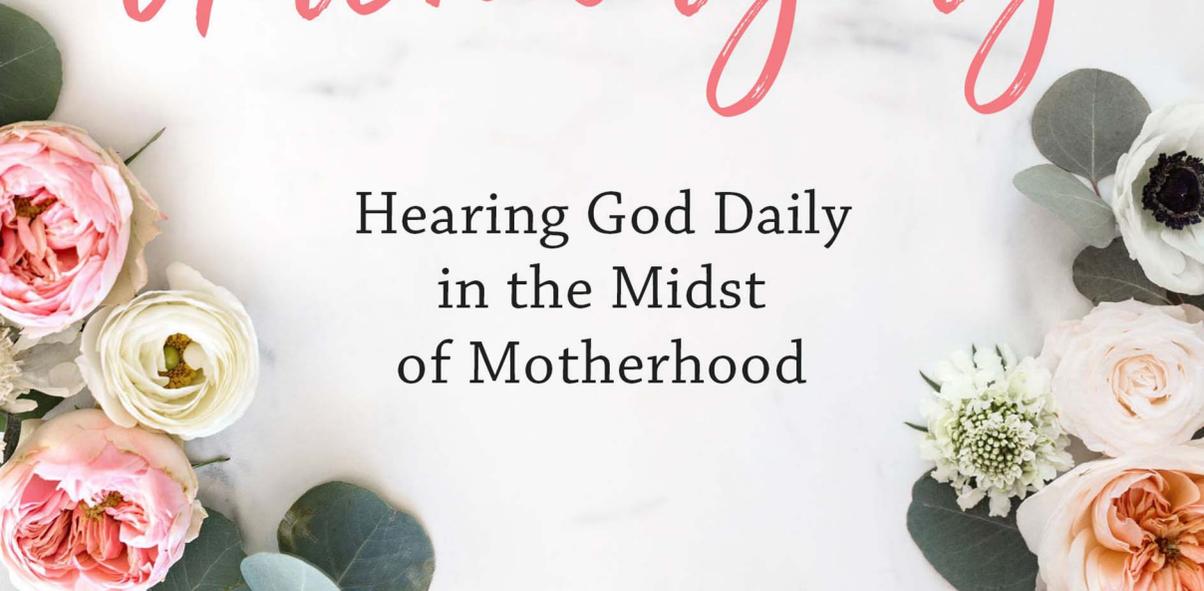


BECKY
THOMPSON

Author of *Hope Unfolding*

Truth
Unchanging

Hearing God Daily
in the Midst
of Motherhood



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To You, Momma, Before We Begin

Whenever mom friends of mine find the time to read a book, I want to celebrate with them. So let's start there. Look at you! You're making time to do something for yourself. I hope the room is quiet and you're alone, but the reality is your kids might be climbing all over you as you read this. Who knows, maybe you dropped this book onto your passenger seat and you're reading in the school pickup line. Maybe your kids are napping or we're starting the day together before your family wakes up. Or maybe, just maybe, it's the end of the day and you have been looking forward to this alone time since about 2:00 p.m.

I don't know what your moment looks like right now, but I am sure of two things: God is with you as you read, and He desires to speak to you in the pages ahead.

So before we go on, we need to do this very important thing together. Okay. Take a deep breath, and then listen. Take in the sounds of your surroundings. Listen to your home. Listen to the room. Listen to the cars outside, the kids playing, the sounds coming from the baby monitor, the TV, the washing machine running in the background. Whatever noise is around you, just listen to it. I'll wait.

Motherhood is often noisy. It might not be insanely noisy all the time, but as moms our lives are rarely silent.

To You, Momma, Before We Begin

As a matter of fact, unless everyone is asleep, silence is how we know that our children are up to no good. When you're a mom, silence isn't golden. It's suspicious.

But in this moment, I don't want you to just focus on the noise around you. We often try to tune it out anyway. I want you to pay careful attention to the noise within you. That noise often goes unaddressed, but the silent roar of our own thoughts can be overwhelming. It's a mental din of to-do lists and anxieties and possible outcomes for every situation we're facing. We're making notes of what we need to buy or whom we need to contact or what bill we need to pay. We're wondering if our children are on track developmentally, if they're okay, and if they're becoming good people. We are thinking about marriage and money and mothering. We're wondering if we really are doing as badly as we feel like we are some days.

