

Foreword by GARY THOMAS, bestselling author of *Sacred Marriage*

SUSIE LARSON

Your Sacred

Yes



*Trading Life-Draining Obligation for*  
FREEDOM, PASSION & JOY

# Your Sacred Yes WORKBOOK

*An In-Depth Bible Study*

*Trading Life-Draining Obligations  
for Freedom, Passion & Joy*

SUSIE LARSON

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This workbook is designed for use with Susie Larson's book *Your Sacred Yes* (ISBN 978-0-7642-1331-1).

A six-session DVD Companion (ISBN 978-0-7642-1353-3) is also available.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. NIV®.

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FROM THE DESK OF SUSIE LARSON

*Dear friend,*

*I'm so glad you chose to take Your Sacred Yes to the next level and to mine the treasures in Scripture with me! I pray that as you dig into God's Word, you will gain a deeper understanding of your profound worth along with a greater understanding of God's intent for your moments and your days.*

*Take your time working through these passages of Scripture. Don't feel pressured or boxed in by the days between Bible study. These questions are here to serve you, so take them at a pace that allows for deep reflection and prayerful thought.*

*You'll notice that I have you return to a certain passage time and time again throughout this study, and I ask you to look at it from different angles. It's the passage from Romans 12:1-2:*

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

*This passage is packed with meaning and purpose. Hopefully, by the end of this study, you'll grasp in a whole new way how the surrendered life is truly the powerful life, and in view of God's mercy, His will for us is our best-case scenario.*

*I'll be praying for you as you work your way through the study questions. May you wrap your arms around this truth: God is for you, and all of heaven is on your side. You're free to be a work in progress without a hint of condemnation. And you're invited to live a life of deep connection, bold conviction, and tenacious faith.*

*May you be especially blessed on this journey.*

*With you, for Him,*

*Susie Larson*

*\*A note to leaders: Please make this study work for you. Since the questions are extensive, feel free to pick and choose the ones that most reflect the content you want to highlight. May God bless you for stepping up and for leading well!*

# Section One: The Sloppy Yes



## Chapter One

# Caution: Danger Ahead

*Say Yes to God's Wisdom*

*We're not called to a busyness that drains us; we're called to an abundance that trains us.*

### Study Questions

1. Read Psalm 139 and answer the following questions:
  - a. Do you embrace and believe the truth that you are fearfully and wonderfully made? Why or why not?

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- b. When you think about the pace of your life and all of your time commitments, what do your choices reveal about your life? Would you say that you live like you were thrown together by God and are an afterthought? Or do you see your life as a sacred gift, set apart for a purpose? Explain.

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- c. Consider those who know you best: Would they say you live a thrown-together life, or that you have a sense of your value and of the value of your time?

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2. Read Colossians 1:9 and answer the following questions:

- a. When was the last time you paused in God's presence and asked Him to fill you afresh with His Holy Spirit and to reveal His will to you? (No condemnation here—just taking inventory.)

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- b. What did He reveal to you at the time? How did His wisdom impact your life?

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- c. Pause now and ask the Lord to fill you afresh and speak to your heart. Put on some music if necessary, but give yourself time with Him. Give Him access to your soul, and ask Him for wisdom regarding your life and your commitments. Write down any thoughts, impressions, or prayers He gives you.

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3. Read Colossians 1:10 and answer the following questions:

- a. Given your passions, your life stage, and your sense of calling, what does it mean for *you* to live a life worthy of the Lord—a life that pleases Him in every way? (Remember, He's not looking for perfection. He wants relationship, obedience, offerings given in faith, and a heart that's set on trusting Him.) Write a paragraph describing your best-case scenario when it comes to living a life worthy and pleasing to God.

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- b. The call to bear fruit in every good work is impossible apart from God. Take inventory of your life. In what areas do you sense you're not abiding in Him (e.g., finances, children, marriage, job, friendships)?

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- c. What steps can you take to move to a place of trust and rest so that you begin to see fruit in these places of struggle?

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- d. How do we grow in the knowledge of God? How can *you* grow in the knowledge of God?

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4. Read Colossians 1:11 and answer the following questions:

- a. In what area of your life do you most consistently experience God's power and divine direction?

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b. In what area does He seem most absent?

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c. Spend a moment in prayer and ask God to reveal why that is. Ask Him for a promise to hang on to so you can cultivate an attitude of expectancy that God will move in this particular area of your life.

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d. Look at verse 11 again and consider this question: How has God developed patience and endurance in your life?

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- e. How has your God-given patience and endurance helped to sustain you in your current struggles?

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5. Read Colossians 1:12 and answer the following questions:

- a. What brings joy to your soul and most connects you to God's personal love for you (e.g., reading, exercising, time alone, time with friends)?

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- b. How intentional are you when it comes to these things? Explain.

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- c. Think about heaven for a moment. As far as you understand Scripture, what joys await you there?

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- d. We live in that in-between season of *not yet* and *will be*. God kindly answers many of our prayers in this life. Still, we'll have to wait until we see Jesus face to face before we'll enjoy certain long-awaited breakthroughs, answers to questions, and losses restored. Even so, He invites us to thank and trust Him *now*, to rejoice in Him now. After all, He is the greatest gift of all. Write down what you love most about Jesus. Then write down some of the things in your life for which you're most grateful.

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6. Rewrite Psalm 90:12 as a personalized prayer.

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*Precious Lord,*

*Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I. Give me a renewed perspective of my life and of Your great love for me. Show me even now which of my time commitments put me at risk and drain me of my precious energy. What are the next steps I should take, Lord? Show me the broken-down places in my wall—the areas of my life I've neglected because I've been too busy doing other things. Give me a fresh vision of Your best will for me in this particular season of life. What do You have for me here? What am I missing? What promises are mine for the taking? I long to live in the ebb and flow of Your grace and goodness. Forgive me for my tendency to do more than You've asked of me. Forgive me for the countless times I allow my mind to wander to worry and angst. I will rest in Your presence today. I choose to embrace the truth of Your unfathomable love for me even when it's hard for me to believe it. I choose to see life as a precious gift straight from Your hand. I choose to remember that my yes and no are sacred and set apart for You, Lord. Fill me up to overflowing so that I may be a wellspring of life to everyone I meet. Thank You for new mercies and new beginnings. I trust You with my life and look forward to learning what it means to live out of Your divine supply for me. I love You, Lord. Amen.*

Chapter Two

# When I Move Too Fast

## *Say Yes to God's Power*

*The Lord whispered something to my heart that I'll never forget. He said, "Most of My children merely scratch the surface of what I've made available to them."*

### Study Questions

1. Read Psalm 46:10 and break it up into three parts:
  - a. Ask God to show you the areas in your life that you tend to *strive* and answer the following questions:
    - Who am I trying to impress?
    - What am I afraid of?
    - Will it take more faith for me to pull back and trust God than to continue onward and trust myself?
    - Since I can't please God without faith, what faith steps do I need to take related to this area of my life?

