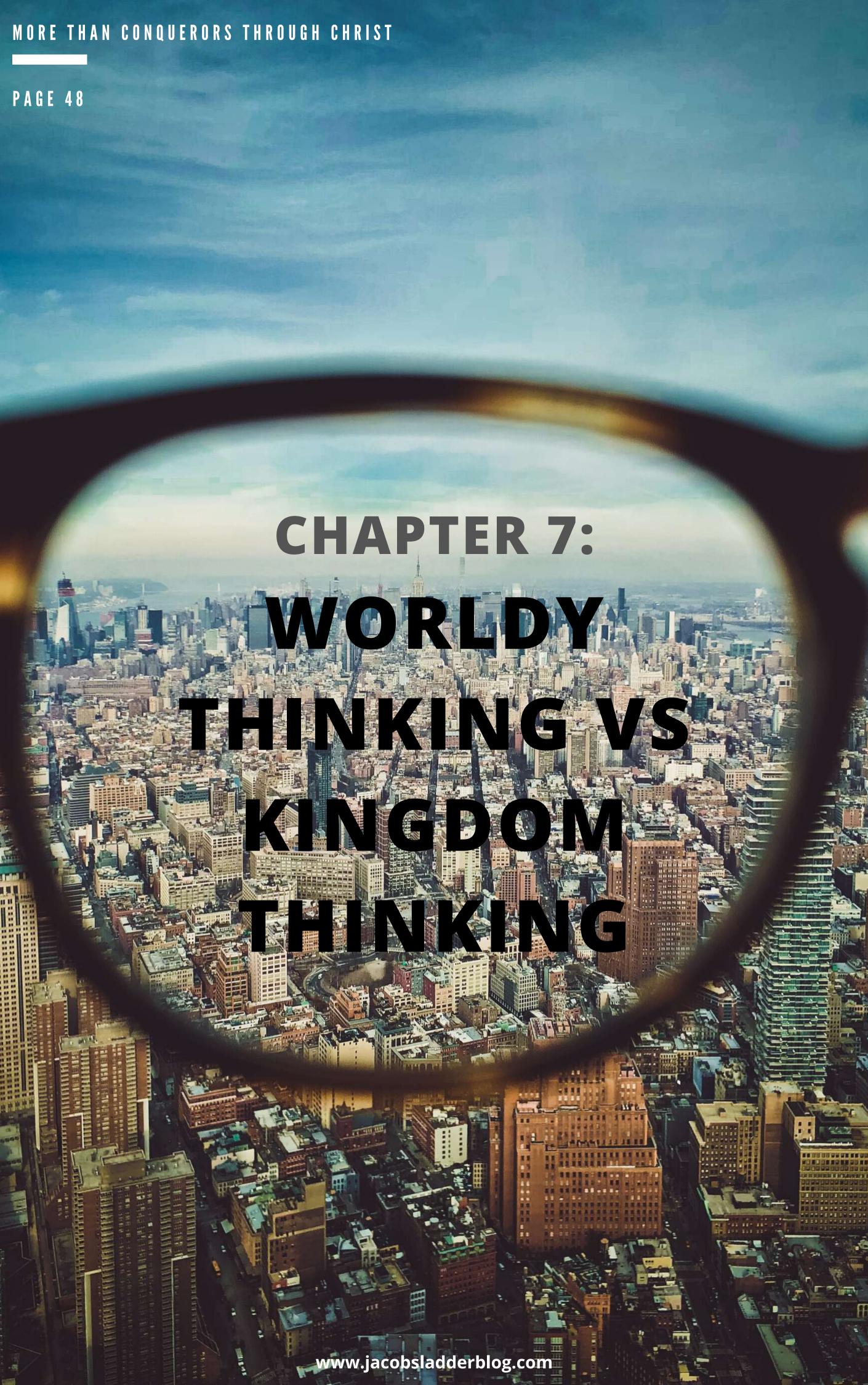
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "God's Smuggler", Brother Andrew.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Take Heart: Christian Courage in the Age of Unbelief", Matt Chandler.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "God Confidence: The Courage You Need For The Life You Want", Donna Partow.





### ONLINE SERMONS

- "How To Be Courageous Enough To Face Your Fears" - <u>Pastor Derwin Gray</u>
- "Be who God has called you to be" Pastor Priscilla Shirer
- "Courage" Bishop Jack Cunningham



### WORLDLY THINKING VS KINGDOM THINKING

The onslaught of the Coronavirus has definitely shaken the way we see the world; it has evoked a myriad of feelings in us, made us re-think our priorities, and caused us to live a life under sanctions that we have only read about in history books.

In such uncertain times, it is easy to get caught up in the disturbing news reports, scarcity, government restrictions, and human attempts to cope with the consequences of this virus.

However, those of us who trust in God, know that He is greater than this period of adversity. We believe that He will bring about an end to this pandemic in His perfect timing.

Most of all, we believe in God's goodness and unfailing mercy, regardless of how hopeless our situation looks from our human perspective.

Try and see this period of our history from the eyes of God. Do good to others, and let the love of Jesus that resides in you shine through, so that they can see the Truth. For it is the Truth that will set them free (John 8:32).

"Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

1 JOHN 4:4

"For my thoughts
are not your
thoughts, nor are
your ways my ways",
says the Lord.'

**ISAIAH 55:8** 

'Nor will they say,
"Look, here it is!" or
"There it is!"
For, in fact, the
kingdom of God is
among you.'

**LUKE 17:21** 

"And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

**JOHN 8:32** 

"Christians were never meant to be normal. We've always been holy troublemakers, we've always been creators of uncertainty, agents of dimension that's incompatible with the status quo; we do not accept the world as it is, but we insist on the world becoming the way that God wants it to be.

And the Kingdom of God is different from the patterns of this world."

Jacques Ellul

# WORLDLY THINKING VS KINGDOM THINKING

"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

**COLOSSIANS 3:2** 

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

**ECCLESIASTES 3:1** 

"There can be no
Kingdom of God in
the world without
the Kingdom of God
in our hearts."

Albert Schweitzer

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect."

**ROMANS 12.2** 

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight."

**PROVERBS 3.5** 

"For the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds."

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4

"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

**MATTHEW 18:18** 

"The only way the kingdom of God is going to be manifest in this world before Christ comes, is if we manifest it by the way we live as citizens of heaven and subjects of the King."

R. C. Sproul

# PRAYER

Lord,

The minds of men are full of confusion, fear, and doubt due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus. Many postulate that the world is coming to an end, others believe that this pandemic is a work of wrath from Your hand. Many eyes are watching for leadership from their governments, and many hearts are hoping for a breakthrough vaccine.

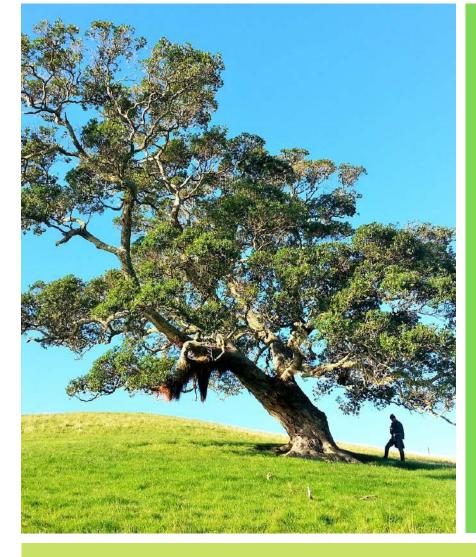
However, we who believe in You will not conform to the conjectures, uncertainty, and fears of this present situation; we will renew our minds daily to Your will, for we know that You are greater than anything of this world, including the Coronavirus.

Even this season of pestilence is a matter that comes under Heaven, and You will deal with it through Your divine power and weapons of spiritual warfare. Until then, we will remember that Your kingdom resides in us, and we will do our best to spread Your message of light and love to the rest of the world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about Kingdom thinking, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.

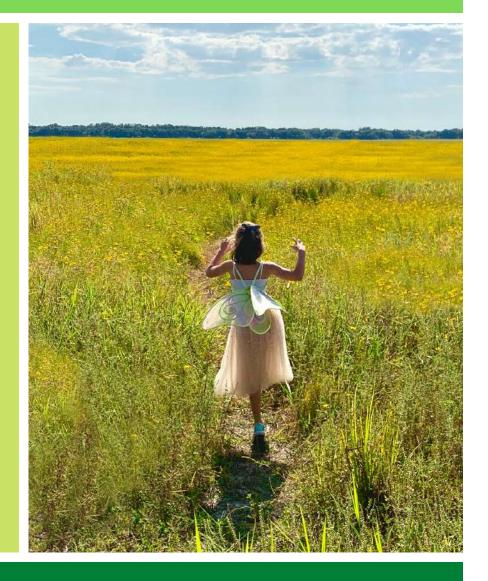


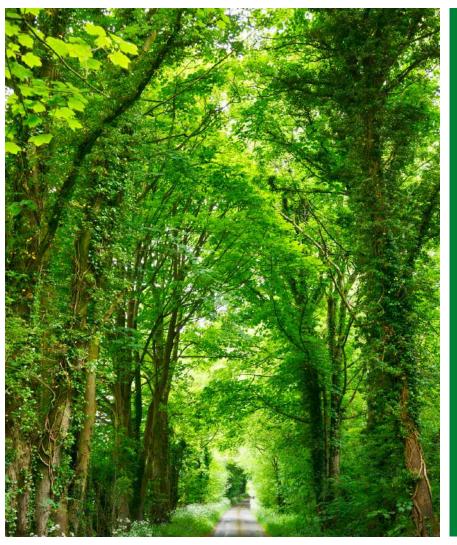
### **ARTICLES**

- <u>thefederalist.com</u>, "How Christians Can Respond To A World Anxious About Wuhan Coronavirus", Daniel Torkelson.
- <u>thegospelcoalition.org</u>, "Should Christians Be Anxious About the Coronavirus?", Todd Wagner.
- <u>thegospelcoalition.org</u>, "Coronavirus, Christians, and a Christ-Centered Response", Ed Stetzer.

# BOOKS

- <u>bookdepository.com</u>, "Living as a Christian: Teachings from First Peter", A.W. Tozer.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "*Revolutionary Kingdom*", Pastor Mike Slaughter.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "The Battlefield of the Mind Winning the Battle in Your Mind", Pastor Joyce Meyers.





# ONLINE SERMONS

- "Christ and the Coronavirus" Bishop T.D. Jakes
- "What On Earth Is Going On?" Pastor Tony Evans and family
- "Living Kingdom" Bill Johnson



www.jacobsladderblog.com

# GOD PROMISES TO PROTECT YOU

The spead of COVID-19 has caused many of us to grasp defensive measures in an attempt to protect ourselves and our loved ones. Seeing people walk around outside with face masks and disposable gloves is not an uncommon sight at the moment.

It is definitely wise to take precautionary measures during this time, such as washing our hands thoroughly, disinfecting household surfaces, and practicing social distancing.

However, the only true protection we can receive comes from God.

In His Word, we can read many promises God makes to protect us in times of adversity.

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and your staff they comfort me."

**PSALM 23:4** 

"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not fail you or forsake you.

Do not fear or be dismayed."

**DEUTERONOMY 31:8** 

"For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble; He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will set me high on a rock."

**PSALM 27:5** 

"Safety comes in our nearness to God, not in our distance from our enemies."

Dillon Burroughs

"The safest place in all the world is in the will of God, and the safest protection in all the world is the name of God."

Warren Wiersbe



# GOD PROMISES TO PROTECT YOU

"Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them."

2 KINGS 6:16

"If God is for us, who is against us?"

**ROMANS 8:31** 

'David said, "The Lord,"
who saved me from the
paw of the lion and
from the paw of the
bear, will save me from
the hand of this
Philistine."

1 SAMUEL 17:37

"God's canopy is over you and will cover you at all times, preserving you from evil."

Smith Wigglesworth

"But surely, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life."

**PSALM 54:4** 

"The Lord is good, a stronghold in a day of trouble; He protects those who take refuge in Him."

**NAHUM 1:7** 

"Guard me as the apple of the eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings."