Our thoughts within us can be just as loud as the noise around us, but they are often harder to silence. So before we continue, I want to you to take another deep breath. We are going to quiet our thoughts.

Let's focus our hearts and minds on what God might be speaking to us right now. Let's silence the space within us to make room for the voice of the Lord. Let's pray this simple prayer together.

Mind, focus. Anxieties, go. Heart, open. Lord, come. We desire to meet with You, God. In Jesus's name we come before You. Amen.

Here is some good news before we begin. God wants to speak to His people. Throughout Scripture, God has proven His desire to speak to those He loves. That includes us!

In the beginning, God spoke and formed the world. He spoke to the first man and woman He had created in His image. He taught and led them, and

they followed His instructions. Later, when they were separated from Him, His voice pointed to His rescue plan for humanity through the prophets.

God spoke to us through His Son, Jesus, when He came as the Redeemer, making a way for us to have a personal relationship with the Father again. Now the Lord speaks to us through His completed Word and His Holy Spirit, who lives within us, guiding us throughout our lives.

Through God's written Word we learn to recognize the voice of the Lord and the character and nature of our heavenly Father. As we spend time reading, the Holy Spirit reveals the meaning and application of God's Truth, found in Scripture, in our lives. But an incredible thing takes place when we spend time listening to the Holy Spirit as we read God's Word. Our hearts begin to identify God's voice speaking to us in our daily lives.

Just before Jesus went to the cross, He told His friends in John 16:12–14, “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.”

This Holy Spirit is the one who continues to lead us throughout our daily lives, revealing to us the heart and direction of the Father. His voice doesn't always come audibly. Sometimes, we have a feeling. Sometimes, God even speaks to us through a trusted friend, who calls to remind us that we are loved, at the moment we needed to hear it most. But so many of us don't think of these promptings as the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us. So we become fooled into thinking that God speaks to everyone but us. We get tricked by our Enemy into believing that we don't personally know the voice of our Lord.

To You, Momma, Before We Begin

So as moms, how can we tune our hearts to God's voice when our surroundings and our own thoughts can be so noisy? How do we maintain communication with our invisible God when the rush of life means that it's not always possible to have conversations with the people we can see right in front of us? And how can we be certain that what we hear or feel is even the voice of the Lord leading us?

In the pages ahead, we will answer these questions and more. We will go back to the very beginning of Scripture and walk our way through the Word to look at specific moments when God spoke to His people and then listen for what God is saying to us in each story. As we read the words that God has spoken to His people in the past, we will become increasingly familiar with His voice of Truth that continues to speak into our lives today.

I know your life might be in a constant state of change and growth. I know you might feel you are always on the move, keeping up with growing kids and busy schedules, rushing and going and never stopping to rest. But I also know that you desire to be led by God and that's why you're reading these words right now. So, as we spend just a few minutes together each day listening for the voice of God in our lives, I believe that the Lord will meet with us. And we will celebrate that He has been with us all along, leading us by His Holy Spirit and His unchanging Truth.

Becky



I Love Talking to You

God Speaks to Adam and Eve in the Garden

Genesis 1

There is a famous picture of Jesus that hangs in just about every small church in Oklahoma. I bet you have seen it too. It's a portrait of Jesus with soft light-brown hair and a trimmed beard, looking up toward heaven. This guy looks quiet. He looks like the type of man who would walk into a room and sit silently, not speaking but just taking it all in. You know—pensive Jesus.

The thing is, whether or not we've ever seen that particular picture of Jesus hanging on the wall, many of us picture Jesus with the same quiet demeanor in our hearts. Many of us have been taught to remember that He is always in the room with us, but we don't usually imagine Him walking around talking to us in that room.

What if He is? What if we've forgotten that Jesus was a storyteller who loved to sit around the fire and talk with His friends. What if instead of imagining Him looking upward toward the heavens with perfectly combed hair, we imagined a friend standing in our kitchen while we washed dishes or sitting in the passenger seat while we ran errands? What if instead of calling our best friends or our moms or our mentors, we started a conversation with Jesus in the middle of the day? While it might sound strange, that's the type of relationship that

God intended for us to have when He originally created us.