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b. God invites you to know Him intimately. Scripture says He confides in those who fear Him. In light of this, answer the following questions:

- How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?
- What are some things you know for sure about Him?
- Do you sense His invitation to draw closer to Him and to know Him on a deeper level? In what ways do you picture this changing how you live and how you pray?

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c. God tells us in the third part of this verse that He will be exalted in the nations and around the world. Answer the following questions:

- In what ways (that are beyond you) do you long for God to move in the world today?
- If you could see Him break through and answer prayers in the church today, what do you suppose that would look like?
- Since God moves on the prayers of His people, take some time right now to pray for the world, the nations, and for the global church. May God be exalted in the world through you today!

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2. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6–9. When we sow seeds in faith (whether through our gifts, our words, or our deeds), something changes in the spiritual atmosphere because God moves on every act prompted by our faith. However, when we race and strive in our own strength, we skim life’s surface and barely impact eternity. Consider how you spend money, give of your time, and work and rest, and how you speak about your life and the lives of others. Write a paragraph (a vision statement of sorts) that reflects the growth you want to experience in this coming year.

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3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:10–11 (we’ll take another look at this passage on a deeper level in a later chapter) and answer the following questions:
  - a. Take a look at the paragraph vision statement you just wrote and consider the verses you just read. As we walk with God, engage our faith, and trust His provision, we begin to see an increased harvest in our midst. We learn to walk in a whole new level of faith. Write down another vision statement—one that shows an increase in every area of life (how you give, live, and pray, and what you say).

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- b. Imagine becoming a flow-through account of God's blessing for a world in need. What about that excites you? What about it scares you?

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- c. What obstacles in your life seem to block your view of God and keep you from trusting Him for the more He wants to do in and through you?

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- d. Write out a prayer. Ask Him to move mountains and make a way where there seems to be no way.

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4. Read 2 Corinthians 9:12–13 and answer the following questions:

a. (This is a tough one.) Who do you suppose thanks God for your presence on the earth today? Who has He appointed you to touch and bless?

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b. Imagine God increasing your influence. What would that look like for you?

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c. What feelings does the idea of increased influence stir up in you?

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d. Write down a prayer, asking God to awaken a fresh measure of faith in you.

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5. Read 2 Corinthians 9:14–15 and answer the following questions:

a. Describe the difference between a busyness that drains us and an abundance that trains us—the busy life versus the abundant life.

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b. When we live out of the abundance that God offers, others praise God because the “much” God entrusts to us impacts them. Picture a people group or certain demographic of people shouting and praising God for your gifts and generosity. Who are they (e.g., children, human trafficking victims, the poor, foster kids, women)?

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- c. Picture their needs. Ask God to awaken your heart for them. Ask Him to show you how to abide in Him that you might make a difference for them. Write out your prayer.

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*Precious Lord,*

*Thank You for the countless ways You've protected me when I was most vulnerable and unaware of the enemy's access to me. Thank You for Your constant patience and grace during those times I've strived in my own strength. Forgive me for how forgetful I can be! Take me to the higher road You have for me. Help me to see life from Your point of view. Let me not miss the sacred and eternal moments You've put before me. Fill me up to overflowing. Give me eyes to see and ears to hear and a heart to do Your will. I long to know You more! I don't want to race through this life and miss the very reason You've placed me here for such a time as this. Make Your Word come alive in me. Give me Your divine strategy for a life of rhythm and grace. I want to have the courage to run when You tell me to run and to rest when You tell me to rest. You know me best and love me most. I will follow You forever. I am Yours and You are mine. Change me from the inside out. I want my life to count for all eternity. Thank you, God, for Your never-ending faithfulness to me. My soul rests secure in You. Amen.*

## Chapter Three

# Busyness vs. Abundance

### *Say Yes to God's Provision*

*When we give God our yes and we walk by faith, God will do the impossible in and through us.*

#### **Study Questions**

1. Read John 15:1–8 and answer the following questions:
  - a. What does “abiding in the vine” look like for you in your current season of life? What would it take to press in a bit deeper with God—to draw even nearer to Him?

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- b. Have you ever experienced a season of pruning? How did you initially respond? What kind of growth came from that experience?

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- c. Consider the juxtaposed statements Jesus makes in verse 5 and write down what you think He means by these two statements:
- With Him = MUCH fruit
  - Apart from Him = NOTHING

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- d. Why do you suppose God promises to answer our prayers to the extent that we learn to abide in Him? Explain.

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2. Read Romans 12:1–2 and answer the following questions:

- a. Jesus paid our debt so we could live the full, abundant life He intended. If He already sacrificed His own life for our sins, why does He ask us to offer ourselves as a *living sacrifice*?

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b. If you're honest, in what ways have you conformed to the image of this world?

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c. Living with a renewed mind requires our constant and continual attention. It's a battle that no one can fight for us (but the Holy Spirit will most certainly help us!). How intentional are you when it comes to taking thoughts captive and cultivating a redemptive thought life?

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d. The last part of verse 2 not only reminds us that a renewed mind changes our life, but it also helps us discern God's highest path for us. Explain your thoughts on why a renewed mind offers us these two amazing benefits:

- A transformed life
- The ability to discern God's best

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3. Read Ephesians 3:20–21 and answer the following questions:

- a. God is able to do (more than we can imagine) in and through us *according to* His work within us. How much access does God have to your life, your story, and your struggles? Is there an area of your life where you sense God wants more access? Explain.

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- b. God is able to do (more than we can imagine) in and through us according to His *power* mightily at work within us. Have you been racing through life on autopilot? Or have you sensed an increase of God’s power at work in and through you? Explain.

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- c. Pause here and ask God to fill you anew with the *power* of His Holy Spirit. I love Psalm 77:14: “You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.”

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4. Read Psalm 46:10 and answer the following questions:

- a. Depending on our season of life, we tend to strive in different ways for different reasons. Where in your life do you feel the rub—the chafing that comes with fretting and straining?

