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This book is dedicated to my sisters in Christ all over the world who long to deepen their walk with the Lord, move into everything God has for them, and become all He made them to be.



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OTHER BOOKS BY STORMIE OMARTIAN

*Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands for us.*

PSALM 90:17

The Power

It doesn't matter what age you are, what your marital status is, what the condition of your body and soul is, or how long you have or have not been a believer—if you are a woman, this book is for you. I've been a devoted follower of the Lord for over 30 years and I have not fallen away from Him in all that time, yet I need this book too. In fact, I wrote it for myself as much as I wrote it for you. That's because I'm like you. Many days I find life difficult rather than easy, complex rather than simple, potentially dangerous rather than safe, and exhausting rather than exhilarating. Often it's more like a strong, hot, dry wind than it is a soft, cool, refreshing breeze.

But I have come to know that God can smooth my path, calm the storms, keep me and all I care about safe, and even make my way simple when I ask Him to carry the complexities of life for me. But these things don't just happen. Not without prayer.

In the midst of our busy lives, too often we don't pray enough. Or we only pray about the most pressing issues and neglect to take the time to really get close to God, to know Him better, and to share with Him the deepest longings of our heart. In our pray-and-run existence, we shut off the very avenue by which He brings blessings into our lives. And we risk waking up one day with that empty, insecure feeling in the pit of our stomach frightening us with the thought that our foundation may be turning into sand and our protective armor may be becoming as fragile as an eggshell. This is what happened to me.

A few years ago, I had become so busy with working, taking care of teenagers, trying to be a good wife, running a home, writing books and traveling to promote them, being at all church meetings, helping people who needed it, and trying to make everyone happy, that I neglected the most important thing—my intimate walk with God. It's not that I stopped walking with Him. To the contrary, I couldn't make it through a day without Him. It's not that I stopped praying. Actually, I was praying more than ever about everyone else on the planet. But I didn't pray about my own walk with Him. It's not that I didn't read His Word. I read for hours as I did research in the Scriptures for different projects I was working on and the Bible study classes I was taking. But I didn't give God time to speak to me personally through it. I was busy doing good and neglected to do what was best. I became Martha instead of Mary without even realizing it (Luke 10:38-42).

I didn't take enough time for God and me alone, and as a result I became so depleted I couldn't go on. I felt like that eggshell, as if I could be crushed with very little outside pressure. I knew I needed more of God in my life, and nothing on earth was more important than that. There wasn't anything else that could satisfy the hunger I felt inside except more of His presence. And I came to realize how important it was for me to guard and protect my personal relationship with God in prayer.

The way to avoid the kind of thing I experienced is to pray about every aspect of our life in such a manner that it will keep us spiritually anchored and reminded of what God's promises are to us. It will

keep us focused on who God is and who He made us to be. It will help us live God's way and not our own. It will lift our eyes from the temporal to the eternal and show us what is really important. It will give us the ability to distinguish the truth from a lie. It will strengthen our faith and encourage us to believe for the impossible. It will enable us to become the women of God we *long* to be and believe we *can* be. Who among us doesn't need that?

In my previous books on prayer, I have shared the ways husbands and wives can pray for one another, parents can pray for their children, and people can pray for their nation. In this book, I want to share how *you* can pray for *YOU*. I want to help you draw close to your heavenly Father, to feel His arms around you, to maintain a right heart before Him, to live in the confidence of knowing you are the center of His will, to discover more fully who He made you to be, to find wholeness and completeness in Him, and to move into all He has for you. In other words, I want to show you how effectively cover your life in prayer so that you can have more of God in your life.

Why Is It so Hard to Pray for Myself?

Do you find it is easier to pray for other people than it is to pray for yourself? I know I do. I can pray for my husband, my children, other family members, acquaintances, friends, and people I've never even met whom I hear about in the news far easier than I can pray for my own needs. For one thing, their needs are easy for me to identify. Mine are numerous, sometimes complicated, often difficult to determine, and certainly not easy to label. We women know what we *think* we need most of the time. We are able to recognize the obvious. But we are often too emotionally involved in the people around us and the day-to-day existence of our lives to be able to figure out how we should be praying for ourselves beyond the immediate and urgent. Sometimes we can be so overwhelmed by our circumstances that our prayer is simply a basic cry for help.

