

G.I.F.T.S

God Is Faithful To Sistas

Women's Daily Devotionals

Devotionals for Women about Women God Used



By Joann L. Henriques
Devotionals written by Gifted Sistas

Every good and perfect gift is from above..... James 1:17

Deborah

Hebrew name meaning “Bee”

Judges 4 & 5

Prophetic Woman and Judge

By Sista Joann Henriques

Imagine God calling you for His purpose and one of your gifts was to give wise counsel to a rebellious nation. This was Deborah’s gift. Everyday people gathered under the tree of Deborah for judgment. She was the only female judge at that time, a prophetess, a leader, a woman of Israel chosen among a few good men.

During a time of war, Deborah didn’t back down. She was obedient, had faith, and used her gift to help a nation come back to God. Deborah called upon a man named Barak, saying, **“Barak, the Lord, the God of Israel, commands you to go take 10,000 men and lead them to a place where God will deliver Sisera into your hand” (Judg. 4:6).** You would think Barak would immediately say YES and gather his men. But he replied in fear, telling Deborah he would go only if she accompanied him. Deborah agreed but told Barak the honor of defeating Sisera would now go to a woman instead of him. God kept His word and Barak and his men slew the enemy. It was an easy battle as God allowed it to rain, and Barak’s men overtook the army on foot. However, Sisera fled to the tent of a woman named Jael, thinking he would be safe, knowing Jael would hide him. Jael knew Sisera was exhausted and thirsty and that she had an opportunity. Instead of giving him water, she gave him milk and covered him. When Sisera fell asleep, Jael walked up quietly and drove a peg into his head, getting the victory as Deborah prophesied. Deborah is an amazing example of how God will choose women for His purpose. God calls women to step out on faith for unimaginable tasks.

As I write this devotion, I remember when I doubted that God could ever use me because of all my mess-ups. But I came to realize that when I was washed in the blood of Christ, I was a new person. I no longer let the negative lies of the enemy hold me back. **Galatians 3:27-28** reads, **“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”**

If you’re having doubts that God can use you, STOP doubting and START trusting. You’re able to do all things through Christ who gives you strength (**Phil. 4:16**).

As you prepare yourself for today, listen to that still, small voice, step out on faith, and be ready for whatever God has for you. He may have you share the good news with someone right next to you, for **“God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34).**

Let’s pray: Lord, thank you for your grace and mercy. Use me today to bring you victory.

In Jesus’ name, amen.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above....James 1:17

Rahab

Hebrew name meaning “Wide, Spacious”

Joshua 2 & 6

Being Blessed When You Feel Unworthy

By Sista Cornaiya Williams

“But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day” (Josh. 6:25).

Have you ever felt unworthy of being used or blessed by God? If so, you’re not the only one. We all have times when we look back at bad situations God has brought us through or sins that we still struggle with and feel guilty about. The enemy takes advantage of our feelings and tells us lies like, “Your sins are too great,” or, “God can’t use you.” We’ve even looked at others at least once and compared our walk with God to theirs. But I’m here to tell you that we all fall short of God’s glory. None of us are worthy of getting blessings from God, but He loves us despite that and shows us grace and mercy.

There are plenty of people in the Bible that were unworthy of God’s blessings, but God still used them to be part of a bigger plan. Take Rahab for example. She was a prostitute, but God used her gift of helping to hide two spies that had come to take over the land she lived in. Because of that, she eventually became part of the same bloodline as Jesus. No matter what you’ve been through or what you’ve done, you can still be used by God.

If you are feeling so unworthy that you don’t even want to spend time with God, this is when you need to do it the most. He wants us to cast all our anxieties and worries onto Him, so spend private time with Him and read the Word. If we have repented of our sins, why should we worry? Jesus paid a price on the cross so that we would no longer be slaves of sin. So I encourage you to walk in that freedom He gave us. Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past, for the Lord makes all things new.

Let’s pray: Lord, I pray that You would take away the guilt and shame from past mistakes and help your daughters remember that they are made new creatures in the name of Jesus Christ.

In Jesus’ name, amen.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above....James 1:17

The Woman from Shunem

Hebrew word meaning “Double resting-place”

2 Kings 4

I Will Make Room

By Sista Elysa Neal

“I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. Let’s make a small room... Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us” (2 Kings 4:9-10).

In the time of the divided Israelite kingdom, there lived a woman in the little village of Shunem, or the “double resting-place.” The woman was married and unable to have children. She was also wealthy and lived among the northern tribes of Israel, which had been split from the southern tribes as a judgment from God for their unwillingness to walk in His ways. Despite the sorrows, troubles, and chaos that had come her way and could have taken her focus away from God, the Shunammite woman’s eyes remained fixed. While others around her set their hearts on idols, she desired after the Lord.