**PSALM 17:8** 

"Hide yourself in God, so when a man wants to find you, he will have to go there first."

Shannon L. Alder



# GOD PROMISES TO PROTECT YOU

Psalm 91 is a clear assurance of God's promise to protect us and keep us from harm.

For that reason, we feel it is imperative to display this psalm in its entirety.

1 You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

2 will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

3 For He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence;

4 He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

5 You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day,

6 or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

8 You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,

10 no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

11 For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

12 On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

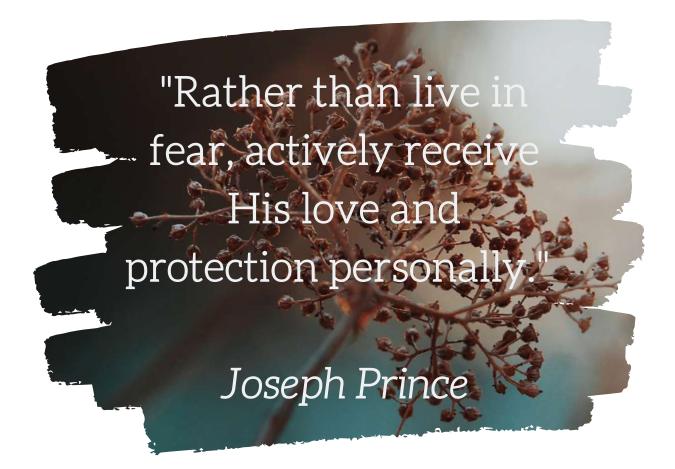
13 You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

14 Those who love Me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know My name.

15 When they call to Me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.

16 With long life I will satisfy them, and show them My salvation.

PSALM 91



# PRAYER

God, my great defender and protector,

I will not allow myself to feel vulnerable to the possibility of infection of COVID-19, nor will I fear the economic consequences of this pandemic.

Instead, I will live in the shadow of Your wings, for You protect me with Your pinions. Under Your shelter, my mind, my health, my family, and my finances will remain fixed and stable.

I will look back to the many times that You have come to my aid and protection in the past; they will fortify my belief that You will keep myself and my loved ones safe during this current crisis.

For You are my helper, and the upholder of my life. When You are for us, no pestilence can be against us!

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about God's promises of protection, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.



### **ARTICLES**

- <u>josephprince.com</u>, "Walk in God's protection today", Team Joseph Prince.
- <u>desiringgod.org</u>, "What If Evil Does Befall Me?", Vaneetha Rendall Risn<u>er</u>.
- <u>biblestudytools.com</u>, "How Psalm 91 Speaks to Your Coronavirus Fears", Lianna Davis.

# BOOKS

- <u>amazon.com</u>, "*Psalm 91: God's Umbrella of Protection*", Peggy Joyce Ruth.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "None of These Diseases: A Reassuring Faith in God's Protection, plus Prayers to Walk in Divine Health", Daniel C. Okpara.
- <u>amazon.com, "The Hiding Place</u>", Corrie Ten Boom.





# ONLINE SERMONS

- "When God says stop" Pastor Steven Furtick
- "God's protection in troubled times (Coronavirus)" Pastor Bill Winston
- "Divine protection The power of the Blood"
   Encounter TV

# GOD LOVES YOU!



### **GOD LOVES YOU!**

God loves you - yes you!

He loves you so much that the Bible says He knows how many hairs you have on your head (Matthew 10:30).

God cares about your feelings, your fears, and your situation during this season of sickness, economic uncertainty, and quarantine. He will not fail you, nor will He forsake you!

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**ROMANS** 8:38-39

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him."

**PSALM 34:8** 

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows."

**MATTHEW 10:29-31** 

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

**JOHN 3:16** 



# "Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not."

C.S. Lewis

### **GOD LOVES YOU!**

"For surely I know
the plans I have
for you," says
the Lord, "plans
for your welfare
and not for harm,
to give you a
future with hope."

### **JEREMIAH 29:11**



"Record my misery; list my tears on Your scroll — are they not in Your record?"

**PSALM 56:8 (NIV)** 

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

**Lamentations 3:22-23** 

"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken, nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you.'

**ISAIAH 54:10** 

"Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love."

1 JOHN 4.8

"God waits for you to communicate with Him. You have instant, direct access to God. God loves mankind so much - and in a very special sense His children – that He has made Himself available to you at all times."

Wesley L. Duewel

# **PRAYER**

Loving Father,

Though the world is shaken to its core by the Coronavirus pandemic that is sweeping across the globe, I will believe in Your unfailing love for me, Your compassion for humanity, and Your covernant of hope and Salvation.

I know that I am so important to You, that You count the number of hairs on my head, and that You record every teardrop that falls from my eyes.

Father, despite this current crisis, I believe You have a good plan for my life and for the lives of my loved ones.

Your steadfast love never ceases, Your mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. I will continue to trust and rely on your faithfulness, for You are the epitome of love.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

# DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about how much God loves you, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.



### ARTICLES

- <u>crosswalk.com</u>, "How Can I Trust a God Who Is Allowing Coronavirus?", Anne Peterson.
- <u>christianpost.com</u>, "The Truth About God's Love", Joyce Meyers.
- <u>godisreal.today,</u> "God's love for us", David Sorensen.

# BOOKS

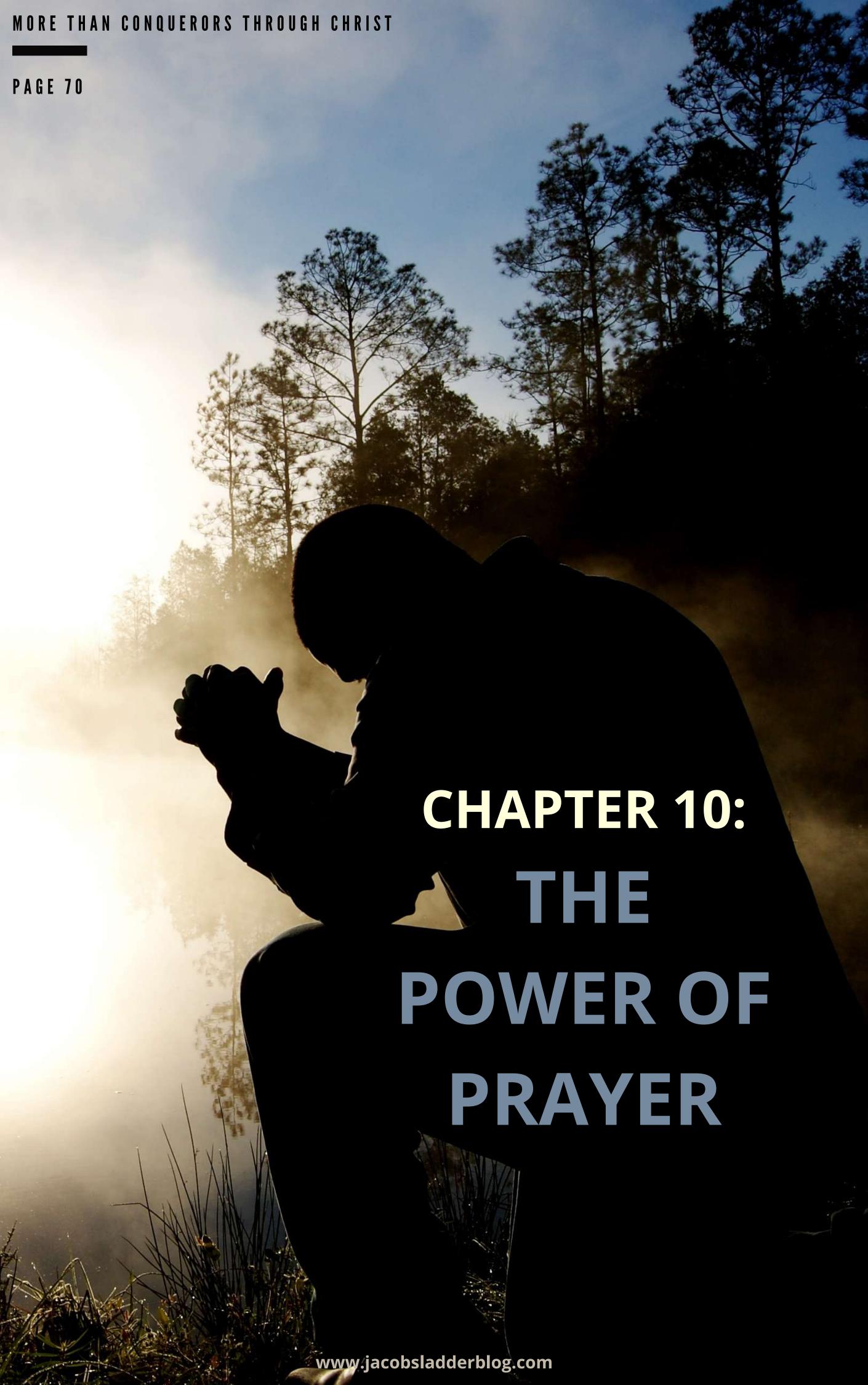
- <u>goodreads.com</u>, "Love Beyond Reason: Moving God's Love from Your Head to Your Heart", John Ortberg.
- <u>goodreads.com</u>, "Messy Spirituality: God's Annoying Love for Imperfect People", Michael Yaconelli.
- <u>goodreads.com</u>, "A Heart Like His: Making Space for God's Love in Your Life", Virginia H. Pearce.





### **ONLINE SERMONS**

- "Understanding God's Love" <u>Pastor Tony</u>
   <u>Evans</u>
- "Does God Love Me?" Sadie Robertson
- "God Loves You (Right Now)" Pastor
   Steven Furtick



# THE POWER OF PRAYER

Prayer is not only a means of communicating with God; it is a weapon that activates movement in the spiritual realm to demolish strongholds and break chains of adversity and spiritual containment.

The Bible urges us to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). God doesn't require long, verbose soliloquies from us; instead, God prefers that we approach Him out of a humble desire to seek His presence.

"O Lord, in the morning You hear my voice; in the morning I plead my case to You, and watch."

**PSALM 5:3** 

"Pray without ceasing."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."

**MATTHEW 7:7** 

"Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.

To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints."

**EPHESIANS 6:18** 

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

**PHILLIPIANS 4:6** 

"Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly Christian weapon."

Martin Luther

"If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me."

Robert Murray McCheyn

# THE POWER OF PRAYER

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."

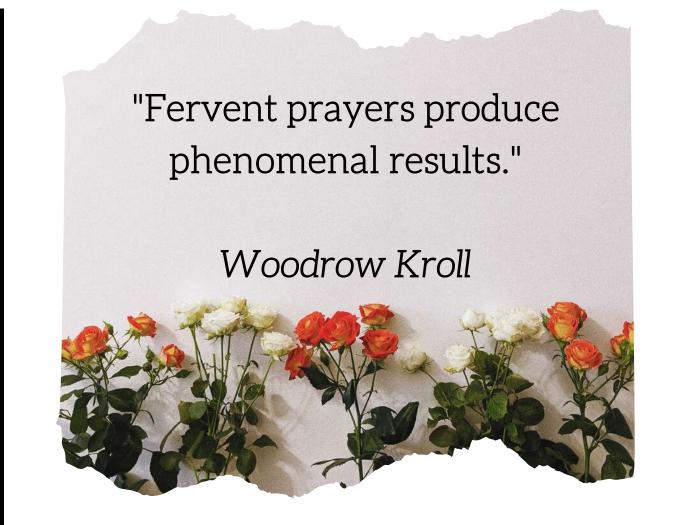
**JAMES 5:16** 

"So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

**MARK 11:24** 

"From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I."

**PSALM 61:2** 



"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

1 PETER 5:7

"I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears."

**PSALM 34:4** 

"Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me."

**PSALM 66:20** 

"There may be times
when you are the only
person on earth
praying for someone
else – and your
intercession can change
that person's entire life."

Joyce Meyers

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer (also called "Our Father") in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4, was an integral part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. It is a prayer model that Jesus gives us to guide us on how we should pray.

The Lord's Prayer is a beautiful and poignant petition of the depth of God's love for us, His provision, His forgiveness, as well as His will for our lives and His plan for the Kingdom of Heaven to reside on earth.



