

Your  
Turnaround  
Devotional

31 Days to Your Better Life

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**YOUR TURNAROUND DEVOTIONAL:**

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**A word about**  
*Your Turnaround Devotional*

There are only two kinds of people: those who need a turnaround now and those who will need one soon. No one is exempt. As Jesus told us, the sun and rain fall on both the righteous and the unrighteous (Matthew 5:45). Even those who have already experienced the ultimate new beginning—the new birth (John 3:7)—will periodically find themselves in a difficult spot. Even faithful Believers in Christ will, from time to time, need a fresh start.

The good news today is that a turnaround is available to anyone who truly wants one. In Revelation 21:5, the Lord gives us this beautiful promise:

***“Behold, I am making all things new.”***

If you need a turnaround today, you can find it at the throne of Jesus, the only One who is able to make ALL things new. Maybe you have looked in other places. Friends, drugs, immoral relationships, career success, material gain. Such things may temporarily distract you from the real issue—your relationship with God. But instead of fixing the ache in your heart, it only grows.

The pages of Scripture are filled with examples of people who received turnarounds from God. While some of these were criminals or immoral, other new beginnings were received by the people we might least expect—those who were powerful, wealthy, religious, or highly esteemed.

If you need a turnaround in your own life today, these devotionals will point you to the God of all hope—the One who offers second chances and fresh starts to anyone who comes to Him in faith.

**This can be YOUR day for a turnaround!**

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DAY 1



# Beginning with God's Creative Power

Today's Bible Reading: Genesis 1

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

– Genesis 1:1 NASB

The first thing the Bible teaches about God is that He is the Creator, and this is the first key to your turnaround. The word here translated "created" occurs 13 times in the first two chapters of Genesis. Because God creates, He is never limited to the way things presently are.

The Bible is filled with examples of His creative power at work. When the Israelites appeared hopelessly trapped by Pharaoh's army, He saved them by creating a way through the sea. When His people did not seem to have hope, God told them, *"I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert"* (Isaiah 43:19).

When the multitudes followed Jesus to a deserted place without food, He turned five loaves and two fish into a feast for everyone (Matthew 14:14-20). When the disciples could not heal an epileptic, Jesus healed him and said, *"If you have faith as 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).

Today, God wants to give you a revelation of His creative power. And He wants you to realize that you can begin again with Him. You may see nothing but wilderness ahead, but God can create a road for you. You may feel that you're in a desert, but God can provide rivers that flow with abundance. Instead of being limited by the way things are, He can do a "new thing" in your life, at any time and in any place.

God is not overwhelmed with the apparent size of your problems. Do not allow yourself to be limited by your circumstances or the options that seem logical to you. Have faith, and trust in the Lord. Not only is He the Creator, but His creative power also can re-create your world and intervene in your difficult circumstances.



# Planting for Your Future Harvest

Today's Bible Reading: Genesis 1

*“Let the earth sprout vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them’... The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good.” – Genesis 1:11-12 NASB*

**S**peaking at the dawn of creation, God established a principle that would be central to all forms of life—in fact, to everything that’s done on earth. This is the principle of planting seeds to reap a harvest.

God said that the earth would bring forth plants having seeds that would yield fruit *“after their kind.”* We see the result of these seeds every day in our trees, flowers, grains, and grasses.

This principle applies to all of creation, for every person, fish, and animal began as a seed. But this principle does not end with organisms in the natural world. Ideas also begin with seeds, as do businesses, ministries, and relationships. None of these can develop without seeds being planted.

As you begin a new year, think about the seeds you will sow. Your time is a seed, and so are your talents, gifts, and treasure. How will you sow your time in the weeks and months

ahead? How will you plant and invest the resources God has given you?

The Bible makes it clear that God desires to bless you with a harvest of blessings. But to receive this harvest, you’ll need to plant the seeds you’ve been given.

If you want God to bless you continuously, you must sow continuously. Just think about a farmer who wants to reap a harvest; He knows he will need to invest his resources and plant his seeds.

What harvest do you need from God in the coming months? Today, start planting more seeds with your time, talent, and treasure, wrapping them in faith for the breakthrough you need.

Remember: The Lord can *grow* and *multiply* whatever you give to Him. So give Him an opportunity to bless you with an abundant harvest. Your turnaround depends on it!





# Preparing for Your Tide to Turn

**Today's Bible Reading: Genesis 21**

*"Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him."*

– Genesis 21:1-2 NASB

There are moments when everything changes—when the tide is turned. These often are called “tipping points,” when the balance suddenly tips one way or another.

In a recent book about these points, Malcolm Gladwell recounts how sales of a well-known brand of shoes had plummeted dramatically. The manufacturer was ready to give up and shut down production. “But then, something strange happened,” he writes. Unplanned, and without any major campaign, people began wearing these shoes even though they were “out of fashion.” They were worn by influential executives, celebrities, and models in photo shoots. The word about the shoes spread, and they kept selling.

Within just a year, sales had increased by more than 1,000%. Somehow, at a time when there seemed to be no hope, this “failure” became a huge success.

Great turning points like this can come unexpectedly into our lives — seemingly out of the blue. In fact, God *specializes* in these kinds of miraculous turnarounds.

We see one of these miracles when Abraham and Sarah were childless in their old age, without hope of an heir. Then God said they would have a son—something that seemed impossible, since Sarah was past the age of child-bearing. Yet the miracle took place, just as God had promised, and “*at the appointed time*” the child was born.

Today, remember that God can turn around *any* situation...for you. He hasn't forgotten you. He hears your prayers and has an appointed time when His promises will be fulfilled and your prayers will be answered.

Stay faithful with the time and resources you've been given. Don't be discouraged or give up hope. Trust Him for your turnaround. The tide is about to turn!



# Wrestling for Your Breakthrough

Today's Bible Reading: Genesis 32

*"Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh... Then he said, 'Let me go, for the dawn is breaking.' But he said, 'I will not let you go unless you bless me.'" — Genesis 32:24-26 NASB*

Jacob constantly was surrounded by people. By the time he returned to his homeland, he had a large family and many servants.

On this journey, he faced continual challenges and had to resolve conflicts and make decisions. All the while, he must have been thinking about his past, present, and future. He especially must have wondered whether his brother Esau was still angry that Jacob had taken his birthright and stolen his blessing.

When his messengers heard Esau was coming to meet him with 400 men, Jacob imagined the worst. He divided his entourage and sent them ahead in two groups. Finally, everyone had gone, and Jacob was alone.

While he was alone, *"a man wrestled with him until daybreak."* Who was this "man"? It was no ordinary man, for Jacob later *"named the place Peniel"* and said, *"I have seen God face to face."*

Alone, the two wrestled, grappling hour after hour. The "man" had superior strength, even dislocating Jacob's thigh with just a touch.

Yet Jacob would not give up. As dawn broke, the "man" asked Jacob to let him go, but he refused: "I will not let you go unless you bless me." In response, the person said Jacob now would be known as Israel: *"For you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed."*

It was no accident that this life-changing moment happened when Jacob was alone. In your life, remember the importance of spending time alone with God—time freed from other influences, when He can challenge you, speak to you, and teach you. Set aside time when you can interact with Him, and even wrestle with Him. Spend time alone with your Heavenly Father today—and don't let go of Him until He has blessed you!