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- b. Are you able to stop right here, right now, and ask the Lord’s forgiveness for losing sight of Him? Ask Him to fill you up and spill you over with the gift of faith and perspective.

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- c. To “know that He is God,” as it says in this passage, is to cultivate such an intimacy with the Father than nothing gets between you and Him. Is your area of struggle finances? Children? Parents? Friends? Health? Ask the Lord for a deeper revelation of His love that you may know Him well in this area of struggle. May you find rest for your soul and renewed faith for the journey.

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*Precious Lord,*

*I open my hands and receive all that You have for me this day! I refuse to acknowledge or listen to the condemnation the enemy throws my way. Instead, I embrace Your mercy and grace, which allow me to be a work in progress. Forgive me for straining and striving through life when You've called me to an abiding and thriving kind of life. You've awakened my heart to believe You for the impossible, and so I say, Here I am, Lord. Fill me, spill me, correct me, redirect me. Make me new and renew my heart for You. I want the kind of life You dreamed up for me when You first had the idea of me. I want my life to bear such incredible fruit that others come to know and believe that You are God—full of power, fully at work in the world today! Do the impossible in and through me, Lord. Show me what has to go so I can lay hold of more of You. You're everything to me, Lord. And I'm everything to You. How blessed I am to be known so intimately by You. Lead me in Your everlasting way. I will follow You, one grace step at a time. Amen.*

## Chapter Four

# There's Rest in God's Yes

### *Say Yes to God's Invitation*

*It's strong, wise people who take their cues from Jesus because they know that He knows how to lead them, train them, and teach them in a way that prepares them for the road ahead.*

#### **Study Questions**

1. It's possible to have order in one area of life and unrest in another. In what areas of life do you have order and rest? What about the areas of unrest? (Oftentimes our unrest comes from unhealed areas in our lives. Take some time with the Lord and ask Him to show you if/where you need healing.)

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2. We looked at Psalm 46:10 in previous chapters, but let's look at it again in light of this topic of rest: *Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.* Consider again your area of unrest in light of this invitation from God. He wants you to know Him intimately, especially in those unhealed areas where your heart hurts and your soul is anxious. Write out a prayer giving Him permission to heal you and to lead you by still waters. Also, notice the second part of the verse. God will be exalted—not us. We strive when we think it's all up to us. Lift Him up to His rightful place in your life, especially those places you tend to strive. He's got you.

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3. Let's go back again to Romans 12:1 and read from several translations if possible. (Here's a portion of *The Message* paraphrase: "Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him."<sup>1</sup>) Isn't it something how God is for us? Even as we offer ourselves up to Him by following His lead and doing what He says, He takes care of our souls. Answer this question as best you can: When do you make rest a priority? (I'm not talking about lounging in front of the TV; I mean cultivating a heart and a life that rests in God, spends time with Him, and takes cues from Him.) How does your heart at rest become a fragrant offering to God?
- a. Pastor and author Chip Ingram was on my show a while back. He said that people often ask him what to do when their faith life seems to stall out and feel dry. His answer was so wise. He said, "Oftentimes our need to control things is underneath it all. You want a catalyst to personal revival? Humbly surrender whatever it is you're hanging on to too tightly." Is there something in your life that you need to surrender?

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1 — *The Message* by Eugene H. Peterson, copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group. All rights reserved.

- b. Spend some time in prayer offering your life, your control issues, and even your willingness to rest to Him. Ask Him to fill you up until you're spilling over with more of Him.

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4. Read Philippians 4:8 and personalize each of these perspectives. What in your life is true? What is lovely? Here's the full list:

- True
- Noble
- Right
- Pure
- Lovely
- Admirable
- Excellent
- Praiseworthy

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*Precious Lord,*

*I'm learning that one of my soul's greatest needs is to find rest in You. Teach me how to do that, Lord. Help me believe—with my whole heart—that it's possible to cultivate a life that spills joy, possibility, confidence, and renewal. I long for a countenance that reflects a heart at rest and a soul at peace. Help me to arrange my days in a way that create time and space for You to speak to me, heal me, and strengthen me. Forgive me for my tendency to give time away as if I have an endless supply. Help me to wisely steward each moment You've entrusted to me. I know now that each day You give me is a sacred gift from Your hand. Change me from the inside out so that I live and love from my convictions and my connection with You and not from the relentless chaos of my culture. My soul finds rest in You alone. My salvation comes from You. I entrust my whole soul to You, Lord. Lead me in the way that I should go. Amen.*

Section Two:  
The Shackled Yes



## Chapter Five

# Am I Captive?

### *Say Yes to Living Free*

*Embrace an expectancy that God is very much at work in and around you. In the days ahead, you'll notice a heightened awareness of your tendency to overcompensate for the sake of your image.*

#### Study Questions

1. Read Psalm 62:7 and answer the following questions:
  - a. Saving us was Christ's greatest miracle of all. It's what cost Him the most. Yet we trust Him for our eternity more easily than we trust Him for the tangibles of life. What does it mean to trust God to defend your honor?

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- b. What does it mean for our honor to depend on God *alone*? How do we separate the things that we use to validate us (our gifts, possessions, status, titles, etc.) from what actually validates us?

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- c. Use a dictionary or a thesaurus to expound on the words *rock* and *refuge*. What does it mean to have Jesus as your Rock and Refuge?

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2. Read Galatians 2:20 and answer the following questions:

- a. It's a bold thing to proclaim "It's no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Sit back and think about the implications of that statement. Now consider whose opinions mean too much to you. Does this change your perspective? Explain.

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- b. Until Jesus returns or until we die, we'll be housed in these fleshly bodies. But even so, we live by faith. Read the passage again and ponder the love that compelled Jesus to give up His life so that you could have a whole soul and a redeemed life. Write out a prayer thanking God for the power that works mightily within you! Memorize Galatians 2:20 if you can.

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3. Read Romans 8:1–3 and answer the following questions:

- a. Prayerfully read the verses again, and this time, consider two of the amazing gifts Jesus has offered you here: NO condemnation and LIFE in the Spirit. The life of Christ within you actually displaces the weight and gravity of sin and worldliness. Both cannot abide in the same place. Write a personalized prayer declaring yourself FREE of condemnation and FULL of the Spirit of the living God!

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- b. What the law was powerless to do, God did by sending His Son. Why? Because you are a treasure worth saving. Spend a moment in prayer (journal, on your knees, rise up with your hands in the air—whatever works for you) and thank God for seeing you as a priceless soul.

