



Rooted

100+ Devotions
to Ground Women
in the Word

General Editor
Dr. Georgia Purdom

Foreword by
Ken Ham

Answers *for* Women

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FOREWORD

*Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.
(1 John 3:13)*

For Christians living in the West, we “know” 1 John 3:13 to be true (after all, it’s in God’s Word), and we hear of the hatred against Christians in other nations, but few of us have ever experienced it personally. That is—until now! Increasingly in the West we’re seeing the seeds of persecution being sown and the world around us growing darker and more confused as generations reject the Creator God, his Son, and his truth. We’re beginning to experientially know that “the world hates you.” But despite the warnings in Scripture, many of us still feel surprised at this. But we shouldn’t. The world hated Christ and will hate his followers. So what can we do in the midst of what is unfolding and what is certainly coming?

We must ground ourselves in the Word of God and in solid doctrine. The “fluff and stuff” many best-selling Christian books, podcasts, and TV programs are offering won’t help believers stand in times of hardship and persecution. Instead, such fluffy (and often false) teaching is like the seed thrown along the path. It sprouts up quickly, but it has no root. And yet men and women devour this teaching to the neglect of the actual Word of God and the life therein.

I am very thankful for the hard work Dr. Georgia Purdom has poured into our annual Answers for Women conferences for the past 10 years. These conferences refuse to feed women a diet of “fluff and stuff,” but, rather, get into the Word of God,

with practical living application for the real world. Because that's what women need! Not more motivational talks about how wonderful they are—but teaching from the bread of life, who equips us with everything we need for life and godliness through his Word and his Holy Spirit.

That's what you will find in this devotional resource—teaching and encouragement grounded in God's Word to help you sink your roots deeper into the truth. As you read, allow the Word of God, and the faithful teaching of it, to teach, rebuke, correct, and train you so you will become more like Christ and be equipped to be a faithful, bright light for him in the midst of the darkness around us.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Ham". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Ken" and "Ham" being capitalized and prominent.

Ken Ham


CEO of Answers in Genesis, the Ark Encounter, and the Creation Museum

INTRODUCTION

One of my favorite books of the Bible is Jude. In fact, I memorized it and recited it at our Answers for Women conference in 2021. Afterward, my dear friend Karen said that when I was reciting it, she felt those words were being spoken directly to her. I believe that captures what God's Word is. The Bible is not just an ancient text written to people long ago. It's the timeless and infallible Word from the unchanging God to us today.

Jude encouraged fellow believers to “contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3). As we experience the increasing darkness in our culture, we can get discouraged and lose hope. But God doesn't want us to cower and hide—he wants us to contend! To contend is “to assert or maintain earnestly” and “struggle in opposition.” So we need to assertively proclaim God's Word in earnest as we struggle in opposition to Satan's work in this fallen world.

Someone once told me they liked how I often referred to the Bible as “God's Word.” I do that as a constant reminder of what the Bible really is. The collection of 66 books called the Bible had human writers, but what those men wrote was inspired by God. The words of the Bible are God's words to us! How amazing is it that we have an inerrant book in which God reveals himself and his truth to us that we then use to contend for the faith with our family, church, neighbors, coworkers, and friends.



In order to be women who contend for the faith, we need to be rooted in the very foundation of our faith—Jesus and his Word. Paul encouraged the Christians in Colossae to be “rooted and built up in [Jesus] and established in the faith, just as you were taught” from the Scriptures (Colossians 2:7). We need to be women who dig deep into the Bible, mining its depths for the treasures God gives us through the knowledge of him. It is my prayer that these devotions will serve to root and ground you in our precious Savior and his Word.

The world is getting darker and will continue to do so until Christ returns, but remember, my friends, light shines brighter in the darkness. May God shine his light brightly through you as you study his Word.

Georgia Purdom, PhD

Director of Answers for Women conferences







Dedicated to my good friends
Stacia McKeever and Camille Cates,
whose friendship has encouraged, edified,
and inspired me in ministry to women.

DISCERNMENT IN THE AGE OF “INSTA” EVERYTHING

We live in a time where we are constantly bombarded with news feeds, quirky videos, memes, and sound bites. The amount of information can be overwhelming! The challenge is to determine what is true and false. Charles Spurgeon once said, “Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right.”