Do you ever have times when your life seems out of control? Do you ever feel pressured, as if your days are so busy that you fear you're missing out on a certain quality of life because of it? Do you worry that you are neglecting one or more areas of your life because you are trying to fill numerous roles and meet many expectations? I've experienced that too.

Have you ever felt as if your life is stuck in one place and you're going nowhere? Or worse yet, you are going backward? Have you had times when you've lost your vision for the future? Or have you never really had one to begin with? Have you wondered whether you can actually move into the full purpose and destiny God has for you? Have you experienced feelings of emptiness, frustration, unfulfillment? I, too, have felt all those things.

Do you hunger for a greater sense of the Lord's presence in your life? Do you desire to know God in a deeper way? Do you want to serve Him better and more completely but don't feel you have the time, energy, or opportunity to do so? Do you need to spend more time with Him in prayer? Do you want your prayers to be accompanied by greater faith so that you can see greater answers to them? Do you need a more complete knowledge and understanding of God's Word? Do you ever just long to throw your arms wide open and embrace Jesus, white robes and all, and feel His embrace of you? So do I.

The good news is that this is the way God *wants* you to feel.

God wants you to long for *His* presence. He wants you to find your fulfillment in *Him* and nothing else. He wants you to walk closely with *Him*. He wants you to increase in faith and knowledge of *His* Word. He wants you to put all your hopes and dreams in *His* hands and look to *Him* to meet all of your needs. When you do, *He* will open the storehouse of blessing upon your life. That's because these things are *His* will for you.

But none of this happens without prayer.

Where Do I Go to Get My Needs Met?

Every woman has needs. But many of us are guilty of looking to other people to meet them—especially the men in our lives. Too often we expect *them* to meet the needs that only *God* can fulfill. And then we are disappointed when they can't. We expect too much from *them* when our expectations should be in *God*.

My friend Lisa Bevere expressed it best when she said that for centuries women have “wrestled and waged war with the sons of Adam in an attempt to get them to bless us and affirm our value. But the struggle has left us frustrated at best. . . . In the end, it is all a senseless and exhausting process in which both parties lose. It is not the fault of the sons of Adam; they cannot give us the blessing we seek, and we have frightened them by giving them so much power over our souls. We must learn that the blessings we truly need come only from God.”*

We will never be happy until we make *God* the source of our fulfillment and the answer to our longings. He is the *only* one who should have power over our souls.

We have to put our expectations in the Lord and not in other things or people. I know this is easier said than done. So let's start with the easy part. Let's say to God, “Lord, I look to You for everything I need in my life. Help me to put all my expectations in You.” And whenever you are disappointed because your needs are not being met, talk to yourself and say, “My soul, wait silently for God alone for my expectation is from Him” (Psalm 62:5). Then tell God about all your needs and everything that is in your heart. Don't worry, He won't be surprised or shocked. He already knows. He is just waiting to hear it from you.

More Than Just a Survivor

If you're like me, you don't want to live the kind of life where you are barely hanging on. You don't want to merely eke out an existence, find a way to cope with your misery, or just get by. You want to have the abundant life Jesus spoke of when He said, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

We don't want to be women who hear the truth but seldom act in faith to appropriate it for our lives. We don't want to be forever grappling with doubt, fear, insecurity, and uncertainty. We want to live our life *on* purpose and *with* purpose. We find it boring to live like a baby, feeding only on milk. We want the solid food of God's truth so we can grow into a life that is exciting and productive.

None of us enjoys going around in circles, always passing through the same territory and coming back to the same problems, same frustrations, same mistakes, and same limitations. We don't want to become calloused, hard-hearted, bitter, unforgiving, anxious, impatient, hopeless, or unteachable. We don't want to end up with a negative attitude that says, “My situation will never *be* any different because it hasn't *been* any different for a long time.” We want to break out of any self-defeating cycle of repeated patterns and habits and be able to transcend ourselves, our limitations, and our circumstances. We want to be more than just a survivor.

We want to be an overcomer. We want to be a part of something greater than ourselves. We want to be connected to what God is doing on earth in a way that bears fruit for His kingdom. We want to have a sense of purpose in our lives. We want to abound in God's love and blessings. We want it all. A

God has for us. But we can never achieve that quality of life outside the power of God. And then on as we pray.