9 "Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one."

**MATTHEW 6:9-13** 



### PRAYER

Loving Father, my refuge, and my source of help,

Thank You, that You hear my pleading and my prayers, and that You give ears to my words.

The current COVID-19 pandemic brings with it a heavy burden on my shoulders. I worry about my health and the health of my loved ones and friends. I am anxious about my financial situation and the state of the economy. Being in self-isolation is unfamiliar to me, and this change from my regular routine is unsettling.

However, I know that You don't want me to deal with my troubles on my own. I know that I can cast all of my cares on You through prayer and petition. You are a good and faithful Father, who will answer my prayers and take away my fears. Thank You, Lord, for Your great and mighty hand!

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about the power of prayer, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.



#### ARTICLES

- <u>crosswalk.com</u>, "10 Powerful Prayers for Everyone Affected by the COVID-19 Crisis", Beth Ann Baus.
- <u>crosswalk.com</u>, "6 Uplifting Prayers in the Face of Job Loss and Financial Crisis due to COVID-19", Heather Riggleman.
- <u>churchofengland.org</u>, "*Coronavirus (COVID-19) liturgy and prayer resources*", The Church of England.

#### BOOKS

- <u>amazon.com</u>, "*Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*", Timothy Keller.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Moving Mountains: Praying with Passion, Confidence, and Authority", John Eldredge.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World", Paul E. Miller.





#### ONLINE SERMONS

- "20 Inches to Mercy (If My People Pray)" Pastor Louie Giglio
- "Prayer is powerful: Make me bold" -Pastor Craig Groeschel
- "Invite God into your difficulties" <u>Pastor</u>
   <u>Joel Osteen</u>

# CHAPTER 11: GOD IS ALMIGHTY AND POWERFUL



# GOD IS ALMIGHTY AND POWERFUL

God is the Maker of Heaven and Earth, the Creator of all life, and the Author of our Salvation.

No adversity, tribulation, or pestilience is too great for God to conquer - not even the Coronavirus!

God is almighty and powerful in His omnipotence. There is none like Him!

"I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"

**JOHN 16:33** 

"For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

**Matthew 19:26** 

"What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?"

**ROMANS 8:31** 

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

GENESIS 1:1 (NIV)



"Now to Him, who by the power at work within us, is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine..."

**EPHESIANS 3:20** 

"Nothing on earth compares to the strength God is willing to interject into lives caught in the act of believing."

Beth Moore

# GOD IS ALMIGHTY AND POWERFUL

"There's only one power in the world great enough to help us rise above the difficult things we face: the power of God."

Stormie Omartian

'Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds! Because of Your great power, Your enemies cringe before You."

**PSALM 66:3** 

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit," says the Lord of hosts.'

**ZECHARIAH 4:6** 

"— in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist."

**ROMANS 4:17** 

"Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is Yours;
Yours is the kingdom,
O Lord, and You are exalted as head above all."

1 CHRONICLES 29:11

"I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

**PSALM 121:1-2** 

"But the power of God cannot be so determined and measured, for it is uncircumscribed and immeasurable, beyond and above all that is or may be. On the other hand, it must be essentially present at all places, even in the tiniest tree leaf."

Martin Luther

## PRAYER

Almighty God,

I bow down in reverence in Your holy presence; Father, I fall on my knees in awe of Your might and power.

For You are the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, You are the Great "I Am", the Alpha and Omega.

Everything in Heaven and on Earth belongs to You: The mountains move at your command, the seas part at Your will, and all living creatures breathe at the sound of Your voice.

The troubles that the world is enduring through the effects of the Coronavirus are overwhelming, but I know that You have overcome the world. For You are above affliction, pestilence, and adversity. Nothing is impossible with You!

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about the Almighty power of God, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.



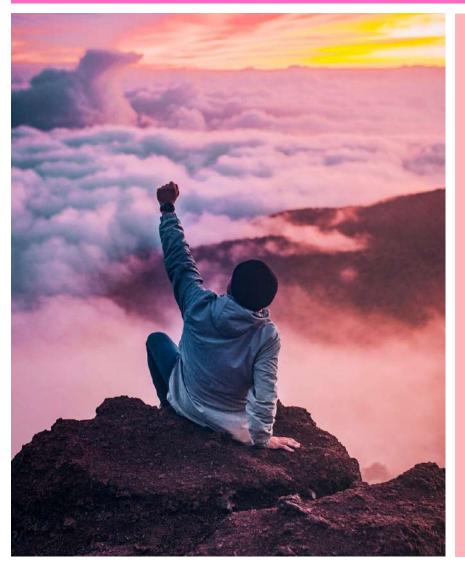
#### **ARTICLES**

- <u>activechristianity.org</u>, "The exceeding greatness of God's power!", Janne Epland.
- godisreal.today, "The power of God", David Sorensen.
- <u>crosswalk.com</u>, "*If God Can Stop This Pandemic Why Doesn't He?*", Stephanie Englehart.

#### BOOKS

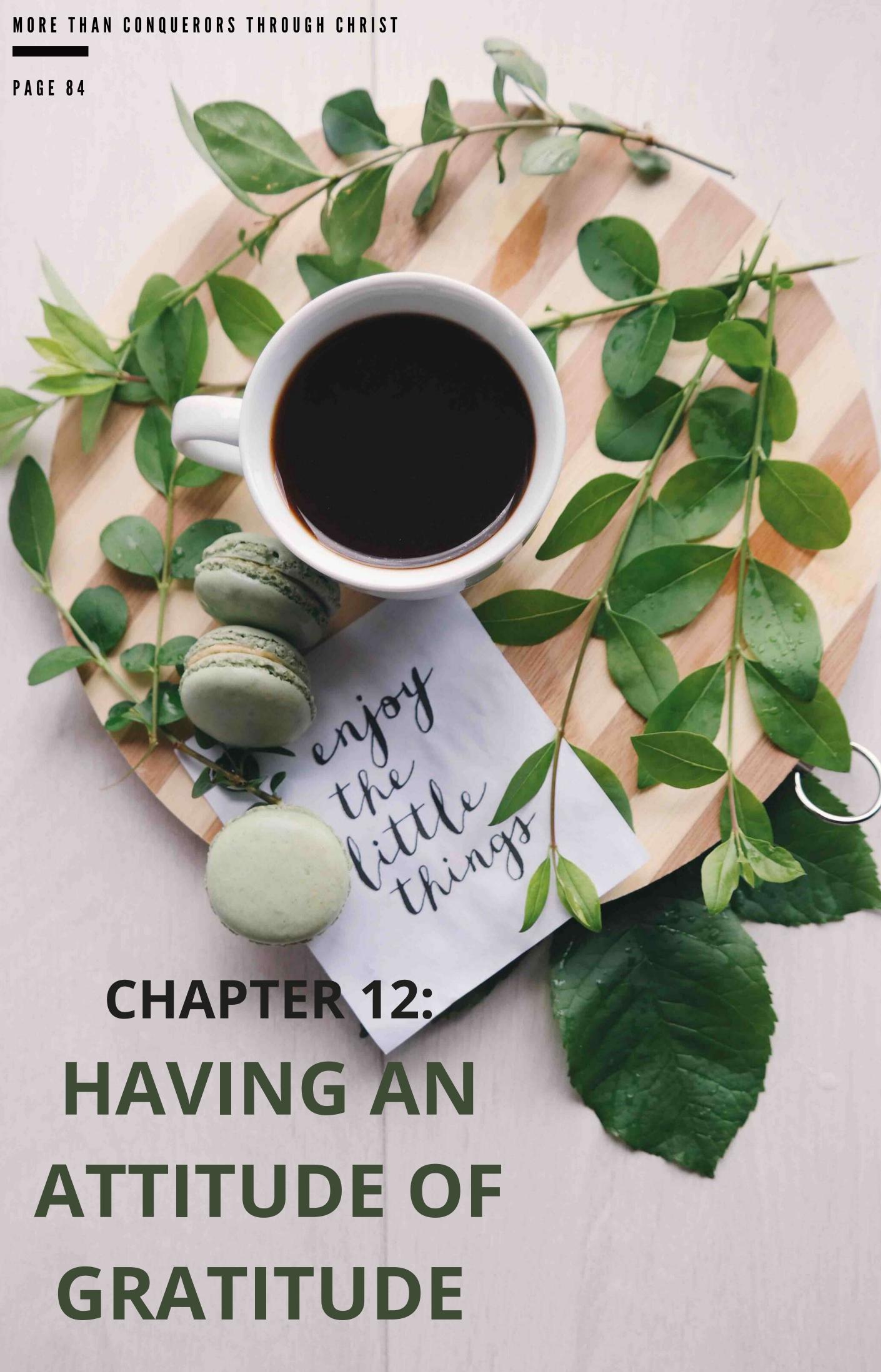
- amazon.com, "God's Power for Your Life: How the Holy Spirit Transforms You Through God's Word", A.W. Tozer.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Unleashing God's Power in You (The Bondage Breaker Series)", Neil T. Anderson.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "How to Walk in the Supernatural Power of God", Guillermo Maldonado.





#### **ONLINE SERMONS**

- "Trusting God in A Storm" Pastor Tony
   Evans
- "The Power and Promise of Gods Word
   Sermon" <u>Joyce Meyer</u>
- "God always wins" Grace for Purpose



# HAVING AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Choosing to focus on the blessings that God has given you, e.g. your family, your spouse, your family, your home - will allow you to live a peaceful life in the knowledge that God is good, and that He is with you during this time of sickness and uncertainty.

Being grateful is something that we have to consciously choose to do, as it means looking beyond our immediate circumstances and deliberately deciding to see the positive in an otherwise bleak situation. For that reason, we should constantly practise having an attitude of gratitude!

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:18** 

"I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are Your works; that I know very well."

**PSALM 139:14** 

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your wonderful deeds."

**PSALM 9:1** 



"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

**PSALM 118:24** 

To be always in a thankful state of heart before God is not to be considered a high plane of spirituality, but rather the normal attitude of one who believes that "all things work together for good to them that love God, who are called according to His purpose."

William Law

## HAVING AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

"O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever!"

**PSALM 118:1** 

"Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer, but richer, for having made it."

A. W. Tozer

"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen!"

**ROMANS 11.36** 

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful."

**COLOSSIANS 3:15** 

"I will give to the Lord the thanks due to His righteousness, and sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High."

**PSALM 7:17** 

'If we comprehend what Christ has done for us, then surely out of gratitude we will strive to live "worthy" of such great love.

We will strive for holiness, not to make God love us, but because He already does.'

Phillips Brooks

#### KEEP A GRATITUDE JOURNAL

Keeping a gratitude journal, where you record all the good things that God is doing in your life, is a very powerful tool for a Christian.

Not only does a gratitude journal act as a reminder of what God has previously done for you; reading over God's past victories and blessings over you provides encouragement and empowerment in times of trouble.

As a friend once described it, writing down what you are grateful for is akin to giving a deposit in the bank; every time you are feeling worried or overwhelmed, you can read over your previous entries and gain encouragement from all the times God has helped you in the past.

By doing so, you make a spiritual "withdrawal", that will fortify your faith that God will help you in your current situation.

All you need to start keeping a gratitude journal is an empty exercise book and a pen. Alternatively, you can keep a digital journal, or invest in a printed bound journal.

Take 5-10 minutes daily to jot down everything good that has happened to you during the course of your day, no matter how trivial. Meditate upon what you write, and acknowledge that it is God who was responsible for these good things happening in your day, and not you or your own works.

## GRATITUDE JOURNAL RESOURCES:

The following are a list of bound and online journals that we found.

Just click on the links to get directed to the corresponding websites.

#### **BOUND JOURNALS**

- "Simply Thankful Gratitude

  Journal" by GingerLark Studio
- "Gratitude: An Inspirational
   Journal" by DaySpring

#### **DIGITAL JOURNALS**

- gratefulness.org, "Private Gratitude Journal"
  Note: All online entries are for private viewing only
- welovegratitude.com, "We Love Gratitude - Online Gratitude Journal" Note: This is a public online forum

You can also encourage your children to keep a gratitude journal:

 "The 3 Minute Gratitude Journal for Kids: A Journal to Teach
 Children to Practice Gratitude
 and Mindfulness" by Modern Kid
 Press



### PRAYER

Gracious Father,

The world is going through a tough time, and as a consequence, so am l.