# Trimming Your Lamp

**Today's Bible Reading: Exodus 30**

*“Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps. When Aaron trims the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense. There shall be perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.”* – Exodus 30:7-9 NASB

**A** turnaround from God is not just a one-time event or experience. Even after the breakthrough comes, we have an obligation to *maintain* what the Lord has given us through a life of faithfulness and consistency.

Aaron was responsible for taking care of the lamps that were set before God's presence. He was to trim them daily, not just once but twice—every morning and at twilight. Why? Because God wanted each lamp to burn as effectively and brightly as possible. Also, Aaron was to burn incense every evening, sacrificing to God a sweet-smelling offering.

These weren't just random assignments. Through His instructions to Aaron, God was giving us important spiritual principles.

The act of trimming the lamps is a picture of our Christian lives. Like Aaron, we need to come into the Lord's presence *every day!*

Jesus said, *“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see*

*your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven”* (Matthew 5:16). If we want our lights to shine brightly, we must *“trim our lamps.”* This means being clean from sin, regularly seeking God, and spending time in His Word.

Only those who have this daily encounter with God will have lights that shine brightly. And we can't just come into His presence once in a while: We must be *consistent*, doing this *every day*.

We're also called to present offerings of praise and worship. God wants us to be living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to Him (Romans 12:1). An offering of praise comes from a life spent pleasing God, making Godly decisions and choices, praying and being faithful to seek and serve Him.

Today, don't ignore your *“lamp.”* Be sure that it's burning brightly. Spend time before God. Be clean and pure. Draw closer to Him. Offer sacrifices of praise, pleasing Him with your life.



# Entering Into Your New Day

**Today's Bible Reading: Numbers 26**

*“Take a census of all the congregation of the sons of Israel from twenty years old and upward, by their fathers' households, whoever is able to go out to war in Israel.” – Numbers 26:2 NASB*

**I**t was time for a new census. Nearly 40 years had passed since the Israelites' first census took place soon after they'd left Egypt. Much had happened in the intervening years. The adults from that earlier generation had died, and a new generation had arisen. There were new leaders, and they were beginning a new era in their history.

They were in a new place and about to face a whole new series of circumstances—new enemies and adversaries, new challenges and problems, but also exciting new opportunities to live in God's abundance. And they were about to enter the Promised Land.

It was time for this new generation to be counted—time to take a fresh look at themselves as God's people. They must take stock of their resources, determine what roles everyone would play, and decide how they would proceed on their journey.

As the Israelites faced their new day, so each of us must realize that God is the God of new beginnings, of second chances, and of opportunities

to start over again. Although we can learn from the past, we must always keep our eyes on the Lord and move forward (Philippians 3:12-14).

And while we must repent and learn from our sins and mistakes, we can't focus on them to such an extent that they cripple us or dominate our lives. We must remember that God's mercies never end, *“for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning”* (Lamentations 3:22-23). Every day is a *new day!*

Today, commit your past, present, and future to the Lord. Instead of dwelling on your past—on opportunities lost, mistakes made, or things you should or shouldn't have done—praise God for setting you free to enjoy a wonderful life, both now and in eternity.

If you've committed known sins, confess them quickly and accept His forgiveness. Declare that this is a new day for you, a time of restoration and new beginnings! Face your future full of hope, boldness, and confidence in His ability to give you victory.







# Joshua's Transformation

**Today's Bible Reading: Joshua 10**

*"Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings."*

– Joshua 10:40 NKJV

Joshua had the unenviable task of replacing Moses. He knew others would be watching him, wondering if he could measure up.

Joshua's leadership role began with great success as he led the Israelites over the Jordan River and into victory over Jericho. It was clear to everyone that *"the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country"* (Joshua 6:27).

But Joshua was devastated when he allowed Israel to be overconfident in the next battle, and they were defeated by the insignificant town of Ai. Yet, when he sought God, he learned how to reverse the impact of this defeat.

Joshua made another serious mistake when he failed to discern that the Gibeonites were deceiving him into forming an ill-advised covenant. Confident in himself, Joshua never prayed or sought God about the matter.

These mistakes could have marked the end of Joshua's effectiveness as a leader. He could have become depressed or unstable, or he might

have resorted to blaming others. But instead, he seems to have emerged with even greater confidence and boldness, and he no longer took God's favor for granted.

As we go through life, we can expect to face problems and make mistakes at times. When this happens, we should be like Joshua, humbling ourselves, shaking off the failure, and learning from our errors.

Today, commit every difficult situation to God. Ask Him for the wisdom and direction you need. And if you make mistakes, don't give up or panic. Instead, seek God's face. Let Him show you what you *should* have done and what you should do the next time.

As you humble yourself before the Lord, let Him transform you and give you new confidence. Instead of letting mistakes and problems make you weaker, allow God to work through them to make you *stronger*. No matter how low you've sunk, a turnaround is possible when you call on Him, trust Him, and obey Him.



# Battling the Enemy for a Breakthrough

Today's Bible Reading: Judges 4

*"Arise! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hands; behold, the LORD has gone out before you."*

—Judges 4:14 NASB

Israel had sinned, and God allowed them to fall under the control of Jabin, king of Canaan. Jabin had a technological advantage and an army with superior weapons, including 900 iron chariots. He used these advantages to oppress Israel *"severely for twenty years"* (v. 3). Their situation must have seemed hopeless.

During that time, Israel was being led by the prophetess Deborah. One day she summoned Barak and told him God was commanding him to take 10,000 men and march to Mount Tabor. Then she gave him God's strategy for victory: *"I will draw out to you Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his many troops to the river Kishon, and I will give him into your hand"* (v. 7). Barak agreed to move forward, but only if Deborah went with him.

As they approached Mount Tabor, Israel saw Sisera's mighty army, and it must have been an intimidating force. Yet Deborah knew that God was with

them, and she encouraged Barak, *"Get ready! Today the LORD will give you victory over Sisera, for the LORD is marching ahead of you"* (v. 15 NLT).

Strengthened by Deborah's word of encouragement, the army confidently entered into battle and won a decisive victory. In a very short time, their entire situation changed.

How often we can feel like Israel—outnumbered and facing an enemy with superior resources. But, like Israel, we need to realize God is with us and know that He can give us victory.

Today, remember that God is on *your* side, if you are on *His* side (Romans 8:31). Don't be timid, but commit your difficult situations to Him. Trust Him. Obey His Word, and seek the leading of His Spirit.

God can turn your situation around quickly! Just make sure you're ready to engage the enemy—not retreating, but moving forward boldly, filled with faith, trusting in God for victory.



# *A Turnaround for Ruth and Naomi*

**Today's Bible Reading: Ruth 3**

*"Wait, my daughter, until you know how the matter turns out; for the man will not rest until he has settled it today."* – Ruth 3:18 NASB

**N**aomi and her family had left Israel for Moab, hoping to escape a drought. But after her husband and two sons died, she returned to Israel with only her daughter-in-law, Ruth—a Moabite woman with no knowledge of Jewish laws or customs.

