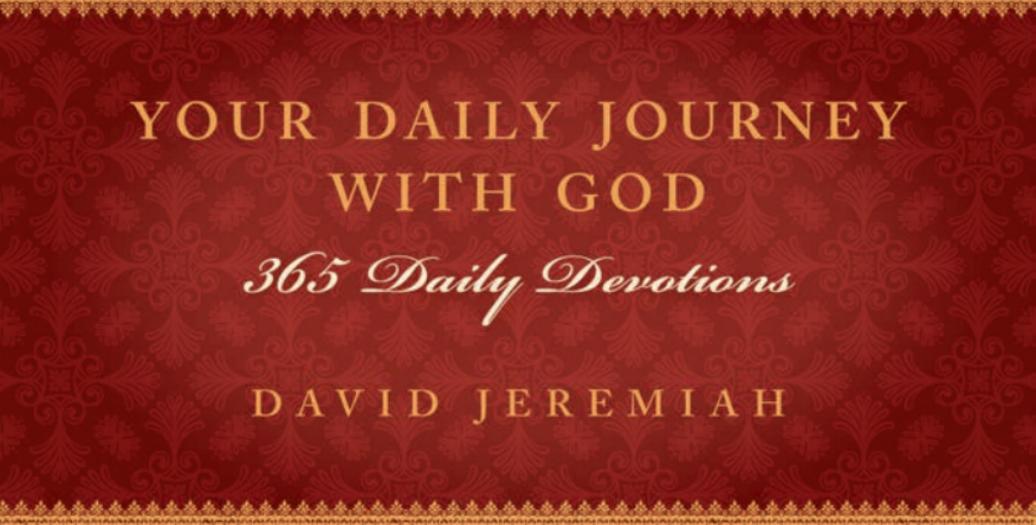


YOUR DAILY JOURNEY
WITH GOD



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365 Daily Devotions

DAVID JEREMIAH



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INTRODUCTION



Most of us get excited about taking a trip, whether it is a weekend excursion, a family reunion, or a long-planned vacation to a place of our dreams. Part of the excitement is the planning, the anticipation, and the hopeful expectation of what our journey will bring. Some could say that we long for those times of retreat and refreshment.

Our lives are often like a journey, with unexpected mishaps, missteps, and mistakes. But as believers, our lives are also filled with surprising moments of joy, faith for each trial and triumph, and a deep-seated peace with the knowledge that the God of the universe is traveling that same road with us. Just as we look forward to a holiday or a special trip, as Christians we live in anticipation of crossing into Heaven with Him someday, knowing that it will be better than anything we can expect or imagine.

As you begin your journey into the next year, take time each day to remember your Creator, to read His Word, and to consider all that He has done for you. Our hope is that the 365 devotions in *Your Daily Journey with God* provide refreshment, encouragement, and blessing to you throughout the coming year as you live in anticipation of Christ's return.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

PSALM 84:5, NIV

David Jeremiah

Fall 2016



JANUARY



January 1

OUR HOPE FOR YEARS TO COME

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.

PSALM 28:7

Today's verse provides a happy formula for the new year. Notice the progression.

First, we realize that *the Lord* is our strength and shield. No matter what unfolds from day to day or from month to month, He will give us sufficient strength, and His presence will cover us as a shield.

Second, our hearts can fully *trust in Him*. We can relax, rest, and lean on Him, knowing He is fully able to do all He has promised.

Third, as we recognize who He is and trust Him, *we are helped*. There's no sense of panic related to an uncertain future. The past, the present, and the future are His. He helps us in everything every time.

Fourth, our hearts can therefore *rejoice*. Today is a day for a joyful attitude. And that leads to a song of *praise*. We can have a hymn in our hearts today: "O God our Help in ages past, our hope for years to come; be Thou our Guide while life shall last, and our eternal home."

*Under the shadow of Thy throne still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.*

ISAAC WATTS

January 2

THE LAST LECTURE

We know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:1

When Professor Randy Pausch learned he was dying of pancreatic cancer, he gave a talk to his students at Carnegie Mellon University. His presentation circulated widely on the Internet, and then it was published in his book titled *The Last Lecture*. In an interview with *Reader's Digest*, Pausch said that his life was measured now in months, not years, and that he simply wanted to do what good he could do “on my way out of the building.”

That's reminiscent of Paul's teaching in 2 Corinthians 5. We're laboring now in an earthly tent that is passing away, but we have an eternal house in the heavens. We don't know if our remaining days on earth are measured in years, months, weeks, or minutes. Our times are in His hands, and our goal is to do all the good we can on our way out of the tent: “Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him” (verse 9).

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, in all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

JOHN WESLEY

January 3

THE BLIND MAN OF BETHSAIDA

[Jesus] looked up and said, “I see men like trees, walking.”

MARK 8:24

Jesus never does anything halfway, but sometimes He *does* work in stages. In Mark 8, the disciples only partially understand His teachings, and they don't fully grasp what He is saying. “How is it you do not understand?” He asks them (verse 21).

In verse 22, Jesus teaches His followers a lesson. Upon meeting a blind man in Bethsaida, Jesus heals him in stages. At first, the man sees people “like trees, walking.” Then Jesus puts His hands on the man's eyes again, and his sight is restored to twenty-twenty vision.

