## With Us Through Every Trial

I think we can all agree that our world isn't quite the same since the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and some other global events over the last couple of years. Anxiety levels are high. Have you experienced that?

Our family recently had to flee the dark area of the world where we've been serving the Lord for almost 30 years. Living under an oppressive regime where Christians are persecuted was enough to drive us into Jesus' arms — the only truly safe place anywhere on Earth. But now that we have left so much behind, especially the people and land God called us to, we are facing new challenges. And yet, I want to encourage you as He has faithfully encouraged us:

The Lord is with you, no matter the trial. He knows what's up ahead and He already has a plan to carry you through, use you for His glory, and make you more than a conqueror through His love.

# Let God Be Your Time-Manager

Ecclesiastes 3:1; Philippians 4:13, Proverbs 3:5-7; Isaiah 55:6-9

Years ago, as I watched many of my missionary colleagues leave the field because of conflict with a supervisor or spouse, sin, family problems, burnout, or other issues, I knew I needed to pay attention to the battle we are in with our enemy, Satan. I needed to fight for love and for God's purposes, not just when I feel like it or think I have time, but every day, all the time, and in every circumstance. *I need to see what God's doing and join Him there*.

Burnout happens when you're doing more than God has asked you to do, or you're doing it in your own power.

As I hand my schedule over to the Lord moment by moment, day after day, month after month, year after year, I've found an astounding principle at work in oneness with Him: *Moving in God's empowering and through His guidance, we can accomplish more than is humanly possible!* Philippians 4:13.

So many times, a task has been laid before me that should have taken days or even weeks to accomplish, but the Lord miraculously completed it in just a few hours!

Of course, not every situation is like that. Sometimes, He takes His time so I can learn the lessons needed along the way, or so He can use that situation to draw others into His love. But certainly, He has triumphed over time and done the "impossible" often enough to make me never want to step out on my own again. I only want to do what He's doing,

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when He's doing it, and in His power. Forget my agendas. I want God's!

This day planner is helpful for organizing busy schedules, but its main intention is to build new life-changing habits to enjoy the Spirit's empowering every moment of every day. (See the devotional Bible study, *Delight to Be a Woman of Wonder*, and the *Delight to Be a Woman of Wonder Prayer Journal* at MoreThanAConquerorBooks.com.)

How many meetings you plan, how smart you are at homeschooling your kids, how many Bible studies you teach, how great you are at your job, or how many things you accomplish in a day isn't as important as how well you have loved. Matthew 22:37-40.

And love starts with God. 1 John 4:7.

So does your day. Psalm 5:3; 130:6; 143:8.

# First Thought: Jesus

Whatever your habit is when you first wake up in the morning — whether you worry yourself out of bed with a million things on your to-do list, or roll over with a groan and a pillow over your head — if you want to live a truly powerful life, then start a new habit: *Let your first thought be Jesus*.

Before you open your eyes, before you think of all the things you have to do, before you feel the pressure of the coming battles, ... think *Jesus*. And *hand Him your day*.

Ask Him what He wants to do in you and through you that day. Is there anything on your schedule He hasn't asked you to do? Or anything you're not doing yet that He's asking you to do? Look for His leading all throughout the day. Ask Him how He sees each situation and person, and be willing for Him to speak through you with His love.

Proverbs 3:5-7 says to seek the Lord in *all* your ways, and He will direct your paths. *Even small things we think don't matter can turn out miraculous when we hand them to the Lord!* 

Years ago, during a particularly stressful time in my life, I started purposing to make Jesus my first thought before I got out of bed each morning. I'd ask Him questions, like the ones on page 7, or just rest in His arms. Then I'd get up and head out into life's battles, purposing to seek Him and worship my way through the day.

Walking as one with the Lord all the time takes practice, though. I have to purpose to ask Him questions and listen for His answers. To invite Him into my daily situations and look for what He's doing. To seek His will before I make decisions, no matter how small.

