

STANDING

STRONG

IN

GOD

Devotional

BY
LISA HALL

Table of CONTENTS

**PURSUING
HOLINESS**

pg. 02

**VIEWING GOD
AND YOURSELF
ACCURATELY**

pg. 06

**FIND YOUR
STRENGTH IN
RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD**

pg. 10

**CHOOSING
JOY**

pg. 14

**FINDING HOPE
THROUGH
COMMUNITY**

pg. 18

**JESUS' BLOOD OUR
STORY AND OUR
PERSPECTIVE**

pg. 22

2025 INTERVIEW

Stand strong. It's not just a corporation's tagline or what we tell ourselves when life is hard. Stand strong is what God tells us to do in life's challenging circumstances. And the key to overcoming difficulties is found in the *object* of our strength: standing strong **in God**.

Of our many choices in life, the decision whether to be independent or to embrace our Creator - living in his power and in intimate relationship with him - is one of the most important. God longs for us to deeply know him and to understand how he sees us, his beloved. Using life's circumstances, God shapes us into his image. Though this is often a painful process, he has given us gifts to help us stand strong in him. Dear sister, I hope you will be encouraged as we explore them together!

Lisa Hall
International
Prayer
Coordinator



**GOD DISCIPLINES
US FOR OUR GOOD,
IN ORDER THAT WE
MAY SHARE IN HIS
HOLINESS.**

Hebrews 12:10

HOLINESS

Have you ever contemplated what it means to be holy –to be set apart for God? And how is holiness linked to the path of sanctification that God has for each of us?

Hebrews 12:10 says, “God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.” It also talks about accepting hardship in our lives as discipline. The passage continues, “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of **righteousness** and **peace** for those who have been trained by it” (Heb. 12:11).

God disciplines us for our good & uses circumstances and relationships to both remove unwanted traits as well as build his characteristics in us. He knows that we can’t learn and embrace these all at one time.

We learn these characteristics bit by bit over time through many types of relationships and circumstances. What would happen if we asked God to help us **embrace** what he wants to build into our character?

This path of sanctification is not an easy road. And I am glad that God promises to be by our side every step of the way.

He is there to walk with us through the incremental steps of change needed. But he doesn't stop there. God has also given us the body of Christ. When we are doing life together in authentic community, we can pray for one another, helping each other to stand when those waves of difficult circumstances come. Friends can remind us of the truth, helping us to see that these circumstances have the ability to mature us and build into us the righteous character that we need.

I've recently walked through such a time myself. God had gently, but persistently, been convicting me of pride. I knew that the stubborn trait would not go away easily, so I enlisted the help of a trusted friend. She helped me take off pride, renew my mind through memorizing Scripture on humility and walk through the many difficult trials in which God was testing my sincerity in wanting to rid myself of that sin. I clung to God's constant presence through that painful time.

The beauty that comes out of these difficult circumstances, though, is not only the character of God in us, and the ability to stand firm, but also God's peace. Again, Verse 11 says, "Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." God works in our lives over time to build in us the qualities we need: the purity, truth, faith, readiness, hope, constant prayer and attentiveness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

And the culmination of gaining these qualities is the ability to stand in peace.

What would it look like for you to seek God for the change he wants in your life? What friend could you trust to walk alongside you in this? It is time to get strong and learn to stand. It is time to pursue holiness so we can stand no matter what circumstances come against us and so we may learn to walk in the strength and peace of God as we do.

BE
F
E
E
G
T
I
O
U

Dear Lord,

I thank you for your faithfulness in making me look more like your son Jesus through the power of your Holy Spirit dwelling within me. Even though discipline is unpleasant, thank you for being a good father that wants to produce righteousness and peace within me. Lord, help me to embrace the relationships and circumstances you've placed in my life as opportunities for you to mold my character into that of Jesus'. Please lead me to authentic community and help me to cling to your presence even in times of discipline. Thank you for never leaving or forsaking me.

**THE GRASS
WITHERS AND THE
FLOWERS FALL,
BUT THE WORD OF
OUR GOD ENDURES
FOREVER.**

Isaiah 40:8

VIEWING GOD

And Yourself Accurately

Who am I? Where did I come from? What is the meaning of my life? I think all of us at some point in our lives have asked these same questions. Every human heart desires to be significant, to belong and to have purpose and value. The great news is that we don't have to wonder about the answers. God has shared them in the Bible, and they center on what he says about himself and us, his children.

In an amazing account, Moses pleads with God to teach the Israelites his ways so that they could **know** God and follow him. God appears before Moses and declares, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, **slow to anger**, abounding in **love** and **faithfulness**, maintaining love to thousands, and **forgiving** wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he **punishes** the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation" (Ex. 34:6-7). And later he adds that he will punish "those who **hate** me but [show] love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments" (Deut. 5:9-10).

