

15 Minutes

*with the
Master*

JUANITA PURCELL

365-DAY DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL



Regular Baptist Press
Building Lives by the Book
www.RegularBaptistPress.org

Acknowledgments

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15 Minutes with the Master

© 2014 Regular Baptist Press • Schaumburg, Illinois

www.RegularBaptistPress.org • 1-800-727-4440

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RBP5143 • ISBN: 978-1-60776-934-7

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A 365-Day Devotional Journal

This is a journaling devotional that you can begin at any time. Simply start with the first devotion and keep going. At the top of each page (day), you will find a Scripture passage to read. Then as you meditate on that passage, you can jot down your thoughts. I've included my own thoughts too. Next, think about the questions, and journal your answers and related thoughts. You'll find the questions good for thinking on throughout the day.

At the bottom of the page is a challenge "for today." Think about how you will apply the focus verse to your life that day. Finally, in the margin, write a prayer responding to what you have read and thought about during your fifteen minutes with the Master. And if you have more than fifteen minutes, go deeper while you linger with Him.

If Jesus Christ is not yet your Savior and Master, read the plan of salvation at the front of this book or talk to someone who can explain Biblical salvation to you.

—Juanita Purcell

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my grandson Nash Purcell, who stimulated me to finish this book. He had to be in a very, very difficult circumstance, separated from family and friends, for one year. I made a commitment to the Lord to write him each week and decided to send him one of my devotionals along with the letter. I had started this book of devotionals around 2004. In 2013 I realized I only had seventy-five more to go. I set a goal to finish by the end of the year. Below is a letter I received from Nash during that time.

“I want to thank my grandma for writing me these devotionals without fail, every week for a whole year. Through the letters God was letting me know that He was not done with me. Yes, I failed Him but He did not fail me, but graciously pursued me and brought me back to Himself. ‘My flesh and my heart may fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever’ (Psalm 73:6; 2 Timothy 2:13; Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 12:6, 11).”

Thanks

A special thank you to Bonnie Jackson. About ten years ago, she gave me the idea for this book when she asked if I could write a devotional that a young mother could do in fifteen minutes that would give her something to think on throughout the day. Bonnie’s mother, Betty Keefe, and I came up with the title *15 Minutes with the Master* and the format.

God's Plan of Salvation

Carefully ponder these Scripture verses. They explain how you can have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

God loves you and wants you to enjoy the abundant life He offers you.

John 3:16—“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

John 10:10—Jesus said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

People are sinful, and their sin separates them from God.

Romans 3:23—“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

Romans 6:23—“For the wages of sin is death [spiritual separation from God].”

Jesus Christ's death is the only provision God has made to pay for sin.

Romans 5:8—“But God commendeth [demonstrated] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

John 14:6—“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

You must receive Jesus Christ as your Savior to become His child and personally experience His love and the abundant life He has planned for you.

John 1:12—“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”

You can receive Christ as your Savior right now by an act of faith.

Ephesians 2:8, 9—“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Are you ready to believe on Jesus Christ as your Savior? Use the following prayer as a guide to help you express your belief to God: “Lord God, I know I am a sinner and unable to save myself. I need Your forgiveness. I believe Jesus died in my place to take the punishment for my sins. Right now I receive Him as my Savior. Take control of my life, and replace all the restlessness and anxiety with peace and contentment.”

If you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior and prayed this prayer, tell your pastor or a friend who has been trying to help you.

Learn to trust God's Word—not your feelings—when doubts come.

Romans 10:13—“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

1 John 5:11–13—“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

“Why Sink When You Can Swim” Verses

Genesis 18:25—“Shall not the Judge [Ruler] of all the earth do right?”

Job 23:10—“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried [tested] me, I shall come forth as gold.”

Psalms 18:30—“As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried [proved]: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.”

Psalms 31:15—“My times are in thy hand.”

Psalms 34:4—“I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”

Psalms 37:23—“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.”

Psalms 46:10—“Be still, and know that I am God.”

Psalms 91:1, 2—“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.”

Proverbs 3:5, 6—“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 17:22—“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.”

Isaiah 26:3—“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind [imagination] is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

Isaiah 40:31—“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Isaiah 43:2—“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

Isaiah 50:10—“Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.”

Jeremiah 29:11—“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

Jeremiah 31:3—“Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love.”

Jeremiah 33:3—“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”

Habakkuk 3:17, 18—“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”

Luke 1:37—“For with God nothing shall be impossible.”

Romans 8:28, 29—“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did fore-know, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son.”

1 Corinthians 10:13—“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

Philippians 4:4—“Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”

Philippians 4:6, 7—“Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:11—“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”

Philippians 4:13—“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Philippians 4:19—“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18—“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

2 Timothy 1:7—“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

James 1:2, 3—“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.”

1 Peter 5:7—“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

What Hills and Valleys Lie Ahead?

FOCUS: Deuteronomy 11:11, 12

“But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys. . . . The eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it.”

THOUGHT: When we start a venture, we cannot see the hills and valleys ahead—but God can!

MY PRAYER: *Lord, help me . . .*

The road ahead of you may not always be smooth. There may be many hills and valleys. What do hills and valleys picture?

When you are feeling down and all alone in a valley of despair, who else sees the valley and is with you in the valley?

Climbing hills can be hard, but it can also be challenging. What hill ahead of you is beginning to look like a mountain?

None of the Bible was written directly or firstly *to* us, but it was all written *for* us. What truth did God state about Himself to the Children of Israel that you can claim?

Is there anything about your future that makes you fearful? Explain.

What things about the future excite you?

