

## *Good News Daily*

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### **Sunday, January 3**

Psalm 66 *Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he performs for people!* (v.5 NLT)

I am a mentor for a “moms” group at our church. All the moms in the group have at least one child under the age of five. Often, they have multiple children close in age to the five-year mark. As a mentor, I encourage them to love God by caring for their husbands and children even when things appear mundane.

My favorite part of mentoring comes at the end of year. It’s a meeting where a handful of moms share their “God stories.” All the stories highlight some aspect of how God has worked in their lives. Some share heart wrenching issues of infertility, or miscarriages. Others share more positive events.

But all their stories end with the multiple ways of how God has worked within them and their circumstances to bring about life change and blessing. Life transformation is spoken and shared. This—a life transformed because of God’s work—is my definition of what miracles are made of.

Isaiah 66:18-23; Psalm 67; 1 John 2:12-17; John 6:41-47

### **Monday, January 4**

Exodus 3:1-12 *There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn’t burn up. Then the LORD told him, “I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land.* (vv.2, 7-8)

As Epiphany approaches and highlights Jesus revealing himself to humanity, we can see him here at the burning bush. Some scholars say “the angel of the LORD” is the presence of Jesus. I would have stared in amazement too!

This account is fascinating to me. I also find great comfort in it. These verses remind me that God does in fact see, hear, and deliver. He hears. He speaks. He responds. He is present.

God also became visible in the physical form of Jesus on earth. Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection all confirm the heart of the Father from the beginning. God sees us, He hears us and acts on our behalf, for life and eternity. This is the Epiphany we are privileged to celebrate!

Psalms 85, 87; Hebrews 11:23-31; John 14:6-14

### **Tuesday, January 5**

Joshua 1:1-9 *“Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.”* (v.8)

How would you feel if you had to “fill the shoes” of Moses? Yup! Pretty intimidated, inadequate and completely opposite of courageous! God knew this. In just nine verses, God commands Joshua to be strong and courageous three times. God also reveals to Joshua the secret of success.

I love the fact that God knows what we need before we even ask Him anything. I am also thankful that God’s word is available to me in print and electronic form. I don’t think we, as people in general, realize just how important God’s word is to thrive. Sometimes I can neglect the reading of it.

God Himself speaks these words to Joshua, making it pretty clear just how vital reading and meditating on His word is. I take these words to heart. I want to prosper and succeed in everything I do. How about you? May God help us to be steadfast in reading His powerful word.

Psalms 2, 110; Hebrews 11:32—12:2; John 15:1-16

### **Wednesday, January 6**

Matthew 12:14-21 *“And his name will be the hope of all the world.”* (v.21)

Today is Epiphany. It’s a big word that literally means “to manifest” or “to show.” It is God’s revealing Himself to all people; not just those who were Jewish. God manifested or showed himself in the person of Jesus to the Jewish people and to Gentiles. We celebrate Jesus coming in human form, showing us who God is.

Jesus taught, loved, and healed those who came to him. I am reminded that Jesus died for me personally. With faith in his name, my blind eyes were opened, my bound spirit was set free. Having faith in the person and name of Jesus, I found hope and new life. I still have many reasons to hope. Hope for physical healing, deliverance from generational sin, salvation for other family members, and every unmet need I have. No need and no person on my prayer list is exempt from the Lord’s power.

This is the extent of God’s love. All in. Sacrificial. The hope of all the world. What are you hoping for today? Ask God. He is our hope.

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalms 46, 97; Revelation 21:22-27

### **Thursday, January 7**

Psalms 103 *The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him. For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust.* (vv.13-14)

When my husband and I got married, we made the decision to remain childless. As the saying goes, then God laughed at our plans! Not only did we end up having one child, God blessed us with identical twins after our first daughter. Talk about surprises and God taking me in a different direction!

In retrospect, I can say without a doubt, I have learned so much about my relationship with God because I am a parent. I believe God planned it this way so I could more fully understand His perspective of being a Father and parent to me.

My spiritual life is fuller and richer because of becoming a mom and parenting three children. I thank God for allowing me the privilege of giving birth and parenting. It has changed my understanding and perspective of life and my spiritual journey. Thank You, God, for surprises and life altering course corrections from Your hand.

Isaiah 52:3-6; Revelation 2:1-7; John 2:1-11

### **Friday, January 8**

John 4:46-54 *Then the father realized that that was the very time Jesus had told him, “Your son will live.” And he and his entire household believed in Jesus.* (v.53)

My sister was the first in our family to have an active, growing relationship with Jesus. After going overseas with her husband who was in the military, they began attending a small home fellowship. It was then she made a commitment to Christ.

She wrote home often, sharing her experience. She wrote about finding forgiveness, accepting Jesus as her Savior, and how much her life had changed for the better because of starting a relationship with Jesus.

At first, the rest of our family was quite skeptical. We were afraid she may have been introduced to a cult! She continued to write, and our fears lessened. When she returned home, our entire family noticed that she was indeed “different” because of her newfound faith.

It wasn’t long before person by person, we each wanted what she had in her faith and made our own personal decisions to follow Jesus. It only takes one person to start a chain reaction of faith. Don’t give up if you are praying for a family member!

Isaiah 59:15-21; Psalms 117, 118; Revelation 2:8-17

### **Saturday, January 9**

Psalms 121 *The LORD himself watches over you! The LORD stands beside you as your protective shade.* (v.5)

Sometimes my adult children have said, “Adulting is hard! It was much easier to be a kid and have your parents look out for you!” In many ways, being a child has its advantages. You have no bills, you don’t have a job, you don’t need to make difficult decisions, and someone feeds you, clothes you, and houses you.

This verse declares that even as a parent and grandparent, I can be assured God is the one looking out for me. Not only is He the ultimate parent, but provider of all things to me. Just like everything was provided for me as a child, God is doing the same for me even now in my more mature years.

If I trust like I did as a child, I can be at rest in all things. I agree that “adulting” can be hard. Today, I will choose childlike faith and let God do the hard work for me. What will your faith look like today?

Isaiah 63:1-5; Psalms 122, 123; Revelation 2:18-29; John 5:1-15

*by Pamela Newton*

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