God proclaims himself to be a God of compassion, mercy and love but is clear that he is also a God of justice and will not tolerate idolatry. He is a covenant

keeping God who desires an exclusive and intimate relationship with you!

This declaration from God is so encouraging! Our amazing God also declares that he does not change (Isa. 40:8), and he will never leave us or forsake us (Deut. 31:8). This knowledge gives us strength, comfort, stability and assurance that the God who created us is consistent, dependable and just. We can always count on him.

We need to get our facts right. Don't accept what others have told you about God. Go to the source and find out what he says about himself. What we believe has a profound impact on our lives. Our beliefs influence our feelings, which determine our actions, which steer the course of our lives. So, do you have an accurate view of God?

Do you also have an accurate view of yourself? If we want to make sure that what we believe is true, we can go to the Word of the one who created us. When we come to faith in Jesus Christ, we are buried with him in his death and raised to a new life in Christ. We are **forgiven** and given new life. God desires to bring healing to every part of our lives, but walking in the life he has for us starts with **believing the truth**. In Ephesians we discover that God has **adopted** us (1:5), **redeemed** us (1:7), **chosen** us (1:11) and **sealed** us with the promised Holy Spirit (1:13). We are saved by his grace through faith and created to do good works (2:8-9). Our value and worth does not come from what

we do or how we look. It is based completely on “whose” we are – God’s precious beloved children.

How do we stand strong in God through challenging circumstances? We build our lives on these core beliefs – understanding who God is and who God says we are. If we believe what God says and live with his truth as our foundation, when the storms of life come, in the end, we will still be standing (Matt. 7:24-27). How would your life change if you saw God and yourself in the same way that He does?

BE
LIE
VE
S
T
H
O
S

Dear Lord,

You are compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Thank you that I can count on your consistent nature. You have saved me by grace alone and I am so grateful that you did this out of desiring a relationship with me. Please, Lord, show me if there is any part of me that does not have an accurate view of who you are, or if I’ve even accepted lies about myself. Exchange these lies, or strongholds, with the truth of who you are and who you say I am. Most importantly, help me to know that it’s about **whose** I am. May my life be built upon the solid rock of your truth as I stand firm upon Christ.

LOVE THE LORD
YOUR GOD WITH
ALL YOUR HEART
AND WITH ALL
YOUR SOUL AND
WITH ALL YOUR
MIND AND WITH
ALL YOUR
STRENGTH.

Mark 12:30

FIND YOUR STRENGTH

in Relationship With God

When facing a difficult situation in your life, have you ever tried to make it through in your own strength without God? Even if things worked out for you in the end, how did you feel after that challenging journey? I don't know about you, but when I have pushed through painful circumstances on my own, I've usually felt emotionally discouraged, physically ill and mentally drained.

God never intended for us to walk through difficulty alone. He created us to live life, with its joys and hardships, in the context of loving relationships – with God and with others. In fact, Jesus described nurturing these relationships as the most important commandment for us to follow – to love God with all of our **heart, soul, mind** and **strength** and to love others as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). Unfortunately, it doesn't come naturally for us to love God and others well, much less with all of our being. We try to cover our inadequacy by giving gifts to God instead – time, money and good deeds, which end up draining us. But what God truly wants is an intimate, life-giving **relationship** with us.

We were each created for relationship with God and made in his image. He created us with a soul, made up

of our heart, mind, emotions and will. And it is through our souls that we connect with God and love him. He desires us to be fully engaged with him – listening for him, looking for him and delighting in his presence. You could express your pleasure and gratitude to God as simply as appreciating a beautiful sunset or birds happily chirping. It may be in deeply contemplating something you just read in Scripture. God longs for us to spend focused time with him. What do you need to let go of in your life in order to create more space to be with God and quiet your soul?

When we slow down, quiet ourselves and focus on abiding in God's love, it nurtures both our soul and our relationship with God. To **abide** means to reside, remain, stay or dwell with. It involves oneness with God, an essential unity with him. And it brings to mind how "the Word became flesh and made his home among us" (John 1:14). How have we allowed Jesus to make his home in us? To what areas of our hearts, wills, thoughts and actions have we let him have access?

This abiding or dwelling with God also involves a vulnerability and **surrendering** of our lives to his Spirit. David speaks of this when he issues the invitation, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Ps.139:23-24). God is not just a guest; he wants to make his home in every area of our lives. As we open up to God, he promises to bring healing, hope

and abundant fruitfulness to every submitted area.

As we learn to receive that love, it overflows in us and allows us to love him and others back. May I encourage you, friend, to surrender yourself fully to God and allow his love to touch every part of you? He will supply you with the strength to stand strong in him as he walks this journey alongside you.



