

MORNINGS  
with JESUS

2025

DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT  
for your SOUL

# MORNINGS with JESUS 2025

DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT *for your* SOUL

365

DEVOTIONS

**SNEAK  
PEEK!**

Take a look  
inside

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2025

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DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT *for Your* SOUL

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365 DEVOTIONS

## NEW YEAR'S DAY, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

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*Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." Exodus 33:18 (NIV)*

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FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, I've chosen a word that would be my focus for the year. As this year approached, I began thinking about what that word would be. Finally, one morning I woke up and *glory* came to my mind. It's a good word.

I've often thought about what God's glory is. To me, it is to feel or see His presence. Moses, the leader of the Israelites in the wilderness, was blessed to be able to meet with the Lord and talk to Him as a friend (Exodus 33:11). During one of their encounters, Moses asked God to show him His glory. The Lord granted his request and covered Moses with His own hand as He passed by. I imagine God's glory was so great that Moses wouldn't have been able to withstand it.

Like Moses, I want to see and experience the glory of God. This year I'm asking Jesus to let me be keenly aware of His presence and see His wondrous works around me. I want to hear Him loud and clear when He speaks to me. I am expecting Him to show up and show out in unmistakable ways. Even in the darkest of days, I want to know He's there. So, in the words of Moses in one of his many conversations with God, please Lord Jesus, let me see Your glory. I am looking for You this year. —BARBRANDA LUMPKINS WALLS

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**FAITH STEP:** *Consider choosing a word to focus on this year. Prepare to keep a log of how Jesus shows up and shows out as you seek His face.*

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

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*Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit,  
to sustain me. Psalm 51:12 (NIV)*

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MY WORD FOR THE YEAR is *restore* because we recently lost our home and all our belongings in a Colorado wildfire. The emotional and physical process of recovery has been daunting. I spent hours creating a detailed inventory for our insurance company of all our belongings, ranging from the number of spatulas in our kitchen to the cars in our garage. Most items are replaceable, but some are not, such as photos of our children through the years and our wedding album. Tears flowed as I mourned this and the loss of other precious items. This tedious process of listing all we had lost left me despondent.

Then one day my sister-in-law Liz knocked on our door. She held a silver-framed photo album with our wedding picture on the front. Turns out my other sister-in-law, Kathie, who had died a few years earlier, had taken pictures of every page of our wedding album! She also took photos at every family gathering with disposable cameras. I never knew what she did with them. Until now.

Thankfully, Liz had kept all of Kathie's albums in storage. The quality wasn't great, but I now had photos of my kids through the years, and our wedding album had been miraculously restored.

This joy-filled surprise sustained me as I continued the recovery process. Not only can Jesus unexpectedly restore lost things, but He can also restore my joy. As I worked through endless spreadsheets, I had a more willing spirit to not give up. And I expectantly keep my eyes open for joyful surprises in the midst of the loss. —JEANNIE BLACKMER

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**FAITH STEP:** *Write about a recent time when Jesus surprised you by restoring your joy.*

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

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*Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. Matthew 24:30 (NIV)*

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST WINTERS BRING GRAY, overcast skies. It's a glorious day when the gloom gives way to sunshine and fluffy white clouds. The rare sight compels me to set aside my work and take advantage of the opportunity to soak up the sun's rays.

On one such day, I ambled along a path parallel to the Fraser River. Sunshine warmed my face and drew my gaze heavenward. I scanned the clouds set against a backdrop of blue and imagined a future day promised to be infinitely more glorious.

The world's turmoil prompts me to pray for Jesus to come soon, to shine His light across the earth and dispel the darkness and despair. But then I think of family and friends who have not yet chosen to believe the Gospel's life-saving message, and I grieve at the thought of their hearts being unprepared for His return.

I examine my own heart and wonder how it aligns with Jesus's words about all the peoples of the earth mourning when He appears. I suspect that one glimpse of His face and the scars on His hands will leave me wishing I'd doubted Him less and loved Him more. And so, I pray, "Jesus, come soon. But until that day, have Your way in me." —GRACE FOX

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**FAITH STEP:** *If you're able, go outside for a few minutes. Fix your gaze on the sky and ask Jesus to help you love and trust Him wholeheartedly until the day He returns.*

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

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*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5–6 (KJV)*

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WHENEVER MY COMPANY MADE ORGANIZATIONAL changes or my coworkers were leaving our team or getting promoted, I would peck at job openings. One day, a position piqued my interest. I prayed about it and applied, but the opportunity fizzled. I shared my disappointment with one of my former managers. She encouraged me not to chase titles and positions, but to ask myself if I was doing work I enjoyed. Since I loved the work I did, I took that “closed door” as a sign from Jesus to stop peeking and trust Him with my career.

Not long afterward, I received a message from a woman about an opening on her team. I was hesitant. I didn’t want to entertain the thought of leaving my current job if it wasn’t part of Jesus’s grand plan for me, but I agreed to talk with her because a colleague referred me. The role was a great opportunity. In this case, I had several interviews take place quickly, was offered the job, and I accepted. It was the perfect position for me—and I wasn’t even looking!