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4. Read Romans 8:5–6 and answer the following questions:

- a. We tend to think of a “mind governed by the flesh” as one woefully sinful, which it is. But can you see that to strive in your own strength to prove your own worth is also a fleshly pursuit? Explain the “fruit” of our striving and straining in our own strength.

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- b. When we live by the Spirit, we do what the *Spirit desires*. What exactly does the Spirit desire? Think about this for a moment. Write down your thoughts.

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- c. If your mind were set on the Spirit (and not on the flesh), how might you see yourself differently? Explain.

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- d. With regard to our bondage to others' opinions, what kind of paradigm shift would please the Spirit of God? Really think about this for a moment. If you listened to the Spirit and let Him lead you—especially in your areas of insecurity—might you show up differently in your relationships? Might you act differently when you feel insecure? Explain.

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5. Read Romans 8:14–17 and answer the following questions:

- a. Picture yourself sitting in a prison cell, boxed in by your fears and insecurities. Now read this passage again while imagining yourself standing up, following the Spirit’s lead, and walking free because you’re no longer a slave to fear; you’re a child of the Most High God. Write out a prayer asking God for a heightened sensitivity to the voice of the Holy Spirit within you.

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- b. We’re not only children of God, we’re heirs of God! As best as you can, describe what it means to be an heir of God and joint heir with Christ.

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- c. How does the Spirit of God testify to our spirit (v. 16) that we belong to the Lord? How does the Lord affirm your connection to Him? Explain.

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d. Write out a prayer thanking God for making you His heir.

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*Precious Lord,*

*I come to You humbly, sincerely, and reverently today. I bow before Your beautiful throne and I say thank You. Thank You for saving me, forgiving me, cleansing me, and redeeming me. Thank You for access to Your presence and Your promises. Lord, I open my hands to You this day and I ask Your forgiveness for the countless ways I've tried to affirm my own worth. Forgive me for feebly attempting to do what You've so valiantly already done. I receive—wholeheartedly—the masterful, marvelous gift of Your grace. I reject the lie that I can add one single iota to my worth by performing well. I openhandedly receive anew Your great love for and acceptance of me. From this day forward I want my life to count for You. I want my efforts to be in response to the gift I already possess. May my whole life be a thank offering to You because You have healed me through and through. You're the One who's made me new! I rise up in my blessed, beloved identity, and I wrap myself in Your defining grace today. In Your mighty, powerful, redeeming name, I pray. Amen.*

## Chapter Six

# The Power of Peer Pressure

### *Say Yes to Humility*

*As long as our need for approval or our fear of disappointing others is stronger than our God-given sense of calling, we will be more moved by the opportunity of the moment or by the pressure of the crowd than we will by the divine direction of God in our lives.*

#### **Study Questions**

1. Let's go back again and read Romans 12:2 and answer the following questions:
  - a. It's interesting how an unredeemed mindset is tied to our inability to withstand the pressures of our culture. Read this verse again and give your best explanation as to why a renewed mind is necessary to stand strong in your convictions.

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- b. We all have areas of our lives where we find it more instinctive to embrace a biblical mindset and lifestyle than we do in other areas of our lives. In which areas of life do you find yourself most consistent in your faith walk, and in which areas do you still struggle to find your footing? Here are a few areas to get you thinking: finances, entertainment, food, drink, children, friends, modesty, time management and commitments, and conversation.

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- c. Make the connection between discernment and a renewed mind. How and why do these two go hand in hand? Conversely, explain how discernment is lost when we let our thoughts have free rein.

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2. Read Proverbs 13:20 and answer the following questions:

- a. Who is your wisest friend? What about his or her life stands out most to you?

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b. Who looks up to you? How do you suppose you most influence their lives?

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c. What is the most consistent fruit that comes from your friendships (e.g., a desire to be a better parent, spouse, Christ follower; a desire to buy more, eat more, shop more, give more, pray more)?

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d. Are you (and your friends) moving forward in faith and maturity? Or are you stuck in a rut? Do you sense an invitation from God to take a new or next step? What might that be?

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3. Read Galatians 1:10 and answer the following questions:

a. Why is it impossible to strive to please both God and man at the same time?

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b. If your aim is to please God, is it still possible to occasionally please man? Share your thoughts.

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c. If your aim is to please man, is it still possible to please God? Why or why not?

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- d. What do you sense God wants from you in this particular season of life? What do rest, obedience, service, and freedom look like in light of His invitation to *you*?

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4. Read Proverbs 29:25 and answer the following questions:

- a. What are some signs that a person may be ensnared by the opinions of others? Why is the fear of man such a trap?

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- b. If we walk in the fear of the Lord, people will still have negative opinions of us; we'll still disappoint them on occasion. So what does it mean that to fear the Lord is freedom and safety for us amidst the occasional relational conflict and frustration? Explain.

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- c. Who do you know has a healthy fear of the Lord, a healthy love for others, and a healthy sense of their own identity? Describe what you most admire about that person.

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5. Read Psalm 56:11 and answer the following questions:

- a. I struggled with this verse for a long time because the truth is that we as human beings can do terrible things to each other. So what do we make of this verse? What's the promise to us in this passage?

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- b. We have plenty of reasons to fear, but God invites us not only to trust Him, but to also let go of our fear. Can you think of a time when you had a legitimate opportunity to fear what man could do to you (reject you, expose you, fire you, etc.) and you chose to trust God? How did it turn out?

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- c. As I get older, I'm learning how deeply and powerfully faithful God is (and how feeble and fickle we as humans can be). I know when it's all said and done, I'll wish I had trusted Him more. How about you? Write out a prayer declaring God to be your faithful, powerful provider and protector. Let Him know how much you love and trust Him.

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*Precious Lord,*

*You are all I need. You are more than enough for me! I worship You this day! I lift You up and put You in Your proper place—high above the opinions of man, high above my opinions of myself—and I declare once again that You, O God, are the Lord of my life. Forgive me for my feeble attempts to manage my image and my identity. Forgive me for giving away time in effort to manage others' opinions of me. You gave me gifts and time to steward for Your kingdom purposes. I ask You, Lord, heal me in the deepest places of my soul. Give me a fresh revelation of Your great love for me. Help me to know it from the top of my head to the tips of my toes. May I be so acquainted with how You feel about me that it puts joy in my heart and a spring in my step. May holy confidence and humble dependence mark my life in every way. Father, do such a deep work in me that when others encounter me, they encounter You. Thank You for loving me like You do. Help me to live like the heir I am. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.*

## Chapter Seven

# Do You See What He Sees?

*Say Yes to Your Worth*

*Imagine Jesus, up close and personal, with His arm around you, taking you through your story. He's intimately familiar with and involved in every detail of your life.*

### Study Questions

1. Read Psalm 34:4–5 and answer the following questions:
  - a. Can you think of a time when you cried out to God because you worried or were afraid? How did He answer you?

