

Ascent
to
Know
Him

Also by the Author

Ascent to Hope: The Rugged Climb from Fear to Faith

Ascent to Hope: Map to Freedom

From Shop Floor to the Board Room

“I’m excited to read this new devotional book by Stephanie Winslow! I enjoyed reading *Ascent to Know Him* because of how real and vulnerable she is with her personal life. Stephanie has been a frequent guest on “HOPE is Here” Radio Program, and we always receive good feedback on her appearances. Stephanie has a gift for writing and I’m glad she has used it again to bless us with this devotional book!

—GREG HORN,
Executive Director, “HOPE IS HERE”, LEXINGTON, KY

God does not want us to only know about Him; He wants us to know Him. In this devotional, Stephanie provides a very accessible approach to discovering Him — through His attributes and through His Word.

—REV. MARK A. MAYNARD,
Pastor, Calvary Life Church, Granite City, IL

In Stephanie Winslow’s devotional “Ascent to Know Him”, I have found it to be an open, thought-provoking work. She challenges the intellect with her transparency of Biblical practical principles for daily life. She uses one of her illustrations that we trust an elevator to take us to every floor, and yet we do not depend on God’s faithfulness in leading us with every step. Like an elevator operator, Stephanie lifts us to new insights to know personally the great lover of our souls.

—C.R. KERSTEN,
CEO, Adult & Teen Challenge of St. Louis

Stephanie has been given the gift to write, and she uses that gift to help others find the joy of the Lord. Her zeal is contagious. This devotional will be a blessing to those who do it individually or as a Bible study group.

—BARB BIERMANN,
Retired Flight Attendant

In “Ascent to Know Him”, Stephanie has illuminated our Father God’s attributes in a concise and practical study. This is a book that can help us each grow deeper in our daily walk with our God, who wants us to know Him intimately. Thank you, Stephanie, for helping us experience Him through your book!

—JUDY SCHMIDT, MEd., LPC, LCSW,
Christian Counselor

In “Ascent to Know Him: The Quest to Discover More of God”, Stephanie focuses on eight attributes of God, and builds around each a chapter of short devotions, loaded with Scripture. She begins every chapter by defining the attribute, then provides 5 days of short devotionals unpacking different aspects of that attribute. We the readers are forced to “DIG IN” to God’s Word to discover and write back to God a prayer thanking Him for what He is revealing personally to us.

—JUDY REDLICH,
Church engagement manager, Joni and Friends,
Missouri; Bott Radio Encounter St. Louis show host.

If your heart’s cry is for more, this book is the answer to refresh your soul and empower your spirit. “Ascent to Know Him” provides purpose-filled journey stops that take you higher and deeper with the Lord. This book is not only an incredible devotional, it’s an essential read to growth-minded Christ followers.

—MICHELLE CHUDY,
President & CEO, Michelle Chudy Enterprises, LLC
Marketing Mentor, Success Coaching and #1 Bestselling Author

Stephanie’s devotional not only will leave you with an increased knowledge of who God is, but also a deeper, more intimate relationship with Him, and an eagerness to learn more the next day.

—DEANNA PHILLIPS, M.Ed, LPC, CEAP

“I love this book. I love its format and devotion to using God’s Word to emphasize His attributes. Through wisdom, the memorizing of Scripture, considering how Scripture impacts our perception of God, “digging in”, and kneeling before God’s throne, “Ascent to Know Him” undoubtedly brings to life God’s majesty and grace!”

—KATHY BOXX,
Executive Director, Unconventional Business Women.

Ascent to Know Him is a great next step for someone like me who finds the “guided devotional” approach engaging. I love the way Stephanie provides helpful background and then specific Scriptures to show me how to dig in and get to “know Him” better. The open space for notes will make this a devotional that can be used repeatedly to measure and revisit my ascent to know HIM.

—MARTHA BRANGENBERG,
Radio Show Co-Host, iWork4Him

Ascent
to
Know
Him

The Quest to
Discover
More of God

– An 8-Week Daily Devotional –

STEPHANIE WINSLOW

Fervent Ascent Media
Vancouver, British Columbia



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To my Grandfather Harold,

Grandpa, if you were still here, I would tell you how I have changed.

I would tell you that I get it now. I would tell you that
I understand how and why you were so in love with Jesus.

Grandpa, if you were still here, I would say thank you.
Thank you for being a walking, talking example of Jesus
to those around you. Thank you for leaving a legacy
of ministry and faith for generations to follow.

Grandpa, if you were still here, I would tell you that because
of your example, I long, I hunger, and I thirst for more of Jesus.
And most of all, I know you would be so proud, Grandpa,
I am teaching my girls to follow the path of Jesus, too.

I love you and I think of you often.