And yet, I will give thanks to You with my whole heart, for I know that I have so much to be grateful for.

This pandemic is teaching me to show my thanks to You every day, in every situation – good or bad.

From now on, I am going to wake up every morning and thank You that I am alive another day; I am going to sing songs of praise to You for providing for myself and my family, for protecting us, and showing us Your grace and mercy daily.

Wonderful are Your works, Lord, and I will enrich my faith walk in telling all of Your mighty deeds!

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about having an attitude of gratitude, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.

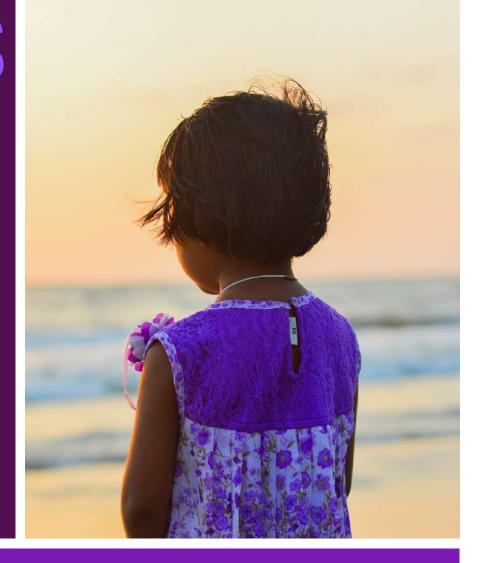


#### **ARTICLES**

- <u>relevantmagazine.com</u>, "Why Gratitude Is a Spiritual Discipline", Eric Demeter.
- <u>familylife.com</u>, "*Gratitude is a Choice*", Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth.
- <u>christianitytoday.com</u>, "A Grateful People", Bonnie McMaken.

#### BOOKS

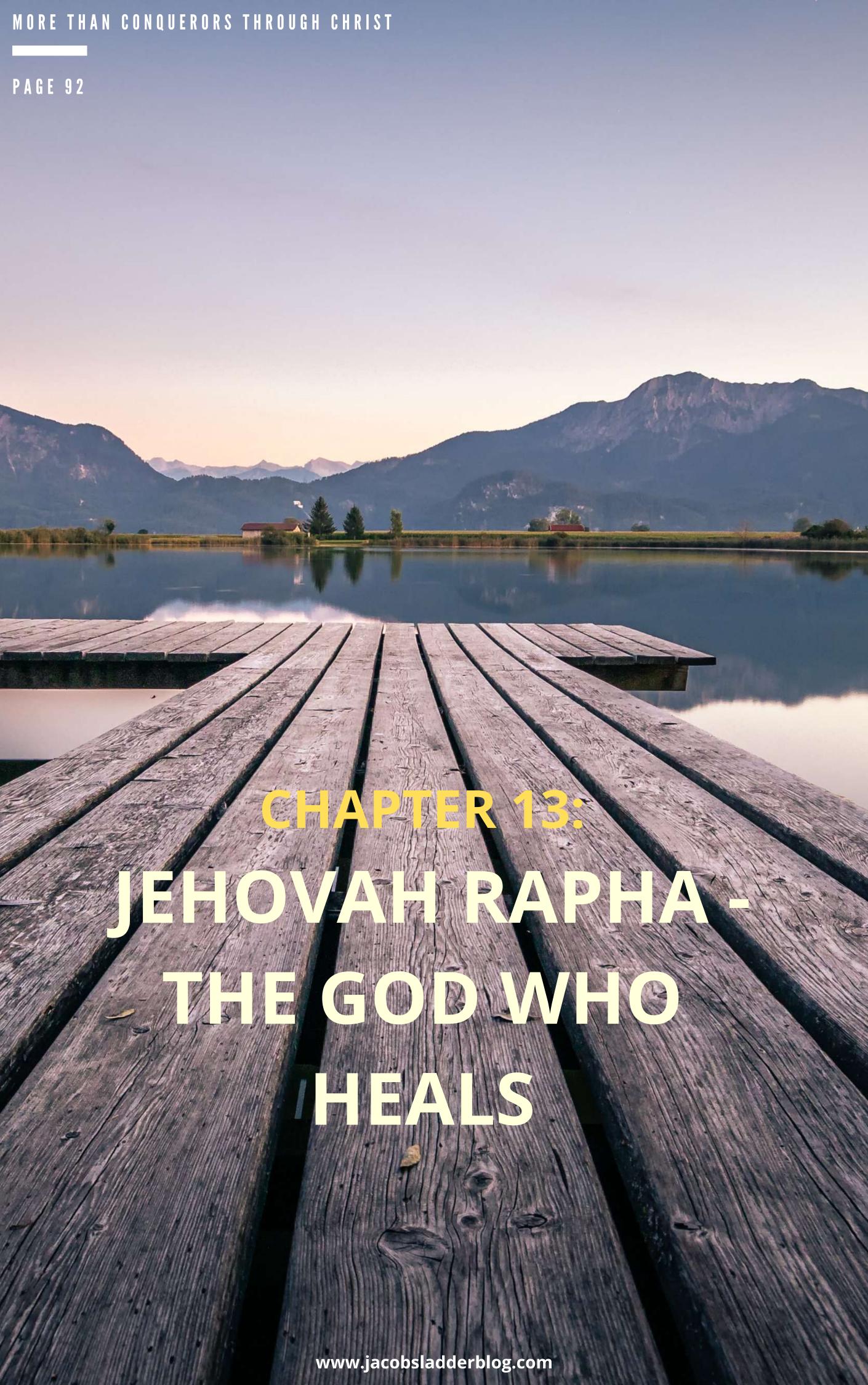
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "He Heard Me", Brenda Vargas.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are", Ann Vosskamp.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Choosing Gratitude: Your Journey to Joy", Nancy Leigh DeMoss.





#### **ONLINE SERMONS**

- "To Hell and Back: The Gratitude Effect" Pastor Rich Wilkerson Jr.
- "Thanksgiving Every Day" <u>Dr. Charles Stanley</u>
- 'How To Thank God "Even Though" <u>Pastor</u> <u>Steven Furtick</u>



#### JEHOVAH RAPHA -THE GOD WHO HEALS

During this pandemic, millions of people have become ill from the Coronavirus. Maybe one of those many people is someone you know, or even yourself.

Maybe the sickness you are dealing with has nothing to do with the Coronavirus, but it is something that you have been battling with for some time now.

One of the many names of God is Jehovah Rapha, which means "The God who heals" (Exodus 15:26).

God promises to heal us from sickness and other maladies. His timing may be different than ours, but it is always perfect.

"O Lord my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me."

**PSALM 30:2** 

'This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."

Matthew 8:17

"For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal," says the Lord.'

**JEREMIAH 30:17** 

"I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord!"

**PSALM 118:17** 

"I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; indeed, I will heal you."

2 KINGS 20:5

"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds, in a believer's ear! It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear."

John Newton

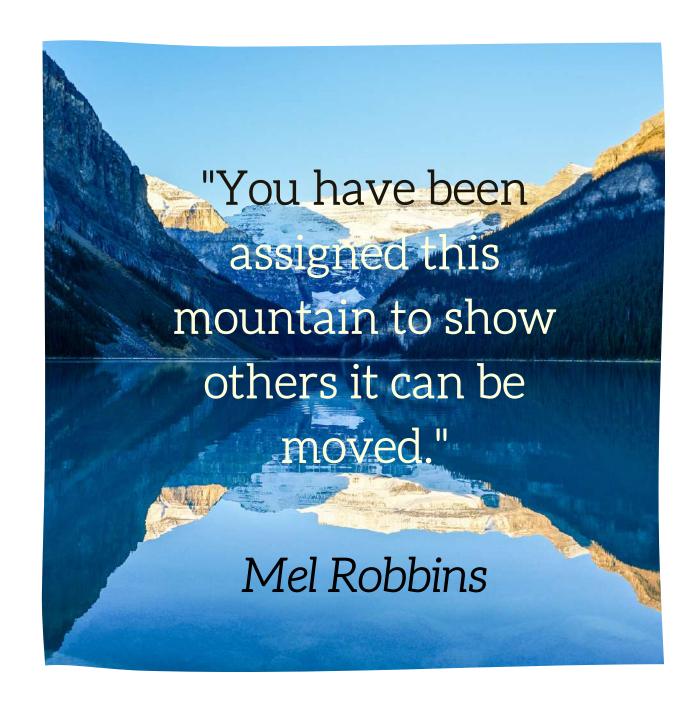
"Christ is the Good Physician. There is no disease He cannot heal; no sin He cannot remove; no trouble He cannot help. He is the Balm of Gilead, the Great Physician, who has never yet failed to heal all the spiritual maladies of every soul that has come unto Him in faith and prayer."

James H. Aughey

#### JEHOVAH RAPHA - THE GOD WHO HEALS

"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved; for you are my praise!"

**JEREMIAH 17:14** 



"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all His benefits – who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases."

**PSALM 103:2-3** 

"O Lord, by these things people live, and in all these is the life of my spirit. Oh, restore me to health and make me live!"

**ISAIAH 38:16** 

"Great crowds came to
Him, bringing with them
the lame, the maimed,
the blind, the mute, and
many others.
They put them at His
feet, and He cured
them."

**MATTHEW 15:30** 

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the punishment that made us whole, and by His bruises we are healed."

**ISAIAH 53:5** 

'I think perhaps the greatest of all hindrances in our getting hold of God for our bodies is the lack of knowing Him; for after all, in its deepest essence, Divine healing is not a thing, it is not an experience, it is not an "it."

It is the revelation of Jesus Christ as a living, almighty Person, and then the union of this living Christ with your body, so that there becomes a tie, a bond, a living link by which His life keeps flowing into yours, and because He lives, you shall live also.'

A.B. Simpson

## PRAYER

Healing Father, Jehovah Rapha,

I thank You Lord, for You are my Healer.

I know that You see my tears and that You hear my prayers. You will heal me, for I know that You keep Your promises; in Your Word You state that You heal Your children.

Father, I understand that my thoughts are not Your thoughts, and my ways are not Your ways.

Therefore, if You heal me during my time on earth, I will be grateful and know that You still have work for me to do here.

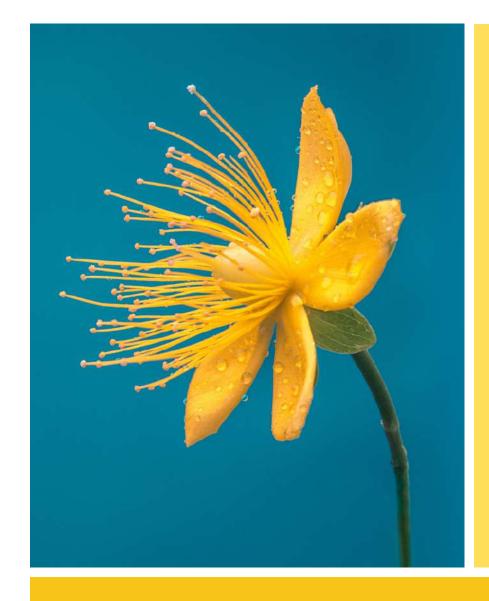
However, If You heal me in Heaven, well, then I guess it's a win-win situation all around.

Your will be done with my life, my body, and my soul in Your perfect timing. In the meantime, I will continue to bless You and speak of Your good deeds, for You are my praise!

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about God as our healer, Jehovah Rapha, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.



#### **ARTICLES**

- <u>biblesproutcom</u>, "What does the Bible say about healing?", Dr. Elmer Towns.
- <u>ymi.today</u>, "Andrew Hui: I'm 32 and I'm dying", Janice Tai.
- <u>christianitytoday.com</u>, "God Always Heals", Andrew Wilson.