Desperate, Ruth went gleaning for grain in a field which, providentially, belonged to Boaz, a wealthy man who was related to Naomi. His workers were impressed with Ruth's conduct and gave her special favor.

Obedient to Naomi's instructions, Ruth followed the customs of the time, and Boaz recognized that she was acting with honor and humility. He soon learned of her reputation as a *"woman of excellence"* (v. 11).

Boaz was ready to make Ruth his bride, yet he knew that another man was a closer relative. He told her that he would approach the man and find out whether or not he would *"redeem"* her (v. 13). Boaz was a man of his

word, and the matter was settled that very day.

The marriage of Boaz and Ruth literally was made in Heaven, designed by God. It demonstrates just how quickly God can turn around any situation, no matter how unlikely it might seem.

Both Boaz and Ruth had done their part, and Boaz was a dependable man of integrity. These are the kinds of people who are prepared for God's blessings—people who are faithful, good stewards, committed to excellence, trustworthy, and maintaining good reputations.

Today, seek to develop these character traits in your life. Be so dependable that others can count on you. Be honorable and trustworthy. Don't just talk the talk, but keep your word.

Then remember you can trust in God. He will direct your steps and provide for your needs. Be faithful, and your turnaround will come!





# Learning to Listen to God

Today's Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 3

*"The boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD before Eli. And word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent."*

– 1 Samuel 3:1 NASB

**F**or many in Israel, God seemed merely a memory, a part of Israel's distant history. They had never heard His voice or sensed His involvement in their lives. But through Samuel everything changed.

This process began when Samuel was just a boy. From early childhood, he spent his life in the Temple, where he entered a new spiritual dimension—learning to hear the voice of God. As Samuel grew in intimacy with the Lord, he realized that God hadn't changed: He was real, His Word was relevant, He had plans for Israel and each individual, and He was ready to direct them, protect them, and bless them.

Today, as in ancient Israel, many people never hear God's voice. They assume that faith is irrelevant or misguided. To them, God is dead—a relic of history or myth. Others have a religion based on forms and rituals. Although they know *about* God, they don't have a personal relationship with Him.

Just as in the time of Samuel,

God is ready to speak to people in *our* time—to turn around *our* situations and solve *our* problems. But who will hear His voice? The Lord is looking for people who will develop a personal relationship with Him and spend time with Him. He seeks those who take time to know His Word and make it part of their daily lives, believing that it's "*living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword*" (Hebrews 4:12).

Are you ready to hear God's voice and spend time in His presence? This is the key to your turnaround, for Paul writes: "*We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory*" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Make a commitment today to develop a more intimate relationship with God. Fill your life with the Scriptures, and put them into practice. As you pray, talk with Him and listen. Let Him turn your life around and change other lives for Christ through you!





# Facing Your Giants With Faith

Today's Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 17

*"When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid."* – 1 Samuel 17:11 NASB

Israel was troubled—not just mildly afraid, but *"greatly afraid."* When they looked at their circumstances, they were scared to death!

As they gathered for battle, the Philistines sent forth a mighty champion, Goliath. He was a giant, perhaps nine feet tall, a warrior who seemed invincible, armed with unmatched weapons and massive armor.

Israel melted when they heard Goliath's messages of defiance and intimidation, as he asked them to send a man to meet him in a battle that would decide the war. This went on, day after day, for 40 days. The terrified Israelites fled whenever they saw Goliath. Their morale declined, and everything seemed lost.

But suddenly and unexpectedly, everything changed. David, just a young man, came to visit his brothers, who were serving in Israel's army. Encouraged by his experiences facing lions and bears, David was confident

God could bring victory against *any* enemy. Eager to face Goliath, he *"ran quickly"* to meet him (v. 48), slung one stone, and the seemingly undefeatable giant was killed.

The cocky Philistines knew they had been defeated. Israel, which had felt hopeless, suddenly enjoyed complete victory. All it took was one person who believed God and refused to back down or be intimidated.

This is more than just a nice story ...something that happened long ago to "other" people. These principles are still true for our lives today.

God can turn everything around for *you*, just as He did for Israel! You don't need to be intimidated by the problems you face. Don't be afraid or give in to discouragement or hopelessness. Instead, believe God and put His Word into action. Face your "giants" in faith!



# *A Widow's Miracle Provision*

**Today's Bible Reading: 1 Kings 17**

*"Then Elijah said to her, 'Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from it first and bring it out to me, and afterward you may make one for yourself and for your son.'"*

— 1 Kings 17:13 NASB

**T**he widow had reached the end of her rope. She needed a turnaround, and she needed it fast. Without hope, she had only enough food for one last meal for herself and her son—just a handful of flour and a little oil. But then God intervened in an unexpected, miraculous way.

The help came when the prophet Elijah was sent to visit her, uninvited and out of the blue. God had told him that He had *"commanded a widow there to provide for you"* (v. 9). In spite of her dire poverty, Elijah asked her to bring him *"a little water in a jar, that I may drink"* (v. 10). Then he asked for a piece of bread as well.

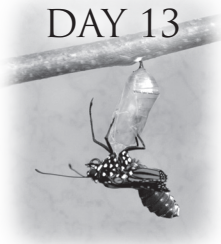
In light of this woman's desperate need, the prophet's stunning request seemed impossible. Yet Elijah told her, *"Do not fear"* (v. 13). He amazingly prophesied that, as she provided for him, God would supply for *her*. More than that, God promised that, regardless of appearances, her flour *"shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty"* until He sent rain (v. 14).

The widow obeyed Elijah's words, and God supernaturally provided for her. As a result, she, her son, and Elijah *"ate for many days"* (v. 15)—all because she placed God first in her life. Instead of holding back, she gave of her best to support God's servant.

A blessing awaits those who follow the remarkable example of this widow, trusting Him to provide for them and multiply their sacrificial, faith-filled offerings. Multiplied thousands of people around the world today have received breakthroughs when they obeyed God's instruction to sow *seeds* out of their *needs*.

Today, God is ready to turn your situation around, blessing you so that you might be a blessing to others (Genesis 12:2). Commit your life to Him, and sow seeds with the resources He's given you. When you seek first His Kingdom, He has promised to meet every need (Matthew 6:33)!





# A Turnaround for Elijah

Today's Bible Reading: 1 Kings 19

*"He was afraid and arose and ran for his life...he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness...and he requested for himself that he might die." – 1 Kings 19:3-4 NASB*

**E**lijah was exhausted. Discouraged. Disheartened. This mighty man of God no longer was filled with the faith that enabled him to stand alone against the prophets of Baal.

Failing to trust in God, Elijah became intimidated by the angry threats of Queen Jezebel. Afraid, he ran, unable to face the challenges of life. Having taken his eyes off the Lord, Elijah was feeling vulnerable. Seeing no hope, he was ready to give up. But then God told him to *"stand on the mountain"*—and He would be there.

At first, Elijah felt *"a great and strong wind,"* but God *"was not in the wind."* Then the earth shook with a mighty earthquake, followed by a fire. But God was not in either the quake or the fire (vs. 11-12).