So many times, as I headed to the store, I felt the Lord leading me to stay

home. Soon after, someone would show up at our door in need of help. Other times, I'd ask the Lord which store to go to, and find someone there whose heart He had prepared to hear the Gospel.

But my life hasn't always been that way. At first, it felt awkward to ask Him before I thought or did anything, because I was so used to doing things my way. I also wasn't accustomed to recognizing His voice (See page 9). But once constant surrender became a habit, hearing His voice and obeying Him got easier and easier each time I stepped out in faith.

Some people argue there's no need to seek God all the time. Just make decisions. He put you in that position, after all, so surely it's because you already know what needs to be done.

But such reasoning from man does not agree with the Word of God. Proverbs 3:5-7. The Most High calls us to humility and surrender, not pride and control. He didn't create us and then throw us out into the world to do things on our own. He created us for relationship, for oneness with Him, for Love. John 14:15-27.

If we're about ourselves and what we think ought to happen, we'll miss the joy of joining with God in the great and mighty things He wants to make happen in us, through us, and even despite us.

# Walking as One with the Word

Psalm 31:14-15a; John 5:19, 14:15-27, 15:1-17; Psalm 3:5

This journal day planner is set up to help you organize your time such that it belongs to God. It accompanies Strategies 34-36 of the devotional Bible study, *Delight to Be a Woman of Wonder* and the men's version, *Dare to Be a Mighty Warrior*, which also has a *2023 Dare to Be a Mighty Warrior Power Planner*. If you want help breaking down the barriers to hearing God's voice so you can walk in His power, visit MoreThanAConquerorBooks.com for these studies and more.

## Suggested instructions for Power Planning:

- 1. Use conversation-openers like the ones on page 7 for your first thoughts before you get out of bed.
- 2. Then, as you go into your quiet time, seek God for His word for you for that day. This will usually be a verse or message from His heart. As you get used to listening to His voice, hearing Him will become easier, but whatever He says will always agree with what Scripture says and God's heart of love and grace (see the Three-Fold Sieve on page 9), so it's important to spend time every day getting to know the Word Himself (John 1:1, 14) by reading what He says. In the space provided each morning in this power

- planner, write what He tells you from His heart for that day.
- 3. Then as you go about each task, look for what God is doing and follow Him there. If you forget, don't worry. Just keep turning your thoughts back to Him whenever you remember. You can ask Him questions like, "What are You doing in this situation?" "What do You want me to do now?" or, "Lord, I think.... What do You think?"
- 4. At the end of the day, write what you experienced God doing.

# Before You Open Your Eyes

Isaiah 50:4; Psalm 139; Psalm 63:6; Psalm 119:148

### Suggested conversation-openers to start the day:

- Lord, here's my day. It's yours and I'm yours to do with as You will.
- What do You want to do today? I want to join You there.
- Is there a word You have for me today?
- Is there something You want to show me or teach me?
- What verses will I need for what I'm about to face today?
- Lord, how do You want me to bless my husband (roommate, children, mother, father, friend, rival, etc.)?
- Is there anything I'm planning to do You haven't asked me to do?
- Is there anything You want me to do I'm not doing yet?
- Surprise me today, Lord. Delight me with your love in some sweet, miraculous way that I'll know that I know it's from You.

Like all habits, the sooner we start, the easier they are to keep. To help your children hand their days to Christ, see these Pure-As-Gold Seal books below at MoreThanAConquerorBooks.com:



Listen to Me: Heart Talks with Jesus



Every Day with Jesus Prayer Journal



Listen to Me Prayer Journal

### Time for the One You Love

Luke 5:16; Psalm 42; Mark 1:35

Another habit you'll need to walk as one with Christ is to make time, just as Jesus did, for extended times alone with the Father. You may want to take one day alone with Him each month, or a half-day every other week, or even an overnight, and go someplace quiet and apart from your busy life. But however God leads you, those special hours you take to be alone with Him will become markers in your life. Your intimacy will grow, and He will give you valuable instructions for battles yet to come.