#### BOOKS

- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Lessons from a Hospital Bed: A Spiritual Tonic For Anyone Facing Illness And Recovery", John Piper.
- <u>goodreads.com</u>, "*Christ the Healer*", F.F. Bosworth, Robert V. Bosworth (Foreword by).
- goodreads.com, "The Lord Jesus Healed Me: The Journey of an Atheist to the Truth", Tony Myers.





#### ONLINE SERMONS

- "Faith for Healing" <u>Pastor Andrew Wommack</u>
- "It Had to Happen" <u>Pastor Steven Furtick</u>
- "God Wants To Heals Our Bodies of Sickness and Disease" - <u>PastorJoyce Meyers</u>



# CHAPTER 14: HELPING OTHERS IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC



# HELPING OTHERS IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC

The outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic has exposed many areas of our society that are vulnerable in a crisis situation.

As Children of God, we are called to serve others, just as Jesus served those He came to die on the cross for.

We hope that this chapter blesses you, in order that you can be a blessing to someone in need during this period.

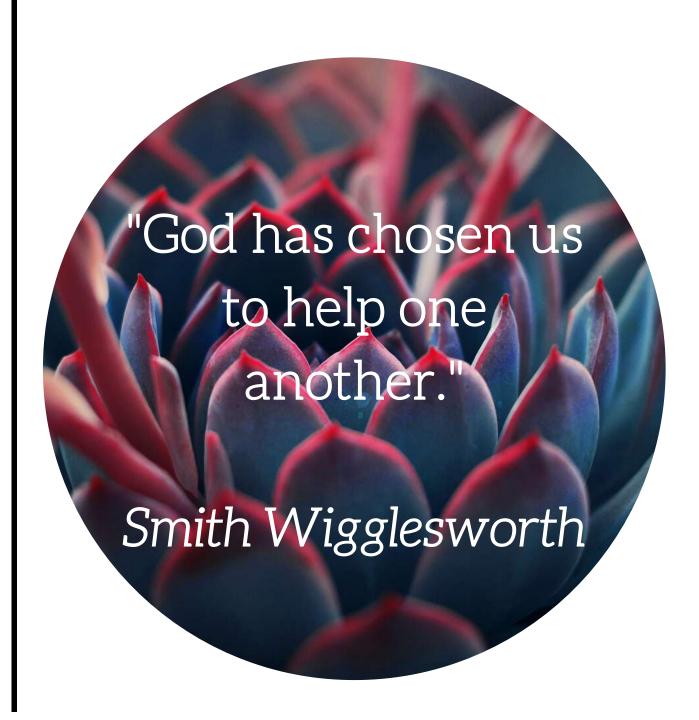
"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."

Philippians 2:3-4

"Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."

PROVERBS 3:3



"Do to others as you would have them do to you."

**LUKE 6:31** 

"You shall not see your neighbor's donkey or ox fallen on the road and ignore it; you shall help to lift it up."

**Deuteronomy 22:4** 

'The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?"

But the good Samaritan reversed the question: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

Martin Luther King Jr.

# HELPING OTHERS IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

**HEBREWS 13:16** 

"Have you ever noticed how much of Christ's life was spent in doing kind things?"

Henry Drummond

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

**John 15:12** 

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

**GALATIANS 6:2** 

"Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you."

**MATTHEW 5:42** 

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it."

**PROVERBS 3:27** 

'John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

**LUKE 3:11 (NIV)** 

"What does love look like?
It has the hands to help others.

It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy.

It has eyes to see misery and want.

It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men.
That is what love looks like."

Augustine



## 11 WAYS YOU CAN HELP OTHERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

There are a plethora of ways you can help others during this pandemic.

The following are just 11 suggestions we've come up with.

The links provided below are for national and global organizations and charities, but feel free to find out which organizations in your local area need support.

#### 1. Donate money

Local, national, and international organizations are always grateful for financial donations, in order that they can continue giving vital aid to those affected with COVID-19.

You can ring or write to organizations and charities in your local area. There are also online articles that offer lists of national and global companies, charities, and non-profit organizations.

Additionally, there are online charity rating sites, such as <u>Charity Navigator</u> and <u>Charity Watch</u> that list vetted charities. <u>The Center for Disaster Philanthropy</u> offers advice on how to make informed donation decisions.

#### 2. Volunteer your time

Volunteer some of your time to help others. Text, call, or leave a note with your elderly or quarantined neighbors with the offer to run errands for them. You can also join a <u>multi-aid network</u> or create your own.

You can also write letters to eldery residents in senior citizens homes, or ring a neighbor or friend and ask them how they are doing.

Alternatively, you can get online training to become a crisis counsellor. Crisis Text line is a global organization that provides 24 hour confidential crisis intervention through SMS. To find out more, <u>click here</u>.

#### 3. Donate Blood

Due to the number of increasing COVID-19 cases, hospitals worldwide are experiencing a shortage of blood, as those eligible and willing to give blood are decreasing.

If you believe you are healthy, consider donating blood.

As social-distancing prohibts walk-ins, it is best that you contact your local hospital or blood bank, or visit <u>redcrossblood.org</u> to schedule an appointment if you live in the U.S.

HELPING OTHERS IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC PAGE 105

#### 4. Support a food bank

Look online to find out where your local food bank is, and consider donating food items that you think you can do without. You can also make a financial donation. or volunteer at your local Meals on Wheels.

Some national food banks are;

The Trussell Trust in the U.K.,

Second Harvest Asia,

**Die Tafel in Germany** 

Feeding America,

#### 5. Support small businesses and the arts

You can help small businesses stay afloat by purchasing supplies from stores like local butchers, grocers, and bakers as opposed to large supermarkets.

You can also make advance purchases, or claim vouchers that small businesses may be issuing. Additionally, you can donate money to help tipped and service workers through Crowdfunding such as the <u>Emergency Coronavirus Workers Support Fund</u>.

Also, you can help your local theatres and galleries by donating online, or buying annual memberships. You can also buy merchandise online.

#### 6. Foster or adopt a pet

Animal shelters are suffering from staff shortages due to self-isolation. Also, more animals are being given in to shelters, as their owners are sick or overwhelmed by the current global situation.

The result is that these shelters are having to close down.

Consider adopting or even fostering an animal from a shelter, and help save animal lives. You can also donate food and cleaning supplies, or offer to volunteer.

#### 7. Help the homeless

The homeless are in dire need of help during this pandemic. Not only are they more vulnerable to contracting the Coronavirus, reduced footfall on the streets has resulted in them receiving less alms.

You can ask someone you see who is homeless, if they would like a cup of coffee or a sandwich. You can also distribute hand santizers, or give warm clothing.

Additionally, there are pre-determined fences in certain cities, such as in <u>Germany</u>, where people can hang food, pet supplies, and hygiene articles for the homeless to collect.

MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST

HELPING OTHERS IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC PAGE 106

#### 8. Stand up with love to xenophobia and racism

The Coronavirus pandemic has resulted in minorities being persecuted, by being blamed for initiating the virus. Not only those of Asian descent have been targeted, but also recently, <u>African and African-American nationals in China</u>.

Organizations such as the <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</u> have stressed that the Coronavirus is not specific to any race or ethnicity.

If you experience firsthand that someone is being attacked verbally or physically because of their race - pandemic related or otherwise - speak up with a voice of love and help eradicate xenophobia and racism.

#### 9. Give financial support to domestic workers

Many people have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. This includes domestic workers such as childminders, health instructors, and cleaners.

If you are able to, consider still paying those domestic workers in your employ, even if they can't physically perform their services in your home.

You can also contribute financially to Coronavirus Care Funds like that from the <u>National Domestic Workers Alliance</u>, or find a similar online crowdfunding website for your country or city.

#### 10. Offer digital fellowship to those who are feeling isolated

Just because we need to self-isolate right now, doesn't mean that we have to eliminate all contact with our friends and loved ones.

Start up a WhatsApp chat group or host a Skype group video chat and offer digital fellowship. You can also hold a video conference through <u>Zoom</u>. Your efforts will be much appreciated by those who are feeling particularly lost and cut-off from the rest of the world right now.

Also, those with mental illness are likely to be especially affected by self-isolation, so keep a digital eye out for anyone you know who has depression, addictions, anxiety, schizophrenia etc.

#### 11. Show your thanks

Show your thanks to the everyday heroes who brave contracting the COVID-19 virus to help others in need.

Ring your local hospital and offer to order some pizzas for the medical staff in the ICU or quarantine station, or ask your local supermarket if you can set up a tip jar for the staff at each of the cash registers.

How you express your thanks and recognition is only limited by your imagination. The main thing is, we say thank you!

## PRAYER

**Gracious Father.** 

In a world covered by the darkness of the Coronavirus, we know that You Lord, are a light that illumines the bleakest areas of our hearts and the deepest crevices of our souls.

Father, show me how I can share Your light with others who are in need. Guide me in how I can use my finances, my time, and my resources to bring hope to others. Give me a heart to serve.

And most of all, teach me to walk in love with others, and to show love when people around me are intent on doing harm or serving their own agenda.

Help me see that such actions are a result of hurt and fear, and that these individuals desperately need to know the grace and mercy of You, our Savior. Show me ways that I can share Your Good News through my speech and actions.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

We have put together a collection of inspiring testimonies, stories, and experiences of individuals, who changed the world around them by helping others. Just click on the links below to find out more.



#### **STORIES**

- <u>varietyreading.carlsguides.com</u>, "Highway Angel"
- <u>skywriting.net</u>, "Three Marbles"
- <u>nspire21.com</u>, "A Great John Wayne Story"

#### **BOOKS**

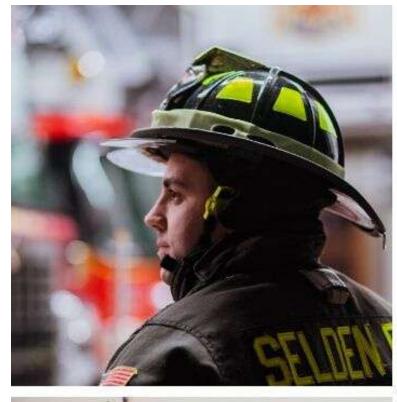
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "*The Hiding Place*", Corrie Ten Boom.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "*God's Smuggler*", Brother Andrew.
- <u>goodreads.com</u>, "Chasing the Dragon: One Woman's Struggle Against the Darkness of Hong Kong's Drug Den", Jackie Pullinger, Andrew Quicke.





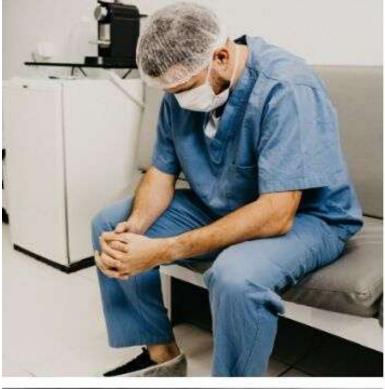
#### VIDEOS

- "The Most Inspiring Video Of All Time!" reKindle.org
- "Paying for People's Groceries" -Heredia House Foundation
- "Kids Caught Doing Good" Greg Erickson









# THANK YOU.









Thank you, to all of you, who brave contracting COVID-19 to help others in need: doctors, nurses, law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, military, supermarket staff, scientists, childminders, as well as carers of the elderly, the homeless, the asylum seekers, and others who don't have a safe place to take refuge in during this time.

Thank you for fighting on the front lines for us every day.

God bless you all!

# CHAPTER 15: PRAISE GOD IN THE STORM



## PRAISE GOD IN THE STORM

When adversity hits us, it is imperative that we keep on praising God through our difficulties.

Praising God in the storm shows Him that you trust Him, and that You know He is working in your situation, regardless of how severe things look.

It is a decision to acknowledge God as being greater than anything or anyone who is causing you stress, pain, or discomfort.

God hears your songs of praise and your words of faith, and it pleases Him. He always answers when you seek Him!

"But I will sing of Your might; I will sing aloud of Your steadfast love in the morning.

For You have been a fortress for me and a refuge in the day of my distress."

**PSALM 59:16** 

"Then my tongue shall tell of Your righteousness and of Your praise all day long."