*But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught.
You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who
taught you.*

—2 TIMOTHY 3:14 (NLT)

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Foreword

FROM THE MOMENT I MET STEPHANIE, I was struck by her quiet, yet impactful presence. Stephanie is the kind of person that when she speaks, people take notice. Why, you may ask? I discovered the answer to that question over the months that followed as Stephanie and I continued to develop our initial encounter, one that we both believe was not coincidental. During this time, I have come to understand my original encounter with Stephanie was a great gift from God.

We live in a complex world, with complex people and complex problems. Each of us is on a journey toward some destination, a purpose on Earth that will culminate in an end to our life on earth as we know it here. Each of us has been uniquely gifted and set apart to embrace a purpose unique to us — a purpose that is part of a plan much larger than we can comprehend.

Sadly, some seldom give thought to their purpose, while others are too fearful to engage in its pursuit. Then there are those that have the courage to embrace the journey, no matter the cost. They understand they have a contribution to make. Ending their journey on Earth unchanged by sharing their time, talents and experiences in a way that changes the lives of others for the Glory of God, overcomes fear and uncertainty. I have learned that Stephanie falls in this latter category.

Stephanie is not afraid to embrace the journey of discovering God's plan for the fulfillment of the dreams He has placed on her heart. In her book *Ascent to Hope*, Stephanie shares her internal battle with a family member held prisoner to addiction. She provides an authentic inside look at the personal and familial turmoil that plagued her for years, along with discovering how God desires to use her battle to inspire courage in others with similar circumstances.

I believe that Stephanie's faithful response to God in releasing *Ascent to Hope* activated God's desire for Stephanie to write *Ascent to Know Him*. In my opinion, this devotional is perhaps the most powerful interactive devotional written to date. Advancing God's truths beyond a cursory review of Scripture, Stephanie challenges the reader to deeply meditate on God's personality, drawing the committed reader into a life-changing encounter with our loving God.

Stephanie provides the reader with a step-by-step process to explore the nature of God through Scripture, meditation, reflection and intimate prayer. This devotional is a must-read if you have even the slightest desire to pursue God wholeheartedly in your own quest for a more intimate relationship with Him. At the same time, I suggest that you consider *Ascent to Know Him* as an opportunity for a group study. Be encouraged to say: Yes, God, I will respond to Stephanie's invitation to know You!

Knowing Stephanie's heart for her readers, I imagine that Ephesians 3:16–9 is one of the many hopes and prayers she has for you:

¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

“FULLNESS OF GOD”: (NIV)

Finally, the best relationships are those that draw you closer to Jesus Christ as you commit to learning and growing together in Him. In those relationships you provide each other a haven where you are free to share your struggles, your successes, your hopes, and your dreams.

I am finding more and more that Stephanie is one of those havens in my life.

Terri A. Roche, D.Min, M.Div, LCSW
Founder & President, Authentic Outcomes
Leadership Development

Terri has a Doctor of Ministry in Leadership and a Master of Divinity from Summit Bible College in Bakersfield, CA. She also holds a Master of Social Work and a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Missouri, is a Mindset Mentor, Resource Manager, and Success Trainer.

Preface

GOD. YAHWEH. The Great I AM. I AM that I AM.
God — He is too big to be confined by name, space or time. Yet this God — who is hard to comprehend within the confines of human understanding — is *knowable*. The more He is pursued, the more it is understood just how paradoxically knowable He is. Magnificent yet detailed. All-powerful yet gentle. All-knowing yet humble. King of kings yet merciful. Eternal yet present.

God cares for us and our individual needs, our hurts, our desires, our hearts and emotions. He loves us all because He created us and wants nothing more than to be in relationship with us. He is not looking for performance; He is looking for obedience. He is not interested in empty praise that comes from a life set on living one's own way, but a life that is committed to submitting to His call in one's life.

This devotional was written with this in mind: that God is knowable. He is not to be experienced as a faraway being, unreachable and mystical. In His invisibility, He is visible in everything around us. And knowing Him is the best possible way we can spend our time.

Knowing Him is unlike any other relationship. He fills every void. His presence brings healing and restoration. Powerful, wise, faithful, sovereign, truthful, holy, just and loving — these words explain only the tip of the iceberg of His character. But knowing Him is the beginning of a new life, a new vision for life and of hope and peace. Knowing Him helps experience life more fully and completely.

My prayer for you is that, at the end of these eight weeks, you walk away with a hunger to know even more of God. I pray that the memory verses (“Retain”), questions (“Consider”) and Scriptures (“Dig in”) you encounter (for which I have left space for your handwritten

responses and transcribing verses from your favorite Bible version), and the prayers you pray will whet your appetite for more and more of God.

And, most of all, I pray that this is truly the beginning of a lifelong quest to know and love God and experience Him move and work in your life.

GOD OF POWER





DEFINE: POWER

ENGLISH *Power*: the ability to do or act; capability of doing or accomplishing; great or marked ability to do or act; strength; might; force (www.dictionary.com)

OT HEBREW *Chayil*: strength; might; efficiency; wealth; force (SECB)

NT GREEK *Dynamis*: strength; ability; power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature (SECB)



RETAIN

My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, [5] so that your faith might not be based on human wisdom but on God's power.