But if you neglect to spend time with God, you'll be like a maid scurrying about trying to do what you think your Master wants without every communicating with him, rather than a loving wife who knows her Husband's heart and will intimately because she never leaves His side. Hosea 2:14-20, Luke 10:38-42.

# Learn to Recognize God's Voice

John 10:27; Psalm 27

God is speaking all the time and in many different ways. Here are just a few the Bible mentions:

- The Word (Bible) (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Circumstances (2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Psalm 40:1-3)
- Others (1 Corinthians 2:4-13)
- His still small voice in your mind and heart (Psalm 42:8)
- Dreams and visions (Acts 2:17)
- Impressions or urgings (Acts 15:28)
- A sense of peace (Philippians 4:7)
- Signs and wonders (Acts 2:17-21)
- Nature (Psalm 125; 19:1-4)

The key to hearing God's voice is obedience. Each time you step out in faith to do what He's telling you to do, His voice gets louder. God loves to "whisper," so if we don't stay close to Him, we may miss what He's saying. James 4:8, 1 Kings 19:9-13.

If you find it hard to "hear" Him, then sin or wrong thought processes may be distracting you or blocking your spiritual ears from Truth. John 8:42-47. Be quick to repent of anything He shows you, and keep handing your thoughts back to Him. "God doesn't speak," or "I'll get back to that later; I'm busy now," are sure-fire ways to close the door in Jesus' face.

Here are some suggestions for when you're not sure you're hearing right:

- 1. Hand God what you're thinking and ask Him if it's from Him.
- 2. Run it through the Three-fold Sieve (facing page).

3. If you're still not sure, take a step of faith and say, "God, it feels like You're asking me to ..., so I'm headed that way. If that's not what You want me to do, then please make that clear."

God is for you. Any mistakes you make are not a failure, but an opportunity to grow. Ask Him what went wrong, learn what He's teaching you, and seek Him all the more. Jeremiah 29:11-13. Remember, *love is always what He asks you to do.* Matthew 22:37-40. So that's a great place to start. What's the most loving thing to do? *Do that*.

More important than how loudly you hear God's voice is the condition of your heart. Pride opens the door to the enemy and makes it easier to mistake his voice or your own for God's. But a humble heart is surrendered to God, and draws Him near. Numbers 12:3, Exodus 33:11, Proverbs 8:13, James 4:7-8.

So, lay down all your opinions and ideas at Jesus' feet and ask Him for His. If you can't hear Him straight away, just keep your questions open before Him and then go about your day. Like a treasure hunt, His answers can show up in unexpected places.

Every step you take in surrender, with your heart wide open to God to do anything He wants to do in you and through you, is a step deeper into oneness. And it's that oneness that gives you a front-row seat to His greatness, as you watch Him do powerful things you could never do on your own.

I want to be like a ring on Jesus' finger, just along for the ride and pointing to His beauty, as I watch Him do marvelous things all around me by His mighty hand.

### Three-fold Sieve to make sure it's God's voice:

- Does what you feel God saying line up with His Word
   — not just one portion, but all of it?
- 2. Does it line up with God's character especially His love and grace? 1 John 4:16, Matthew 22:37-40.
- 3. Does it draw you/others closer to Him?

Now, let's get started! Praying for you, dear sister, that God will empower you this year beyond all you can think or ask. Ephesians 3:14-21.

(For your husband or other couples who are hungry for more of Christ's power in their lives and marriage, the men's version of *Delight to Be a Woman of Wonder* is *Dare to Be a Mighty Warrior*, which also has a *Prayer Journal* and *2023 Dare to Be a Mighty Warrior Power Planner*, at MoreThanAConquerorBooks.com.)

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# Giving Your Year to the Lord

Proverbs 3:5-7; Psalm 31:15a

Rather than making a New Year's resolution based on something you failed to do last year, take time alone with the Lord to worship Him, pray over the coming year, and seek what He wants to do.