Then there was *"a sound of a gentle blowing,"* a *"gentle whisper"* (NLT), a *"still small voice"* (NKJV)—and that is when Elijah experienced God's presence and received His reassurance again. Showing He still was with Elijah, the Lord then sent him back into

ministry to complete his assignment.

This experience of Elijah shows us that even mature Believers may need turnarounds from time to time. All of us face human frailty and the weakness of our flesh. At times, we take our eyes off the Lord and must be reminded to depend on Him and not on ourselves.

Where do we find that kind of turnaround? Like Elijah, we need quiet times alone with the Lord, where He can refresh us, teach us, strengthen us, and guide us.

If you become discouraged, remember to turn your eyes upon God's faithfulness (Isaiah 26:3). If you feel alone, remember that He will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). If you feel powerless, remember that you're surrounded by a mighty spiritual army (2 Kings 6:15-17). And when you face problems, remember that in Christ you are victorious (2 Corinthians 2:14).

Let Him turn your life around and meet your every need!





# One Miracle After Another

Today's Bible Reading: 2 Kings 4

*"Drive and go forward; do not slow down the pace for me unless I tell you."... When she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught hold of his feet." – 2 Kings 4:24-27 NASB*

**T**his woman already had experienced one miracle: She had been given a son late in her life, a reward for kindnesses shown to the prophet Elisha. But after he grew up, the boy had an accident and died.

Rather than giving up hope, the woman remembered the miracle of her son's birth. Did she now have faith for a miracle that seemed even more impossible?

Acting with determination, she sped to Elisha and *"caught hold of his feet."* She reminded the prophet of her son's miraculous birth. How could he now be taken away from her?

The prophet sent his servant, Gehazi, to lay his staff on the child's face. But nothing happened.

Then Elisha came to the boy and *"shut the door behind them both and prayed to the LORD."* He laid on the child and *"put his mouth on his mouth...and he stretched himself on him"* (vs. 33-34). After walking around, he stretched himself on the child one more time. Finally, the

boy sneezed and opened his eyes. The woman received her *second* miracle. Her son was brought back to life!

This woman demonstrated the power of persistent faith, but also the importance of preparation. Her miracles were possible because she had been faithful to support the work of God and believed He would intervene in her life.

Are you prepared to receive *your* miracle? Have you laid the foundation for a turnaround in your life? Are you persistent in your prayers and filled with faith, or constantly complaining and filled with doubt?

Today, remember the example of this widow. Be encouraged by her example of faith that God can turn around any situation, no matter how difficult.

Defeat can become victory. Long-standing needs can be met in a mere moment. God never runs out of miracle power, and He can give you the breakthrough you need!







# Proud Naaman's Turnaround

Today's Bible Reading: 2 Kings 5

*“Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, ‘Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean.’ But Naaman was furious and went away.”* – 2 Kings 5:10-11 NASB

Naaman was a “great man” and “valiant warrior” (v. 1), but he had a serious problem: He was a leper. In his desperation, he learned from a servant girl that there was a prophet in Israel who could be of help.

Arrogantly thinking like a man of the world, Naaman went to the king of Israel, bringing money and assuming he could buy influence and healing. However, the king tore his clothes in frustration when he saw Naaman's letter, for he knew he was powerless to heal.

Finally, Naaman went to see Elisha, but the prophet was not even willing to meet with him. He sent a messenger instead, with an astonishing word of instruction: “Wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you” (v. 10).

This made absolutely no sense. Naaman thought Elisha surely would “wave his hand” and heal him. And why the Jordan instead of the rivers of his native land? Incredulous, “he turned and went away in a rage” (vs. 11-12).

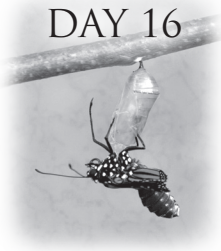
But a servant finally convinced him to change his mind: Why not obey the request? What did he have to lose, except his pride?

When Naaman obeyed, he was healed instantly, and his life turned around. He discovered he could not influence God with his money, prestige, or reputation. What moved God was Naaman's humility and obedience—his faith. Accordingly, the Bible tells us that “without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Today, God is ready to reward you, if you will lay aside pride and not worry what others might say...if you will act in faith and obey Him...if you will trust Him completely.

Don't let anything hold you back. Reach out to God in faith. Believe Him for miracles and breakthroughs!





# Turnarounds Through Prayer

Today's Bible Reading: Psalm 65

*"There will be silence before You, and praise in Zion, O God, and to You the vow will be performed. O You who hear prayer, to You all men come."*

– Psalm 65:1-2 NASB

**B**orn in Prussia in 1805, George Mueller spent much of his youth in rebellion and a lifestyle of waste and deceit. But at age 20, he made a radical commitment to serve Jesus, and he went on to become one of the most influential Christians of his time. He moved to England, where he became a pastor. He also developed a burden for orphans and eventually started 117 schools, in which thousands of young people were educated.

Mueller became a powerful advocate of prayer. Many times, children in his orphanages were given plates with no food, but somehow food always arrived, often through miraculous circumstances. No one ever went hungry.

Mueller believed in being *specific* in prayer, and he taught that vague, nebulous prayers are frequently not answered. For example, on this day in 1838, after studying Psalm 65, he wrote down eight requests and committed them to the Lord. Then he concluded, "I believe He has heard

me. I believe He will make it manifest in His own good time that He has heard me; and I have recorded these my petitions...that when God has answered them He may get...glory to His name."

He also believed in *persistent* prayer: "We should continue in prayer till the blessing is granted; without fixing to God a time when, or the circumstances under which, He should give the answer."

Today, God is ready to hear *your* prayers, whether for healing, provision, restored relationships, or some other kind of breakthrough. Right now, don't be vague, but tell Him the *specific* burdens of your heart. Seek Him, and tell Him *exactly* what you need. Then allow the Lord to stir your spirit and give you faith to believe He will answer your prayer, in His time and in His way.





# Declaring New Things

**Today's Bible Reading: Isaiah 42**

*"Behold, the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things; before they spring forth I proclaim them to you. Sing to the LORD a new song, sing His praise from the end of the earth!"* – Isaiah 42:9-10 NASB

**W**hen we look into the future, everything may appear dark and unknown. We can think about the past and assume everything will remain the same. We can fear we will never overcome our problems, experience victory, or receive answers to our prayers.

But the Bible encourages us to understand that we serve the God of new beginnings. He's the God who raises the dead and who created the universe by simply speaking it into existence.

For Him there are no limits. *Nothing* is impossible, for He declares the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10).

Today, you have a wonderful opportunity for a new beginning. He's ready to help you, so there's no reason to wait to get started.

Put aside doubt, and replace it with faith. Expect miracles instead of failure. Recognize that it's *never* too late with God.

No matter how things appear on the surface, there's no problem too great for Him to solve! He's the God

of miracles, and there's no foe He cannot defeat.