—I CORINTHIANS 12:4-5 (CSB)



CONSIDER

Power. The word *power* evokes strong emotions. It drives visions of misused authority and is often delivered without love and respect. Power on this earth has many times been wielded with irreverence for all those under its care. Power is not often used for the good of all. Yet power is something our humanness seeks to possess.

Power can be both repulsive and a draw. We want to run toward it to obtain it for ourselves, yet we run from it when others assume the position of power over us. We trust our own ability to be in control rather than the next person, but what about God? What about His power?

GOD OF POWER

Can we run toward His power knowing wholeheartedly that it is for our good, that He has the best in mind for us? Or are we offended by the notion that His way is different than our own? Are we repelled by the idea of trusting in His authority? Do we trust that He has the ability, strength, might, and efficiency to do and to act?

Do you run toward God, pursuing His power in your life?

If not, what keeps you from letting go of your own control and letting God have the control?

DAY 1: POWER TO SAVE

God has the power to save.

 **DIG IN**

Romans 1:16

2 Samuel 22:33

Psalms 103:2–5

Acts 4:12–14



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask Him to reshape your view of power. Ask Him to allow you to experience the fullness of His power to save.

DAY 2: POWER TO CREATE

God is the ultimate creator.

 **DIG IN**

Revelation 4:8

Psalms 147:4-5

Jeremiah 10:12-13

1 Chronicles 29:14



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to open your eyes to see the beauty of His creation today. Ask Him to reveal to you His creativity in a new and fresh way.

DAY 3: POWER TO DEFEAT DEATH

God has power over death, hell and the grave.

 **DIG IN**

Revelation 12:10

2 Chronicles 20:6

Isaiah 25:8

1 Samuel 2:6



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

As you pray, ask God to help you to not fear death because He has conquered it.

DAY 4: POWER TO HEAL

God heals mind, body and spirit.

 **DIG IN**

Luke 8:46

Psalms 71:18

Psalms 30:1-4

Jeremiah 17:14



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to bring healing in your body. Ask Him to teach you that healing is possible, even today.

DAY 5: POWER DISPLAYED IN HIS CHILDREN

God displays His power in and through His children.

 **DIG IN**

2 Corinthians 4:7

2 Thessalonians 1:11

Ephesians 3:20

Hebrews 7:16



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to use you. Ask God to allow His power to be manifested through your hands.

GOD OF WISDOM





DEFINE: WISDOM

ENGLISH *Wisdom*: knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action, discernment and action (www.dictionary.com)

OT HEBREW *Chokmah*: skill of an artificer; dexterity (**SECB**)

NT GREEK *Sophia*: supreme intelligence (**SECB**)



RETAIN

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways.” This is the Lord’s declaration. [9] “For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

—ISAIAH 55:8-9 (CSB)



CONSIDER

Wisdom. Wisdom by definition is a high bar to attain or even to wrap our minds around fully. What does it look like when it is lived out?

Proverbs 14:12 (NIV) says, “There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” This is a hard pill to swallow. How often are we plowing down a path that we believe to be right, and then catastrophe happens because of the choices we have made, or detours we have taken?

Wisdom does not come to us naturally. It is a gift that has to be sought out, prayed for and exercised.

GOD OF WISDOM

The difference between the wisdom of God and earthly wisdom is the vast expanse of a cavern. We believe wisdom is making decisions that take away pain: whatever takes away discomfort, whatever shortens heartache, whatever brings us pleasure and immediate gratification. Earthly “wisdom” is often not the road less traveled: it is the road that is wide, paved and shaded by trees.

But could it be that God’s wisdom encourages discomfort that leads to growth?

Does God’s wisdom shorten the lifespan of hardship?

What does His wisdom teach about patient endurance?

Is God’s wisdom more concerned with our getting what we want or what is best for us — even if it takes months or years to get there?

DAY 1: WISE IN COUNSEL

God's wisdom is evident in the counsel He provides through His Word and the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

 **DIG IN**

Job 12:13

Psalm 33:11

Isiah 9: 6–7

Psalm 73:24



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to help you recognize and submit to His counsel. Ask Him to help tune your heart and ears to the Holy Spirit's promptings.

DAY 2: WISDOM IN UNDERSTANDING

God's wisdom demonstrates a deep understanding of the intricacy of how He created the world. He knows precisely how all of the parts fit and work together.

 **DIG IN**

Isaiah 40:28

Psalms 147:5

Job 36:5

Proverbs 8:14



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to reveal to you understanding of His plan and His creation. Through this understanding, ask that He helps you to gain a fresh view of love toward His people.

DAY 3: WISDOM IN KNOWLEDGE

God knows all things. He knows our thoughts even before we speak them, and the ones we do not say. He knows our future and our past.