Ask Him for a word, a promise, special instructions, or a verse He wants to speak over your 2023. Is there something He wants to do in you? One of His names He wants to be for you? A special way He wants to use you? A new name He wants to give you? Some aspect of Himself He wants to reveal all the more to you this year? A book He wants you to read? Ask Him, and write what you feel Him saying, as well as your response to Him.

Look at the calendar at left and write out all the opportunities and plans you know about for this year. Lay them at His feet, asking Him which plans are His.

Is there anything you're doing He hasn't asked you to do? Or anything you're not doing He wants you to? Ask Him.

Make sure you set aside special days during the year to have extended

time alone with Him. Mark those on the calendar and write them into your month and day scheduling throughout this planner. Then write a prayer of commitment to give Him your year and make it His.	
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January

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Lord, what do You want me to do this month? Show me. Prov 3:5-6.

#### TO DO LIST:

•	Extended time with Jesus plans:
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# Sunday, January 1

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when He's doing it, and in His power. Forget my agendas. I want God's!

This day planner is helpful for organizing busy schedules, but its main intention is to build new life-changing habits to enjoy the Spirit's empowering every moment of every day. (See the devotional Bible study, *Delight to Be a Woman of Wonder*, and the *Delight to Be a Woman of Wonder Prayer Journal* at MoreThanAConquerorBooks.com.)

How many meetings you plan, how smart you are at homeschooling your kids, how many Bible studies you teach, how great you are at your job, or how many things you accomplish in a day isn't as important as how well you have loved. Matthew 22:37-40.

And love starts with God. 1 John 4:7.

So does your day. Psalm 5:3; 130:6; 143:8.

# First Thought: Jesus

Whatever your habit is when you first wake up in the morning — whether you worry yourself out of bed with a million things on your to-do list, or roll over with a groan and a pillow over your head — if you want to live a truly powerful life, then start a new habit: *Let your first thought be Jesus*.

Before you open your eyes, before you think of all the things you have to do, before you feel the pressure of the coming battles, ... think *Jesus*. And *hand Him your day*.

Ask Him what He wants to do in you and through you that day. Is there anything on your schedule He hasn't asked you to do? Or anything you're not doing yet that He's asking you to do? Look for His leading all throughout the day. Ask Him how He sees each situation and person, and be willing for Him to speak through you with His love.

Proverbs 3:5-7 says to seek the Lord in *all* your ways, and He will direct your paths. *Even small things we think don't matter can turn out miraculous when we hand them to the Lord!* 

Years ago, during a particularly stressful time in my life, I started purposing to make Jesus my first thought before I got out of bed each morning. I'd ask Him questions, like the ones on page 7, or just rest in His arms. Then I'd get up and head out into life's battles, purposing to seek Him and worship my way through the day.

Walking as one with the Lord all the time takes practice, though. I have to purpose to ask Him questions and listen for His answers. To invite Him into my daily situations and look for what He's doing. To seek His will before I make decisions, no matter how small.

So many times, as I headed to the store, I felt the Lord leading me to stay

home. Soon after, someone would show up at our door in need of help. Other times, I'd ask the Lord which store to go to, and find someone there whose heart He had prepared to hear the Gospel.

But my life hasn't always been that way. At first, it felt awkward to ask Him before I thought or did anything, because I was so used to doing things my way. I also wasn't accustomed to recognizing His voice (See page 9). But once constant surrender became a habit, hearing His voice and obeying Him got easier and easier each time I stepped out in faith.

Some people argue there's no need to seek God all the time. Just make decisions. He put you in that position, after all, so surely it's because you already know what needs to be done.

But such reasoning from man does not agree with the Word of God. Proverbs 3:5-7. The Most High calls us to humility and surrender, not pride and control. He didn't create us and then throw us out into the world to do things on our own. He created us for relationship, for oneness with Him, for Love. John 14:15-27.

If we're about ourselves and what we think ought to happen, we'll miss the joy of joining with God in the great and mighty things He wants to make happen in us, through us, and even despite us.