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- b. Have you ever considered earnestly seeking God for a fresh perspective on how He sees you? Why or why not?

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- c. Why is it important that we see ourselves from His perspective? What's the impact if we do? What's the impact if we don't?

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- d. The second part of this Bible passage speaks of how God's presence in us and His affection for us impacts our countenance. Do you know someone whose face shines because of God's love for them? What's different about them?

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- e. Imagine yourself full of holy confidence and humble dependence. Picture yourself with a bright countenance and a confident heart. Write out a prayer in which you ask God to awaken you to fresh revelation of His love for you. Ask Him to widen the gap between how others affect you and how He affects you.

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2. Read Psalm 33:16–18 and answer the following questions:

- a. We tend to put our hope in our material possessions or physical ability, but as this passage reads, those things can only take us so far. In what ways have you seen or experienced the limits of your finances, physical ability, and health?

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- b. What does it mean to *fear the Lord*, and why would that be a place of safety?

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- c. Why do you suppose God gives extra time and attention to those who fear Him? How do you suppose that changes things not only in the heavenly realm but also in our everyday lives?

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- d. On a practical level, what does it look like to put our hope in God's unfailing love—especially as it relates to our value and worth?

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- e. In what practical ways do you engage your faith and put your hope in His love? What does that look like for you? Does it impact your perspective of yourself?

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3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:12 and answer the following questions:

- a. Pause for a moment and reflect on the fact that most of what we feel (our emotions) results from what we see (our dim perspective). Consider what information shapes your perspective the most. The majority of us rely heavily on what our eyes see until crisis hits and then we shift our weight onto what Scripture says. In what area of life is God asking you to trust Him more than what your eyes see at the moment?

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- b. “Ancient mirrors, which were manufactured in Corinth, were made of metal and gave dim reflections, an illustration of our imperfect knowledge during this age. But knowledge will be full and instantaneous in the future state of glory.”<sup>2</sup> For a brief moment, consider all of the times you reacted to what turned out to be a wrong perspective. You may need help on this question: In what ways might you have a distorted view of yourself? Ask those who love you for some insight on this one.

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- c. One day we’ll see clearly and know things fully, even as we’re fully known. Right now, you see dimly, but God sees clearly. Are you ready to shift your perspective and belief system to His perspective? Can you trust that He is right about you? Write out a prayer telling the Lord that you trust Him, and that you’ll keep trusting Him until you see Him face to face. This isn’t to say you won’t forget who you are at times, but when you do forget, come back and read chapter 7 in *Your Sacred Yes* again.

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2 — Study Note on 1 Corinthians 13:12 in *NKJV New Spirit-Filled Life Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2013), 1599.



4. Read 2 Corinthians 3:4–6 and answer the following questions:

- a. Think again about our tendency to put confidence in ourselves and in our own abilities. Scripture calls us to live with eternity in mind, and yet it also tells us that our best efforts are like filthy rags. So the only way to live a redemptive life, in which our acts of faith echo into eternity, is to put our sole hope in God, to walk in faith, and to draw all of our confidence from His strength, which works mightily within us. Let's look at this passage in light of our true value and worth. We as human beings tend to rely too heavily on our efforts to validate ourselves; and some of us let go of our worth when our outer appearance misses the mark. Do you see how either way we're putting too much confidence in the flesh to save and validate us? How can you more deeply engage your faith to believe in your heavenly worth and that you have a very important mission during your time on earth? What has to change in your perspective for you to believe that truth?

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- b. Verse 6 says that God has made us competent ministers of the new covenant. Again, we're not qualified or validated by the law or by our ability to keep the law. We are qualified and equipped by the Spirit of the Living God within us. Do you believe that? It's the Word of God. It's true! Write out a declaration prayer, stating who you are in Christ, and that He has equipped you to be mighty in God and powerful in Him!

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5. Let's read 2 Corinthians 3:18 in the NKJV: "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."<sup>3</sup> Now answer the following questions:
- a. Imagine this for a moment: As we behold God's glory and take it in to the point that it seeps into the depths of our souls, we begin to see ourselves as He sees us. As we behold Him, we begin to see our truest selves. We are literally transformed before our very eyes. Take a moment to pause, pray, and express your thanks to God, just for who He is.

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- b. The goal in this chapter is to take in the wonder of God's involvement in our lives with ever-increasing intensity and consistency, and to see our true worth from His clear and accurate perspective of us. Have you noticed how often you reflect what you behold? If you focus too long on your physical flaws, you'll mistakenly believe everyone else who has what you do not. If you are overweight or underemployed, overtired or underjoyed, and you stare too long at your heartbreak and disappointment, you'll notice every other person who seems to have what you don't. But as you look to the Lord and His strength, as you listen to what He says about your life, you'll start to see the treasure in your life and in your story. He knew exactly what He was doing when He made you. You're someone He loves. What practical steps can you take to change your perspective of your value and your life?

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3 — New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

- c. Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to open your eyes and awaken your heart to the wonder of who you are.

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*Precious Lord,*

*Help me to grasp the awesome truth about who I am! Awaken my heart to the artistry You intended when You made me. Forgive me for the countless times I've altogether missed what You've entrusted to me. You've given me life, the treasure of today, and gifts to share with a world in need. I'm so sorry that I've allowed unbelief and insecurity to drive me to say yes for all the wrong reasons. I will no longer live to please others or squander my precious time to manage others' opinions of me. You paid a huge price for my freedom, which means I'm no longer a slave to the opinions of others. Help me to live, breathe, and embrace life like the child of God I am. I'm anchored to You, and You to me. Upward and forward I go because You love me. Thank You, Lord. Amen.*

## Chapter Eight

# There's Freedom in God's Yes

### *Say Yes to God's Best*

*Do you dare to trust Him? Will you say yes to the invitation to “be much” with God no matter what others think about the way you follow Him? Every single time you trust Him, every yes you give Him, changes you.*

### Study Questions

1. Read Galatians 1:3 and answer the following questions:
  - a. Notice how Paul opens his greeting with these two words: *Grace* and *Peace*. Write down your best description of these two words.