 **DIG IN**

Romans 11:33

Colossians 2:2–3

Jeremiah 10:12

Job 31:4



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to open your eyes to the expansiveness of His knowledge. Ask Him to stir in you an awe for Him and what He knows about you.

DAY 4: WISDOM OF OMNISCENCE

God is everywhere at all times. He hears our cries and our prayers as He is watching in on the sleeping baby in another city, and is singing a song over a hurting widow in another country. He gives us just what we need, when we need it.

 **DIG IN**

Job 28:12–28

1 John 3:19–20

Psalms 139:1–3

Psalms 44:21



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to reveal to you the mystery of His wisdom that comes from His omniscience. Ask Him to help you be aware He is with you and is looking out for you.

DAY 5: WISE IN PLANNING

God's plans are perfect and complete, lacking nothing. He is carrying each one out to completion.

 **DIG IN**

2 Peter 2:9

2 Peter 3:9

Proverbs 16:4

1 Peter 2:15



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to help you surrender your plans for His plans instead. Ask God to help you long for, desire and walk in His plan for your life.

GOD OF FAITHFULNESS





DEFINE: FAITHFUL

ENGLISH *Faithful*: steady allegiance and affection; loyal; constant; true to word, promises and vows (www.dictionary.com)

OT HEBREW *Aman*: to build up; support with arm; of long continuance; steadfast; trusty; like pillars of a door frame (**SECB**)

NT GREEK *Pistos*: worthy of trust; confiding; trusty (**SECB**)



RETAIN

Know that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps his gracious covenant loyalty for a thousand generations with those who love him and keep his commands.

—DEUTERONOMY 7:9 (CSB)



CONSIDER

When you get in your car and turn the engine, you expect the engine to turn and the car to start seamlessly. When you go to sit in the chair at your kitchen table, the thought doesn't cross your mind that the chair could fall and not support your weight.

When you walk into a large building and head up to the tenth floor, you do not perceive that you may not make it. You do not question that the building will remain and that the elevator will accomplish the task with which it was designed to complete — taking you to the tenth floor.

Why, then, is placing faith in the all-seeing and all-knowing creator God so difficult at times? God is faithful. He is trustworthy. He does

GOD OF FAITHFULNESS

not go back on His covenants, and He does not break promises. God, our Father, is worthy of our trust. He is worthy of our faithfulness because He is faithful first.

God demonstrates for us daily, minutely, His faithfulness to us with the breath in our lungs, with provisions, with peace, with comfort, with shelter. And when our time here on this earth is over, He promises an even better place for us to live with Him a life of perfect harmony.

How have you seen God's faithfulness on display in your life?

What do you think God wants to teach you through His faithfulness?

DAY 1: FAITHFUL TO PROMISES

God is faithful in all of His promises. Discovering His promises is worth it because His promises breathe LIFE to our dry and weary souls.

DIG IN

1 Kings 8:56

Acts 13:23

2 Peter 3:9

Hebrews 10:23



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to illuminate His promises over your life as you read Scripture. Ask Him to help your eyes to see where in your life He is faithful, even when you can't feel Him.

DAY 2: FAITHFUL TO ENDURE

God is faithful to endure. He is the living God. He was before all things, is in all things, and will be... forever and ever.

 **DIG IN**

Daniel 6:26

Psalms 119:90

Psalms 102:12

1 John 2:24–25



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to show you in the generations that have gone before you in your family, how He was faithful then. And ask Him to show you how He will continue to be faithful for the generations that are to come.

DAY 3: FAITHFUL TO CONSISTENCY

God is not deterred from His mission. He has a plan and He sticks to it. He wants us to join Him in His plan.

He longs for us to work alongside of Him to reveal to all the world that He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Whether we join up in His plan or not, He is consistent in His pursuit of us.

DIG IN

Lamentation 3:23

Genesis 28:15

Malachi 6:8

Malachi 6:8



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to help you grasp the depth of His consistency. Ask God to help you see how He has been a faithfully consistent pursuer of your heart.

DAY 4: FAITHFUL TODAY

God is faithful in our present situation, as He has been in our past and will continue to be in our future. He is faithful today. Seek His faithfulness and you will find it.

 **DIG IN**

2 Timothy 2:13

Joshua 23:14

Exodus 34:6

Jeremiah 29:11-13



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to reveal to you His faithfulness in this moment, with the situation you are facing today. Let Him breathe new life of faithfulness into your day. Ask God to wash His faithfulness over you.

DAY 5: FAITHFUL TO REMAIN

God, our Father, is faithful to be and stay Himself. He does not change who He is because we think we want something different. He does not change who He is so more people chose to follow Him. He is who He is. He says, "I AM that I AM" in Exodus 3:14. Nothing and no one can change His character.

DIG IN

Hebrews 13:8

James 1:17

Numbers 23:19

Psalms 55:19



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God today to fill you with the understanding and appreciation of how faithful He is to remain true to Himself and to His character.