How Do I Move in the Power of God?

We've all had times when we feel completely powerless in the face of our circumstances. We've proven to ourselves over and over that we don't have what it takes to attain any kind of permanent transformation in our lives. We know without a doubt that our best efforts to change ourselves or our circumstances in ways that are significant or lasting never work. We recognize our need for a power outside of and far greater than ourselves. But there is only one power in the world great enough to help us rise above ourselves and the difficult things we face. That is the power of God.

Without God's power, we can't transcend our limitations or get out of our rut. We can't stand strong in the face of all that opposes us. We are doomed to a life of spiritual mediocrity. Without the power of God's Holy Spirit working in us, we can't be liberated from everything that keeps us from moving into all God has for us.

We don't want to spend our lives waiting to be delivered from all that limits us and separates us from God's best. We want to be set free *now*. But that can't happen if we refuse to acknowledge the Holy Spirit's power. When we deny the Holy Spirit's attributes we become like those people the Bible speaks of who live "having a form of godliness but denying its power" (2 Timothy 3:5). We become professional Christians who talk "Christianese" with such a slick veneer of superficiality that it makes us untouchable and keeps us untouched. We become all show and no heart. All correctness and no love. All judgment and no mercy. All self-assurance and no humility. All talk and no tears. We live powerless and meaningless lives without any hope for real transformation. And without transformation, how can we ever rise above our limitations and be God's instrument to reach the world around us? And that is what life is all about.

God wants us to understand "what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe" (Ephesians 1:19). He wants us to know this power that raised Jesus "from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named" (Ephesians 1:20-21). He wants us to understand that Jesus is not weak toward us, but mighty *in* us (2 Corinthians 13:3). He wants us to understand that "though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God," and even though we are also weak, we live by the power of God too (2 Corinthians 13:4). God wants us to see that "we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God" (1 Corinthians 2:12).

I can't make you see or cause you to comprehend the power of God or the way the Holy Spirit wants to work in you. That is beyond my capabilities and authority in your life. But you don't need me to convince you because the Holy Spirit will do that Himself. Jesus said, "the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things" (John 14:26). But you first have to acknowledge the Holy Spirit and invite Him to move in you freely.

We can only move in the power of God's Spirit if we have first received Jesus as Savior. You need to "know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19). When you have Jesus as ruler of your life, you will come to know Him as the one "who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" (Ephesians 3:20). Because of His Holy Spirit in us—or His *power* in us—He can do more in our lives than we can even think to ask for. How great is that?

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not something that happens against our will. It is something we have to be open to, something we must desire, something for which we have to ask. “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:13). We have a choice about whether we will be filled with the Holy Spirit or not. We have to ask God to do that.

I am not going to get into the various doctrines of men about the Holy Spirit of God. There seem to be as many of these as there are denominations. All I am asking is that you recognize the Holy Spirit of God as the *power* of God, and that you ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit so He can empower you to move into all He has for you. The Bible says, “be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). Life works better when we do what the Bible says.

The Power to Become All God Made You to Be

Today, more and more believing women are being given an open door to become all they were created to be. They are moving out in different areas of expertise and ministry and making an important difference in the lives of those whom God puts in their realm of influence. They are learning to rely on the power of God to prepare them and open the doors. They are also realizing that they are not just an afterthought in the order of God’s creation, but they were created for a specific purpose. They might not know exactly what that purpose is or all that it entails, but they know that it is to do good for others and glorify God.

An important reason more women are rising up to fulfill the destiny God has for them is because men are rising up to their place of spiritual authority and leadership. This is an answer to the prayers of countless women and something for which we must praise God. Women need this spiritual covering. When it’s done right—with strength, humility, kindness, respect, and understanding—and not with abuse, arrogance, self-promotion, cruelty, harshness, or lovelessness, it becomes a place of safety for a woman. Being in right order in our lives is something to be desired.

The Bible says that “the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head” (1 Corinthians 11:10). This means spiritual authority, and it is very important. *Everyone* is supposed to be submitted to divinely appointed authority. It’s part of God’s order. God won’t pour into our lives all He has for us until we are in right relationship with the proper authority figures whom He has placed in our lives. They are there for our protection and benefit. God’s power is too precious and too powerful to be loose in an unsubmitted soul. (This is something to *pray* about, not *worry* about, so we’ll do that in chapter 9.)