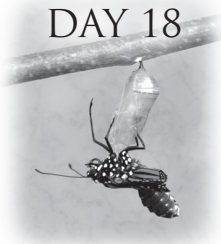
Right now, don't live in the past or be content to remain stuck in circumstances you can change. Refuse to accept defeat or worry that your prayers will never be answered.

Instead, let God overwhelm you with His abundant blessings! As you seek a turnaround in your life, be prepared for new revelations and wisdom. Let Him teach you new things and bless you in new ways. Let Him transform your life.

As you await your breakthrough, fill your life with praise. Sing a new song to the Lord. Worship Him, and declare His faithfulness.

Don't wait any longer. Trust yourself to God's care, and declare His promises to be true. Have faith, and watch Him do powerful new things in your life!





# Unfazed by Circumstances

**Today's Bible Reading: Jeremiah 38**

*"They took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchijah the king's son...they let Jeremiah down with ropes. Now in the cistern there was no water but only mud, and Jeremiah sank into the mud."*

– Jeremiah 38:6 NASB

**H**ow committed was Jeremiah to obeying God? He must have asked questions like this when he heard the message God asked him to deliver, for the Lord wanted His people to surrender to the Chaldeans. Even though Jeremiah had no desire to deliver this message and didn't understand his assignment, he remained a faithful messenger.

After hearing Jeremiah's message, government officials wanted him killed. To them, he was a traitor, harming the nation's morale and deserving death. Instead, the king allowed them just to persecute Jeremiah, so they let him down by ropes into a deep hole, filled with mud. We can imagine how Jeremiah must have felt when his message was rejected and he was lowered into this dark and depressing place. How hard it must have been to hang there in pain, in the dark, alone, and with no food.

Eventually, Jeremiah was freed from this dismal cistern. Even though he faced persecution like this, he

remained obedient to God. This event in Jeremiah's life illustrates that even when we're obeying God, we may face criticism or go through problems. That makes it even more important for us to maintain a close personal relationship with the Lord and be sure about His will for our lives. We must live in accordance with His Word, be led by His Spirit, and refrain from judging our success based on our present circumstances.

If you are experiencing questions or doubts, as Jeremiah frequently did, you need to call on God. With an open and honest heart, check with Him to make sure you're in tune with His Word and His Spirit.

Today, anchor your hope in God's faithfulness instead of your temporary situation (Hebrews 6:13-20). Lay aside your personal desires and reputation, your own plans and interests. Don't allow circumstances or the reactions of others to influence your mood or your actions. Trust God and your turnaround will surely come.







# A Turnaround for Nineveh

**Today's Bible Reading: Jonah 3**

*“When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.” – Jonah 3:10 NASB*

**N**ineveh was a wicked place. The people in this ancient Assyrian city lived such immoral lives that judgment seemed the only option. Jonah was the chosen vessel to deliver God's message of their imminent doom.

After initially resisting this assignment, Jonah eventually arrived in Nineveh. As God had instructed him, he warned: *“Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”*

Then something miraculous and unexpected happened: *“The people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them”* (v. 5).

Even the king humbled himself, and he covered *“himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes”* (v. 6). He ordered everyone to unite in confessing their sins, humbling themselves before God and praying for mercy: *“Call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands”* (v. 8).

God was so moved that He had *“compassion on Nineveh”* (4:11). In-

stead of receiving judgment, everything turned around for the Ninevites. Why? Because they listened to God's Word and took His warning seriously. Prompted by Jonah's preaching, they recognized their sins and repented.

As you consider the reaction of Nineveh, think about conditions in your own nation. Are the people of God willing to humble themselves? Instead of complaining or giving up hope when they see sin abound, are Believers willing to pray and seek God's face? As they see wickedness all around, are they willing to turn from *their* wicked ways and repent of *their* sins?

God wants to give your nation a turnaround. As He proved with Nineveh, He is willing to hear from Heaven, forgive the nation's sins, and heal the land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

But will we repent? Humble ourselves? Pray? Seek His face? Turn from our wicked ways? That is God's prescribed path for a national turnaround, and nothing else will do.





# Needed: Radical Commitment

Today's Bible Reading: Matthew 19

*"If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*

– Matthew 19:21 NASB

**H**ere was a religious man, who knew the Bible and tried to do the right things. But Jesus said he faced a crossroads—a point of decision. Jesus asked him to make a “*complete*” commitment, to hold nothing back, to surrender everything and follow Him. *Everything!* Even to the point of selling all his possessions.

This demand for radical commitment made the man sad. Though he wanted to “*obtain eternal life,*” Jesus seemed to be asking too much of him.

Yes, the man hoped to find an inheritance in the life to come, but he still was committed to preserving his life in this present world, for he “*owned much property.*”

Many people are just like this man—interested in following Jesus and wanting to live a good life, yet holding back, clinging to this world, compromising.

Jesus asks the same commitment from us as He asked of this rich young man. Are we willing to follow Him

radically? Completely? Without holding anything back? Are we ready to quit living for ourselves and surrender *everything* to Him...our time, talent, and treasure?

Those who make this commitment enter into a new dimension of faith. God's supernatural power begins to flow, and His Kingdom comes alive in them.

Jesus offers *you* this same possibility, but you can't allow anything to hold you back. Which way will you decide? Will you cling to this world? Or give up everything to follow Him?

Right now, don't hold back. Step out in faith. Commit everything to Jesus. He offers you His Kingdom, with victory, power, blessing, and a new beginning in your relationship with God.

Not everyone is willing to take this path. But it's the only way to be “*complete,*” finding fullness of life and the turnaround you need.





# *A Woman's New Beginning*

**Today's Bible Reading: Mark 5**

*"A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse."*

– Mark 5:25 26 NASB

**T**his woman had every reason to feel hopeless. For 12 years, she had done everything possible to stop her hemorrhaging. She had gone to physicians and tried their cures. In the process, she *"had spent all that she had,"* but nothing worked. Instead of getting better, she *"had grown worse."*

However, this desperate woman had a spark of hope when she heard about Jesus. She sought Him out, working her way through the throng until she could touch His cloak.

She had faith to believe that *"if I just touch His garments, I will get well."* Her faith was rewarded, and she was healed instantly.

Perhaps you are feeling much like this woman. You may have struggled with health issues or finances, illnesses or crippling habits, family issues or relationship conflicts at work. In the process, you may have read self-help books, been to countless doctors, watched TV shows, and tried every

solution you could find. Yet nothing seems to have worked.

Faced with this frustration, you may have felt hopeless and discouraged, on the brink of giving up. But like this woman, you need to realize that there is hope in Jesus. Instead of giving up, you need to reach out to touch Him with every ounce of faith you can muster.

God is ready to give you a turnaround today. Though you may have struggled with the same problems for many years, feeling as if you've tried "everything," it's crucial for you to know this: Your life can change in a moment when you cry out to Jesus.

Tell Him your needs, frustrations, and problems. Nothing is too difficult for Him (Jeremiah 32:27). Obey His Word, and believe that He can meet your needs. In every area of your life, He can give you a new beginning!