GOD OF SOVEREIGNTY





DEFINE: SOVEREIGN

ENGLISH *Sovereign*: the status, dominion, power or authority, royal rank or position (www.dictionary.com)

OT HEBREW *Mamlakah*: kingdom; absolute reign; dominion (**SECB**)

NT GREEK *Basileia*: kingdom; power; authority; rule [in the world and in the hearts of men] (**SECB**)



RETAIN

You, Lord, are enthroned forever; your throne endures from generation to generation.

—LAMENTATIONS 5:19 (CSB)



CONSIDER

In our world today, the word “royalty” delivers a clear picture of fancy castles, prestigious dinner parties, extravagant weddings, frivolous spending and occasional good deeds. Royalty in our world is generally achieved via bloodline and surname.

When we think about the sovereignty of God, it is hard to picture. The royalty we are familiar with are faulty human people who make mistakes like you and I. In fact, they are no different from you and me, just born with a different set of circumstances.

But our God is not flawed. He is worthy of our honor of the title Sovereign King. He is worthy of our time in His Word, more than the magazine article about the latest “royal baby” birth.

GOD OF SOVEREIGNTY

Our King, eternal and immortal — His wealth we cannot imagine. He is abundant in every way. We cannot fathom the size and sight of the storehouses He keeps of abundant supply to meet every need from creation through eternity.

What are you not trusting Him to take care of with you?

What about God's sovereignty confuses or scares you?

What about God's sovereignty cultivates peace in you?

DAY 1: SOVEREIGN CONTROL

God is in control even when we don't understand how He is working.



Psalm 103:19

2 Chronicles 20:5-6

Isaiah 43:13

Daniel 2:20-22



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God for the courage to see beyond the surface of the circumstances and trust that He is in control.

DAY 2: SOVEREIGN PRESENCE

God goes before us and behind us. He is present with us and will never leave us. He is present, here, in this moment with us.

 **DIG IN**

Revelation 21:6

1 Timothy 1:17

Deuteronomy 10:14

Acts 17:24



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Write about an experience you have had where you had no doubt God was present with you.

Ask God to help you to become more and more aware of His unending presence in your life.

DAY 3: SOVEREIGN ABILITY

God is able. Able to make beauty from ashes. Able to make wine out of water. Able to make the darkest days of our lives turn out for good.

DIG IN

Jeremiah 32:17

Job 42:2

Ephesians 3:20

Isaiah 66:1



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to remind you of the times in your life where He has brought good out of a difficult or trying situation.

Ask Him to help you be willing to trust Him to do it again.

DAY 4: SOVEREIGN INSIGHT

God knows all of the facts. He discerns perceptions with perfection. He is the essence of knowledge and insight.

 **DIG IN**

Romans 11:33

1 Chronicles 28:9

John 7:15

Exodus 31:3



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to help you to understand the awesomeness of His knowledge and insight into our thoughts, motives and actions.

Ask Him to help you lean on His knowledge instead of your own.

DAY 5: SOVEREIGN ARCHITECT

God, our Father, is the great architect. He created and planned out every detail of every creature that is, has even been and will ever be. God is not overwhelmed by the details; He gives us glimpses of Himself in each one. Every part of creation sings His praise.



Colossians 1:16

Nehemiah 9:6

Psalms 121:12

Proverbs 24:3-4



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to help your eyes be opened with awe to the details presented in a flower petal, to the expansiveness of the sky.

GOD OF TRUTH





DEFINE: TRUTH

ENGLISH *Truth*: that which is true or in accordance with fact or reality

OT HEBREW *Eemunah*: firmness; security; moral fidelity; faithfulness [in fulfilling promises] **(SECB)**

NT GREEK *Aletheia*: reality; truth of idea, verity; divine revelation **(SECB)**



RETAIN

“Is not my word like fire” — this is the Lord’s declaration — “and like a hammer that pulverizes rock?”

—JEREMIAH 23:29 (CSB)



CONSIDER

“Truth is relative”, we have heard it said. It has become our norm to bend the Word of God to make it accommodate our lifestyle choices. And while God does love each human on this planet more than we can fathom, He also does not have to agree with or condone our choices.

Capital “T” truth is not relative. It is evident in story in the Bible that God’s Word does not bend and flex with the changing of the times, the trends, the technology, the whims and wishes of His people. His word is Truth. Nothing can alter it. Nothing can make it untrue. It’s just true.

This modern era leads us to believe that everything is able to be manipulated into or customized to fit our heart’s desires. We have convinced ourselves that God should adapt to our desires instead of us seeking

GOD OF TRUTH

after His. We falter, we waiver because the real truth is, we are not God! Therefore, we cannot choose what is best for us, or for anyone else. As much as we long for the control, we simply do not and cannot have it.

In what areas of your life have you believed that God needed to get on board with your agenda versus you getting on board with His?