FOR TODAY: As you face the hills and valleys, the ups and downs of the days ahead, you can move forward with confidence knowing that the Lord’s eyes are always upon your circumstances. Why not keep a record of how God comforted you in the valleys and how He gave you courage to climb your mountains. It will uplift you and will encourage others when you tell them how God helped you. Will you try it?

Take My Yoke upon You

FOCUS: Matthew 11:29, 30

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

THOUGHT: In these few words Christ invites us to team up with Him.

MY PRAYER: Lord, help me . . .

• What is the concept of a yoke (picture a team of horses)?

• For what purpose does Christ invite you to take His yoke? (See verse 28 and think about what a yoke does.)

• What kind of teacher is Christ?

• What is the benefit of submitting to Christ’s yoke?

• If you are struggling in your soul with stresses and burdens, could it be that you have “unyoked” yourself and are carrying your load by yourself? Or could it be that though you are yoked to Christ, you are out of step with Him?

• In what area of your life do you need to submit and walk in step with the Lord?

• **FOR TODAY:** Many of us are tired because we are carrying all the load. We need to learn to walk in step with Christ so we can pull the load together. When we yoke up with the Lord, we will begin to learn what peace, rest, and relief are all about. Are you ready to share your load?

A Few Necessary Things

FOCUS: Luke 10:41, 42

“And Jesus answered and said to her ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.’” (NKJV)

THOUGHT: Jesus had dropped in on Mary and Martha unannounced. How do you handle unannounced guests?

MY PRAYER: *Lord, help me . . .*

• How did Mary respond to Jesus’ visit?

• How did Martha respond?

• Why was Martha upset with Mary?

• How did Jesus respond to Martha’s frustrations?

• What did Jesus tell her about Mary’s choice?

• In what ways do you let the responsibilities of life rob you of an intimate time with Christ?

• **FOR TODAY:** Each day we are faced with chores and responsibilities that demand our time. If you tend to be a Martha, you will have to work hard to slow down long enough to spend time with the Lord. Will you commit to spending time daily with the Lord and ask Him to give you the wisdom to do what you need to do to protect this time?

Fear Zaps Our Strength

FOCUS: Isaiah 41:10

“Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

THOUGHT: Fear zaps our strength and robs us of joy.

MY PRAYER: Lord, help me . . .

In Isaiah 41:10, what did the Lord admonish Israel concerning fear? Why?

Why are we fearful even though we know that the Lord is with us?

Why should believers “be not dismayed,” or not anxiously looking around?

Where should our focus be?

What did God say He would do for Israel?

Do you have a fear that is currently robbing you of strength and joy? If so, what is it?

FOR TODAY: Now that you have named your fear, will you bring it before the Lord and ask Him to give you the faith to trust Him for the help and strength you need? Remember, God doesn’t keep us at arm’s length; He holds us up with His authoritative, powerful right hand. We are His children, and He has committed Himself to help us and uphold us. How personal is that?

Don't Worry!

FOCUS: Philippians 4:6, 7

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

THOUGHT: God gives us a startling command: Don't worry about anything!

MY PRAYER: Lord, help me . . .

• What does God tell us to do instead of worry?

• Worry does nothing but hurt us. Name at least three things that worry does to harm the body and mind.

• Why would making your requests known to God relieve you of worry?

• What two things (vv. 7, 9) does God promise will happen when you bring your requests to Him and commit your concerns to His care?

• When the peace of God is guarding your heart and mind, what are you freed from?

• Are you facing situations that are filling your heart and mind with fear, confusion, and anxiety? If so, name them.

• **FOR TODAY:** Fretting and worry come to us naturally, but the peace of God comes supernaturally as we trust Him. Your loving Heavenly Father is asking you to bring your requests to Him so He can give you the gift of His peace that surpasses all comprehension. Will you do it?

A Sound Mind

FOCUS: 2 Timothy 1:7

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

THOUGHT: God boldly reminds us that if we are afraid, the fear is not from Him: He gives a sound mind, not fear.

MY PRAYER: *Lord, help me . . .*

How would you define “spirit of fear”?

Since the “spirit of fear” doesn’t come from God, where does it come from?

What does God give instead of fear?

How should these things counteract fear in your life?

What do you need to do when you find yourself tossed about with fear and confusion?

In what area of your life do you need to be free and claim soundness of mind?

FOR TODAY: We don’t have to be tossed about in confusion. God wants to guide us and provide us with a “sound mind.” To keep a sound mind, don’t let yourself focus on the thing that is making you fearful—focus on God’s character and promises, and ask for His help and the strength to trust Him. He is pleased when we cry out to Him for help. Will you bring your fears to God?

Don't Give Up!

FOCUS: Psalm 27:13, 14

“I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”

THOUGHT: God uses waiting to teach us lessons we could learn no other way.

MY PRAYER: *Lord, help me . . .*

• What kept the psalmist from losing heart and giving up?

• What is the “goodness of the LORD”?

• What attributes of God come to your mind when you think of the “goodness of the LORD”?

• How do these attributes help you be strong and courageous?

• What have you been waiting for God to do?

• Now that you have been reminded of God’s character, what will you do the next time you are tempted to believe He has forgotten you?

• **FOR TODAY:** If you are like me, waiting seems like a waste of time. When we do have to wait, instead of sitting around fretting and stewing, we need to be talking to God and asking some questions: Lord, is there a lesson I need to learn while I am waiting? Do you want me to go in a different direction? Are you preparing a person or situation that needs to be in my life? Remember, God has everything under control and wants to keep His children under control. Are you ready to settle down and patiently wait for God’s timing?