**PSALM 35:28** 

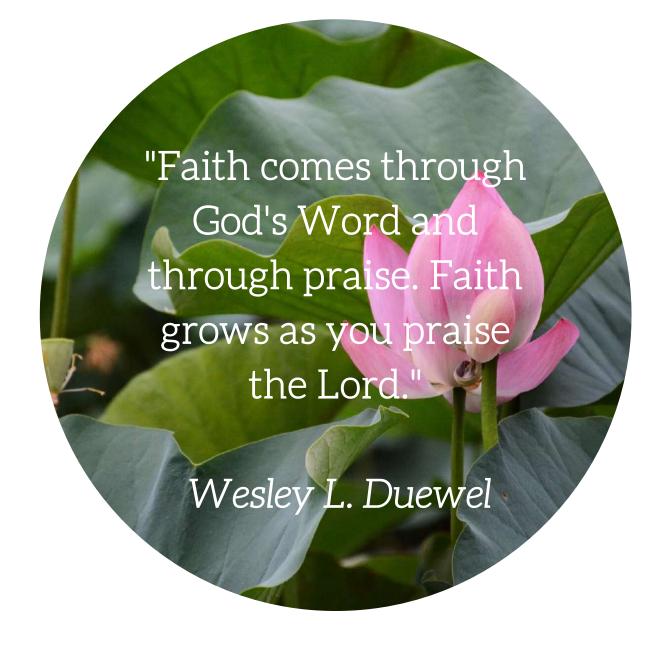
"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together."

**PSALM 34:1-3** 

"Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails, and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold, and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation."

**Habakkuk 3:17-18** 



"Praise is the rehearsal of our eternal song. By grace we learn to sing, and in glory we continue to sing.

What will some of you do when you get to heaven, if you go on grumbling all the way?

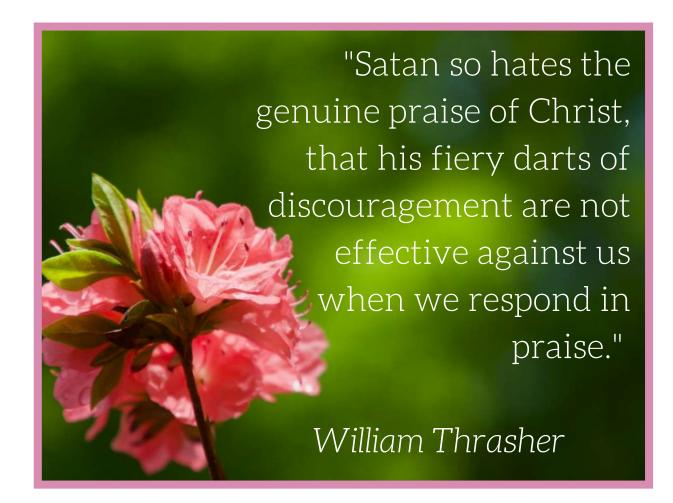
Do not hope to get to heaven in that style. But now begin to bless the name of the Lord."

Charles Spurgeon

## PRAISE GOD IN THE STORM

"Through Him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess His name."

**Hebrews 13:15** 



"For You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy."

**PSALM 63:7** 

"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my help and my God."

**PSALM 42:11** 

"I will extol You, O Lord, for You have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.

O Lord, You brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

Sing praises to the Lord, O You His faithful ones, and give thanks to His holy name."

**PSALM 30:1-4** 

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

"The Lord is my strength and my might, and He has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him."

**EXODUS 15.2** 

"Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness, the nourishment of the mind with His truth, the purifying of the imagination of His beauty, the opening of the heart to His love, the surrender of the will to His purpose."

William Temple

# MAKE PRAISE AND WORSHIP A DAILY PRACTICE

Spending time with God in praise and worship is an integral part of every Christian's faith walk. By doing so, you are honoring God's majesty, His goodness, His love, and His kindness, and you are inviting Him to be a part of your life.



Also, praise and worship is an expression of thanks for the many times God has offered you mercy and grace when you were undeserving of it, His greatest act of grace being His gift of Salvation.

Instead of seeking God's face during the highs and lows of life, try to praise and worship God every day.

The following are some of our suggestions that will help you to make praise and worship a daily practice.

#### PRAISE GOD EVERY DAY

The best way to praise God daily is to start as soon as you open your eyes. Thank Him for sound sleep and for giving you breath to live another day. And that's before you even swing your feet out of bed!

Before you go to work or start your day, set aside time in the morning to thank God for what He has blessed you with, including His plans for your day. Psalm 100:4 states that we should enter God's courts with praise, so this is a great way to start your morning prayers and quiet time with God.

Additionally, thank God throughout the day for the mercies He gives you, no matter how big or small they are, according to 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Praise Him for being a good and merciful Father!

#### **WORSHIP GOD EVERY DAY**

Worship is a physical manifestation of your praise.

You can express yourself by dancing, marching around your home and praising Him loudly, playing an instrument, or singing to worship songs. If you require worship songs, we have our own <u>Spotify account</u> with themed playlists for you to enjoy.

Alternatively, you can bow down on your knees to God and worship Him that way. God is pleased with every form of worship you express to Him.

Finally, living a God-intentional life, where we do our best to abide by His commands and walk in love with others, is the best form of praise and worship that you can show God.

### PRAYER

Glorious Father, Wonderful Savior,

Things look pretty bad around the world right now with the Coronavirus. Not only am I worried about myself or a member of my family contracting the virus, but I am also worried what the future holds for our planet and our lives as we know it.

However, I am not going to allow fear and worry to consume me. I am going to praise You through this storm Lord, for You are my Fortress and Refuge. You have always been faithful to me in the past, and I know You will be faithful now, when I so desperately need you.

Merciful Father, I will bless You at all times, through the good and the bad; Your praise will constantly be in my mouth, and my hands will be held high in reverent worship. I will exalt You and sing for joy, for You are worthy, Lord!

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about how you can praise God amidst adversity, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.



#### **ARTICLES**

- <u>whatchristianswanttoknow.com</u>, "6 Ways to Praise God During Hard Times", Derek Hill.
- <u>prayerandpossibilities.com</u>, "Why Praise God in the Storm Psalm 34 Devotional"
- <u>presbycan.ca</u>, "My Soul Will Be Still, For The Lord Is In Control", Madeline Kalu.

#### **BOOKS**

- <u>livingchristianbooks.com</u>, "*Praising*", Watchman Nee.
- <a href="mailto:christianbook.com">christianbook.com</a>,"Praising God Through Prayer and Worship (Psalms)", Kay Arthur, Pete DeLacy.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "*Praising God Through It All*", Warren B. Smith.





#### ONLINE SERMONS

- "Pit Praisers" Pastor Joel Osteen
- "Breakthrough Worship" Pastor John Gray
- "Praise in the Mist of Pain" Pastor T.D. Jakes

#### CHAPTER 16:

# JESUS CHRIST IS OUR LIVING HOPE



# JESUS CHRIST IS OUR LIVING HOPE

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our sins have been forgiven, and we have received the gift of Salvation by the grace of God.

Accepting this gift by faith changes who we are completely. We receive a fresh beginning by becoming new creations in Christ; we are dead to sin and can stand in righteousness with God. We are seated with Him in heavenly places.

This assurance of eternal life through the blood of Jesus Christ is our living hope as Christians.

Therefore, we need not allow the threat of the Coronavirus to prevent us from enjoying the life that Jesus sacrificed for us on the Cross of Calvary; nor should we let this pandemic cloud our faith and trust in Him.

Instead, let us take this time of uncertainty to draw closer to God by seeking His presence, replacing fear with faith, and resting in His promises.

Hoping for a vacinne or an end to this pandemic is understandable; however our real source of hope has already been given to us - our living hope of spiritual inheritance through Jesus Christ.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy, He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

**1 PETER 1:3** 

"...because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel."

**COLOSSIANS 1:5** 



"By the grace of God, we are highly favoured. His grace is bigger than what our minds can ever comprehend."

Gift Gugu Mona

# JESUS CHRIST IS OUR LIVING HOPE

"...in the hope of eternal life that God, who never lies, promised before the ages began —"

**Titus 1:2** 

"Through salvation, our past has been forgiven, our present is given meaning, and out future is secured."

Rick Warren

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer."

**ROMANS 12:12** 

"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who has promised is faithful."

**HEBREWS 10:23** 

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life."

JOHN 3:16

"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last He will stand upon the earth."

**JOB 19:25** 

"..so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance among the saints.."

**Ephesians 1:18** 

"Christ, however, was faithful over God's house as a Son, and we are His house if we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belong to hope."

**HEBREWS 3:6** 

'God proved His love on the Cross.

When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, "I love you."

Billy Graham

### PRAYER

God of mercy, the assurer of my Salvation,

Thank You, that You sent Your Son Jesus Christ to die for my sins, in order that I may have Salvation and live in eternal righteousness with You.

Father, Your assurance of forgiveness and Salvation is my living hope, my confidence that I can forever dwell in Your house for all the days of my life and beyond.

Merciful Lord, I will not allow this current pandemic to engulf me with fear or steal my joy; instead I will enjoy the life that Your Son Jesus sacrificed for me on the Cross of Calvary. I will seek Your face, replace my fears with faith, and rest in Your promises.

Although I hope for a vaccine to the COVID-19, and for this crisis to end, You are my essential source on whom I wait upon - You are my living hope.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about how Jesus Christ is your living hope, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.



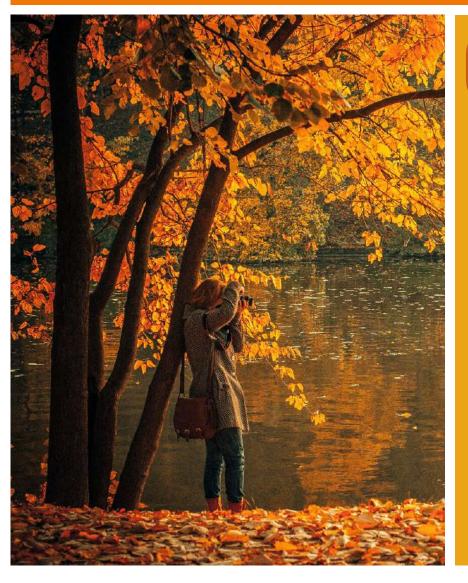
#### **ARTICLES**

- <u>crosswalk.com</u>, "How Can I Experience Resurrection after Easter?", Sarah Frazer.
- <u>crosswalk.com</u>, "4 Beautiful Ways 'Footprints in the Sand' Offers Solid Hope", Candice Lucey.
- <u>upperroom.org</u>, "A little Cloud of Hope", Madeline Kalu.

#### **BOOKS**

- <u>amazon.com</u>, "1 Peter Living Hope (Reading the Bible Today)", Paul Barnett.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Father's Love Letter (ATS) (Pack of 25)", Barry Adams.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "*3:16: The Numbers of Hope*", Max Lucado.





#### ONLINE SERMONS

- "Our Hope is in Christ, The Risen Lord!: Resurrection Sunday" - <u>Pastor Peter Tan-Chi</u>
- "A Living Hope: Living in the Light of the Resurrection" Dr. Tim Mackie
- "A Living Hope Through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ" John Piper

# CHAPTER 17: ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION



www.jacobsladderblog.com

# ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION

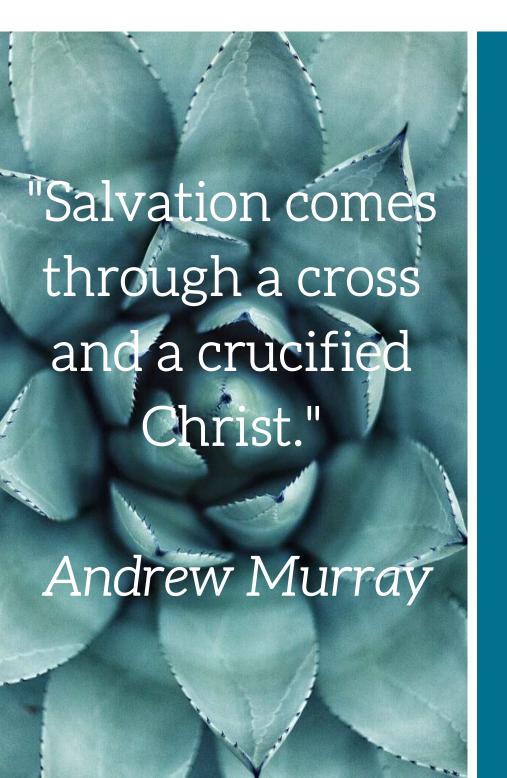
In the previous chapter, we discussed that Jesus Christ is our living hope. This means that we are dead to sin and have the assurance of Salvation through His blood sacrifice on the Cross of Calvary. It is a gift given to us by the grace of God.