God’s Promises to You

So often we don’t move into all God has for us because we don’t understand what it *is* He has for us. We may know He has given many promises for our lives, but if we don’t know *exactly* what the promises are, we can’t get a clear perspective on our situation. God’s “divine power has been given to us and things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through them you may be partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:3-4).

We need to know these promises well enough to keep them perpetually in our minds and on our hearts. In fact, the *deeper* they are etched in our souls the better off we will be. That’s because the enemy of our soul will try to steal them from us. He doesn’t want us to know the truth about ourselves.

So we must grab on to these promises with all our might. We must cling to them like life and refuse to let them go.

For this reason, at the end of each chapter in this book there is a section called “God’s Promises to Me.” In it I have listed important promises from God’s Word that are applicable to that particular subject. I want us to declare these promises out loud in the face of all obstacles in order to erase any doubt about those priceless truths for our lives. As you read each one, determine what God’s promise in that particular Scripture means specifically for you and your life. In some instances, determine what promise is *implied* in that Scripture. Take for example the verse, “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41). The implied promise here is that if you pray and are watchful, you won’t fall into temptation.

While most of God’s promises are pleasant and positive, some are not because they are warnings to us. It’s like saying to a child, “If you do *this*, there is this reward. But if you do *that*, I promise you there will be these unpleasant consequences.” Because God keeps *all* of His promises, it’s important to know them well.

Time to Move On

Although it may often feel like it, there is never a time when *nothing* is happening in your life. That’s because whether you realize it or not, you are never standing still. You are either going forward or you’re sliding back. You are either becoming *more* like Christ every day or you’re becoming *less* like Him. There is no neutral position in the Lord. And that is the very reason I wrote this book. I want you and me to keep moving forward. I don’t want us to wake up one morning and realize we never laid a good foundation in the things of God or we didn’t protect the foundation we had with prayer. I want us to move forward by spending quality time with the Lover of our soul every day. I want us to become *passionate* about God. I want us to find out what we are supposed to be doing and then do it. This is not about getting things *from* God, although He has much He wants to give to us. It’s about getting *into* God and allowing Him to get into *us*. It’s about letting *Him* make us complete.

When we live this way, according to God’s Word and by the power of His Holy Spirit, then we can trust that we are in the right place at the right time and that the Lord is working His perfect will in our lives. We can trust that He is moving us into the life of wholeness and blessing He has for us. Shall we get started?

My Prayer to God

Lord, You have said in Your Word that whoever believes in You will have rivers of living water flowing from their heart (John 7:38). I believe in You, and I long for Your living water to flow in and through me today and every day that I'm alive. I invite Your Holy Spirit to fill me afresh right now. Just as a spring is constantly being renewed with fresh water so that it stays pure, I ask You to renew me in that same way today.

Your Word says that "the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Romans 8:26). *Lord*, I realize I don't know how to pray as I need to, nor as often as I want to, but I invite You, Holy Spirit, to pray through me. Help me in my weakness. Teach me the things I don't know about You.

I am desperately aware of how much I need Your power to transform me and my circumstances. I don't want to live an ineffective life. I want to live in the dynamic power of Your Spirit. I don't want to be a spiritual underachiever. I want to be an overcomer. You paid a price for me so that I could be owned by You. Help me to live like it. You planned out a course for my life so that I could be defined by You. Help me to act like it. You made it possible for me to defeat my enemy. Help me not to forget it. You sent Your Holy Spirit so that I could live in power. Help me to fulfill that promise. You gave Your life for me because You loved me. Help me to do the same for You.

I put all my expectations in You, *Lord*. I repent of the times I have expected other people or other things to meet my needs when I should have been looking to You. I know that You are the only one who can complete me because You are everything I need. All that I have ever wanted in my life can be found in You. Help me to remember to live not in my own strength, but by the power of Your Spirit living in me. Forgive me for the times I have forgotten to do that. Enable me to grow in the things of Your kingdom so that I can become a whole, properly functioning, contributing, productive child of Yours who moves forward in Your purpose for my life.

❧ **GOD'S PROMISES TO ME** ❧

We have this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the excellence of the power may be of God and
not of us.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who
are perishing, but to us who are being saved it
is the power of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is
made perfect in weakness.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up
by His power.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:14

When the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you
from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds
from the Father, He will testify of Me.