Intimately knowing God’s Word is the key to detecting and defeating Satan’s lies. When people are training to detect counterfeit money, they don’t study all the counterfeits. Instead, they study real money so well that it’s easy to spot the counterfeit. We need to do the same with God’s Word. We need to read it and memorize it. We need to hide it in our hearts to help us not be deceived and declare and delight in the Lord our God.

- ✿ *Think of ways you can make time to memorize God’s Word. (I like to do it in the morning when I’m doing my hair!)*
- ✿ *What does it mean to meditate on God’s Word and how is that different from the world’s definition of meditation?*

GOD'S WORD BURNS AND BREAKS

Every generation has their share of false teachers who claim to faithfully teach God's Word but don't. Instead of exegesis (reading out of God's Word), they practice eisegesis (reading into God's Word one's own ideas). These are the wolves in sheep's clothing that Jesus warns us about (Matthew 7:15) and are ultimately more dangerous to Christians than those outside the church walls.

God's Word is the ultimate weapon to defeat these false ideas. In Jeremiah, God compares his word to a fire that burns and a hammer that breaks. In Hebrews 4:12, it is a two-edged sword. We need a strong weapon to combat strong lies! God's Word is the weapon that destroys arguments and opinions raised against him and makes our thoughts captive to him (2 Corinthians 10:5). In these evil days, may we walk wisely and use our time wisely (Ephesians 5:16), for "the great day of the LORD is near" (Zephaniah 1:14).

- ✿ *What are some ways we can avoid eisegesis and practice good exegesis?*
- ✿ *How can you become bolder in sharing truths from God's Word when faced with false teaching?*

“BUT GOD . . .”

I’ve been memorizing Ephesians because it is one of my favorite books of the Bible. When I got to chapter 2, the description of man and his sin was striking. We are literally the “walking dead”! We recognize ourselves as we read these verses and realize we are lost and broken sinners worthy only of condemnation.

This is until we get to verse 4 and read these precious words “but God.” God, because of his great love, mercy, and grace, saved us, not because of anything we did but because of Christ’s death and resurrection. We were dead in our sin, but God made us alive in Christ!

Our sin goes all the way back to Adam. He sinned, and because we all descend from him, we all sin (1 Corinthians 15:21–22). The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). But praise be to God for his inexpressible gift of Christ (2 Corinthians 9:15) that saved us to do good works for God’s glory.

✿ *Listen to “Who Am I?” by Casting Crowns.*

✿ *It’s often easier to think of ourselves as sinners and not saints. How can we better embrace our redemptive state?*

“THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT”?

We’d all like to believe that our struggle with sin involves only external enemies. We are willing to say that Satan is to blame for our sin. We might even blame someone else—or the whole the world—as long as it’s an external cause, so we don’t have to take the blame ourselves.

But Scripture says the devil will flee if we resist him (James 4:7), and our struggle with the world and its temptations is fomented by inordinate desires that emanate from within ourselves. “All that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life” (1 John 2:16)—are sinful tendencies that come from within us.

In other words, we ourselves are to blame when inordinate worldly affections crowd out what should be a pure love for God and the things of God. Neither the world nor the devil could ever take advantage of us if our own flesh did not cooperate. We cannot escape our own guilt by blaming others.

But thankfully, “if we confess our sins, [the Lord] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

✿ *What have you found to be the most effective strategies for resisting the devil?*

✿ *How can a person “put to death” carnal desires, such as “sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness” (Colossians 3:5)?*

SUFFICIENT GRACE

Have you noticed the way God normally dispenses his grace? He gives sufficient grace without necessarily giving a surplus of grace.

The Israelites in the wilderness could gather no more than a day's worth of manna each weekday. Likewise, the Lord provided for Elijah and the widow of Zarephath, not by giving them an overflow of abundance but by miraculously providing a fresh handful of flour and a small portion of oil each day. Their supplies, while never in surplus, were always sufficient for their daily needs.

The Lord's grace is inexhaustible. "His mercies . . . are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22–23). And "he gives more grace" (James 4:6). But he often will give just enough for our immediate needs, in handfuls and small measures—not always in superabundant portions.

The Lord never promises his people complete freedom from hardship. In fact, our hardship is often the container into which he pours his grace. The larger the vessel, the greater the measure of grace. "Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5).