Let's go back to the Garden of Eden. God spoke the world into existence. He created everything with His voice, by the power of His word. And then, Scripture says, God had a conversation with Himself. I imagine the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit standing in heaven saying these recorded words, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness."¹ So He did.

God made man and woman and then placed them in a perfect garden and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."²

Look at what we just read. God designed humanity with the ability to hear His voice and respond to His commands. God created us to be in communication with Him.

So my question is this: Why would we ever dare to believe that the same God who spoke the world into existence, who says in His Word that He "is the same yesterday and today and forever,"³ suddenly decided to stop talking? We often imagine a conversation with the Lord being very one sided. We speak. He listens. Occasionally, He answers. But the Truth is, God started His conversation with His creation in the garden, and our hearts still crave this type of relationship with Him.

The good news for us is that God still speaks to us today, and as we listen, I believe He is always reminding our hearts, "*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them.*"⁴ *I know you. I made you and I love you. I want to lead you, love you, and let you in on the secrets of My heart. This conversation was My idea. You were designed to be in communication with Me. My Word is alive and active. It is living. Read My Word anytime You want to hear My voice, but as you do,*

I Love Talking to You

listen closely. Because I reveal throughout My Word that I speak to the hearts of My people in many different ways. Let's talk. I'm free anytime you are.⁵

What kind of relationship would we have with the Lord if we started to have conversations with the living God? What would our mothering look like if we remembered that we had unlimited access to a parent's greatest resource? God is ready to reveal His Truth; we just need to tune our hearts to His voice.

Lord, thank You for being the God who desires to talk to us. We value Your written Word. Through Your Word, we know what You say and what You sound like when You speak to us. Help us hear Your voice speaking to us throughout the day. Change the images we have of You in our hearts if they are not accurate representations of who You really are. Help us get to know You so personally, God. Give us ears to hear Your Truth. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.



You Heard Me

God Gives the First Instructions

Genesis 3

It was a beautiful morning in southern California. We had been living in our new rental house for about six weeks, and I decided that I would take my youngest two out to find the local library while my oldest was in school.

On our way out the door, I thought, *I need to run a load of towels through the washing machine. I'll just throw those in, and they'll be ready to dry when we get home in an hour or so.*

But as I walked into the laundry room, I had this unusual thought: *I shouldn't run the washing machine while I'm away from the house.*

It was so strange, because I've left the house while the washing machine was running hundreds of times in my life. *Nah. It's fine. What could happen?* I thought. I grabbed the towels from the basket and threw them in, then added some detergent and started the cycle.

I had no idea that the hose that connects the washing machine to the drain would come loose and pour gallons of water all over the house. Or that water would flood into the kitchen and the garage and the hallway into the bedroom. Or that it would soak the carpet and cause such a huge mess. But God knew.

Here's the thing. When God speaks to us, it doesn't always make sense from

our perspective. We might even ignore it. But this place of uncertainty is where the Enemy sneaks in.

The first attack on the hearts of humanity was an attack against the voice of the Lord and our ability to hear and understand Him correctly.

After God made the garden and placed Adam and Eve in it, He gave them specific instructions. He told them they could eat from any tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God said, “Don’t eat this fruit because then you will know both good and evil. You will become unlike God, and then you will know what it means to be unlike God.” So, very simple directions. Hard to miss if you ask me.

But one day, Adam and Eve walked a little too close to that particular tree. Scripture says that the snake (our Enemy) was crafty, and from the tree he asked Eve, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”⁶

Eve knew the answer. She replied, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”⁷

But the snake went on to cause her to doubt. He made her question.

And do you know, he tries to get us to fall for the same thing Eve did. It is his oldest tactic to pull our hearts away from Truth by asking us, “Did God really say? Did you really hear God say that? Are you sure? Do you really hear the voice of the Lord?” And we begin to wonder . . . *Did He?*

The promptings of God in our life, like “*Don’t run the washing machine when you’re away,*” or “*Encourage that other mom in the store,*” or “*Throw an extra change of clothes into the diaper bag*” don’t come with the same kind of consequence that Adam and Eve experienced when they ate the forbidden fruit. But they are still important to follow.

You Heard Me

Each instruction that God gives us is calling us down the best path to our future. It's not uncommon for God's people to wonder if those little nudges are really from the Lord, but the beautiful truth is, the more we respond to these promptings, even when we don't understand them, the more we will train our hearts to listen for God's loving direction in all situations.