Dear Lord,

It's hard to believe that the Creator of the cosmos would want a relationship with me, yet you created me to be *with* me – to dwell in me. Thank you, Jesus, for making this possible through the cross – for sacrificing yourself so that I may have eternal life. Life is not always easy though. I cannot live out my difficult circumstances alone. Search me, God, and know my heart. Reveal any area of my life that I need to lay down in order to clearly hear your voice. Teach me to abide in your love so that it may overflow and enable me to love others with the same love you have for me. I surrender all to you, my Lord, my God.

**MY GRACE IS
SUFFICIENT FOR
YOU, FOR MY
POWER IS MADE
PERFECT IN
WEAKNESS.**

2 Corinthians 12:9

Choosing JOY

I love to do challenging things – it's in my DNA. I thrive on situations that push me to the limit physically and mentally: whitewater rafting, rock climbing, skydiving, challenging ropes courses, camping and bouldering, canoeing and portaging. Life is full of challenging circumstances and obstacles that will either make us stronger or defeat us. But I have learned some lessons the hard way—no matter what the challenge is, we need to prepare ourselves physically, emotionally, mentally and even spiritually to overcome obstacles, avoid injury and come out victorious.

I am amazed at how interwoven God has created our bodies' systems. All it takes is a poor diet, insufficient sleep, not managing stress levels, or not practicing soul care to throw all of our other systems off-course. Failing in these areas can make us physically ill, throw our emotions out of control or give us a negative mental outlook. Our relationship with God can also be affected. These basic elements of self-care are the solid foundation on which we build our lives so that when trouble comes, we can stand strong.

As we look at the difficult things in our lives, one thing becomes obvious. We can't control a lot of the factors –other people, our circumstances, global events and government actions.

One thing we can control is our mental attitude. In James 1:2-4 we read, “Consider it pure **joy**, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature** and complete, not lacking anything.” The Greek word for “consider” means to think of, not to feel.

So, this is a command that calls us to change our attitude, not our emotions. If James, the writer of this letter, had been ruled by his emotions he wouldn’t have been able to stay strong through persecution and eventual martyrdom. He likely still felt fear, but he trusted God’s plan and chose joy in faith. He urges us to do the same. When we choose joy in the face of bitterness, self-pity or other negative emotions, God will do a work in our lives and build endurance in us which leads to maturity and Christlikeness.

God gives us **grace** for each day. When we continually choose to call out for God’s strength, wisdom and grace, he reminds us, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Cor. 12:9) It is so important to carve out time daily for an intimate relationship with our Father, walking in step with him and with our eyes on him to receive the grace we need.

The hope we need to keep going comes from knowing that the God whom we serve is good and all-powerful—a God who works everything out in the end for our good. (Rom. 8:28-29)

That good may not be comfortable, but it will mature our souls, build our character, and help us see our difficulties through God's eternal perspective. Can I encourage you today to join me in yielding our bodies, minds and spirits to our loving Father? With God's help, we can choose joy as we walk with him through the trials of our lives.

How can you choose joy in the face of your trials? How do you see God's all-sufficient grace strengthening you in the midst of your circumstances?

REFLECTIONS

Dear Lord,

Thank you for providing me with the ability to choose joy even amid trials. I could not do this apart from your all-sufficient grace. Lord, I may not be able to control the various factors around me, but with your help, I can control my outlook. Please help me to change my attitude and not let my emotions rule me. I submit my worries and fears to you, Father. I place my hope fully in you as I trust that you will work my trials out for my good and your glory. May my eyes see through the lens of your eternal perspective and bring me to choose joy today.

MAY THE GOD OF
HOPE FILL YOU
WITH ALL JOY AND
PEACE AS YOU
TRUST IN HIM, SO
THAT YOU MAY
OVERFLOW WITH
HOPE BY THE
POWER OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT.

Romans 15:13

FINDING HOPE

Through Community

“May the God of **hope** fill you with all **joy** and **peace** as you trust in him, so that you may **overflow** with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” – Romans 15:13

Hope. It is as essential for our lives as oxygen and water. Without it, we often give up on life or become numb or bitter. But with hope, we can dare to dream and even be strengthened to take the next step.

We need the **help** of others in finding hope. Because the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a God of relationship, we are designed for authentic community. And it is through community that we help each other find and hold onto this hope from God.

Our lives are full of challenging circumstances: the diagnosis of cancer, death of a loved one, loss of a job, abandonment by a spouse, rejection by a prodigal child or onset of debilitating depression. I have either personally walked these dark paths or have helped close friends walk through them.

There are times in my life that my heart has ached so deeply that I could not stop crying. And when the tears finally did stop, my heart felt numb from grief. These are the times when God has brought dear friends to

hold me and to eventually help me find my way back to hope. What about you? How have others helped you through your pain?

One of my favorite Bible passages describing this is the friendship of David and Jonathan. King Saul, Jonathan's father, was jealous of David and spent years hunting David to kill him, only to have God provide David's escape each time. The stress, isolation and fear of literally running for his life brought discouragement to David's soul.

Then a brother in the faith stepped in to help David in his difficult situation. "And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find **strength** in God." (1 Sam. 23:16) Just as Jonathan did for David, the best thing that we can do for our friends in their pain and difficulty is to take them to God in prayer and to **help** them find strength in the God who sees them and cares for them.

As a ministry, our vision at TWR Women of Hope is to *bring hope in Jesus to women around the world and across generations*. Whether the woman is in a prayer group, a listener to our radio broadcasts and podcasts, or someone interacting with our teams through social media or on-the-ground partners, we are helping one woman at a time find her hope and strength in God.

As believers, each of us can bring this amazing message of hope in Jesus to the world! Find strength

in your own situation by remembering, “Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you” (Deut. 31:8). And we can encourage others to “hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works” (Heb. 10:23-24).

Friend, you are not alone in your difficulty. God is always with you and has also given you the body of Christ to encourage and support you. How can you reach out today to seek help for yourself or bring this message of hope to a friend in need?

Dear Lord,

You are a God of relationship and you made me to be in community with others. Thank you that I don't have to go through life alone, and thank you for the special friends you have placed in my life. Lord, would you bring a friend to mind who may be going through a tough time? Show me how I can love them and point them to you. Or, help me to be brave and share my own troubles with a trusted friend. Either way, I pray that we would be encouraged in the Lord.

**IN JESUS
NAME,** *Amen*

R E F L E C T I O N

**AND THEY HAVE
DEFEATED HIM BY
THE BLOOD OF THE
LAMB AND BY
THEIR TESTIMONY.**

Revelation 12:11

JESUS' BLOOD

Our Story & Our Perspective

“And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die” (Revelation 12:11).

This year I've been sharing with you approaches that are helpful to me in standing strong in God through challenging circumstances: seeing difficulty as God's way of making us holy, having an accurate view of God and myself, pursuing an intimate relationship with God, choosing joy and finding hope through Godly community. The last few I'd like to share come from Revelation 12:11 – Jesus' **blood**, our **story** of what God has done in our lives and our **perspective** on life.

For truth to be effective in our lives, we need to know what is true, to internally embrace the truth and then to act upon it. Understanding the value of the blood of Jesus is not intellectual knowledge. It is essentially personal. Without it, I was trapped in my sin as Satan's prisoner.

But Jesus came to the cross on my behalf to pay the penalty for my sin. He ransomed and rescued me (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

His blood cleanses me of my sin (1 John 1:7). Satan continues to lie and accuse me, but I can now stand strong in the truth that I belong to God as his precious daughter. Jesus' blood changed my life forever!

There is power in the blood of Jesus and in his name. And as we stand in the truth of that power (Eph. 6), God defeats our enemies. This truth is powerfully sung by Chris McClarney in Hallelujah for the Cross.
twr.org/hallelujah

Recently my younger son, Brandon, was commissioned by his local church as a full-time missionary to serve with TWR. It touched me deeply as I watched the elders lay hands on Brandon, pray spiritual blessing into his life and send him off to do the work to which God had called him. This was immediately followed by a panel discussion. Every panelist had a secular job, yet each one shared that they felt called by God and sent by this local body of Christ to go into their workplaces with the purpose of bringing the message and hope of Christ. There was an intentionality in their lives to live like Jesus and love those around them.

There is such power in sharing our stories. It strengthens us and those who hear it. How are you sharing your story of God's work in your life with those around you?

Following Jesus is costly. Lately I have been challenged in reading Hearts of Fire: **Eight Women in the**

Underground Church and Their Stories of Costly Faith

by Voice of the Martyrs. I read the stories of these modern-day courageous women who are living out and defending their faith. In living for Jesus, they are experiencing much persecution and oppression, yet also much strength. I wonder, “Would I be that faithful to God in the face of danger and suffering?” How about you? From where do you draw your strength when facing difficulty?

The Father is calling us to come close to him – to draw strength, courage and protection from him. It is in this place of intimacy with God that we can live in the power of the blood of Christ, share our story and follow Christ no matter what the cost. He will strengthen us to stand strong in him in every circumstance!

Dear Lord,

Thank you for your blood that cleanses me from my sin. Because of you, I can stand strong in the truth that I belong to God as his precious daughter. Because of this intimate relationship, I can live in the power of your blood, share my story and follow you no matter the cost. Jesus, help me to stand strong in you in every circumstance.

**IN JESUS
NAME,** *Amen*

REFLECTION