JOHN 15:26

* Lisa Bevere, *Kissed the Girls and Made Them Cry*, (Nashville: Tommy Nelson, 2002), pp 189-90.

Lord, Draw Me into a Closer Walk with You

Before I came to know the Lord, I was involved in all kinds of occult practices and Eastern and New Age religions. I searched for God in each one of them, hoping to find some meaning and purpose for my life. I was desperate to find a way out of the emotional pain, fear, and depression I had experienced on a daily basis since I was a child. I thought there surely must be a God, and if I could just be good enough to get close to Him, perhaps something of His greatness would rub off on me, and then I could feel better about myself and my life.

Of course I was never able to do that because the gods I chased after were distant, cold, and remote. And this depressed me all the more because I was raised by a mother who was distant, cold, and remote, not to mention abusive, frightening, and cruel. It was later determined that she was mentally ill, and I have since forgiven her for all that I suffered at her hand. Nevertheless, the memories of my childhood eventually snowballed into an avalanche of pain that became so unbearable that I ended up being suffocated by my own hopelessness and crushed into suicidal despair.

But it was here at the lowest point in my life, when I was 28 years old, that I learned who God really is and received Jesus as my Savior. This began a process of deliverance, healing, and restoration, the likes of which I had never dreamed possible.

From the time I received the Lord and began to feel His life working *in* me, I could see the common thread in all those *other* religions and practices I had dabbled in previously. This similarity was that the gods of each of those religions had no power to save or transform a human life. But the God of the *Bible* did. *He* is the one, true, living God. And when we find *Him* and receive *Him*, His Spirit comes to dwell *in* us. By the power of His spirit, He transforms us from the inside out and miraculously changes our circumstances and our lives.

I also learned that He is a God who can be found. A God who can be known. A God who wants to be close to us. That's why He is called Immanuel, which means "God *with* us." But He draws close to us as we draw close to *Him* (James 4:8).

If I could sit down and talk with you in person about your life, I would tell you that if you have received the Lord, the answer to what you need is within you. That's because the Holy Spirit of God is within you, and He will lead you in all things and teach you everything you need to know. He will transform you and your circumstances beyond your wildest dreams if you will give up trying to do it on your own and let *Him* do it *His* way and in *His* time.

This is not about striving to be good enough to get to God, for there is no way any of us can be. This is about letting all of the goodness of God be *in* you. It's about drawing closer to God and sensing His drawing closer to you. This is about an intimate walk with God and the wholeness that will be worked in you because of it.

I Know What You Want

I traveled all over the United States speaking to women's groups during three of the last four years. Nearly everywhere I went in that period of time, I took a survey for a book I was writing called *The Power of a Praying® Husband*. I wanted to know how women most wanted to be prayed for. The response was not surprising, but the fact that it was unanimous in every city and every state was amazing. The number one personal need of all women surveyed was that they would grow spiritually and have a deep, strong, vital, life-changing, faith-filled walk with God. I eventually stopped taking the survey because the results were always the same. I got the point!

I'm sure that you, like me and many women, want a deep, intimate, loving relationship with God. You wouldn't be reading this book if you didn't. You long for the closeness, the connection, the affirmation that who you are is good and desirable. But God is the only one who can give all that to you all of the time. Your deepest needs and longing will only be met in an intimate relationship with Him. No person will ever reach as deeply into you as God will. No one can ever know you as well or love you as much. That insatiable longing for more that you feel, the emptiness you want those close to you to fill, is put there by God so that *He* can fill it.

God wants us to want Him. And when we realize that it's Him that we want, we become free. We are free to identify the longings, loneliness, and emptiness inside of us as our signal that we need to draw near to God with open arms and ask Him to fill us with more of Himself. But this deep and intimate relationship with God that we all desire and can't live without doesn't just happen. It must be sought after, prayed for, nurtured, and treasured. And we must *continually* seek after, pray for, nurture, and treasure it.