When Elisha the prophet came to her village, the Shunammite woman recognized that he was a holy man of God, and she urged him to come into her and home and eat. From that day on, whenever Elisha came to visit her and her husband, he would stay for a meal. Eventually, the Shunammite woman spoke with her husband about having a room made on their roof for the prophet, to which he agreed. So, she continued to serve Elisha, blessing him with her gift of hospitality and, through him, blessing God.

Distractions, temptations, and promises of pleasure are all around us today, but God is looking for **“any who understand, who seek after [Him]” (Ps. 14:2)**. Many reject His grace, salvation, and promise of a relationship, so just imagine the joy He feels when someone compels Him to come and stay with them and eat. Indeed, He will, for He says, **“I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Rev. 3:20)**. He wants to reside with you. Your hopes, your fears, your struggles and triumphs—He wants to be part of them all! But you have to make room.

Let’s pray: Dear Lord, help us to make room in our hearts for You. Whatever is in us that’s keeping us from welcoming You with hospitality and obedience, we ask You to remove it. Help us to trust that when you come to visit, You won’t judge us for the mess we’ve made and the rooms we’ve left neglected but that You’ll make all things new.

In Jesus’ name, amen.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above....James 1:17

Abigail

Hebrew name meaning “My father’s joy”
1 Samuel 25

Used by God, Heard by Men

By Sista Alee’cia Smith

“Blessed are the peace makers: for they shall be called the children of God (Matt. 5:9).

In today’s devotional, we will be talking about Abigail, who was used by God to mediate and de-escalate a conflict. Without the use of compassion and humility, things would have turned deadly for her household. Her gift was wisdom and discernment, and she used these qualities to approach a problem that she did not cause. Unfortunately, she was married to a man whose name meant “fool.” Nabal was churlish and evil in his doings (**1 Sam. 25:3**). David heard that Nabal was sheering his sheep and sent ten young men to his property in Carmel. They told Nabal how David and his men watched over his sheep when they resided in Carmel, not stealing or harming any of the livestock. They asked for Nabal to show favor towards David and his servants by giving them food. Nabal questioned who David was, attempting to belittle his name (**1 Sam. 25:10**), and he did not give David or his men provisions for protecting his sheep.

This angered David and ignited his pride. He gathered 400 men to settle the feud (**1 Sam. 25:13**). Word of David’s coming reached Abigail, and she decided to meet him on the way. ***“And [Nabal’s] wife’s name was Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance” (1 Sam. 25:3).*** Placed in the middle of strife between Nabal, her husband, and soon-to-be king David, Abigail acted quick to stop a battle from happening. She prepared a peace offering for David—goods such as wine, loaves, sheep, corn, raisins, and cakes of fig. Deciding to personally deliver this offering along with her servants, Abigail rode out on her donkey and intercepted David. When she reached him, she hopped off her donkey and fell to her knees at the feet of David, showing respect and reverence for his presence. She pleaded with him and asked for forgiveness for Nabal’s careless words and actions, taking responsibility for the iniquity of her husband. David came to a compromise with Abigail, turning his men around and no longer going to war with her household.

Abigail told Nabal of her journey, of how she encountered David, and what would’ve happened if she hadn’t. Nabal’s heart stopped and he became ill, dying shortly after. The Lord smote him (**1 Sam. 25:37-38**). Abigail prevented David from acting in anger, allowing the Lord to avenge his name. ***“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto [God’s] wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good” (Rom. 12:19-21).*** God used Abigail to stop a battle. David was the man who heard Abigail when she spoke to him. You may have been placed in between a conflict. How can you allow God to use you as a light and bring peace?

Let’s pray: Lord, as we face another day, we pray that we would walk according to Your will. Open our spiritual eyes to look at situations as You do, seeking to please You and use our gifts for Your kingdom and being a light in a world of darkness.

In Jesus’ name, amen.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above....James 1:17

Elizabeth

Hebrew name meaning “My God is an Oath”

Luke 1

Prospering from Faith

By Sista I'yonna Smith

“But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John” (Luke 1:13).

Have you ever been told something so unbelievable that you couldn't believe it until you saw it?

That's what it was like for Zechariah when he found out from an angel that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a child. He couldn't believe that in their old age they could still have children.

Nevertheless, Elizabeth was able to get pregnant shortly after Zechariah returned from the temple. She was extremely grateful to God and gave Him all credit. ***Luke 1:24-25 reads, “And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.”*** Elizabeth was not only faithful but also very happy to be able to carry a baby for God, because she knew that He was doing a good thing for her and her people.