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- b. Imagine if you offered your yes to others only when grace and peace accompanied those decisions. Would your calendar look different than it does now? Explain.

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- c. Grace and peace come from the Lord. Galatians 1:4 explains how and why we have continual access to grace and peace no matter what we're going through. In your own words, explain the connection between Christ's sacrifice and our freedom (freedom to enjoy grace, peace, acceptance, etc.).

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2. Read Galatians 1:10 and answer the following questions:

- a. When we seek to please God (over man), we sometimes end up pleasing man as a by-product. Why are we unable to please God if our goal is to please man? Give your best answer.

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- b. Are there certain aspects of your life where you feel less free to say no even if God asks it of you?

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- c. Spend some time with the Lord. Ask Him to show you if there's a lie holding you captive or a fear holding you back. Ask Him what freedom looks like. Ask Him to give you wisdom in your next steps related to that area of your life and the people involved.

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3. Read 2 Corinthians 4:6 and answer the following questions:

- a. Think about this passage for a moment. The unbelieving world has limited understanding of God's higher ways. But God shines His light in *your* heart, His glory through *your* life. In the most practical way, how do you live differently because of God's revelatory wisdom and direction in your life? What unnecessary pain do you avoid because you heed His direction and obey His voice?

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- b. Are there certain areas of your life that you've kept off limits to Him? Are there areas of struggle or indulgence that you keep hidden in the dark because you like it that way? Be honest as possible right here. Ask the Lord to help you answer this question: What's the lie that you believe to be true?

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c. What *invitation* does God have for you here? Write it down.

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4. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7 and answer the following questions:

a. Though we are masterpieces, we live in these earthen vessels. Why do we need the continual reminder that the power God displays in and through us originates from Him and not us?

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b. Does the idea of God's power at work in you comfort you or unsettle you? Explain.

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- c. When people walk in the abundance of God, you'll rarely hear them marvel over their own abilities. The bigger the fruit, the smaller they get and the greater they realize that God is. Going deeper with God involves a deeper measure of surrender from you. Can you hear God's invitation to loosen your white-knuckle grip on something and trust Him? Write out a prayer and ask God for freedom, power, grace, and peace to follow His lead.

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5. We'll unpack this verse more significantly in chapter 11, but for now, read 2 Timothy 1:7 and answer the following questions:
- a. Have you considered that fear isn't just an emotion we feel? It can also be a spiritual attack to bully us out of obedience. Ask around (pastors, friends, Bible teachers) and then give your best description of a "spirit of fear."

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- b. God hasn't given us a spirit of fear; He's given us *power*. How does the reality of God's power—available to us—change things for us as believers? What impact does the power of God have on your life?

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- c. God hasn't given us a spirit of fear; He's given us *love*. How does God's love beating in our hearts affect our approach to life and even our time commitments?

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- d. God hasn't given us a spirit of fear; He's given us a *sound mind* (another translation reads: *self-discipline*). How do a sound mind and self-discipline impact the way we live, especially when they're born out of God's Spirit in us (and not from our own striving efforts)? What's the difference between striving discipline and divinely empowered discipline?

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- e. Imagine if you insisted that grace and peace accompany your decision-making process. Imagine if every time you were faced with a life-draining obligation you used your authority in Christ to put fear under your feet and to employ the power, love, and sound mind Christ has made available to you. What if you made choices and commitments from a redeemed mindset? How different would your life be? How different would your calendar look? How different would your sense of identity be? May the Lord help us all to walk in such power.

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*Precious Lord,*

*O, how You love me! Fill me with the passion and the power of the Holy Spirit. Awaken me to my divine and royal status in You. Lord, I believe what You say about me. But when I falter, help me in my unbelief. Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I. Open my eyes to the wonder of Your love, the promise of Your provision, and the power of Your promises. I want to live and breathe and serve and give as one who is spoken for. I put the fear of man under my feet and I embrace a holy reverence for You, O God. There is no one like You, Lord. You created the heavens and the earth, and You created me. Help me to live free, full of grace, abounding in love, and spilling over hope to everyone I meet. I'm not who I was. I'm not what I do. I'm someone You dearly love. May every single step I take on this earth reveal a growing knowledge of who I am in You. Thank You for taking me in and for redeeming my story. You are everything to me. Amen.*

# Section Three: The Sacred Yes



## Chapter Nine

# When God Redirects

## *Say Yes to Necessary Change*

*Are we aware of how sacred and precious our time, talents, and gifts are?*

*Do we live out of the divine supply God has offered us?*

*Do we keep heaven busy with our prayers? Does heaven move because of our claim on God's promises?*

### Study Questions

1. Let's revisit 1 Corinthians 13:12 one more time and then answer the following questions:
  - a. This verse reminds us that we don't see with absolute clarity with our earthly eyes. We may have 20/20 vision; even so, our earthly circumstances do not give us the full picture of what's most important in our lives. Read the following words from William MacDonald: "As long as we are on earth, we see things dimly and indistinctly, as if we were looking in a blurry mirror. Heaven, by contrast, will be like seeing things face to face, i.e., without anything between to obscure the vision. Now our knowledge is partial, but then we shall know just as we are also known."<sup>4</sup> Is there a perspective you've held tightly to that you might be wrong about (e.g. your identity, someone's motives, your expectations)?

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<sup>4</sup> — William MacDonald, *Believer's Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1990), 1797.

- b. Look at verse 12 again and ask the Lord to show you what circumstances in your life are actually different than you perceive them to be. Write down your thoughts.

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- c. Consider the notion that though you see as in a glass dimly, God sees you and your life with absolute clarity. You're fully known. How does that truth impact your own perspective on your life? Write down your thoughts.

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- d. Remember, one day you'll see things for what they are, and you'll grasp more significantly how important your faith is here on earth. In what ways can you more deeply engage your faith and thus live more by what God's promises say than what your eyes see?

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2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:13 and then answer the following questions:
- Describe faith, hope, and love in your own words.

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- Why do you suppose—when all is said and done—these three remain? What is it about these three that defy the gravity of our earthbound perspective?