# A Turnaround for Bartimaeus

Today's Bible Reading: Mark 10

*"As He was leaving Jericho...a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'"*

– Mark 10:46-47 NASB

Two things defined the life of Bartimaeus: He was blind, and he was a beggar. The Greek words here suggest that he *never stopped* begging. That was all he knew. He seemed destined to a hopeless existence for the remainder of his life.

But when he heard that Jesus was approaching, he began shouting for mercy. Others told him to be quiet, but Bartimaeus was persistent and *"kept crying out all the more"* (v. 48). His persistence paid off as Jesus stopped and called for him.

Jesus asked, *"What do you want Me to do for you?"* (v. 51) For Bartimaeus, this was the critical moment—the time he would dare to believe, asking for the one thing that could totally change his life: *"I want to regain my sight!"*

That was all Jesus needed to hear. He responded, *"Go; your faith has made you well,"* and the blind man immediately regained his sight! (v. 52)

Bartimaeus no longer had to beg! Jesus had given him what he needed to

live a productive, fruitful life. He was blessed to be a blessing, not a beggar.

Today, many are physically blind or crippled with other ailments, but millions more are *spiritually* crippled. As a result, they spend their lives begging, looking to other people in a futile quest for fulfillment. In addition to being spiritually empty, they often end up financially or emotionally poor as well.

But Jesus offers *everyone* the kind of complete turnaround that He provided for Bartimaeus. He gladly will turn aside to help those who are unwavering in their determination to receive a miracle...never giving up.

What breakthrough do you need to turn *your* life around? Call out to God, boldly and persistently. In faith, ask for big things—the things that can change your life and change the world.







# The God of Second Chances

Today's Bible Reading: Luke 17

*"If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."* – Luke 17:3-4 NASB

**B**orn in Moscow in 1821, Fyodor Dostoevsky became one of the world's most influential novelists. Yet his life almost ended before his writing career was recognized.

In 1849 he was arrested and imprisoned along with others suspected of having radical ideas. Previously, he had advocated radical socialism, but while in prison, he had a crisis of faith and embraced Christianity.

After spending four years in prison, Dostoevsky was sentenced to be shot. However, a miracle took place at the last minute, and his life was spared.

This experience changed Dostoevsky in many ways. Realizing he had been given a "second chance," he dedicated himself to glorifying God and fulfilling his God-given potential.

The Lord wants *each* of us to realize that He is a God of "second chances." If we have sinned or made mistakes in our lives, He offers the opportunity to be forgiven, if we will just confess our sins (1 John 1:9).

In every area of our life, God offers us an opportunity to start afresh. He can open up new doors, turn defeat into victory, and even create a way in the wilderness where there did not seem to be a way (Isaiah 43:19-20).

In the same way, we must be willing to forgive others and give *them* a second chance. As God has been merciful to us, we need to extend that same mercy to others (Matthew 18:15-35).

Today, ask God to help you become sensitive to sin. Confess your sins, and receive His forgiveness and freedom. Remember to forgive others who might have sinned against you.

Don't give up if you have experienced failure or frustration. Trust the God of second chances. He can turn your defeats into victories!





# Power for Your Turnaround

Today's Bible Reading: Acts 2

*“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. . . They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.” – Acts 2:1-4 NASB*

**B**efore Jesus rose into Heaven, He told His disciples they would be “baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Then He said, “*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.*” What a powerful promise!

The disciples knew that things were about to change. Something new was coming. But what exactly did it all mean? What were they to do?

Jesus had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to “*wait for what the Father had promised.*” So they waited. They prayed and stayed faithful to what He had told them to do.

Then suddenly the Holy Spirit fell and *everything* changed! They experienced an infusion of power they had never imagined. They could do things that previously seemed impossible.

Miracles took place. People by the thousands came into the Kingdom. What an amazing turnaround!

As you seek breakthroughs in your life, remember not to limit God. Stay faithful and obedient to what He has called you to do. No matter what has happened in the past—whether good or bad—be ready for *new things!* God wants to give you new revelations, more wisdom and power, greater miracles, and more answers to prayer.

If you have sin in your life today, let God forgive and restore you. If you're unsure about the future, let Him free you from fear.

Leave the past behind. Embrace this time in your life as a season of new beginnings!





# Leaping Into Your Turnaround

Today's Bible Reading: Acts 3

*"A man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along... to beg alms of those who were entering the temple... Peter... fixed his gaze on him and said... 'I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!'"* – Acts 3:2-6 NASB

**T**he man had nothing...and a dismal future, at best. Lame throughout his life, he spent most days simply begging from those who entered the Temple. Their handouts were his only source of provision.

Although this man probably believed in God, he never seemed to consider the possibility that God cared enough to change his life and was powerful enough to heal him. However, Peter knew that *nothing* is impossible with God. When he spoke the word of faith, this crippled man was instantly healed. Filled with joy, he walked, leaped, and praised God. In one divine moment, His entire life was turned around!

Many people approach life like this lame man—feeling trapped in a hopeless existence and convinced that nothing will ever change for them. They feel sentenced to a life of sickness or poverty, failure or defeat, doubt or depression.

Even Christians can have this dismal attitude. Though they know Bible

stories like this one, they have the same mind-set as this man did before his healing—never imagining that God's miracle-working power can suddenly transform their lives.

Today, you may face situations that seem hopeless. You may have longstanding problems you can't seem to solve. But no matter what you are facing, remember that God can intervene in your circumstances and meet your needs. He's God Almighty, able to strengthen the weak, heal the crippled, and set the captives free.

The Lord doesn't want you to be content with just the crumbs of life—He wants you to believe Him for *big* things. He can meet your every need. Just as He did for the lame man, He can do miracles and turn your life around in a single moment!





# A Supernatural Encounter With Jesus

Today's Bible Reading: Acts 9

*"As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?'"*

— Acts 9:3-4 NASB

Many in the early church shuddered with fear. They had seen Saul of Tarsus dragging Believers into prison and breathing out "*murderous threats*" (v. 1). Many fled Jerusalem to avoid his searchlight pursuit. Then, seeking to track down even more Believers, Saul took his campaign of persecution to Damascus.

Suddenly, at a time when no one was expecting change, Saul had a supernatural encounter with Jesus. In that one divine moment, *everything* changed—not only for Paul, but ultimately for his companions and the entire church.

This story should give all of us hope. When we think about problems in our lives and the world, we can feel discouraged, sure that nothing will change. But if God can change a man like Saul so quickly and completely, surely He can change *any* person and *any* situation. He can transform even the most hardened atheist and most committed opponent of Christianity. He can redirect the life of *anyone*

headed in the wrong direction.

If you are facing a difficult situation today, remember this: God can change any circumstance and turn defeat into victory. He can bring hope where there is no hope, abundance where poverty has reigned. He can provide guidance amid confusion and harmony where there has been conflict. He can provide answers to life's most desperate problems.

Today, think about the miracle in Saul's life, and realize that God can bring about the same kind of turnaround for you. No problem is insurmountable. No need is too great. He cares about *you* in the same way He cared about Saul.

Commit your problems to the Lord, and never stop believing. He can turn *any* situation around.

Don't give up or become discouraged, for the God who suddenly changed Saul can bring about immediate and lasting change for you as well. Trust Him!