Having this spiritual inheritanc enables us to live an abundant life as Children of God, which is rich in the mercy, blessings, and promises of God. It also means that though we may die physically one day, we will continue to live in eternal fellowship with God in Heaven. Hallelujah!

To gift of God's Salvation is available to anyone, who is willing to receive it. It is an act of faith on our part, made possible by God's grace.

If you would like to accept God's gift of Salvation, you can do so today! On page 130 is a Salvation prayer that you can speak over yourself. Speak the words aloud in faith and with a contrite heart. The confession that comes out of your mouth, and your yearning for God to enter into your heart and your life, is all you need to do to become born again!

Consequently, find a good Bible-based church in your area, and seek a mentor who can guide you, as you start your faith walk as a New Christian. You can also visit our <u>website</u>, where we provide devotionals, articles, book reviews, testimonies, bible studies, prayers, and christian music suggestions to encourage you, that you can live an unlimited life with an unlimited God!



"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast."

**EPHESIANS 2:8-9** 

MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST

"The purpose of the Bible is simply to proclaim God's plan to save His children. It asserts that man is lost and needs to be saved. And it communicates the message that Jesus is the God in the flesh sent to save His children."

Max Lucado

### ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION

"He has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done, but because of His own purpose and grace.

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time."

2 TIMOTHY 1:9 (NIV)

"Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

**ACTS 2:21** 

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

**ACTS 4:12 (NIV)** 

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life."

**JOHN 3:16** 

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing Salvation to all."

**TITUS 2:11** 

"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

**ROMANS 10:10 (NIV)** 

"Although you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the Salvation of your souls."

1 PETER 1: 8-9

"Salvation is not a reward for the righteous, it is a gift for the guilty."

Steve Lawson

#### **SALVATION PRAYER**

#### Would you like to enter into a relationship with God, today?

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 10:13

Having a personal relationship with God is the most fulfilling relationship you will ever have. For God will always be there for you. He epitomizes love, and His character is to always show mercy and grace. God will never, ever forsake you. His love is perfect.

God offers you the Gift of Salvation by His grace, but you need to accept it by faith. Therefore, if you wish to enter into a personal relationship with God, pray the following prayer aloud with conviction:

#### Lord,

I recognize that I am a sinner. I have broken Your laws and through my thoughts and actions have separated myself from You. For this I am truly sorry, and I humbly ask You for Your forgiveness.

I believe and confess that Your son, Jesus Christ, died on the cross to pay for my sins and that He rose from the dead after the third day. I believe that because of His sacrifice, Jesus has cleansed me of my sins, and I can be born again, as a brand new creation.

Lord, I want to turn away from my sinful life. I am unable to help myself – I need You. By Your grace, I wish to live a new life full of Your unfailing love and great compassion.

By faith, I gratefully receive Your offer of Salvation. I ask You to enter into my heart and be my Lord and Savior.

My life is Yours to do with as You will. I will trust You and follow You in all Your ways from now on and for all eternity. Thank you for saving me, Lord.

#### In Jesus' name, Amen.

Congratulations! You have given your life to God and are now born-again! I embrace you, my new brother or sister! A god-filled, rich, and abundant life awaits you!

We suggest that you find a Bible-based church near you and that you make friends with Christians who can assist you in your first steps as a New Christian. Also, start reading the <u>Bible</u> and visit <u>our blog</u> regularly to learn more about our wonderful God!

# DELVE DEEPER OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to learn more about entering into an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ, the following are some of our recommendations. Just click on the links below.



#### **ARTICLES**

- <u>crosswalk.com</u>, What Is Salvation? (Also: Why It's Needed and How to Get It), Mike Leake.
- <u>biblesprout.com</u>, "Salvation is the Gospel of Jesus Christ", Dr. Elmer Towns.
- <u>lifeway.com</u>,"Salvation Through Christ"

# BOOKS - TESTIMONIES OF PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

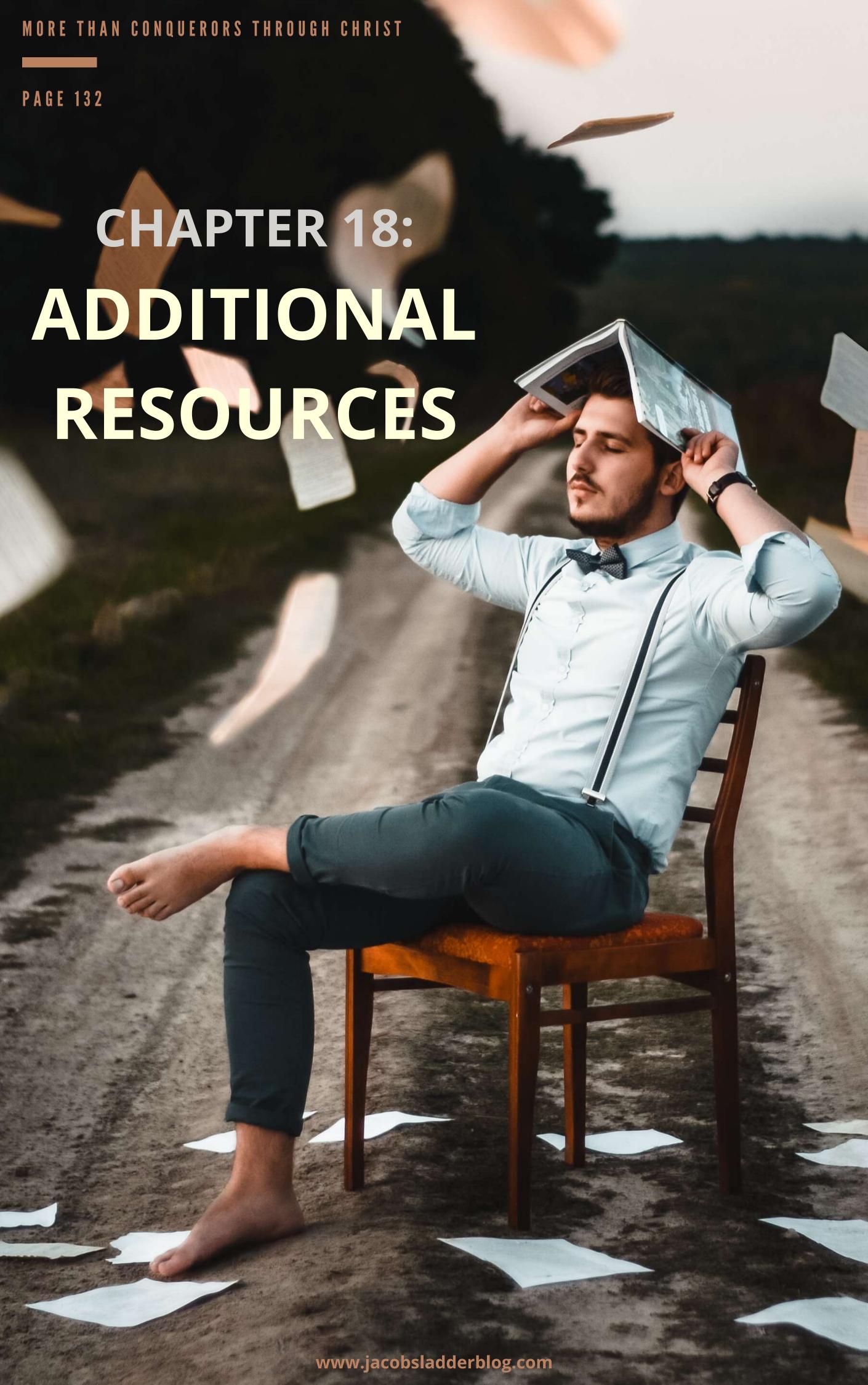
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "*Run Baby Run*", Nicky Cruz.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "*Bloodline*", John Turnipseed.
- <u>amazon.com</u>, "Six Years Lost", Benjamin, J. Schmidt.





### ONLINE SERMONS

- "What Is Salvation?" Pastor Joyce
   Meyers
- "Call to Eternal Salvation Through Jesus Christ" -<u>Pastor Tony Evans</u>
- "Salvation Is Here" <u>Pastor Joesph Prince</u>





# 12 WAYS YOU CAN BRING YOUR CHILDREN CLOSER TO GOD DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Within the space of a few short months, the world has changed significantly. The onslaught of the Coronavirus pandemic, the unexpected lifestyle change of self-isolation, and fears for the future have definitely placed adults in a sudden position of bewilderment, fear, and uncertainty.

How much more must our children be confused by what is going on?

At a time, where the world may be questioning God's will and even His presence, it is important that we keep our faith burning brightly, especially in our children. They are our future, and their current relationship with God will affect how they change the world in years to come.

For that reason, we have listed 12 ways that you can bring your children closer to God during the Coronavirus pandemic. We hope that you find them a useful guide in preparing your children's hearts as future ambassadors of Jesus Christ.



# 1. OFFER YOUR CHILDREN A SAFE SPACE TO TALK ABOUT GOD AND THE PANDEMIC

Life gets busy - at least it used to be until a few weeks ago. Self-isolation measures have resulted in a lot of familes being able to slow down and spend time together.

Use this time to re-connect with your children. Replace the talks about football practice, homework issues, and other such daily conversations, and address the current global situation with them. Ask them how they are feeling and what their fears and concerns might be,

Consequently, discuss with your children about how they feel about God in the midst of this adversity. It's understandable that children are confused right now and don't understand what God is doing with the world. That's ok. As adults, you don't have to provide answers; just being there for them and offering them a safe space to talk about God and their feelings is enough.

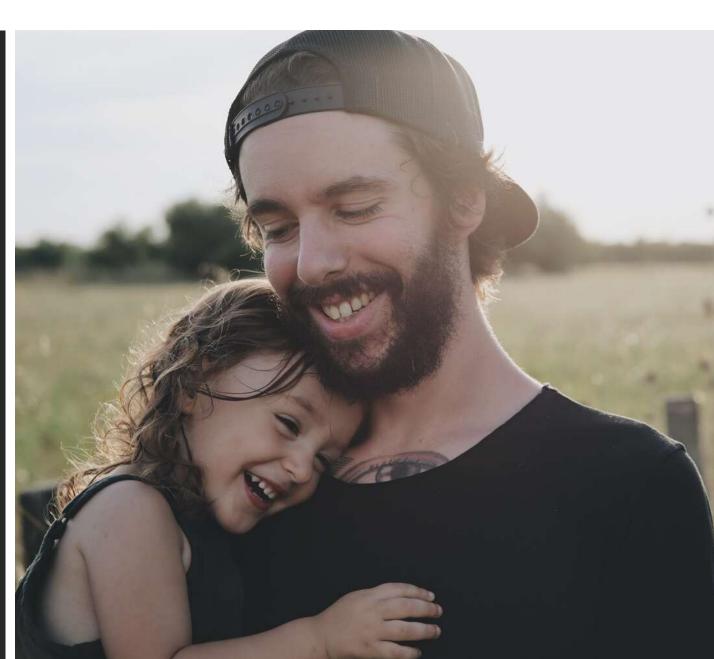
#### 2. EXPRESS DAILY GRATITUDE

Encourage your children to be aware of their blessings by expressing gratitude every day.

At the end of each day, sit down with your children and have them talk about the good things that happened to them that day, no matter how small. Encourage them to think how God was behind that blessing.

Additionally, talk as a family about the way God blesses you during this pandemic, e.g. providing a home for you, provisions, and health.

Not only will expressing gratitude teach children to appreciate God's love and provision, it will help them to focus on the positive things around them and not the current global situation.