# Walking as One with the Word

Psalm 31:14-15a; John 5:19, 14:15-27, 15:1-17; Psalm 3:5

This journal day planner is set up to help you organize your time such that it belongs to God. It accompanies Strategies 34-36 of the devotional Bible study, *Delight to Be a Woman of Wonder* and the men's version, *Dare to Be a Mighty Warrior*, which also has a *2023 Dare to Be a Mighty Warrior Power Planner*. If you want help breaking down the barriers to hearing God's voice so you can walk in His power, visit MoreThanAConquerorBooks.com for these studies and more.

## Suggested instructions for Power Planning:

- 1. Use conversation-openers like the ones on page 7 for your first thoughts before you get out of bed.
- 2. Then, as you go into your quiet time, seek God for His word for you for that day. This will usually be a verse or message from His heart. As you get used to listening to His voice, hearing Him will become easier, but whatever He says will always agree with what Scripture says and God's heart of love and grace (see the Three-Fold Sieve on page 9), so it's important to spend time every day getting to know the Word Himself (John 1:1, 14) by reading what He says. In the space provided each morning in this power

- planner, write what He tells you from His heart for that day.
- 3. Then as you go about each task, look for what God is doing and follow Him there. If you forget, don't worry. Just keep turning your thoughts back to Him whenever you remember. You can ask Him questions like, "What are You doing in this situation?" "What do You want me to do now?" or, "Lord, I think.... What do You think?"
- 4. At the end of the day, write what you experienced God doing.

# Before You Open Your Eyes

Isaiah 50:4; Psalm 139; Psalm 63:6; Psalm 119:148

## Suggested conversation-openers to start the day:

- Lord, here's my day. It's yours and I'm yours to do with as You will.
- What do You want to do today? I want to join You there.
- Is there a word You have for me today?
- Is there something You want to show me or teach me?
- What verses will I need for what I'm about to face today?
- Lord, how do You want me to bless my husband (roommate, children, mother, father, friend, rival, etc.)?
- Is there anything I'm planning to do You haven't asked me to do?
- Is there anything You want me to do I'm not doing yet?
- Surprise me today, Lord. Delight me with your love in some sweet, miraculous way that I'll know that I know it's from You.

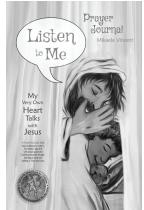
Like all habits, the sooner we start, the easier they are to keep. To help your children hand their days to Christ, see these Pure-As-Gold Seal books below at MoreThanAConquerorBooks.com:



Listen to Me: Heart Talks with Jesus



Every Day with Jesus Prayer Journal



Listen to Me Prayer Journal

### Time for the One You Love

Luke 5:16; Psalm 42; Mark 1:35

Another habit you'll need to walk as one with Christ is to make time, just as Jesus did, for extended times alone with the Father. You may want to take one day alone with Him each month, or a half-day every other week, or even an overnight, and go someplace quiet and apart from your busy life. But however God leads you, those special hours you take to be alone with Him will become markers in your life. Your intimacy will grow, and He will give you valuable instructions for battles yet to come.

But if you neglect to spend time with God, you'll be like a maid scurrying about trying to do what you think your Master wants without every communicating with him, rather than a loving wife who knows her Husband's heart and will intimately because she never leaves His side. Hosea 2:14-20, Luke 10:38-42.

# Learn to Recognize God's Voice

John 10:27; Psalm 27

God is speaking all the time and in many different ways. Here are just a few the Bible mentions:

- The Word (Bible) (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Circumstances (2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Psalm 40:1-3)
- Others (1 Corinthians 2:4-13)
- His still small voice in your mind and heart (Psalm 42:8)
- Dreams and visions (Acts 2:17)
- Impressions or urgings (Acts 15:28)
- A sense of peace (Philippians 4:7)
- Signs and wonders (Acts 2:17-21)
- Nature (Psalm 125; 19:1-4)

The key to hearing God's voice is obedience. Each time you step out in faith to do what He's telling you to do, His voice gets louder. God loves to "whisper," so if we don't stay close to Him, we may miss what He's saying. James 4:8, 1 Kings 19:9-13.

