

all
Things
are
Possible

DEVOTIONS ON
FAITH, HOPE &
PRAYER

EDITORS OF GUIDEPOSTS

Jesus looked at them and said,
*“With man this is impossible, but not with God;
all things are possible with God.”*

Mark 10:27 (NIV)

Savoring God's Blessings

Vicki Kuyper

I woke up feeling melancholy. Nothing was really wrong. It just felt like my heart was running on empty. But today's schedule was filled with errands, appointments, and writing projects. Reluctantly, I pushed myself to do what needed to be done.

At lunchtime, I decided to treat myself to takeout at my favorite Korean restaurant. As I waited for my order, I saw a small "lending library" I hadn't noticed before. On the shelf was a title I'd long wanted to read. By the time my *bulgogi* was ready, I'd finished the first chapter. For the first time that day, my melancholy began to lift.

It felt like God was giving me a divine nudge to reorganize my schedule and spend the afternoon reading and sipping tea. So I did. God used that unexpected gift to remind me that the abundant life Jesus promised isn't full in terms of a jam-packed schedule. It's rich in what matters most—love, joy, peace, and purpose. At times, living a full life means accomplishing less and savoring God's blessings more.

Father, our dreams are changed
because You have a better
road for us to travel, one full of
unexpected blessings. Help us
listen to Your nudges so that our
journey brings us closer to You.

The Right Path

Peggy Frezon

I stood at the bottom of the snowy hill. My granddaughter perched at the top on her new purple sled. "Watch out for the tree!" I called. She smiled and waved. As she pushed off, the sled gathered speed and then veered directly toward the tree. My granddaughter rolled off just before impact. "Why didn't you tell me to watch out for the tree?" she asked tearfully.

I often ask God for guidance, but I don't always listen. Like my granddaughter on that hill, sometimes I am too far away. Or maybe I'm distracted by the sparkling snow or the prospect of a thrilling ride before me.

My solution is to get closer to God. Pray. Read the Bible. Pay attention. When I keep my focus on God, I am better able to hear His direction. And that will always keep me gliding down the right path.

Lord, please grant me the
boldness to ask You which
path to take, the patience to
wait for Your reply, and the
wisdom to listen.

And Jesus said to him, “Go,
for your faith has healed you.”
Instantly the man could see, and he
followed Jesus down the road.

Mark 10:52 (NLT)

An Unexpected Miracle

Erika Bentsen

I stared at the ceiling through waves of pain. Even after the first surgery on my back had failed four years prior, the doctors were in the dark as to what was wrong. No one could fix me. Now that I'd ruptured the disk a second time, it seemed all I had left was God.

"Let the worst happen, Lord," I said. "I still choose You."

Something changed in the moment I surrendered everything. It felt like God had been waiting for me to say that.

My husband came home. "Call Nancy," he said. "She's a dairy farmer who hurt her back just like you did, but she's already returned to doing what she loves and it's only been seven weeks since her surgery."

I called. Nancy not only calmed my fears, but she made me excited to try again. Step by step she outlined what she did in order to find the best surgeon in Oregon.

Doors that had long been closed began opening. This was my miracle. The way had been laid out; I had only to follow.

The MRI showed the rupture clearly. The surgeon gave me confidence. I was in the right place with the right doctor. I didn't count the days until my operation; I counted the days until my miracle.

This was God's path for me. If I had been healed before, I would have returned to life as usual and missed the faith-building lessons. I had to be broken in order to be restored.

Stopping the Leaks

Kristen West

It was a beautiful day outside and I was excited for the chance to host a family luncheon on our deck.

In the midst of entertaining, I noticed one of the drink containers I put out was leaking, and a stream of lemonade was snaking its way across my deck. As I was cleaning up the sticky mess, I thought about the parallel between this vessel and myself.

We are living containers filled with God's Spirit and His glory, but as humans, we also tend to be leaky—forgetful, easily distracted, and prone to drift. Daily hardships, temptations, and distractions can cause the leak to go from marginal to massive in a matter of minutes.

Positioning ourselves through prayer, worship, and daily Bible reading helps us to be refilled. Doing this ensures God will take care of all our leaks!

I acknowledge I am leaky,
Lord. Fill me with Your presence
so I can keep the leaks to a
minimum. And remind me to trust
You so that no matter how empty
I get, You will always refill me with
Your unending love.

What a Wonderful World

Tracy Crump

Sure, I enjoy a golden sunset, ocean waves lapping a pristine beach, or early morning mist hovering over a lake. But seeing God's world through my granddaughter's eyes renews my wonder at His creation.

Nellie never tires of scooping up tadpoles and watching their plump bodies, in various stages of metamorphosis, hurtle round and round the bucket. We capture lightning bugs and watch their phosphorescent bottoms blink on and off. Even digging up clay from the hard ground and rolling it into balls fascinates her. "This is so much fun, Grandma!" she says.

My granddaughter notices things I don't—from the stars in the sky to dirt underfoot. Her excitement sparks appreciation in my heart for the God who created such a diverse world. Everything in it declares His glory.

Sometimes I let the cares of this world rob me of the joy found in experiencing God's wonderful creation. But as long as I see it through Nellie's eyes, I'll maintain that childlike awe and love for the Creator of the universe.

Live Out Your Faith

Do you look at the world with childlike wonder? Today, use your senses to explore all that God has created. Go outside and try this exercise:

Walk in the grass with bare feet, feeling it tickle you as you move. As you do that, stop and listen to the crickets, bees, and birds. Try to figure out what they are saying. Smell the flowers. Rub the leaves or needles on trees between your fingers and feel their texture. When you go back inside, eat a piece of fruit or a vegetable harvested from God's creation.

Savor its flavor as if you were tasting it for the first time.