# Paul Starts His New Beginning

Today's Bible Reading: Acts 9

*“Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord... suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice... I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.”* – Acts 9:1-6 NASB

Saul was confident and sure of his convictions. He felt sure he correctly understood God and His Word. And he had reason for his confidence—years of training and a zealous commitment to a tradition taught by generations of religious scholars.

But suddenly, everything changed. A light from Heaven “*flashed around him*” with an impact so strong that he fell to the ground.

Saul heard a voice, and it was Jesus Himself!

Although Saul recognized that this moment was changing his life, he didn't know precisely what it all meant, or how to respond.

Blinded by the light, this man who previously was so confident found himself being led by others to the house of Ananias in Damascus. He knew he needed God's revelation. His old life had reached a dead end, and he needed a fresh start.

Eventually Saul discovered that God wanted to use everything that had happened in his past—his experiences, what he'd been taught, and his unique gifts and abilities. However, the Lord wanted to point these things in a new direction, giving Saul new insights, new power, a new mission, and even a new name: Paul.

What an amazing turnaround! As Paul later would write, “*ALL things have become new*” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV).

Today, realize that God wants to do a new work in you as well. He wants to free you from habits that block the flow of His power. He stands ready to shake you out of your ruts, to open your eyes to new possibilities, and to give you greater fruitfulness.

Offer your whole life to Him. Cry out for wisdom. Let Him transform you, as He did for Paul.





# Another Turning Point for Paul

Today's Bible Reading: Acts 25

*"I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you also very well know...I do not refuse to die; but if none of those things is true of which these men accuse me, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar."*

– Acts 25:10-11 NASB

**I**t was a key moment in Christian history. Paul stood alone, listening as his accusers claim he was a political revolutionary, a rebel, a heretic, and a very dangerous man.

Paul could have resorted to bribery, as the Roman governor, Felix, had hoped. He had done nothing wrong and could have fought the charges. In fact, King Agrippa later admitted that Paul could have been set free. Instead, Paul chose to *"appeal to Caesar."*

This was a risky decision. What would he face in Rome? Persecution? Death? Yet Paul was proving the truth of what he had written: *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me"* (Galatians 2:20). He was demonstrating his unwavering commitment to following Christ, regardless of the cost.

This bold move helped turn the world upside down. In Rome, Paul preached the *"Kingdom of God"* and taught *"concerning the Lord Jesus*

*Christ with all openness, unhindered"* (Acts 28:17-31). There he wrote how his imprisonment had *"turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,"* since it became *"well known throughout the whole praetorian guard."* Seeing his example, other Believers were encouraged *"to speak the word of God without fear"* (Philippians 1:12-14).

With greater clarity than ever before, Paul realized that nothing mattered except serving Jesus—not even his own life. He wrote from Rome, *"To me, to live is Christ and to die is gain"* (Philippians 1:21).

In the same way, God is ready to turn around *your* circumstances and use you to change the world. But the key to your breakthrough is following Paul's example: Commit your life to the Lord without reservation. Let Him direct your steps. Live for Christ, for nothing else matters!





# All Things Becoming New

Today's Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 5

*"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."* – 2 Corinthians 5:17 NASB

Are you feeling “stuck” today in some area of your life? Perhaps you’re dealing with an addiction, a toxic relationship, a mountain of debt, or a crisis in your health. God cares, and He is willing and able to come to your aid.

Today you have an opportunity for a fresh start. If you need salvation, God offers the opportunity to begin a brand new life, for *“if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature.”* But even if you are already saved, you may need to embrace today’s opportunity to start over again with a turnaround in some area of your life. Take some time to evaluate your life and the things you’ve said and done. As you look back, you might be gratified by some things you have done, or ashamed of other things. There may be some regrets or things you wish you had done differently.

All of us can be sidetracked by bad habits or worldly influences. We can commit sins or be assaulted by the enemy. But through Christ, everything changes. *“Old things,”* no matter how

corrupt or persistent, *“have passed away.”* Everything becomes new! Christ can forgive all our sins... free us from guilt and worry... and give us the direction and wisdom we need.

Today, you can have the slate wiped clean from your past. You can leave your burdens behind. You can start over again and become new in Christ. No matter how many years you may have been a Christian, you still can be renewed and *“transformed by the renewing of your mind”* (Romans 12:2).

Some of this transformation will be instantaneous, while other things may require a more difficult process. But day by day, the *“old things”* in your life will pass away.

This can be your day for a turnaround. Ask God to forgive your sins, take away your fears and anxieties, and renew you in spirit, soul, and body. Start living in the newness of life God has prepared for you in Christ.





# Bouncing Back From Failure

Today's Bible Reading: **Philippians 4**

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

– Philippians 4:13 NASB

**I**n 1861, Ulysses S. Grant could have been considered a horrible failure. A West Point graduate with extensive military experience, he had settled into relative obscurity in Galena, Illinois. But the outbreak of the U.S. Civil War gave him an opportunity for a new beginning. He quickly rose in the ranks to a position of leadership in the Union army.

Many people doubted that he ever would succeed. In the spring of 1863, he was the commanding general of Northern troops in a battle for the strategic town of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Many observers concluded that this effort was a failure. One brigadier general said the campaign was "being badly managed." A reporter, writing to the Secretary of the Treasury, claimed that Grant was "a poor drunken imbecile," predicting that "Grant will fail miserably, hopelessly, eternally."

This dismal conclusion was confirmed when Grant engaged in a series of engagements which, in the words of author Shelby Foote, were seven "fail-

ures." Yet Grant did not give up. In the eighth attempt, he launched his troops onto a revolutionary concept, directing them to live off the land, without a permanent base of operations.

The result was a dramatic victory which many believe was the turning point in the war. Instead of giving in to failure or listening to naysayers, Grant persevered and changed the course of history.

Many people consider themselves to be failures, concluding that they cannot change or succeed. But the Bible tells us that *nothing* is impossible with God and that we "*can do all things*" through Christ who gives us strength.

Today, do not give in or concede defeat in any situation you face. God wants you to have faith in Him, to trust in Him, and to believe that you can do anything...through Christ. Your turnaround may be right around the corner!







# The Ultimate New Beginning

**Today's Bible Reading: Revelation 21**

*"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away . . . He who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'"— Revelation 21:1 5 NASB*

**S**ometimes our turnarounds seem far off. The world is filled with overwhelming problems, such as poverty, crime, hatred, violence, inequality, racism, and hunger. We often face such things as natural disasters, wars, and threats of terrorism.

Around the world, Godly people are being persecuted. Churches too often are divided or ineffective. Families are broken. Children are besieged with ungodly influences. Many in the media blatantly proclaim their anti-Christian standards.

If you just looked at these problems, it would be easy to become confused, worried, afraid, and discouraged. But despite the problems surrounding us, the Bible says we should *"abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"* (Romans 15:13). In confusing times like these, we can find encouragement when we turn to the "end of the book" and see the *ultimate* turnaround God is preparing for us as His people. There, at the end of the book of Revelation, we get a prophetic

glimpse of a new heaven and earth where God reigns and His presence is everywhere. The *"first earth"* and all its problems will have *"passed away."*

John also received a glimpse of how much God cares about each of us. Our Heavenly Father knows our struggles and heartaches. He understands our pains and the turmoil and tragedy we sometimes experience. He even knows the tears we cry. God promises that a better day is ahead. In the new heaven and earth, *"there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away"* (v. 4).