This two-stage miracle is very encouraging. When we're confused about some aspect of Bible study, when life seems blurry, or when we're bothered by events we can't explain, we're seeing things like trees, walking. But how wonderful to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior! As we walk with the Lord day by day, we find that our focus improves, our knowledge grows, our wisdom increases. And even if things are still a little blurry just now, we can be assured that with the Great Physician we'll understand it better by and by.

*The simplicity of the gospel gives what the complexity
of human wisdom promises but never delivers.*

JOHN MACARTHUR¹

¹ John MacArthur, *First Corinthians*, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago, Moody Press, 1984), 44.

January 4

BE GROUNDED

There is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again,
and that its tender shoots will not cease. Though its root may
grow old in the earth, and its stump may die in the ground, yet at
the scent of water it will bud and bring forth branches like a plant.

JOB 14:7-9

In 2004, researchers in Sweden found the oldest known living plant on earth, a thirteen-foot-tall Norway spruce. The visible part of the tree—the part above ground—is about six hundred years old, but the tree’s roots predate Abraham. Whenever a stem or trunk dies, a new one emerges from the root stock, and that’s what gives the tree its incredible longevity.

The Bible says we’re like trees “planted by the waters” that spread our roots by the river (Jeremiah 17:8). We are told to be “rooted and grounded in love” (Ephesians 3:17) and “rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith” (Colossians 2:7). Jesus warned of the danger of springing up quickly but, having no roots, withering away (Matthew 13:6).

Personal Bible study is the best way to sink your roots deeply into the faith. At the beginning of this new year, make up your mind to read and meditate on God’s Word daily. You’ll be “like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season” (Psalm 1:3).

*As a tree by the waters grows, in spite of drought all around it,
so I, by drawing upon the life of Christ, grow into His strength.*

W. PHILLIP KELLER

January 5

THE SOURCE OF EVERYTHING

Who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.

1 CHRONICLES 29:14

When it came time to build the first Temple in Jerusalem, King David set the example by being the first to give. He gave three thousand talents of gold and seven thousand talents of silver out of his own pocket—about \$3.8 billion and \$122 million, respectively, in today's dollars. But then he surprised everyone by saying, in essence, "I'm giving away someone else's money."

When David prayed a prayer of thanksgiving for the resources given by all the people, he made it plain that whatever they had given came first from God. It's so easy for us to forget the origin of everything we own. Wherever you are right now, look around—everything you see is a gift from God. Those gifts include the eyes with which you see and the breath that keeps you alive. Every human heartbeat should be a silent refrain of thanksgiving to the God who created the heart and gives it life. Be careful today not to take credit for something that heaven first gave as a gift.

When we give to God, it is not a credit to our own creativity and resourcefulness, but to His.

Evangelical repentance is not at the beck and call of the creature. It is the gift of God.

A. W. PINK²

² *W. Pink's Studies in the Scriptures 1930–1931*, vol. 5 (Lafayette, IN: Sovereign Grace Publishers), 208.

January 6

LEARNING TO THINK ETERNALLY

Commit your works to the LORD, and your
thoughts will be established.

PROVERBS 16:3

In his book *Maximum Achievement*, corporate trainer Brian Tracy writes, “Virtually everything you do is the result of habit. The way you talk, the way you work, drive, think, interact with others, spend money and deal with the important people in your life are all largely habitual.” But then he says, “The good news is that all habits are learned, and they can therefore be unlearned.”³

It’s easy to see the habits in our lives. Every day we brush our teeth, dress ourselves, and drive to work the same way. Those habits may or may not need changing. But here’s one habit we should definitely unlearn: our tendency to consider the temporal implications of life’s choices and events before we consider the eternal. The apostle Paul learned to emphasize the eternal after meeting Christ. He said that his only goal was to know “Christ Jesus [his] Lord” (Philippians 3:8).

What do you think of first when making decisions or reacting to life—the here and now or the life to come? Start a new habit today: think first of the eternal difference your choices and reactions will make.

*Every action of our lives touches on some
chord that will vibrate in eternity.*

E. H. CHAPIN

³ Brian Tracy, *Maximum Achievement* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993), 90–91.

January 7
SPIRITUAL TO-DO LIST

Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.

2 JOHN 1:8

There are two words that, at first glance, might not seem to go with one another: *procrastination* and *priorities*. We think of procrastinators as people who put off doing what should be done—that is, life's priorities. But that doesn't mean they put off everything. They do what is important to them—even procrastinators have priorities!

And that applies to everyone. All of us have things we choose to do each day based on our personal set of values. And if the disciplines of the spiritual life are continually excluded from our day—week after week, month after month—then it means they don't have the value in our lives that would move them higher on our list of priorities. We need to be honest with ourselves and with God. Calling ourselves Christians but failing to practice the disciplines of the Christian life—prayer, service, acts of compassion, study of God's Word, worship—sets up a disconnect for which we will one day give account.

Take stock today. Are you procrastinating about the real priorities in your spiritual life? This would be a good day to move them higher on your to-do list.

We have left undone those things which we ought to have done.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER