

Post-its to Ponder

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This book is dedicated to my husband, Ken, for all his support and encouragement; also to my sister, Linda, who told me to follow my heart; and to my friends and my Sunshine Circle gals who convinced me to “go for it!”

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Preface

About a year ago, I was going through my many boxes of “stuff” and I found the *Bible* my grandma had given to me when I was ten years old. It has my name on the cover, and all of Jesus’ words are printed in red ink. It also features beautiful, colored, pictures.

I decided to use it for my morning devotions. It contains one-page devotions for each day of the year, and these include a scripture to look up, first.

The first time I used this *Bible*, I opened it to the exact spot I sought without any flipping through the pages. I did not think anything of it, because I do have a general idea of where the different books of the *Bible* are.

The next morning it happened again. I opened to the exact scripture for that day without searching. OK. It started to get my attention.

After a week of this, it really had my attention and it started to freak me out but in a good way. I used little Post-its on the passages that truly spoke to me.

After a month, I did have to flip and search to find the scripture for that day.

I believe God was trying to tell me something and He succeeded. Now, my *Bible* is full of *Post-its!*

My previous *Bible*, which I had used during several Disciple classes, was dog-eared throughout. I transferred some verses from this *Bible* to my newfound *Bible*. This old black leather *Bible* of mine was soon covered with hundreds of post-it tabs.

Many books provide specific scriptures to meet all kinds of needs, but the verses are often paraphrased and usually, there aren't any notes with them. Because notes about each verse are important to me, I decided to make my own book including all my favorite verses using the *Bible* given to me long ago. Some folks may not like this particular *Bible* version, but it is what I grew up with, and I love it just the way it is. It doesn't read like the King James Version, but it does still have its *thys* and *thous*.

I divided the verses up into chapters addressing such topics as fear, comfort, prophecy, and so forth, and after each passage, I have put my own thoughts on that scripture. I do believe scripture can mean different things to different people so this little book contains my own thoughts and opinions.

Many people know most of the famous *Bible* stories, and many even know some verses from memory. After multiple Disciple classes and even more devotionals, I am amazed at how much "good stuff" is in the *Bible*, passages that address so

many situations and problems humans have been facing back then and still face today.

I started this book when Lent began and finished it by Easter. I felt God wanted me to do this, and I hope anyone reading this book will be able to take something away from it.

Let the Children Come

Favorites

Isaiah 40:28–31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

I have always loved these verses because I love the analogy of eagles and that of running without getting tired. The key is that “they who wait for the Lord” shall be renewed with strength when they need it. We all face times when we are in situations out of our control and our own strength is not enough. That is when we must rely on God to get us through.

Psalm 118:8

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

Such a simple, little verse that says it all, and guess what? It is exactly in the center of the *Bible*. Psalm 117 is the shortest chapter in the *Bible* and Psalm 119 is the longest, and this verse is in the middle of the *Bible*. A coincidence? I think not!

Joshua 24:15

(And if you be unwilling to serve the Lord), choose this day whom you will serve (whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell) but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua gave this impassioned speech to the Israelites before his death. He had taken over leadership after Moses' death. The people were now in the Promised Land but they found it inhabited by people who worshiped a wide variety of idols instead of God. Their response was to serve the Lord. We have this framed and hanging in our house.

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn

**from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven,
and forgive their sin and heal their land.**

I saw 2 Chronicles 7:14 on a billboard while traveling and looked it up when I got home. I liked what it said, and it has since become one of my favorite verses in the *Bible*. I feel that as a nation we have strayed far from God, and we need to turn things around. For too long we have become a “me”-focused nation. Our country is incredibly blessed by God, but we have forgotten that. I am afraid we will face dire consequences if we don't turn back.

Psalm 33:12

**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the
people whom he has chosen as his heritage!**

Our nation was founded on people who came here for religious freedom—people who wanted to worship God. Unfortunately, as we prospered, the focus of that worship turned to money, power, ourselves, and other worldly things.

Psalm 127:1

**Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it
labor in vain.**

Again, the focus needs to be on God, first. I find that if I put God first then everything else will fall into place, whereas if I

try to exert control or make it by myself, things don't go as well. I am actually glad I'm not in control of everything because I would really muck it up if that were the case.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

We do have to rely on faith to believe in God because we can't see Him, but we can feel His presence in our lives all around us. Once I was trying to explain faith to kids during a "children's time" in church. I told them it was like the wind—we can't see it, but we can see what it does. Also I told them we can't "see" love but we feel it, and God is Love.

Micah 6:8

...And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Boy, those three things—if everyone would do them we would have a much better world! Jesus modeled this when He was on earth with us.

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This verse always makes me smile because I saw it at the bottom of a poster where a baby was sitting in a highchair with a bowl of spaghetti on his head, and of course spaghetti was also everywhere else—on his face, hands, chair, and walls. The baby was screaming, and no doubt the mother was too. I can identify with the situation since I had two kids myself. Precious!

Proverbs 3:5–6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

So if I trust in the Lord instead of what I think then things will work out better, and He will show me the way. Thank goodness!

Matthew 19:13–14

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people; but Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

Mark 10:13–15

And they were bringing children to him, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Luke 18:15–17

Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

I absolutely LOVE the above verses. Words that were so important they are in three of the four gospels. At first I used to look at these verses at face value—Jesus loved the little children and blessed them. But then I tried to understand what Jesus meant when he said that we have to believe like a child to receive the kingdom of God. Now, I think I get it. When I hear my little grandson talk about Jesus there is no doubt or analysis or hesitation on his part. He just believes

that, as he says, “Jesus is awesome Nanny, and all powerful; he loves everyone even bad people.” We as adults try to understand that and analyze because it is hard for us to simply believe something we can’t see. We need the faith of a child to truly believe, and then we find peace.

Be Still and Know

The Nature of God

1 Kings 19:12

And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

This happened when the prophet Elijah was hiding in a cave while trying to escape being killed by Queen Jezebel. Even though the mountain shook, and there was a fire, the *Bible* says the Lord was not in those things. Instead He spoke to Elijah in a still small voice.

I have heard the Lord speak to me out loud once in my lifetime, and it was in a quiet small voice. It was a voice that was clear and distinct but without gender. It was just six words: "I will take care of your Dad." It was about two weeks before my Dad died, and I really needed to hear that because I had been struggling with this. It brought me such immediate peace. I wrote a story about it, and I realize most people probably don't believe it, but it did happen!

1 Samuel 16:7

“...for the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

How thankful I am that God can see straight into a person's heart! We often judge each other by what we see on the outside and make judgments without even knowing or trying to find out what that person is like on the inside. Once, my sister's car broke down in the middle of the night in a bad neighborhood. Another car stopped, and some intimidating guys got out. She thought this is it; I am dead, but they helped her get on her way.

Ecclesiastes 3:14–15

I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has made it so, in order that men should fear before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

This says to me that God is totally in control of everything and knows and understands everything including time, which I find very confusing. He knows what lies ahead for me, and He will help me with it, if I let him.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God will help her right early. *The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.* The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has wrought desolations in the earth. *He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, he burns the chariots with fire!* “Be still, and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth!” The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

I love this Psalm, especially the parts I have indicated in italic. God is the only force able to control everything! “BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.” That says it all!