

Surrendering to God's will is incredibly difficult, if not impossible, without faith. When you stand alone and know you can't do it by yourself; that nothing you could do, will make a difference. Cry out to the Almighty to provide his mercy and grace in all situations!

Ask for guidance, calmness, and express your trust in the God's plan for all that will transpire. Ask that you be physically, mentally, and spiritually prepared for any outcome and remain thankful for that outcome regardless. I've found that when I surrender, I achieve peace and feel God is leading me through all the turmoil. Lean on the Lord. He will always carry you. That's how much he loves us – no matter the circumstance or transgression.

“Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me. You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit” (Psalm 30:2-3, NIV).

Patty VerDouw

Day 10: **Wade In** – Psalm 34:4-8, **Jump In** – Psalm 34, **Dive In** – Psalm 34-41

My son came home from Kindergarten with a sad face. When I asked what was wrong, he said, “It's not fair Mom! It was supposed to be my turn to be the engine and Kaleb got to be! It's not fair!” No, honey, life isn't fair. If it were, it would be a much better world.

Explaining to a five-year-old that fairness is not the norm, but the exception was hard. I told him to remember how it felt to be treated unfairly and to help those that had been dealt with that way. Then I asked him if he had ever treated anyone unfairly. Head down, he answered, “Yes, Mom.” What do you think you should do? “Apologize to Greg.” Good boy. And who else should you apologize to? “You?” No, honey, apologize to Jesus. “Ok, sorry Greg and Jesus.” Then I asked him if Jesus was ever unfair - shoulders shrugged. I told him that we all are God's people, even the unfair people, and that he loves us all the same – even people with bad behavior – because we are part of his heart. He always keeps his promises because he loves us more than life itself, so much that he wants us to go home to him someday, he just can't help himself. My son, Justin, still didn't like that life wasn't more equitable, but now he knew he could be.

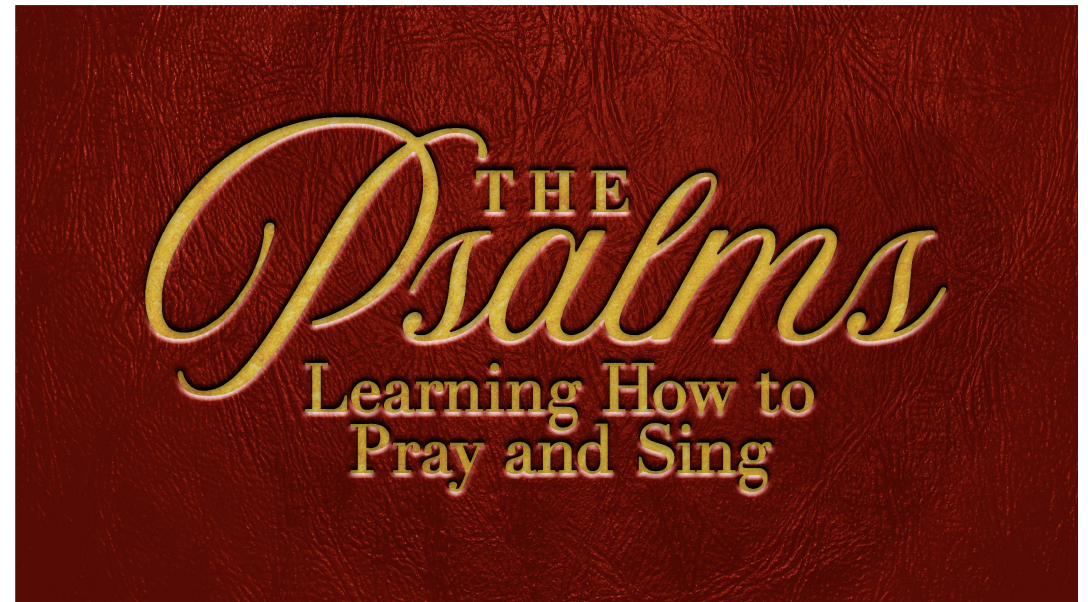
Life will never be fair, but thankfully you can always count on Jesus to be there for you; ready to listen, calling you to His love despite the situation, offering forgiveness, mercy, and grace.

“The Lord is righteous in all His ways and faithful in all He does” (Psalm 145:17, NIV).

Patty VerDouw

Many thanks to our writers who made this devotional possible and to our proofreader, Breanna Brothers.

Devotions are also available online at legacyumc.org/connect/devos.



Week 2 Devotional - Call to Faithfulness

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for your Word. Thank you for the Psalms. When in despair, it seems these verses were scribed just yesterday. Your scripture is for us. You are present to redeem us today. Praise be to you, oh Lord! Your Heavens are alive beyond all time. We look to the stars, the galaxies, the moons and the planets and feel your presence. May we stop to encounter you often this week. You have called us to be faithful. Often, we feel unworthy yet dear God you are always faithful to your promises of redemption. Bless us Lord, Bless this congregation. Amen

Kenton Carlson

As we study the book of Psalms, you are invited to Dive Deep into God's Word, the Bible. This devotion is structured with three tiers: **Wade In, Jump In, and Dive In**. These tiers will allow every Christ-follower to dive into the word regardless of Bible knowledge or experience with this spiritual discipline.