Sometimes when I ask Jesus to change my situation, He does. Other times when I ask Him for a change, He keeps me right where I am. I don’t always understand the reason behind His plan, but I know He has one. In fact, I’d stake my job on it! —ERICKA LOYNES

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**FAITH STEP:** *Look up synonyms for the word trust. Reflect on how you can demonstrate those outlooks in your life this week.*

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

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*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35 (NIV)*

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AT THE START OF EACH new year, it feels like everywhere I look, I'm being asked to change. "New year; new you!" the message shouts. It's featured on social media, in magazines, and on podcasts and radio shows. Sometimes it feels like a kind invitation: I'm gently prompted to reflect on what matters most to me and then to prioritize these things over the course of the coming year. *Is nurturing my relationships with my husband and children a value?* I can put more family outings and dinners on the calendar. *Is spending time in prayer important to me?* I can choose to wake up a few minutes earlier than usual to pray.

Other messages I receive when a new year begins feel more guilt-inducing and like just more to put on my to-do list. Drink more water. Exercise more. Even if these changes matter to me, such messages simply remind me of my shortcomings.

But rather than feeling guilty about what I have left undone in the past or what goal I've not yet met, I want to choose a different resolution this year. Taking Jesus's lead, I'd like to, more and more, show His love to others by seeing them with His eyes. Jesus's messages ring true, no matter what time of year it is. —JENNIFER GRANT

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**FAITH STEP:** *Close your eyes and bring to mind three people you interact with regularly. Ask Jesus to help you see them with His eyes as you seek to show them love in the coming year.*

## MONDAY, JANUARY 6

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*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. Romans 1:16 (NKJV)*

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MY NEIGHBOR PAINTS HIMSELF BLUE and gold, dons a fuzzy blue wig, and proudly wears his St. Louis Blues jersey, matching knee-high socks, and gold tennis shoes to every hockey game. When he drives to a rival city, his personalized license plate proclaims he is a Blues fan. He mows the team logo into his lawn, takes aerial photos with a drone, and posts his artwork on social media. Every conversation with him always comes back to his favorite team and their playoff chances. He is completely sold out to the St. Louis Blues.

I'm not a hockey fan, but I am Team Jesus. I wonder if people see Jesus all over my life as if I were a crazed fan. Does the joy of walking with Him reflect on my face? Does the heart beneath my faith T-shirt reflect what the writing proclaims? When I'm behind the wheel, does my driving align with my JOY FM bumper sticker other drivers see? What do my social media accounts say about my relationship with Jesus? How often do my conversations include Him and how to win eternal life?

Sometimes I flip the TV channel to the Blues game to spot my neighbor in the rowdy crowd. Yet, during Sunday worship, I cheer for Jesus quietly so no one hears me sing out of tune. Jesus doesn't expect me to paint my face and wear a fuzzy wig, but I hope others can tell I'm a sold-out fan for Team Jesus. —KAREN SARGENT

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**FAITH STEP:** *Demonstrate you are on Team Jesus to a stranger you encounter by your actions or words.*



## TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

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*Do not judge, or you too will be judged. Matthew 7:1 (NIV)*

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I WORKED FOR YEARS AS AN administrator at a retirement community before I had kids. One of my responsibilities was to walk the facility and grounds once a month with a clipboard in my hand. I'd note every scuff on the wall, stain on the carpet, and lightbulb out in the parking lot. It became a to-do list for the maintenance department to address. When my husband and I bought our first home, my trained eye saw every flaw and shortcoming. That turned into a to-do list for us to address. After I had kids, that same trained eye saw every mistake they made. All my efforts were channeled into correcting and teaching them. Every. Minute. Of. Every. Day. You can only imagine how exhausting that was for them and for me.

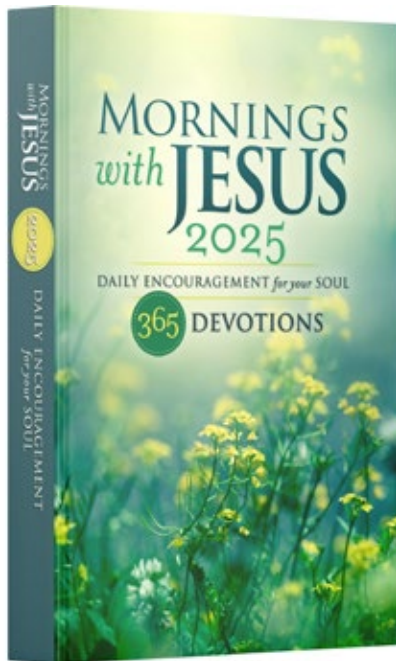
I've decided it's time for a change. I'm now retraining my eyes. Instead of finding what's wrong, I started looking for what's right. I notice their loving and kind actions toward each other, character traits that make them unique and precious, the effort they make to do chores.

Jesus doesn't ask me to judge others. That's His Father's job (Ecclesiastes 12:14). I believe He asks me to find what's right, not just in my kids but in everyone I meet. My to-do list is complete thanks to Jesus. —CLAIRE MCGARRY

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**FAITH STEP:** *Make a conscious effort to see what's right in every person you meet. Pray to leave your judgment in Jesus's capable hands.*

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