

## CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CORNER 7-DAY DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL



# God Will Restore What Was Lost

## Welcome

# IT'S TIME TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER INTO WHEN GOD RESURRECTS AND RESTORES!

This 7-day devotional journal was created to complement our God Will Restore What Was Lost blog post. Journaling is a great way to help you digest what you're learning through the written word. We hope you find this helpful as you learn more about how God can resurrect and restore the dark places in your life. Enjoy your journaling time!

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#### In the Middle of the Tomb

"At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus." – John 20:14

Mary Magdalene was standing in the empty tomb, weeping. Jesus, her Rabbi, and her friend had died days ago. Now, His body was nowhere to be found.

Uncomprehending the Scriptures, Mary wept. She didn't understand that her Lord had not been moved. He had been raised from the dead.

When Jesus approaches her, He asks a simple question. "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" (John 14:15)

Mary converses with Jesus, supposing He's one of the groundskeepers. Then he simply calls her name, and instantly, she knows from the tone—the inflection of friendship in His voice that she is in the presence of her Savior.

In the middle of the tomb, it's easy to forget that Jesus is near. Maybe your "tomb" is a divorce you didn't want, the mental illness you can't seem to defeat, or a loved one's addiction that keeps weighing you down.

You're standing there, weeping. But you are not alone. The One who defeated every tomb is with you. The Savior who claims victory over every heartache stands with you and for you. He's calling out your name and welcoming you into His arms.

Jesus, thank You for the Cross! Thank You that I never have to be apart from You because of it. Open my eyes to Your presence just as You did Mary's. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Journal Your Thoughts 1. What tomb are you standing in the

1. What tomb are you standing in the middle of?	
2. How do you recognize it when you encounter the Presence of God?	
3. In what ways has Jesus shown up unexpectedly in your life?	

#### The Valley of Dry Bones

"The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones." – Ezekiel 37:1

Ezekiel was a prophet of the Lord. One day, the Spirit of the Lord led him into a valley. Scattered all across the floor of this valley was a collection of dry bones, the remnants of a vast army.

As Ezekiel surveys the carnage, the Spirit gives him a clear command—speak to these dry bones. Call them forth, prophesy over them that God will restore the flesh and tendons, that He will give breath back into these skeletons.

While the prophet is still yet speaking, the words come to pass. Bones begin mending. Tendons appear. Flesh regenerates. Bodies rise from the floor of the valley where the soldiers had been slain.

This is more than just a remarkable moment in Israel's history. The Lord explains that this is meant to be a picture of what He will do for His beloved nation. He says:

"My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them." (Ezekiel 37:12-13)

So often, we encounter situations where we think all hope is gone. We stand in the middle of our own valley of dry bones, and we ache. For the dreams we once had. For the families we wanted to start. For the relationships we longed to repair.

But don't despair precious one. God can breathe life in the middle of this death. He can speak but a word, and suddenly, what was once impossible can become your reality!

God, I ask You to restore (area of brokenness in my life). Even though everything looks dead to me, I know You can speak, and it is done. Raise these dry bones. I have faith that You can do this. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Journal Your Thoughts 1 Has God ever sent a word of propher

I. Has God ever sent a word of prophecy to you?
2. What "valley of dry bones" would you like God to raise?
3. In what ways are you speaking life over your valley?

#### When No One Believes

He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." – Mark 5:23

Jairus was a religious leader who came to Jesus. He fell to his feet and begged the Rabbi to go to his home, explaining that his beloved daughter was dying. He knew if Jesus would but lay hands on his girl that she would be well.

But while Jesus is traveling with Jairus, the tragic news comes—the little girl has died. It sounds like the final chapter in a sad story. But Jesus tells the leader not to be afraid and to have faith. It's an odd command to give a man who's just lost his daughter.

When Jesus does arrive at the home, He looks over the grieving crowd and makes a bold statement, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." (Mark 5:39)

How does the crowd respond to the words? Do they receive them with gladness, filled with faith and eager to see the coming miracle? Do they hurry up to the room to witness this inspiring moment?