If you find it hard to "hear" Him, then sin or wrong thought processes may be distracting you or blocking your spiritual ears from Truth. John 8:42-47. Be quick to repent of anything He shows you, and keep handing your thoughts back to Him. "God doesn't speak," or "I'll get back to that later; I'm busy now," are sure-fire ways to close the door in Jesus' face.

Here are some suggestions for when you're not sure you're hearing right:

- 1. Hand God what you're thinking and ask Him if it's from Him.
- 2. Run it through the Three-fold Sieve (facing page).

3. If you're still not sure, take a step of faith and say, "God, it feels like You're asking me to ..., so I'm headed that way. If that's not what You want me to do, then please make that clear."

God is for you. Any mistakes you make are not a failure, but an opportunity to grow. Ask Him what went wrong, learn what He's teaching you, and seek Him all the more. Jeremiah 29:11-13. Remember, *love is always what He asks you to do.* Matthew 22:37-40. So that's a great place to start. What's the most loving thing to do? *Do that.* 

More important than how loudly you hear God's voice is the condition of your heart. Pride opens the door to the enemy and makes it easier to mistake his voice or your own for God's. But a humble heart is surrendered to God, and draws Him near. Numbers 12:3, Exodus 33:11, Proverbs 8:13, James 4:7-8.

So, lay down all your opinions and ideas at Jesus' feet and ask Him for His. If you can't hear Him straight away, just keep your questions open before Him and then go about your day. Like a treasure hunt, His answers can show up in unexpected places.

Every step you take in surrender, with your heart wide open to God to do anything He wants to do in you and through you, is a step deeper into oneness. And it's that oneness that gives you a front-row seat to His greatness, as you watch Him do powerful things you could never do on your own.

I want to be like a ring on Jesus' finger, just along for the ride and pointing to His beauty, as I watch Him do marvelous things all around me by His mighty hand.

### Three-fold Sieve to make sure it's God's voice:

- Does what you feel God saying line up with His Word
   — not just one portion, but all of it?
- 2. Does it line up with God's character especially His love and grace? 1 John 4:16, Matthew 22:37-40.
- 3. Does it draw you/others closer to Him?

Now, let's get started! Praying for you, dear sister, that God will empower you this year beyond all you can think or ask. Ephesians 3:14-21.

(For your husband or other couples who are hungry for more of Christ's power in their lives and marriage, the men's version of *Delight to Be a Woman of Wonder* is *Dare to Be a Mighty Warrior*, which also has a *Prayer Journal* and *2023 Dare to Be a Mighty Warrior Power Planner*, at MoreThanAConquerorBooks.com.)

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# Giving Your Year to the Lord

Proverbs 3:5-7; Psalm 31:15a

Rather than making a New Year's resolution based on something you failed to do last year, take time alone with the Lord to worship Him, pray over the coming year, and seek what He wants to do.

Ask Him for a word, a promise, special instructions, or a verse He wants to speak over your 2023. Is there something He wants to do in you? One of His names He wants to be for you? A special way He wants to use you? A new name He wants to give you? Some aspect of Himself He wants to reveal all the more to you this year? A book He wants you to read? Ask Him, and write what you feel Him saying, as well as your response to Him.

Look at the calendar at left and write out all the opportunities and plans you know about for this year. Lay them at His feet, asking Him which plans are His.

Is there anything you're doing He hasn't asked you to do? Or anything you're not doing He wants you to? Ask Him.

Make sure you set aside special days during the year to have extended

time alone with Him. Mark those on the calendar and write them into your month and day scheduling throughout this planner. Then write a prayer of commitment to give Him your year and make it His.	
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Lord, what do You want me to do this month? Show me. Prov 3:5-6.

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