Elizabeth exemplified the meaning of her name, “My God is an Oath,” with her hope and trust in God. Because of that faith, God knew that Elizabeth and Zechariah could raise John to be a good man who could carry out his mission. John grew up and preached the gospel, spreading the good news of the coming Messiah. He also became a baptizer who baptized many people, including the Messiah, Jesus, himself. God was able to reach many people because of John's dedication and Elizabeth's faith. Had Elizabeth turned away from God, John may have never been born and done everything he did, including baptizing Jesus.

We can all learn to have a dedicated faith like Elizabeth. It is not a burden to be chosen but a gift and a sign that God believes you to be capable of helping Him in some way, even if you can't see it immediately. There is no limit to His abilities, so you just have to trust, like Elizabeth, that He has your best interests in mind.

Let's pray: Heavenly Father, please guide us to follow Your path always. Let us not doubt or question You but instead trust and act in accordance with Your plans. Please help our loyalty to never fail or falter.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above....James 1:17

Mary Magdalene

Hebrew name meaning “Bitter” & “High Tower”

Luke 8

Unwavering Faith

By Sista Synetta Howard

Mary Magdalene had the gift of faith and love. She was born in Magdala, a town on the sea of Galilee, and she witnessed the death (**John 19:25**), burial (**Mark 15:47**), and resurrection (**Mark 16:1-3**) of Jesus. According to the Gospels, Jesus cleansed Mary of seven demons (**Luke 8:2-3**). Mary walked with Jesus and saw His character, so she knew exactly who she was dealing with. But put yourself in her place.

Just imagine having a friend that was closer to you than family and then seeing them get beaten and murdered in front of you for no reason. Imagine having dealt with things like depression, anger issues, or another struggle before meeting that friend. You had also seen other people dealing with things, but that one good friend came and helped you and them to become well physically, mentally, and spiritually. Imagine that this friend was the only person who had this ability. Wouldn't it first build your faith and then help you to believe in what it is that they were trying to show you?

Well, this was what Jesus did for Mary and the people who followed Him. Just like them, He wants us to believe in Him with faith and expects us to trust Him. Think about it. No matter what you go through, don't you always seem to make it out after calling upon that great name JESUS? You might as well shout it on the mountain top because He will hear you even with a whisper. Jesus is not deaf to your cries or blind to your tears. There is a point to them, so be comforted, knowing that one day He'll wipe away all tears (**Rev. 21:4**).

Let's pray: Lord, please deliver us from all of our strongholds. We submit our way to You. God, please give us love and the spirit of faith. Heal our hearts to help us love one another.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above....James 1:17

Phoebe

Greek name meaning “Bright, Radiant, Pure”

Romans 16

Phoebe, Deaconess and Messenger

By Sista Jarquisha Thurmond

In the early days of Christianity, one woman stood out for her unwavering dedication and service. She is mentioned only once in the Bible in ***Romans 16:1-2***. She is referred to as a deaconess and a benefactor of many, including Paul. Phoebe lived in Cenchreae, a poor city near Corinth, during a time when women were not really entrusted with leadership responsibilities. She broke barriers with her leadership and influenced the early church. She was entrusted with important tasks, likely taking care of the community and the distribution of resources. One of the most important things Phoebe did was deliver the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans on his behalf, showcasing her trustworthiness and strength. Imagine the courage it took for her to travel (possibly alone) in a male-dominated society, advocating for the message of Christ.

Ladies, God wants to use you, too, with all the different gifts He gave you. Go be bold and have confidence that you can do all things because God is with you.

Let's pray: Dear God, help us to walk in the gifts You have given us with wisdom and boldness.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above....James 1:17

Anna

Hebrew name meaning “Grace”

Luke 2

Sis, Keep Your Head Up!

By Sista Dominique Barnes

Anna was a prophetess from the tribe of Asher. She was married only seven years before her husband died. After his death, Anna went to the temple, living as a widow until the age of 84. She never left the temple but stayed and devoted her life to God with prayer and fasting, day and night.

When a woman in biblical times became a widow, she was vulnerable and dependent on the support of family or the temple. She was met with economic hardship, social marginalization, and was susceptible to exploitation. On the contrary, to be married was security! Often, we focus on the things we lack, thinking that when they are attained or achieved, we will have security. This could be a marriage, career, companion, influence, children, financial abundance, or material possessions. But none of these things bring true security. ***Jeremiah 2:13*** reads, ***“For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me—the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all.”***

What is the cracked cistern that is keeping you from the fountain of living water (Jesus Christ)? Anna, a woman who knew where her living water came from, chose to go to the house of her Father in heaven. Anna devoted herself to the Lord, consistently fasting and praying and not worrying about the issues of life. She had everything she needed! While her focus was on the things above, she was blessed with the opportunity to meet the Messiah, Jesus, and went on to be one of the first evangelists! My encouragement to you is: keep your head up, Sis. Don’t let the issues of life consume you. A relationship with Jesus is all you need to be secure! Know that His grace is sufficient and His strength is made perfect in weakness (***2 Cor. 12:9***).