- ✿ *What good purposes could God have for allowing us to experience hardship and suffering?*
- ✿ *What is the right response for a believer when it seems God is delaying his help or blessing?*


“IN TRUTH AND LOVE”

The Apostle John emphatically refuses to portray love and truth as conflicting virtues. One cannot exist without the other. We can't genuinely walk in love unless we also walk in truth, and we aren't walking in truth unless we are also walking in love. Love and truth, though distinct virtues, are so inextricably linked that you cannot neglect one without destroying the other. Truth without love has no power; love without truth has no character.

It is no service to the truth when someone declares facts in a spirit of hatred, arrogance, or contempt for his neighbors. Those attitudes are the fruits of falsehood and human pride. They have nothing whatsoever to do with truth.

Indeed, one necessary, distinctive fruit of the truth is love—compassionate love; brotherly love; humble, warm-hearted, self-giving love—the kind of love embodied in the sacrifice of Christ. “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). Love is therefore the supreme test of whether we are really walking in truth. “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love” (1 John 4:8).

 *Have you ever experienced a moral conundrum where it seemed as if love and truth had come into conflict with one another?*

 *In what ways has popular culture commonly misconstrued both concepts—love and truth?*

LOVE GUARDS THE TRUTH

As believers who embody Christ's love, we have a solemn duty to hold fast to the truth and defend it against every assault. Genuine love comes with a built-in devotion to the truth. "Love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7). The apostle says this just after saying, "Whoever knows God listens to us. . . . By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error" (v. 6).

There are two aspects to the counsel given in 2 John: hold fast the truth (vv. 6–9) and refuse to lend support to those who don't love the truth (vv. 10–12). There is nothing noble about treating false teachers with honor and undue respect—or merely with heedless indifference.

The right response, according to the Apostle John, is to withhold both hospitality and honor from anyone who denies essential matters of the Christian faith. We are not to be rude or ungracious, of course. John's point is that the best way to show love to someone peddling false religion is to make it as clear as possible that any doctrine that detracts or deviates from the true gospel is deadly—and that you want no part of it.

- ✿ *How do you distinguish between the kind of false teacher whom the apostle is talking about and a genuine believer who may simply be confused or mistaken?*
- ✿ *Whom is the apostle referring to when he speaks of "those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh"?*

LIKE A SIGH

Our lives begin with a cry and end with a moan. In between, we face a multitude of sorrows and trials. Everyone without exception experiences grief, pain, tragedy, sickness, affliction, misery, and distress. All those things are part of life for fallen creatures. We may think we have already had more than enough of life's trials, but there is still more trouble yet to come in the future. Bear in mind that death, the last enemy, still awaits us all, barring the Lord's soon return. As Job said, "Man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward" (Job 5:7).

For believers, however, our trials are always occasions for God's grace and blessings to be multiplied. As a matter of fact, the darkest providences that befall us often turn out to be the very occasions when God chooses to bestow on us his most abundant grace.

We know, after all, that God intends to work all things together for our good. That alone is sufficient reason to rejoice and be glad all our days.

✿ *List some ways God has brought some blessing or benefit into your life as a result of a difficult trial you were subjected to.*

✿ *How does the Bible explain why the circumstances of life on earth are so often bleak and troublesome?*

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Everywhere we glance, we are surrounded by opportunities to measure ourselves against the success and appearance of others. “But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding” (2 Corinthians 10:12). At the core of every human being is the desire for acceptance. But desire in the wrong places only drives covetousness and discontentment deeper into our souls. The master’s reply to each servant is where we find the comforting truth that our eternal worth is not in the measure of talent entrusted to us but in our faithfulness and stewardship of that talent. The unfaithful servant wasn’t condemned based on meager quantity. Rather, he was condemned for his ungrateful and arrogant stewardship. What peace we can find in knowing our God doesn’t see as we see, nor judge as we judge, but loves us according to the riches of his kindness! Give thanks today for your unique gifts, while not neglecting to thank him for the talents he has bestowed on others. And aim to cultivate your own gifts as a servant of God in singleness of heart for your Creator’s glory alone—*solī Deo gloria!*

- ✿ *How does comparing your gifts or possessions to those of others affect your personal diligence and productivity?*
- ✿ *In what ways can you humble yourself and rejoice with others in the gifts God has given them? And in so doing, how do you think it will affect your attitude and relationship with those people?*