Five Good Ways to Tell if Your Walk with God Is Shallow

1. *If you follow the Lord for only what He can do for you, your walk with Him is shallow. If you love Him enough to ask Him what you can do for Him, then your relationship is growing deep.*
2. *If you only pray to God when things are tough or you need something, then your walk with Him is shallow. If you find yourself praying to Him many times a day just because you love to be in His presence, then your relationship is growing deep.*
3. *If you get mad at God or disappointed in Him when He doesn't do what you want, then your walk with Him is shallow. If you can praise God no matter what is going on in your life, then your relationship with Him is growing deep.*
4. *If you love God only because of what He does, then your walk with Him is shallow. If you love and reverence Him for who He is, then your relationship with Him is growing deep.*
5. *If you think you have to beg God or twist His arm to get Him to answer your prayers, then your walk with Him is shallow. If you believe that God wants to answer the prayers you pray in line with His will, then your relationship with Him is growing deep.*

Spending Time Alone with Him

We can never draw close to God and get to know Him well, or develop the kind of intimate relationship we want, unless we spend time alone with Him. It's in those private times that we are refreshed, strengthened, and rejuvenated. It's then we can see our lives from God's perspective and discover what is really important. That's where we understand who it is we belong to and believe in.

God has so much to speak into your life. But if you don't draw apart from the busyness of your day and spend time alone with Him in quietness and solitude, you will not hear it. Jesus Himself spent much time alone with God. If anyone could get away with not doing it, surely it would have been Him. How much more important must it be for us?

I know finding time alone to pray can be difficult. Especially when the enemy of your soul doesn't want you to do that. But if you will make it a priority by setting a specific time to pray daily, perhaps writing it in your calendar the way you would any other important date, and determine to keep that standing appointment with God, you'll see answers to your prayers like never before.

Remember, if you haven't been praying much, you can't expect things to change overnight. It takes a while to get the enormous ocean liner of your life turned around and headed in a different direction. It doesn't immediately reposition itself the moment you begin steering. In fact, you may hardly see any changes at first. It's the same way with prayer. Prayer can turn your life around, but it doesn't always happen the moment you utter your first words. It may take a time of continued prayer before you actually see the scenery change. This is normal, so don't give up. You will soon be heading full speed in a new direction. Far too often people give up just before their breakthrough into the realm of answered prayer. Remember, this trip is not a mini-vacation tour around the harbor, it's a lifelong voyage to meet your destiny. Giving up is not an option.

Naming Names

Do you ever have trouble remembering names? I know I do. Especially when I meet a large number of people at one time. I can remember faces and names separately, but I don't always put the right ones together. And that can get me into trouble. With God it's a different situation. He has only one face, but many, many names. But if we don't know all of His names, we may not understand all the aspects of His character.

God has literally hundreds of names. Sometimes, though, it seems we often have trouble just remembering a few of the basic ones. We may forget one just when we need to remember it. For example, we may think of God as our heavenly *Father*, but forget that He is also our *Husband* and *Friend*. Or we may remember Him as our *Comforter*, but forget that He is our *Deliverer*. We might think of Him as our *Protector*, but fail to remember Him as our *Healer*. Some people never think of God beyond being their Savior, which in itself is more than we deserve. But God wants to be even more than that to us. He wants us to know all the aspects of His character because the way we recognize God will affect the way we live our lives.

Each of God's names in the Bible represents a way He wants us to trust Him. Do you trust Him to be your *Strength* (Psalm 18:1)? Is He your *Peace* (Ephesians 2:14)? Is He the *Lifter of Your Head* when you are down (Psalm 3:3)? Is He your *Refiner* (Malachi 3:2-3)? Your *Wisdom* (1 Corinthians 1:24)? Your *Counselor* (Psalm 16:7)? Your *Resting Place* (Jeremiah 50:6)? Each of His names is sacred, and we must treat each one as such.

When I worked in the secular entertainment world in Los Angeles, I heard the word “Jesus” hundred times a day, spoken as a curse word by people with no reverence, love, or understanding Him. It wasn’t until I received Jesus that I realized exactly how much of a curse word that name was when it was used profanely. Taking God’s name in vain brings a curse on whoever uses it in that manner because it breaks one of the Ten Commandments. “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain” (Exodus 20:7). It also violates God’s *greatest* commandment, which is “you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30). No one who loves God uses His name in vain.