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3. Read the NIV version of 1 Thessalonians 1:2–3: “We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Notice the words *faith*, *hope*, and *love* in this passage. Let’s look at these three statements, one at a time: *Work produced by faith*. In what ways have you engaged your faith with the work God has given you to do? In other words, when you give God your offering of work, in what ways do you ask Him to use, bless, or multiply your efforts (e.g., parenting, finances, relationships, employment, ministry)?

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- b. Let's look at the next statement: *Labor prompted by love*. Think about it for a moment. Love compels us to sacrificially give and serve in ways that sometimes cost us. In what ways has your love (and God's love) compelled you to dig deep and give in ways that feel beyond you at times?

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- c. Let's look at the final statement in this passage: *Endurance inspired by hope*. Pause for a moment and consider how and why hope inspires us to endure. Scripture says that hope does not disappoint (see Romans 5:5). We can hope for certain outcomes and end up sorely disappointed. But *hope in God* will never disappoint. How has your own hope in God's promises inspired you to endure through a tough circumstance? Explain.

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4. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16–17 and answer the following questions:

- a. In my own life, as I've noticed my outward appearance changing with age, I'm tempted to strive and strain to slow down the aging process. I still think it's beneficial to eat healthy and exercise. But if we put half of the energy we put into outward appearances into caring for our soul and nourishing our inward life, we'd more easily grasp our beauty and our strength. Do the majority of your thoughts and attention go to your outward appearance or your inward reality? What is God saying to you about this balance these days?

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- b. Think about what it means to be inwardly renewed day by day. How does that process of daily renewal change a person's life over time? In a few sentences, explain the miracle of inward change and renewal in a person's life.

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- c. Read verse 17 again and, in your own words, explain how our current troubles can achieve for us a glory that far outweighs the weight of our sorrow. How do our troubles translate to glory?

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- d. Dr. Warren Wiersbe writes this about suffering: “Of itself, suffering will not make us holier men and women. Unless we yield to the Lord, turn to His Word, and trust Him to work, our suffering could make us far worse Christians. In my own pastoral ministry, I have seen some of God’s people grow critical and bitter, and go from bad to worse instead of ‘from glory to glory.’”<sup>5</sup> Sometimes, no matter how hard we look with our earthly eyes, we can’t see the good that has come out of some of our hardships. Is there a particular hardship that you need God’s perspective on? Pray and ask God to show it to you. Write down any insights.

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- e. What’s the sticking point here? Why are some Christians hardened by their troubles where others are both tenderized and strengthened by their hardships?

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5 — Warren Wiersbe, *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2007), 514–515.

5. Read 2 Corinthians 4:18 and answer the following questions:

- a. When Scripture calls us to “fix our eyes on what is unseen” and to “fix our eyes on Jesus,” what does that look like in a practical sense? We can’t go through life pretending our earthly circumstances don’t exist. So how do we navigate life on earth while keeping an otherworldly perspective?

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- b. What “thin veil” moments have reminded you that you’re not made for this world?

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- c. How has God used those experiences to change your course or your perspective?

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- d. Do you sense God asking you to more intentionally engage your faith in a specific area of life? Write out a prayer asking the Lord to help you do just that.

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*Precious Lord,*

*Teach me to number my days, that I may grow in the knowledge of You and gain a heart of wisdom! May Your love abound in me more and more. May I increase daily in all wisdom, knowledge, and depth of insight. May I understand the times and know what to do. Help me to highly discern Your will and Your ways that I may live daily in step with You. Open my spirit-eyes and help me to redeem my moments for eternity. May I be fully aware of Your movement in and all around me. I want to be sensitive to Your nudges to move on when You tell me to, and I want to trust You when You call me to stay. You know what's best for me and I trust You with my whole heart. Fill me afresh with the wonder of Your love and the power of Your Name. Help me to be the anointed, appointed child of God You always intended me to be. In Your precious name I pray. Amen.*

## Chapter Ten

# Simple Sacred Steps

### *Say Yes to Divine Momentum*

*Walking in God's yes for us calls for diligence with the things that matter if we truly want to abound in every good thing God has for us.*

#### **Study Questions**

1. Let's revisit Romans 12:1 again and answer the following questions:
  - a. Scripture says here that *in view of God's mercy*, offer your body as a living sacrifice. What is it about God's mercy that compels us to offer all of who we are to Him?

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- b. Step back and remember some of the moments in the past few days when you entrusted yourself to the Lord. Now imagine God's pleasure and His smile. Your offering is holy, acceptable, pleasing, and even an act of worship—when you pray instead of worry; when you're kind instead of cruel; when you love even though you feel overlooked. All of these gestures of faith are stunning to God. Write down your thoughts on God's perspective of your offerings of faith.

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2. Consider the invitation from Scripture to renew your mind (see Romans 12:2), and answer the following questions:
- a. Have you ever engaged with God to renovate your thought life? It takes initiative on our part, but God promises to empower us! Ask the Lord how He wants to upgrade your perspective and renew your mindset. Write down the insights He shows you and revisit them during your prayer times with Him.

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- b. Battles are first won or lost in the mind. That's where sin is conceived, doubt is born, fear takes hold, and grudges flourish. Read this study note to the NKJV translation and consider if certain repetitive thoughts have held you back, negatively impacted your actions, or hindered your forward moving progress: "Our actions become character-determining habits, shaping the life and setting the course for the future. The path to godly living is not complicated, nor is it energized by the flesh, but it does call the believer to willing submission to the Father's provision and ways."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> — Study note on Romans 12:2 in *NKJV New Spirit-Filled Life Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2013), 1569.

3. Just as righteous choices create a powerful momentum in our lives, so do rotten choices. Read 2 Timothy 3:1–5 and answer the following questions:

- a. Without naming names, can you think of a few people in your life who may be as gifted as the day is long but their spiritual progress is bogged down by one of these: lack of self control, unforgiveness, pride, ingratitude, or indulgence? Why and how do these things slow us down?

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- b. Can you identify any of these things in your own life? Maybe they're glaringly obvious, or maybe they're subtler. Ask the Lord to show you anything in your life that slows down your spiritual progress.

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4. Read Psalm 139:23–24 and answer the following questions:

- a. How do anxious thoughts interrupt the momentum in our lives?

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b. When we ask the Lord to lead us in His everlasting way, what does that mean to you?