What truth have you been believing that is not based on the Word of God?

What truth will you need to surrender that will bring you back into alignment with His truth?

DAY 1: TRUTH REVEALED

God's Truth is revealed through the Bible, and He promises that it will always produce fruit whenever and wherever His word is proclaimed.

DIG IN

Genesis 15:1

1 Samuel 3: 7–10

Isaiah 55:11

Philippians 3:15–16



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to reveal to your heart an area of your life to which you have a blind spot. Ask Him to give you the courage and strength to allow the Holy Spirit to make a change in you.

DAY 2: TRUTH REFLECTED

God's Truth is reflected in and through the person of Christ. We can also reflect God's Truth through our display of His character.

 **DIG IN**

John 1:14

John 1:1

Hebrews 4:12

Matthew 4:4



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to draw your heart to learn His Truth. Ask Him to give you eyes to see how Christ's life proclaimed the Truth. Ask God to show you how your life can proclaim His Truth also.

DAY 3: TRUTH ETERNAL

The Word, the Truth of God is ever-relevant. His Truth does not limit but instead releases.

 **DIG IN**

Deuteronomy 30:14

Psalms 119:89

Isaiah 40:8

Romans 10:8



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to help you to believe every word of the Bible 100%, no exclusions, even if you do not understand.

DAY 4: TRUTH RELIABLE

The Truth of God's word is reliable. His guidance is consistent.

 **DIG IN**

Psalm 33:4

2 Samuel 22:31

Psalm 18:30

Proverbs 30:5



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to draw your heart to love His word, and to show you where in your life His promises have played out.

DAY 5: TRUTH ACTIVATED

God's Truth sets in motion His plan for this world and His plan for our lives. Nothing can stop God's plans.

 **DIG IN**

Psalm 33:6

Psalm 147:17–18

Zechariah 12:1

Isaiah 14:27



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to help you live confidently in the Truth of His word. Ask Him to help you see your role in His plan that is set in motion.

GOD OF HOLINESS





DEFINE: HOLY

ENGLISH *Holy*: specially declared or recognized as sacred (**www.dictionary.com**)

OT HEBREW *Qadosh*: set apart for a special purpose; separate from the whole (**SECB**)

NT GREEK *Hagios*: sacred; different; set apart (**SECB**)



RETAIN

And one called to another: Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth.

—ISAIAH 6:3 (CSB)



CONSIDER

The word “holy” can stir up thoughts of piety and religiousness. Scripture, however, defines our Heavenly Father as holy, the only one who is truly holy. *Holiness* means that our God is set apart from the rest of creation. There is no one and nothing that compares to Him.

As you read this week, think about the word *holy*, and dig into what it has meant to you. Is it a word that turns you off, or makes you shut down because you believe that this is not a state of being that you can achieve? If you think that, you are right.

On our own, we can’t become “holy”, but with the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been given a call, a gift, a blessing to become through Jesus Christ, holy as God is holy.

GOD OF HOLINESS

This week we will explore the layers of God's holiness. By the end of the week, we will understand more clearly, what it is that we are called to. Yet we recognize that we cannot become holy without our advocate, the Spirit of the living God working in us.

What does the word "holy" mean to you?

How have you viewed holiness in the past?

Describe God's holiness.

Why is it important that we serve a God who is set apart from the world?

DAY 1: HOLY SPIRIT

God's Holy Spirit is seen and expressed throughout the Scriptures, and His spirit intercedes on our behalf, counsels us, brings wisdom, and bears witness to Jesus as Messiah.

 **DIG IN**

1 Corinthians 2:10–11

Isaiah 11:2

John 15:26

John 16:13



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to make His Spirit come alive to you as you embrace more fully this part of His person.

DAY 2: HOLY PRESENCE

The very presence of God is holy because He *is* holy. In His presence we experience the impact of what holiness feels like. He lifts us up, He draws us to Himself.

 **DIG IN**

Revelation 4:8

Exodus 3:5–6

Hebrews 6:19–20

Exodus 33:14



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

His presence is all around. Stop and feel it. Quiet your heart before Him and let Him open your eyes to see Him.

Take time to re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* and pray those words to God with a hunger to know Him and experience His presence at a deeper awareness.

DAY 3: HOLY SEPARATION

God — His very nature is Holy, is truth, is goodness. He cannot exist in opposition to His divine nature and character.

Therefore, He is separate from anything that is contrary to truth, holiness, righteousness.

 **DIG IN**

1 John 1:5

Exodus 15:11

Revelation 15:4

1 John 3:5



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Thank God today that the sinlessness and holy separate life Christ lived on this earth made Him the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* and pray the verse to God with a grateful heart that He exists true to His divine nature — and separate from sin.

DAY 4: HOLY WORD

God's Word is holy. His Word is set apart because of the living and active power of the words on each page. His Word holds within it the power to break chains, to set prisoners free, to counsel, to teach and train. His Word is alive and is the verbal representation of His character.