No. Sadly, the crowd laughs because they lack faith.

Unfortunately, that still happens in the world today. God has spoken a word to you. Maybe He's told you that He'll restore your marriage, heal your son's addiction, or remove that cancerous tumor.

Yet the people around you don't believe. They can't see God's hand yet, so they doubt what you heard. In these moments, it's tempting to let their doubts become your doubts.

But keep in mind that the crowd's lack of faith did not hinder the miracle. Indeed, God's glory was all the more powerfully shown because so many doubted. So, don't despair if you haven't seen your miracle yet!

God, grant me faith in the middle of the doubting crowd. Give me the strength to stand alone and trust Your word. Thank You for what You are about to do for me! In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Journal Your Thoughts 1 Have you over seen a mirrole? What

1. Have you ever seen a miracle? What happened?
2. What would you say to Jairus if you could talk to him <i>before</i> the miracle?
3. What situation has God promised you a miracle? Are you recording your journey so you can look back on it later?

#### **Everything Is Alright**

Run to meet her and ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?' – 2 Kings 4:26

In 2 Kings, there's the story of a faithful Shunammite woman who hosts the prophet Elisha whenever he's in town. She feels so compelled to care for this man of God that she even has a special guest room made up for him. The room is for his own use, and he can come and go as he pleases.

When Elisha seeks to bless her, he proclaims she will have a child. Yet years later, the child dies tragically.

So, the faithful woman comes immediately to Elisha. As she nears, Elisha sends out his servant to ask if her husband is all right and if her child is all right.

The woman's response is startling, "Everything is alright."

She utters these three words long before there is a miracle, long before her precious baby boy will be revived. Still, she is full of confidence and faith. She knows the power of Elisha's God, and she refuses to expect anything less than a miracle.

Faith, at its core, is an unproven expectation. It's showing up as a beggar to the feast with an empty plate and still anticipating a full belly by the end of the night.

God, give me faith like this precious woman. Let me sense You moving long before the miracle. Show me how to keep trusting even now. In Jesus' name, Amen.

#### **Journal Your Thoughts**

#### The Touch of Jesus

"Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him." – Luke 7:11

As Jesus was traveling through a town named Nain, he came across a heartbreaking sight. A young man was being carried to his tomb on a bier, essentially an open casket. This man was his mother's only son, and she had lost her husband already. Now she is alone in the world.

When Jesus spots the procession, he draws close. He whispers to the widow, "Don't cry."

Then He leans forward and touches the bier. Perhaps Jesus ran His hand along the wood, recognizing as a carpenter the hours of work that went into it. Maybe He reached out to caress the young man's lifeless arm.

The bearers of the bier are so shocked by what Jesus has done that they pause. That's because in His time, touching a casket like that meant becoming polluted. Many teachers and Rabbis refused to touch them for this reason.

But Jesus touches the bier because He cares enough to wade into our pain. He knows we're often dirty and sin-soaked, and yet still, He reaches for us. Still, He wraps His arms around us, whispering, "I am here, my child."

God, when I'm hurting, help me to remember that Jesus wraps His arms around me. Let me not forget that You are near, and You love me relentlessly. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# **Journal Your Thoughts** 1. Have you ever done or thought something that made you feel dirty? 2. What moments of your life has Jesus interrupted by showing up and changing the course of the story? 3. Who have you watched Jesus do a miracle for? How did this affect your faith?

#### **Speak Life**

"In Joppa, there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor." – Acts 9:36

Tabitha was a member of the early Christian church in Joppa. But she's more than just a pew warmer. It's clear from the text in Acts 9 that Tabitha let her faith move her into action. She was passionate about caring for the widows in her community and generously provided for them.

When Tabitha dies from an illness, the local Christians are distraught and send for Peter. He arrives, and the widows in the room begin showing Peter the clothes she's designed for them with great appreciation.