As you look toward the future, make sure you are trusting completely in God. Commit your questions, needs, and frustrations to Him. If you face dead ends or problems that don't seem to have solutions, give them to the Lord. He cares for you and is ready to give you a new beginning in this life, and a wonderful Heavenly home in the world to come.



# Resources for Your Turnaround!

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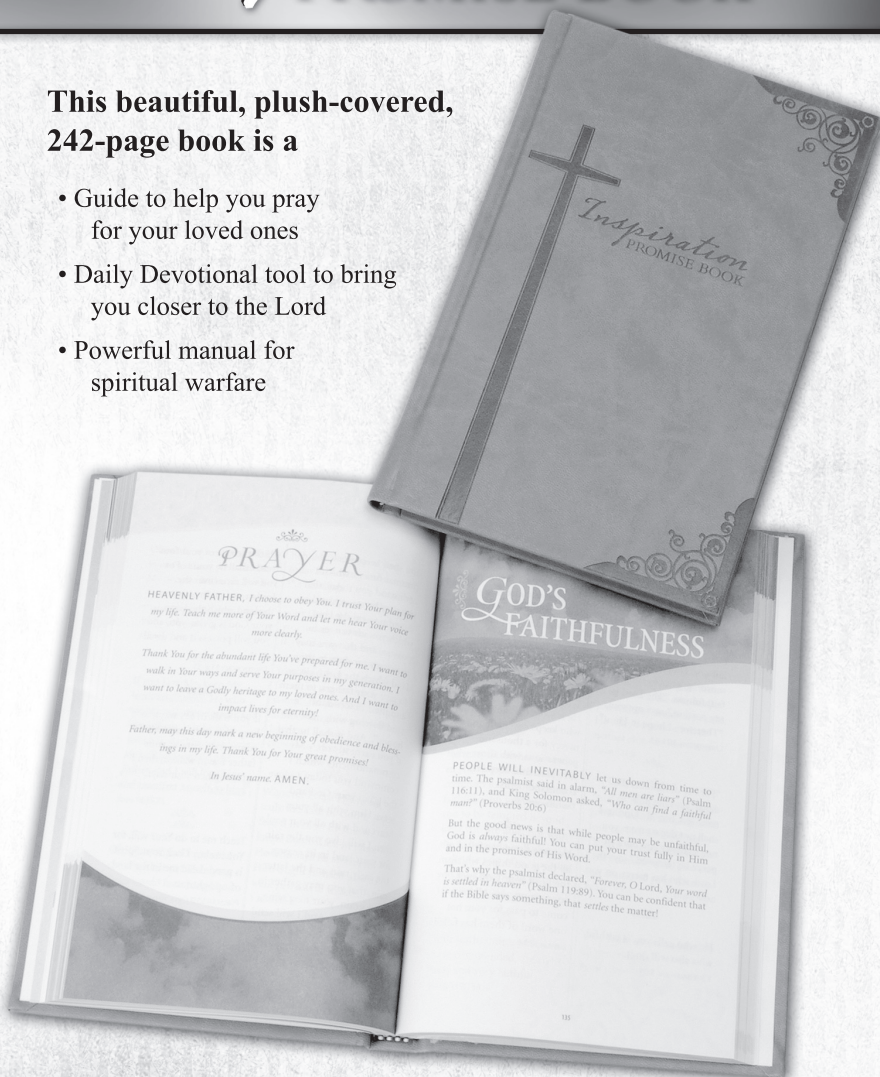


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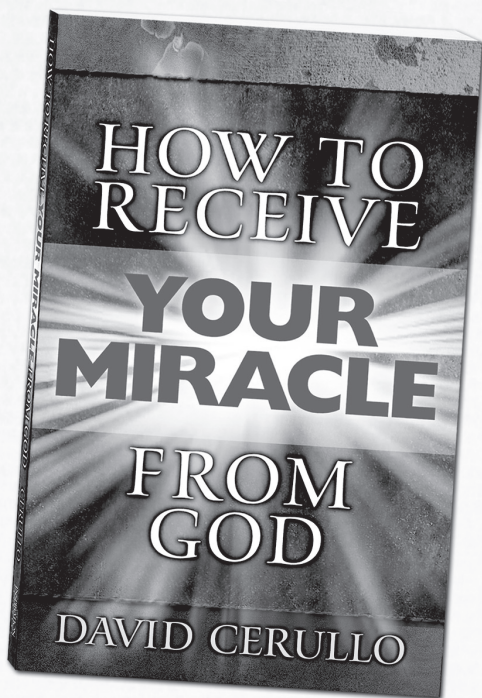
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# GOD'S ANSWERS

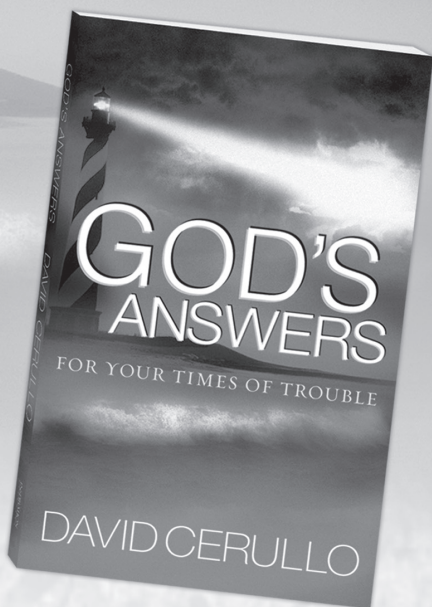
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# Need a Turnaround?

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**Husband delivered from alcoholism...** “After you prayed with me about my husband’s alcoholism, he has stopped drinking!”

**Family reconciliation...** “I had not heard from my son for five years, but I miraculously found him just two weeks after your prayer minister called!”

**New job and saved marriage...** “Thanks so much for your prayers. The Lord gave me a great job, my wife was willing to take me back, and I’ve been clean from drugs and alcohol for almost a year. God is so good!”

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# Your Turnaround Is Closer Than You Think!

*Take hold of God's promise  
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“I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on Me, when you come and pray to Me, I’ll listen. When you come looking for Me, you’ll find Me. Yes, when you get serious about finding Me and want it more than anything else, I’ll make sure you won’t be disappointed.

**“I’ll turn things around for you!”**

Jeremiah 29:11-14, The Message



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## *About Inspiration Ministries...*

Founded by David and Barbara Cerullo in 1990, Inspiration Ministries has a vision to impact people for Christ worldwide through media. Thousands of people have received turnarounds and breakthroughs through its inspirational TV programming and powerful spiritual resources.

Visit [inspiration.org](http://inspiration.org) to find out more about Inspiration Ministries or receive helpful materials to spark a turnaround in your family, health, finances, or relationship with Christ.



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