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INSPIRED BY FAITH

DEVOTIONS FOR LIVING YOUR GOD-CHOSEN LIFE

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Faith

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GOD-CHOSEN LIFE



EDITORS OF GUIDEPOSTS

INTRODUCTION

The Good Life

Laurie Davies

Once heard a story about a fisherman living the good life in a small coastal village. He rose early, found the best fishing waters, sold his catch, and returned home to play with his kids and take a nap with his wife.

Life was simple, family life sweet.

A businessman met him one morning and said he should catch more fish. With the earnings, he could buy a bigger boat and hire fishermen. Then he could buy a whole fleet. Then he'd be a millionaire.

“But what then?” asked the fisherman.

“Then you could retire, move to a small coastal village, and have time to play with your kids and take naps with your wife,” the businessman replied.

The fisherman just smiled. He knew something the businessman didn't know.

He already had that life.



The good life. Winning at life. Living our best life. We hear a lot about these ideas. I must admit that over the years I've had a rolling definition of what they mean. In my twenties, I thought the good life meant meeting my newspaper deadlines and dating the cute boy I met at church. I also thought it would be nice to own a car with a decent paint job.

In my thirties, I thought winning at life meant winning the Pulitzer Prize or winning mom of the year. Sadly, I didn't win either. But looking back, I learned so much about Jesus in those years. I grew, but in different ways than I had thought I wanted. Week by week and Bible study by Bible study, I began building on a foundation of faith rather than professional achievements or perfectionistic tendencies.

In my forties, "living my best life" became more like "hang on for dear life" as I navigated spine surgeries, relationship losses, and wondering where the aliens took my teenage son's brain matter. I'm happy to report they returned it, and I now have a college graduate who is a ton of fun and wishes his car had a decent paint job.

And in my fifties? The "good life" feels like something different. Something riskier. I've been married to that cute boy from church for 28 years now, and I'm so grateful he is steady because I have a sense that God still has plans ahead that will stretch me. Strangely, it's OK. I'm finally starting to understand that without faith it is impossible to please God.

After all these years I'm asking God to simply use me how *He* wants to. This has meant hard, humbling work in secret places. Lots of time on my knees. I'm learning to lose my life because Jesus said that's how I would find it. So:

Ego? I don't want it.

My plans? They're never as good as His plans.

Busyness to the point of burnout? Not good and not from God.

Anything coming between God and my relationship with Him? It. Must. Go.

Addition by subtraction. That's my formula for the good life. What's yours? I think it's a question Jesus wants us to explore. After all, He's the one who said: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10, NIV).

The passage hints at something incredible—life lived right to the brim. One so full that the slightest nudge will cause abundance to spill over. This is not a skimping or limping life, one that's barely getting by. It is life that goes past the expected limit. It's maximum life, not minimum life.

How do we find this?

Four words about Jesus give us a clue. "In him was life" (John 1:4, NIV).

Jesus himself offers four more words: "I am . . . the life" (John 14:6, NIV).

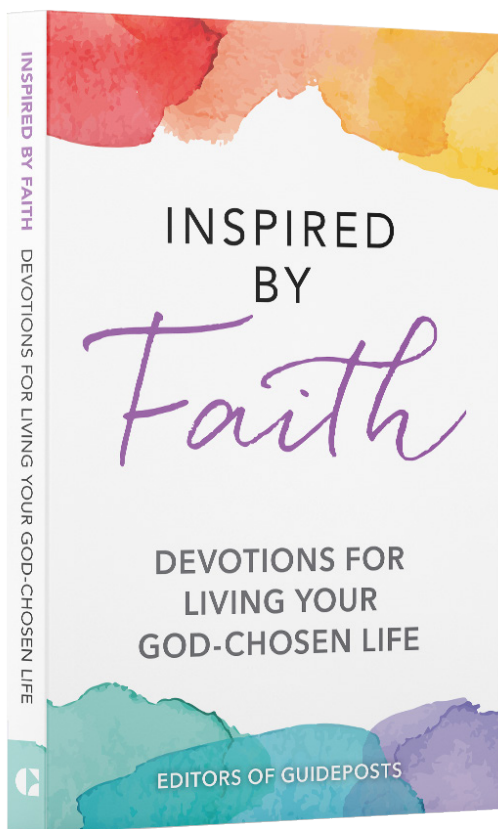
The life we long for is found in Jesus. He gave His life so we could live. Without the burden of rules we couldn't keep. Without the penalty of sin. Without fear.

Faith Paves the Way

Our part in this process is faith.

If we have faith the size of a mustard seed, we can tell mountains to move (Matthew 17:20). That sounds powerful, like a little bit can go a long way. The Bible also says faith is

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