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(Optional extra Scripture study): Read the following verses on *diligence* and write down the benefits of diligence (and the price we pay when we lack diligence):

- Proverbs 21:5
- Proverbs 12:14
- Proverbs 14:23
- Deuteronomy 4:9
- Proverbs 31:17
- 1 Timothy 4:14–16
- 2 Peter 1:10
- Galatians 6:9
- Proverbs 4:23
- Philippians 3:14
- Hebrews 6:10–11

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*Precious Lord,*

*Ignite a powerful, spiritual momentum in my life! Increase my capacity for You! Help me to grow in my knowledge and comprehension of Your Word. Empower me to pray with bold conviction and to speak with holy precision. Awaken my heart to love what You love and to see what You see. Help me to be consistent with the things that matter most in my life. Motivate me to steward the gifts and opportunities You've set before me. May I abound in love and increase daily in all wisdom, knowledge, and depth of insight. May I understand the times and know what to do. Surround me with Your favor as with a shield. Tuck me in the shadow of Your wing—teach me to dwell there, to live from that place of power and protection. May Your favor matter far more to me than man's opinion. Teach me Your way that I might walk the high path You've established for me. More, more, more of You in me, on me, and through me, Lord! My soul waits for You. Amen.*



## Chapter Eleven

# Stand in Power

*Say Yes to Your God-Given Influence*

*If the power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in us right now,  
how different should our lives be from those with no Spirit-life  
in their souls?*

### Study Questions

1. Read 2 Peter 1:3–4 and answer the following questions:
  - a. What has God's divine power given us?

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- b. We grow in our understanding of what He's offered us through our increasing knowledge of Him. How do we grow in the knowledge of God?

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c. He gave us His *great* and *precious* promises for two reasons. What are they?

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d. Our only hope for escaping the corruption all around us is to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. Take a moment and prayerfully ask God if there are any open doors in your life that allow the enemy access to you and all you love. Do the next thing God tells you to do.

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2. Read 1 Corinthians 4:20 and answer the following questions:

a. What happens when the kingdom of God is reduced to only talk?

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- b. When Scripture says that the kingdom is also a matter of power, what does that mean to you?

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- c. In what ways do you long to see Him move powerfully in your life, and even in the world, today? Pray accordingly.

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3. Read Psalm 77:13–14 and answer the following questions:

- a. What does holiness mean to you?

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b. What makes God great—high above all other Gods?

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c. He is still the God who performs miracles. He still displays His power. Pause and ask God for a fresh gift of faith and a fresh vision for how He wants to use *you* in our day.

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4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18 and answer the following questions:

a. What about the gospel seems foolish to those who do not understand it?

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- b. How often do you find yourself avoiding conversations that center around your Christian faith because they make you feel uncomfortable? What's the issue for you? (No condemnation here. Most of us deal with this to some degree.)

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- c. This passage reminds us that it's the power of the cross that redeems us. It's the living proof that Jesus rose from the dead and gave us the Holy Spirit as a seal that supernaturally changes a person inside and out. Yet so often we'll share about other benefits of Christianity before we'll talk about Jesus. Why do you suppose that is?

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- d. Who do you know has been most radically impacted by Jesus' love and saving grace? What about their lives most stands out to you?

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5. Let's look again at 2 Corinthians 4:7 and answer the following questions:

- a. It's good for us to take care of ourselves, to work diligently, and to improve our craft—whatever that may be. But when it's all said and done, we're still fragile jars of clay. How does that reminder impact you?

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- b. Do you see your weaknesses as an opportunity to encounter God's strength in your life? Or are you still mostly bothered by your weaknesses?

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- c. Take a moment and prayerfully engage your faith with regards to both your strengths and your weaknesses. Ask the Lord to protect you from both pride and despair. Ask Him to fill you with an increased sense of His presence and protection in your life.

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- d. If we engage our faith and believe God's Word, we will see Him accomplish things that we could never achieve on our own. Write out a prayer asking God to do the impossible in and through you.

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*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me!*

*Put me right where I'm thinking wrong. Fan the flame within me, Lord!*

*Release in me a fresh revelation of Your power and Your love. Open my eyes to see You at work everywhere I go. Awaken me to the overwhelming wonder of Your grace and mercy for everyone I meet. Teach me more about the authority I have in You. Help me to walk, talk, and pray with boldness and courage, authority and strength, humility and hope. Forgive me for the land I've handed over to the enemy because of my own unbelief. Help me to reclaim what the enemy has stolen from me. Help me to stand in the gap for those who cannot defend themselves. Help me to reject any notion of inferiority and insecurity. They're NOT from You so they don't belong in me! Fill me once again with the knowledge of Your will. May Your peace be my guide so that every step I take and every commitment I make is prompted by Your direction in my life. I am Yours and You are mine. Thank You, Lord, for making me an heir. Help me to live up to my high privilege and calling. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.*

## Chapter Twelve

# Closing Thoughts

### *Say Yes to a Life That Counts*

*We have today. We don't know about tomorrow. So this moment? This gift from God? May we open our hands and offer it back to Jesus. May we live, move, and find our lives completely and profoundly in Him.*

There are no Bible study questions for this chapter, just this closing prayer and blessing:

*Precious Lord,*

*With my arms open wide and my heart set on You, I ask, dear Lord, fill me anew with the power and presence of Your Holy Spirit! Fill me up and pour me out! Give me bold, audacious faith that I might dare to ask You for the impossible! Awaken my heart toward the things You care about so that Your kingdom becomes my highest concern. Fan the flame of generosity within me that I may give away record amounts in this coming year. I want to participate in Your kingdom story with every aspect of my life. I am called, loved, chosen, equipped, and empowered to live a life far beyond my own abilities. I have access to all of the riches of heaven, so I boldly lay hold of them for Your namesake, O Lord. Give me eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to do Your will. Lift the grace for every lesser thing in my life. Help me lose my taste for the things that weaken me and diminish my influence. May Your Word come alive to me like it never has before! May I rightly handle Your Word, preach it with boldness, and believe it with every ounce of faith You give me. Awaken me to a whole new level of generous giving and generous living. I want to see miracles in my life and in this world. Here I am, Lord. In me and through me, glorify Your name. Amen.*

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be firm (steadfast), immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord [always being superior, excelling, doing more than enough in the service of the Lord], knowing *and* being continually aware that your labor in the Lord is not futile [it is never wasted or to no purpose].

1 Corinthians 15:58 AMP<sup>7</sup>

Wow. What an honor it's been to make this journey with you! May you continue to walk in the Lord's presence as you live here on earth (Psalm 116:9). And may you live and breathe and serve and give for an audience of One.

Until we meet again,  
Susie Larson

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