Titus 1:2

John 17:17

Hebrews 4:12

Proverbs 30:5



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Choose one of today's verses and re-write it *in your own words* as a prayer response to the Father King.

Consider how each of these verses represent and display the holiness of God.

DAY 5: HOLY FATHER

Like a loving daddy, our Father God longs for us to know Him intimately. He longs for relationship with us, and for us to love Him in return. He is holy and He will not push Himself on us. He pursues us, gently, with the desire to bless us, guide us, help us, and deliver us from all our sins.

 **DIG IN**

John 17:11

1 Samuel 2:2

2 Corinthians 6:18

Acts 17:24–28



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer of love to the God who first loved you.

Kneel before your heavenly father today, and find rest in His holy presence. Bask in the truth that though He is holy, He makes Himself available to us, and He pursues relationship with us. He loves us with a love that we cannot fathom.

GOD OF JUSTICE





DEFINE: JUSTICE

ENGLISH *Justice*: the moral principal determining just conduct; the administering of deserved punishment or reward (www.dictionary.com)

OT HEBREW *Tsedeq*: what is right or just or normal (**SECB**)

NT GREEK: *Dikaiosune*: equity (of character or act); justification; righteousness [the condition that is acceptable to God, integrity, virtue] (**SECB**)



RETAIN

*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
faithful love and truth go before you.*

—PSALM 89:14 (CSB)



CONSIDER

Justice may evoke in us a desire to fight for what is right. God's justice is the same in that regard. Yet, His justice is perfect. And He fights for the justice of what is RIGHT to Him.

When we fight for justice, what we are claiming to be right needs to be aligned to what God's Word says. Throughout Scripture in the Old and New Testaments, we see God and Jesus take a stand for those who cannot stand up for themselves — widow, slave, orphan, sick, wounded, prisoner, and broken in spirit.

And many times in Scripture, He asks us as believers to join Him in this battle, by the way we show respect, honor, provision, and compassion for those around us who are struggling.

GOD OF JUSTICE

During this week's study on justice, we will learn through Scripture that God's love for us extends past feelings. We see His love in action through His justice poured out in verse after verse in both the Old and New Testaments.

What does God's justice mean to you?

How have you seen God's justice played out in your life?

Is there anything about the word "justice" that troubles you? If so, what is it? Are you willing to wrestle it this week?

DAY 1: JUST MERCY

God's justice is expressed through His mercy.

 **DIG IN**

Isaiah 30:18–19

Zechariah 7:9

Psalms 33:5

Revelation 11:18



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Choose one of today's verses and re-write *it in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to increase your awareness of His just mercy in your life. Give Him thanks for His mercy.

DAY 2: JUST VENGEANCE

Throughout Scripture, God's justice is displayed through His vengeance.

 **DIG IN**

Hebrews 10:30

Romans 12:19

Luke 18:7-8

Isaiah 45:21



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Choose one of today's verses and re-write *it in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to help you in times when you want to be the one to take vengeance for an offense. Ask Him to help you learn to be patient and wait on Him to work through the situation on your behalf.

DAY 3: JUST PROTECTOR

God protects His people. He protects those who call upon His name.
And He protects those who are not strong and cannot protect themselves.

DIG IN

Deuteronomy 10:18

Psalm 145: 20

Psalm 12:5

1 Samuel 22:3–4



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Choose one of today's verses and re-write *it in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Kneel before the Father in heaven and praise Him. Praise Him for His protection over your life and over the lives of your family and friends.

DAY 4: JUST JUDGE

The judgment of God on His people and on creation is His and His alone. Creation spoken by the sound of His voice produces for Him the authority to judge the living and the dead.

DIG IN

Genesis 18:23–25

Revelation 19:11

Acts 17:31

Psalms 7:11



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Choose one of today's verses and re-write *it in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Ask God to give you understanding for the way in which He chooses to judge. Ask Him to give you an open mind and heart toward His judgments in your life.

DAY 5: JUST REWARDER

God does not only display His justice through judgment in correction but also in the realization of reward for those who call upon His name.

DIG IN

Isaiah 61:8–9

Isaiah 30:18–19

Psalms 106:3

Romans 6:23



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Choose one of today's verses and re-write *it in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Bow before the Father and pray that He will expand your awareness of the rewards He has poured out into your life. Ask Him to help you see Himself through new eyes of reward and of discipline.

GOD OF LOVE





DEFINE: LOVE

ENGLISH *Love*: profound tenderness; passionate affection for another; personal attachment; deep affection (www.dictionary.com)

OT HEBREW *Ahab*: to love, to have affection for (**SECB**); delight; earnest desire; tenderness (**VINE**)

NT GREEK *Agape/Agapoa*: deep constant love; interest of perfect being toward entirely unworthy objects producing reverential awe (www.internetbiblecollege.com)



RETAIN

The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

—1 JOHN 4:8 (CSB)



CONSIDER

God is love, as we read in 1 John 4:8. Therefore God brings definition to the word. He embodies all there is to know and learn about love. He embodies all there is to experience about love. He is the essence and entirety of love.