Let’s pray: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your grace! I pray that You would shine light on anything that makes us feel insecure, that we may cast it on the altar. Help us to keep our eyes set on You and trust that You are Jehovah-Jireh, and You keep in perfect peace those whose minds are stayed on You (***Isaiah 26:3***).

In Jesus’ name, amen.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above....James 1:17

Michal

Hebrew name meaning “Who is like God?”

1 Samuel 18

Devoted to the Right Cause

By Sista Alexis Thompson

"Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship" (Romans 12:1).

When enemy lines and territory are crossed, boldness and a heart for God are required to make it through. But what happens when you find yourself torn between both sides? Have you ever found yourself having to choose between two worlds? What was your decision? What if you didn't have a choice?

Michal, whose name means “Who is like God?” or “the brook” in Hebrew, was a woman who seemed to be torn between two worlds. After falling in love with a shepherd boy who made beautiful songs, she soon became his wife. She was worth far more to David than any other woman, so he put his life at risk and went to battle for her, collecting 200 Philistine foreskins just to win her hand in marriage. What was her gift? Was it being a princess to a scorned king? Was she radiant in beauty and worthy to be praised? I believe she had the gift of being honest to the Lord and was awarded the gift of being a wife. Later on, she would protect her husband and assist him in fleeing from her demonically possessed father who was losing his throne, his self esteem, and more importantly, the favor of God. Michal stood up for the right thing by hiding David and making a decoy out of straw beneath the sheets of the bed they shared. She even went as far as telling her father that David was ill and couldn't attend the banquet feast when her father was looking for him. She was devoted to the right cause of being a good wife and standing up for the true and only King, El Roi! What would you have done? How would you have felt being in her shoes? Would you have been devoted to the right cause?

Let's pray: Dear God, our Father, merciful in all of Your ways, let us walk in faith and boldness and newness in You. Let us walk and not get weary. Let us rise on wings of eagles that soar. Let us faint not, stand up, and be devoted to the cause of serving You and being in relationship with You always until the end of time.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above....James 1:17

Hannah

Hebrew name meaning “Grace” & “Favor”

1 Samuel 1 & 2

Birthing a Testimony

By Sista Donnelisha Jackson

Have you ever found yourself desperate for God to show up and move a mountain in your life? As time passes, maybe your heart grew weary, especially when others around you received clarity and breakthroughs in their situation. If anyone could understand the emotional toll of waiting, it was Hannah, a woman who pressed on in prayer.

Proverbs 13:12 states, *“Hope deferred makes the heart sick,”* and Hannah undoubtedly experienced such heartache while waiting on God. Scripture tells us that Hannah failed to conceive with her husband, and her barrenness became a source of deep sorrow (**1 Sam. 1:5-7**). To make matters worse, she was constantly taunted by Peninnah, her husband’s other wife, who was blessed with many children. Hannah also experienced presumptuous judgment from Eli the priest, who mistook her tears and silent prayer for drunkenness. Perhaps what’s most notable is that nobody initially empathized with her or prayed with her to help ease this heavy burden.

When tested, Hannah could have cursed God, thrown a pity party, or hid in shame. Instead, her response was to endure the fire and *“hold fast to what is good”* (**1 Thess. 5:21**). Amidst her trials, Hannah chose to draw closer to God with unwavering faith. Despite her circumstances, she praised and petitioned God as **Philippians 4:6** encourages us to do. Her persistent and fervent prayer ultimately led to a significant breakthrough, which reminds us of the truth in **Jas. 5:16**: *“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”*

As her name suggests, Hannah received grace and favor when God answered her prayer. She gave birth to Samuel, who became a great prophet of Israel, and the blessing continued with more children, showing that God can do *“exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think”* (**Eph. 3:20**). Interestingly, this is not only a story of an infertile woman blessed to bear children, but also of a prayerful woman blessed to bear witness to God’s loving nature. As you wait on God, just know that your trial today is paving the way for a powerful testimony tomorrow. So just P.U.S.H. (Pray Until Something Happens) and trust that God will deliver!

Let’s pray: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for being a rock and comforter in my time of need. Help me to be patient and wait quietly while You work things out in Your masterful way (**Rom. 8:28**). Show me how to cast my care upon You (**1 Pet. 5:7**) and submit myself to Your will. Allow me to be a testament to Your grace and glory.

In Jesus’ name, amen.

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