At this, Peter instructs everyone to leave the room. He begins to pray fervently, then turns toward the bed, calling out, "Tabitha, get up!"

Tabitha opens her eyes at the command and sits up slowly. Her spirit has returned to her physical body.

Her resurrection is a clear miracle of God. Only the Holy Spirit could have enabled such a move. Yet God *chose* to use Peter. He chose to have one of His disciples speak life over the other to accomplish His purpose.

Is there someone that God is calling you to speak life over? Perhaps He wants you to reach out to a friend that needs to hear there's hope and resurrection possible in a dark situation. Maybe He longs for you to encourage a family member that they're on the right track.

God, thank You for all the miracles recorded in Scripture. Thank You for inviting us into the Divine and allowing us to participate in some small part. Please show me who I can speak life over today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# **Journal Your Thoughts** 1. Who inspires you with their generosity or faith? 2. How do you enjoy serving others? Are you using this gift?

3. Who do you know that could use a word of encouragement this week?

#### The One He Loves

So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." – John 11:3

Lazarus was ill. His sisters watched and worried while he languished on the couch. Finally, one nudged the other. "Let's tell Jesus," She whispered.

Together, they composed a seven-word message to send to the Messiah. A simple, heartfelt plea: *Lord, the one you love is sick.* 

They could have said Lazarus of 1049 Blueberry Road in Bethany. But they knew they didn't need to get fancy. They didn't even need to so much as whisper their brother's name because they knew that God knew.

In the middle of pain and sickness, it's easy to forget that Jesus sees. The pain distracts and distorts. Truth we once clung to fearlessly now feels like an unsteady rope bridge in the midst of driving winds.

We're left with questions that haunt us: Does my God care? Is He listening to my plea? Has He forgotten me? Am I to be abandoned forever?

Oh, but borrow from Mary and Martha. Whisper, "Lord, the one you love is \_\_\_\_" and fill in the blank with your heartache. Maybe the one He loves is facing foreclosure. Maybe the one He loves has lost their job. Maybe the one He loves is in deepest anguish.

Know that as you whisper, He knows your name. And He is coming to your rescue.

God, in the middle of the pain, I'm tempted to forget. Remind me that You love me. Remind me that You fight for me. Remind me that You don't leave me comfortless—but that You come to me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Journal Your Thoughts 1. Have you ever been deathly ill? Wha

I. Have you ever been deathly III? What happened?
2. How has Jesus healed you in some way? (This could be healing in a relational, physical, spiritual, or mental sense)
3. Finish the prompt: Jesus, the one You love is

## Congratulations!

You completed the 7-day devotional journal!

Our hope is that when your life gets very dark and complex that you will know that the Lord is with you and He is able to resurrect and restore these dark and difficult areas in your life.



## Join Our Facebook Groups For Friendly Accountability And Community



The Christian Women's Corner private Facebook groups were created with you in mind. CWC's goal is to provide and facilitate encouragement, accountability, and community for Christian women.

The CWC private Facebook groups include Christian Women's Corner, Good Morning Girls, and Love God Greatly Bible studies.

Free online Bible study groups have become very popular because they offer flexibility and accountability for your daily quiet time. You'll feel connected with a group of women who share the same love of Jesus that you do and will be able to share as much or as little as you want with them.

We're excited and hope you will join our private Facebook groups to start reading the word of God daily and have the accountability to keep up this habit.

To find out more about the Christian Women's Corner Facebook groups, please click the green button below.



#### **About The Author**



Alicia Bowyer created Christian Women's Corner after talking to a good friend one day. They discussed how hard it was to keep up with daily prayer, Bible reading, and telling others about Jesus who didn't share their faith. She knew that some might not struggle with these three things, but many do.

She wanted to take the knowledge that she gained from over 40 years on her Christian walk and help others.

Alicia lives in Barrie, Ontario, Canada, with her family, whom she loves dearly.

To find out more, visit: www.ChristianWomensCorner.com