#### 3. PRAY WITH YOUR CHILDREN

By praying with your children every day, you show them the importance of being in constant communication with God and the solace we as Christians can find in seeking God's presence during times of trouble.

Not only can you pray with your children about personal matters, you can encourage them to also pray for issues related to the current pandemic, such as healing for those afflicted.

MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST



#### 4. ACT OUT SCENES OF THE BIBLE

Make reading the Bible fun by turning scenes or chapters of the Bible into a theatrical performance!

Convert the living room or the back yard into a provisional stage, hang up some bedsheets as curtains and have your children act out the lives and lessons of the Bible, complete with home-made costumes!

Encourage your children to write their own lines or take verses directly from the Bible and make them into a script. Depending on their age, they can even learn their lines by heart.

This is a great way to not only teach children stories of the Bible, but it also encourages a deeper learning of the Scriptures through acting and memorzing lines.

#### 5. BIBLE READING REWARD CHARTS

Reading the Bible from an early age is a great way to emerge your children in the Word of God, especially for older children and teenagers.

As reading the Bible is not necessarily as fun an activity to do, as say, play video games, giving your child an incentive to read Scriptures is a useful tool to get your child to open up his/her Bible.

Just like you would use a homework chart or a chore chart to encourage children to complete tasks, you can likewise make a Bible reading reward chart that offers incentives.

Sit down together with your child and discuss what reading goals are realistic for them. You can also download the free Bible App for Kids that is child-friendly and offers a fun approach to Bible reading.



#### 6. DISCOVER NATURE TOGETHER

If your kids (and you) are experiencing cabin fever due to self-isolation, take a family trip to a local park or nature reserve.

As you spend time outdoors, discuss with your children about the Author of the Creation you are experiencing: How God is responsible for every tree, flower, and blade of grass. If God can create all things, isn't He mightier than COVID-19?

MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST

#### 7. SHARE YOUR FAITH WALK WITH YOUR CHILDREN

Your children know you as parents, but how much do they know about your personal experiences with God?

Sit down with your children and share testimonies of your faith with them. Especially giving them an account of how you experienced God's goodness during a tough situation will help them to understand that God loves us and helps us in difficult times.

Additionally, tell your children how you gave your life to Christ, and how His Salvation changed you forever. Through this shared experience, your children will gain an insight into the resurrecting power of Jesus and bond with you on a totally different level.

### 8. HOLD A WORSHIP DANCE PARTY

#### <u>at home</u>

Spending time with God in praise and worship is an integral part of every Christian's faith walk. By praising God, you are honoring His majesty, His goodness, His love, and His kindness.

Encourage your children to engage in regular praise and worship by playing worship music on your stereo or through an app, and turn your living room into a worship dance party!

If you would like an online compliation of worship songs for younger children, <u>Life</u> <u>Church</u> has a great one.

Alternatively, we have a worship song playlist on Spotify titled <u>"Heart to Worship - Youth Revival"</u> that your older children and teenagers may enjoy.



#### 9. ENCOURAGE ONLINE FELLOWSHIP

Not being able to go out and hang out with friends is especially hard for children right now.

Therefore, encourage skype chats or face time between your children and their friends from church.



#### 10. KEEP A MIRACLE BOOK OR JAR

Having revelation of God, especially through His acts of mercy and grace, projects our faith and fortifies us for future trials and tribulations. Teaching your children to be expectant of God's goodness means that they will grow up relying on Him and appreciating His blessings.

Provide your children with a visual reminder of God's acts of grace by encouraging them to write down all the times God came through for them in a journal. I call the latter a "miracle book". Alternatively, they can write down their experiences on pieces of paper and place them in a jar.

Whenever your children are feeling worried or overwhelmed, they can pick a paper out of the jar, or read an entry in their miracle book and gain encouragement from all the times God has helped them in the past.

This is a great way to fortify your children's faith that God, who was faithful to them in the past, will be faithful to them in their current need.

Note: Adults can also keep a miracle book or jar - I do!

#### 11. MAKE A VISION BOARD

At some point in the future, the selfisolation mandate will be lifted, and the world will slowly make steps towards recovery.

Even though the future remains uncertain, it shouldn't stop our children from dreaming and having goals for their future lives.

A vision board is a fantastic tool to help adults and children visualize their goals and dreams for the future. It is not a New Age concept, and actually has biblical backing.

To discover more about how vision boards work and how to use them with your children, we have an <u>article</u> on the subject on our blog, with a separate section devoted to children's vision boards, including tips and resources. You can also make your own adult vision board and spend a fun afternoon being creative with your kids!

MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST



#### 12. ENCOURAGE A SERVING HEART

A multitude of serving hearts have emerged from the outbreak of this pandemic.

Encourage your children, that they too can help those in need, despite their young age. For example, they can write letters to the elderly in senior citizen's homes.

Children learn the best by example, so maybe you can find a volunteer activity that both you and your children can undertake together.

### JACOB'S LADDER BIBLE STUDIES

The Bible is not only an instrumental learning resource for Christians, it is a divinely appointed source of encouragement, hope, and confirmation of God's love.

At Jacob's Ladder, it is very much on our hearts that everyone who has given their life to Christ, or is seeking to know Him more, understands that the Bible entails important information that can enable us to live a life of faith and victory, as beloved Children of God.

For that reason, we choose a Bible chapter for every theme we explore on our blog, and present a Bible Study on it for you.

Our Bible studies are divided into three parts and are designed for both individual and group study.

If you would like to read the Bible studies on our blog, click here.

### JACOB'S LADDER IS ON SPOTIFY!



Play worship songs from our <u>Jacob's Ladder Blog account on Spotify!</u>

If you would like to have a ready-made list of worship songs available to you at a mouse click, we have set up a public Jacob's Ladder Blog account on Spotify with our own <u>custom-made playlists</u>, including a <u>youth playlist</u>.

The playlists in our account are organized according to our themes for transparency, but feel free to jump between playlists as you please.

To find our account, type in Jacob's Ladder Blog in the search bar at the top left hand corner of your Spotify screen. You can also visit our <u>Spotify page</u> on our blog.

If you don't have Spotify and you would like to download it, here is the link to their main page. They offer free and premium accounts.

### A CONCLUDING PRAYER

We at Jacob's Ladder hope that you have enjoyed reading our eBook, and that it gave you insight, encouragment, and revelation of the wonderful majesty, mercy, and love of our Lord.

We would like to conclude our eBook with a final prayer. We hope that you join us as we express our hope and trust of God's purpose during the COVID-19 pandemic, our declaration of His promises of provision and help for us, and our belief in God for a solution to this devastating virus.

God bless you all in this time. Stay safe, and keep up the good fight of faith!

God of all Grace, my Only True God,

We pray for healing for those afflicted with COVID-19, and we thank You that we will see our loved ones, who didn't survive the virus, in Heaven one day. We are also grateful for those who brave the risk of infection every day to help those in need.

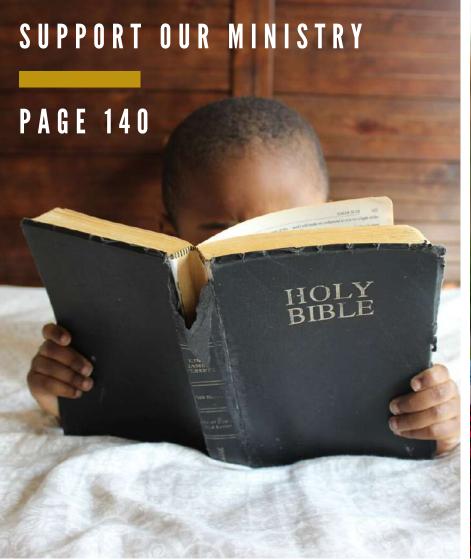
I may not know why the Coronavirus is currently ravaging the globe, but what I do know, is that You are in control in the midst this pandemic.

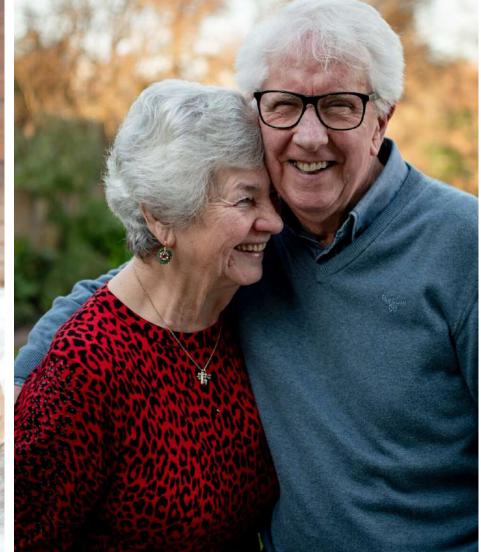
Father, I believe in the Bible and the declarations of love that You have made within those pages to us, Your children. I believe in Your promises to never fail us or forsake us. You are Abba, our Father, who loves us.

Therefore, I will put my trust and reliance in You, for You are always good. I don't know how, and I don't know when, but I believe that You are going to provide us with a solution to our current global crisis. I will trust in Your promise that You make all things work out for good. You are my living hope!

In Jesus' name,

Amen.







### SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY

If our eBook has been a blessing to you, you're welcome to support our ministry or partner up with us, in order that we can continue to share God's love, mercy, and gift of Salvation with others.

You can send your proposals to us at jacobsladderblog@yahoo.com.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Madeline Kalu

Co-Founder of Jacob's Ladder Blog









### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Lord for saving me from my former existence, and for giving me a new life filled with purpose and a heart to serve Him. Thank You, for adopting me as Your own, and for showing me what it is like to have a Father who will always love me, who is always for me, and will never forsake me. I love You, Papa!

I also want to thank my wonderful husband Solomon for supporting me in writing this book. He gave me sound advice and always had an answer when I had biblical questions and other conundrums, and he encouraged me to keep on writing on the days when depression and other health problems were engulfing me. Thank You, Papa, for giving me the gift of this kind, optimistic, fearful follower of Christ to be my life partner.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, precious reader, friend, and sibling in Christ, for choosing to read this eBook. I am honored for your support of our ministry, I am humbled to serve you, and I am grateful to be a part of your faith journey: Know that you are also a part of mine. I thank God for each and every one of you.

God bless you and stay safe!

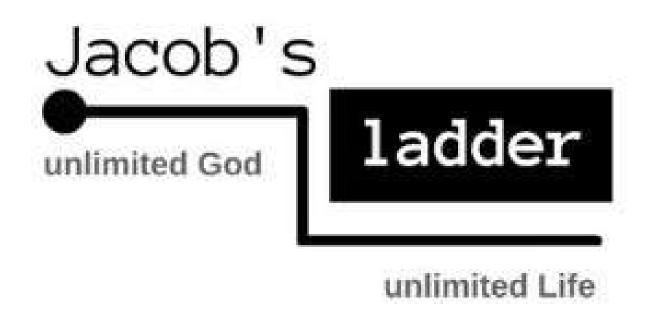
Madeline Kalu

Co-Founder of Jacob's Ladder Blog



MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST

### ABOUT JACOB'S LADDER BLOG



<u>Jacob's Ladder Blog</u> was launched in 2019 as a forum to celebrate God and to grow in our relationship with Him, as well as with each other.

With our motto "Unlimited God, Unlimited Life", we endeavor to encourage others that they can live blessed, abundant lives in the fulfillment of the wonderful plans God has for them. God is not restrained by time, people, or societal expectations; He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and with Him, all things are possible!

On our <u>website</u>, we provide devotionals, articles, book reviews, testimonies, bible studies, prayers, and christian music suggestions to encourage you, that you can live an unlimited life with an unlimited God!

Additionally, it is very much on our hearts to raise awareness of mental illness on our website, as a result of my own personal experience with chronic depression, burnout, and anxiety.

If you want to experience fellowship, feel hope, and see how an unlimited God can provide you with an unlimited life, then visit our <u>website</u>, and join me on this journey of discovery and revelation!

Blessings,

Madeline Kalu

Co-Founder of Jacob's Ladder Blog

Website: www.jacobsladderblog.com

Email: jacobsladderblog@yahoo.com