Any expression of love is an expression of who God is. Love displayed by man and woman in marriage, love displayed from mother to child, love displayed among friends sharing laughs, love displayed through siblings sharing — each is an outflow of God's love.

Love is the pinnacle fruit of being in relationship with Him, the God of love, the God that is the complete fullness and totality of love. God's

GOD OF LOVE

love is unending, never failing — a love that is not based in convenience but in sacrifice. God's love is more than a feeling or sentiment; it is constant and steady, able to withstand every storm.

God's love can be experienced in relationships with others, the beauty of creation, in the sound of children laughing. God's love is present all around us.

How have you experienced God's love in your life?

What confuses you about God's love?

What comforts you about God's love?

DAY 1: COMPLETE LOVE

God's love is the complete expression of who He is. He loves us completely and there is nothing lacking about His love for us. He demonstrates His love for us in His ability to love us — all of us: every wrinkle, every mistake, every victory and every loss — even though He is perfect and holy.

 **DIG IN**

Philippians 1:6

Philippians 1:10

Philippians 2:2

Galatians 5:14



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Which of today's verses spoke to your heart? Take that verse and re-write the verses *in your own words*.

Pray the words of the verse and your words aloud to God. Allow these words to soak into your spirit and let the completeness of God's love consume you.

Ask God to heighten your awareness of His complete love in your life. Thank Him and praise Him for His love.

DAY 2: UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Unconditional love is hard to understand. For humans, love, though intended to be unconditional, is conditional. Whether in relationship with a spouse, family member or child, the ability to love without condition is noble and desirable but truly only possible to receive from a perfect and holy God who embodies love.

DIG IN

Romans 5:8

John 3:16

Titus 3:4–5

Ephesians 2:4–5



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

Settle into your quiet space and reflect for a moment on the fact that God's love is extended toward you, whether or not you choose to receive it, and whether or not you feel worthy of it.

Choose one of today's verses and re-write *it in your own words* as a prayer to God.

Thank God for His unconditional love. Ask Him to help you to accept the love that He has for you. Ask Him to help you experience today the condition-less love that He offers to you.

DAY 3: NEVER-ENDING LOVE

There is no end and there is no beginning to God. God exists outside of the realm of time. God and love are synonymous. He *is* love. Therefore, there is no end to His love. God loved His creation even before it was formed, and He loves each and every one, for eternity.



Isaiah 54:8

Romans 6:23

Jeremiah 31:3

Psalms 136:26



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

In prayer today, choose the verse that spoke directly to your heart and re-write the verse *in your own words*.

Thank God for His love over you — even before you were born — and for His love that extends into eternity. Ask Him to help you to be aware of His love for you and to then be able to demonstrate His love to those around you.

DAY 4: SAFE LOVE

The love, power and the majesty of God are too big to be confined by words or defined. In His grandeur there is safety. His love is safe, like a shelter for all those who are longing for rest and comfort.



Romans 5:5

Psalm 86:15

Zephaniah 3:17

Romans 8:37–39



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

You are safe and you are secure in God's love. Choose one of today's verses and re-write *it in your own words* as a prayer to God. Thank God, as you write, for the security that His love provides.

Ask God to increase your sense of safety, finding comfort and warmth in His presence. Breathe deep and soak in His love for you today.

DAY 5: SACRIFICIAL LOVE

God has demonstrated His love through His sacrifice. He sacrificed His son, Jesus Christ, to be able to be in relationship with you, to restore the pathway to relationship with His creation. He demonstrates His love in the laying down of His power, giving His creation the will to choose to love Him.



John 15:13

John 15:10–11

1 John 4:9–10

Luke 22:41–42



KNEEL BEFORE THE THRONE

As you encounter God's love through Scripture, re-write one of today's verses *in your own words* as a prayer of thanksgiving back to God.

Thank Him and worship God today because of the sacrifice that He made by sending Christ to restore the pathway of relationship between God and man.

Ask God to open your heart, mind and spirit to *accept* His love, to *learn* from His love, and then to *live out of* His love for you toward others.

About the Author

Stephanie Winslow is the proud wife of Marshall and mother of two girls. She spends her days helping women find their voice and making their dreams become a reality in life and business.

In her business Blind Spot Consultants, Stephanie partners with women entrepreneurs to help them build lean processes and strategic plans that will enable them to live their best life.

Stephanie is a Christian author, blogger and speaker. She uses her gifts of writing and speaking to inspire transformational change in the lives of those who need hope, healing and restoration. Stephanie's passion is to awaken the complacent and comfort the wounded.

In her free time, Stephanie enjoys trail running, hiking with family, coffee dates with girlfriends, the comfort of yoga pants, and catching the latest Netflix show with her husband.