Wade In - If you are unfamiliar with the Bible, new to following Jesus or just want to renew your faith, wade into the shallow end with the Bible by reading one or two verses.

Jump In - If you're growing in your faith and getting to know God better through your daily Bible reading plan but you know you still have a lot to learn and experience in God's Word, then jump in with a short passage of the Bible.

Dive In - If you've ready to get in the deep end of the pool, join us in reading longer sections of Scripture.

Day 6: Wade In – Psalm 8:2, Jump In – Psalm 8, Dive In – Psalm 6-12

There is a fine line between encouraging our kids and giving them too much praise. I want my kids to know when I think they are doing a good job to encourage them to continue doing what they are doing, but sometimes I may take it a little too far. “Good job eating your food” or “Way to go cleaning up your room” may be appropriate when they are little or in response to them doing something without you having to tell them. It doesn’t have the same effect if they are teenagers or after you’ve had to tell them a few times.

When it comes to what God wants us parents to do, I don’t recall anywhere in the Bible where God says to praise our children. I find plenty of verses like Ephesian 6:4 where we are to “bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” That doesn’t mean we shouldn’t praise our kids. I’m just thinking that maybe my praise for a child isn’t as powerful as when a child does the praising. Psalm 8:2 says “Through the praise of children and infants you (the Lord) have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.” This isn’t a big surprise. I see it in Legacy Kids and with the youth at Church services. There is something amazing that happens when children freely offer praise to God. Their praise is genuine. And somehow, I know that God is smiling down on them.

Jeremy Skoglund

Day 7: Wade In – Psalm 13:1-3, Jump In – Psalm 13, Dive In – Psalm 13-19

I’m the oldest, but Pam was first in the pecking order. She was brilliant, beautiful, tall, and moved through life with authority. I was an average student, dyslexic, and a free spirit. She treated me as an underling and my parents were ok with that. I avoided being around Pam as the demeaning comments would eventually fly. It was torture.

Before Mom died, she told me that she wanted me to have her jewelry, except what my other siblings had given to her. When I told Pam about this conversation after Mom’s funeral, her response was, “No she didn’t!” She said it twice and dismissed me. The resentment multiplied. Resentment can absolutely color your world. When you feel unworthy of love, you push those that love you away – including God. By the time I went to pick up my portion of the estate, my resentment was at the breaking point. When I opened the box of jewelry – EVERYTHING looked black and formless. I couldn’t distinguish gold from silver, opal from diamond. God was showing me what an unwillingness to forgive does to your soul!

Self-pity was destroying me and worse, my relationship with God. I asked God for the grace to forgive and FORGET, and the wisdom to know how to accomplish that. I wrote letters to my parents forgiving them for the long-held disappointments and left them at their graves. I wrote to Pam, told her I would always love and care about her and that I forgave her. She called me

and had absolutely no idea what she needed forgiveness for! This resulted in the first honest conversation of our lives. The healing had begun. Forgiveness brings forgetfulness. I really don’t remember much of what caused the pain.

Jesus died for us and we are ALL forgiven (including me)! Forgive and forget. Holding on to negative emotions will destroy you. He’s forgiven us. Can we do any less?

Patty VerDouw

Day 8: Wade In – Psalm 22:11, Jump In – Psalm 22, Dive In – Psalm 20-26

The raw emotion expressed in Psalm 22 is strangely comforting. It is a vivid reminder that we all encounter pain, sickness, grief, powerlessness, and times when it seems that God is distant or silent. In the throes of deep pain or difficulty, there is a temptation to believe that we are alone, and to become paralyzed in the suffering.

The Psalmist, however, signals a turning point in his journey with one simple word: yet. With one word, our focus shifts in Psalm 22:11 from immeasurable pain to an infinite, holy and good God. Yet. “Yet, God is holy.” How can such a small word make such a life changing impact? The author refused to allow his present circumstances eclipse what he knew to be true.

When we encounter difficulty, may we too remember that regardless of what we do not know about the present situation, there are things we can still know. God is good. God is holy and just. God loves us and is always with us regardless of what we may be feeling.

Pray: God, give me grace and courage as I endure sickness and pain, grief and uncertainty.

Trouble seems to engulf me, yet you are holy. Amen.

Amanda Rue

Day 9: Wade In – Psalm 27:1, Jump In – Psalm 27, Dive In – Psalm 27-33

Have you ever been terrified – so much so that you feared for your life or the life of a loved one? I’ve heard, “Your son probably won’t survive the night”; “Your parents are in critical condition. We know your dad won’t survive, but there is a good chance your Mom won’t either” and, “Your kidney could rupture at any time. Make your final arrangements. I’ll meet you at the hospital in an hour for surgery”.

Devastating, unexpected events can strike fear into your very core, leaving you breathless and unprepared for the emotions that wash over you. I know from experience that when you have absolutely no control, God ALWAYS does!