However, this same word—“Jesus”—when spoken in love by one who reverences Him, has great power in it. Power to save, deliver, heal, provide, protect, and so much more. Using it profanely shuts off these very things from our lives. There is also great power in each one of God’s names, and when spoken with faith, love, understanding, and reverence, it brings a blessing and increases your faith.

For example, God’s name is always a safe place to run to any time you need help. “The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe” (Proverbs 18:10). If you are sick, run to your Healer. If you can’t pay your bills, run to your Provider. If you are afraid, run to your Hiding Place. If you are going through a dark time, run to your Everlasting Light. By speaking His name with reverence and thanksgiving, you invite Him to be that to you. Often there is so much we don’t have in our lives simply because we do not acknowledge God as the answer to that need. How can you be healed if you don’t acknowledge God as the Healer?

In the following list of God’s names, I have included only 30. But there are hundreds more in His Word. Though He is one God, there are so many dimensions to Him that in order for us to comprehend them all, He has given Himself many names. It’s the only way we, who are so *small*, can begin to understand Him, who is so *great*. I suggest that every time you come across another name for God in the Bible, underline it or jot it in the margin or add it to a list. It will remind you of who God wants to be to you. As you read the following list, invite God to be each one of these names to you in a new, real, and life-changing way.

Thirty Good Names to Call Your God

1. *Healer* (Psalm 103:3)
2. *Redeemer* (Isaiah 59:20)
3. *Deliverer* (Psalm 70:5)
4. *My Strength* (Psalm 43:2)
5. *Shelter* (Joel 3:16)
6. *Friend* (John 15:15)
7. *Advocate* (1 John 2:1)
8. *Restorer* (Psalm 23:3)
9. *Everlasting Father* (Isaiah 9:6)
10. *Love* (1 John 4:16)
11. *Mediator* (1 Timothy 2:5-6)
12. *Stronghold* (Nahum 1:7)

13. *Bread of Life* (John 6:35)
 14. *Hiding Place* (Psalm 32:7)
 15. *Everlasting Light* (Isaiah 60:20)
 16. *Strong Tower* (Proverbs 18:10)
 17. *Resting Place* (Jeremiah 50:6)
 18. *Spirit of Truth* (John 16:13)
 19. *Refuge from the Storm* (Isaiah 25:4)
 20. *Eternal Life* (1 John 5:20)
 21. *The Lord Who Provides* (Genesis 22:14)
 22. *Lord of Peace* (2 Thessalonians 3:16)
 23. *Living Water* (John 4:10)
 24. *My Shield* (Psalm 144:2)
 25. *Husband* (Isaiah 54:5)
 26. *Helper* (Hebrews 13:6)
 27. *Wonderful Counselor* (Isaiah 9:6)
 28. *The Lord Who Heals* (Exodus 15:26)
 29. *Hope* (Psalm 71:5)
 30. *God of Comfort* (Romans 15:5)
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If you will go through this list of names periodically and speak each of them out loud, thanking God for being that to you, you'll be amazed at how your faith will grow and how much closer to God you will feel.

My Prayer to God

Lord, I draw close to You today, grateful that You will draw close to me as You have promised in Your Word (James 4:8). I long to dwell in Your presence, and my desire is for a deeper and more intimate relationship with You. I want to know You in every way You can be known. Teach me what I need to learn in order to know You better. I don't want to be a person who is "always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 3:7). I want to know the truth about who You are, because I know that You are near to all who call upon You in truth (Psalm 145:18).

I am open to whatever You want to do in me. I don't want to limit You by neglecting to acknowledge You in every way possible. I declare this day that You are my Healer, my Deliverer, my Redeemer, and my Comforter. Today I especially need to know You as (put in a name of the Lord). I believe You will be that to me.

God, help me to set aside time each day to meet with You alone. Enable me to resist and eliminate all that would keep me from it. Teach me to pray the way You want me to. Help me to learn more about You. *Lord*, you have said, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink" (John 7:37). I thirst for more of You because I am in a dry place without You. I come to You this day and drink deeply of Your Spirit.

I know You are everywhere, but I also know that there are deeper manifestations of Your presence that I long to experience. Draw me close so that I may dwell in Your presence like never before.

❧ **GOD'S PROMISES TO ME** *❧*

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

JAMES 4:8

I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

JOHN 14:16-17

It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

LUKE 12:32

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

JOHN 16:24

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

HEBREWS 10:23

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