Today, I believe the Lord is reminding us, *I told you what to do because I love you. Trust that you hear Me. You know My voice. Lean into the leading. When the Enemy would try to create doubt or confusion, cling to My Truth. It might not make sense, but I have a purpose.*

Lord, we were created to trust You. Like Eve, we were designed to know You and Your voice. I pray that we would not fall victim to the same lies Eve fell for. Help us stay rooted in Truth. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.



Who Told You That You Needed to Hide?

God Calls to Adam and Eve in the Garden

Genesis 3

He was sitting behind the couch, doing his best not to be found, and he was doing a good job of it. I knew my youngest son, Jaxton, who was three at the time, had been playing in the craft supplies. He knew which ones he was allowed to touch and which ones he was supposed to leave alone. As I cleaned the house and made my way past him a few times, I saw that he was minding and was sticking to the crayons and stickers mostly. But when I came back through the living room with a load of laundry and he wasn't where he had been, I called out to him.

No answer.

I looked for him in all the usual places, and I started to get a little worried when he wasn't in any of them. I called louder, "Jaxton! Jax! Buddy! You're not in trouble! Where are you!?" That's when I noticed that the couch was pushed slightly forward from the wall. I leaned over the top and peeked down at him.

"Why are you hiding from Momma?" I asked. I looked around the room for a clue to tell me what might be wrong. Other than the usual mess, nothing

Who Told You That You Needed to Hide?

seemed out of the ordinary. “Come here. You’re not in trouble,” I offered as I helped him out from behind the couch and onto my lap. “Did you play with something you shouldn’t have?”

He nodded.

“Can you show me?”

He led me to a bottle of purple paint and to a place on a nearby basket that had the slightest purple hue to it that wasn’t there before.

“Did you use the paints Momma told you not to?”

He snuggled deeper into me.

We had a short talk about why there are some things that I don’t want him to touch, and then I reminded him that the best thing to do when he has done something wrong is come to me so I can help him fix it. “You don’t need to hide,” I comforted.

As he ran off to play, I thought of all the times I have felt like hiding because I have done something wrong. This reaction is just about as old as time itself.

The Word says that in the garden, after Adam and Eve were deceived by the snake, they fashioned clothing for themselves from leaves and hid among the trees. Can you imagine the two of them, wearing leaves, ducking behind a bush, believing they could hide from God?

But wait. Do *we* ever think we can hide from Him too? Do we ever allow shame to tell us that we should avoid bringing our mistakes to the Lord and just avoid addressing them in His presence?

The truth is, when Adam and Eve hid, God sought them out, asking, “Where are you?”⁸ He didn’t leave them in their shame.

This is what He calls out to our hearts again and again. Just as I called my little boy out of his guilt, God is constantly calling to us. When shame says,

Who Told You That You Needed to Hide?

“You made a mistake and God will be upset with you,” the Lord says, Who told you that you had a reason to hide? What are you doing behind that tree? That busyness? That distraction? Why are you keeping yourself from My presence? Come out from everything that would keep you away from Me. There’s no condemnation. When you feel like you’ve fallen short, come closer to Me. I am full of mercy. And as we retrain our ears to listen for His voice of Truth, we will be able to easily recognize the difference between the voice of guilt and the voice of grace.

Lord, thank You for allowing us to come before Your throne when we feel like we least deserve it. Guilt wants to keep us separated from You, but we know that when we make a mistake or fall short, Your love is waiting to welcome our repentant hearts. We hear You inviting us out from hiding, and we make the choice to allow ourselves to be held by the arms of grace. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.



Don't Misunderstand My Love

God Tells Adam and Eve to Leave the Garden

Genesis 3

*W*e moved to California in December of 2017 after thirty years of living in Oklahoma. There are plenty of ways that California is different from Oklahoma, but there are a few laws I'm still getting used to. For example, you're not supposed to hold your cell phone even while stopped at a stoplight. I get it. Traffic here is nuts and lawmakers are just trying to keep people safe. But this means that I usually ask Siri to text for me.

Siri doesn't always listen well. Sometimes Siri just gets it wrong. I mean, once I just wanted to text a friend that I was grateful for the love of Jesus, and Siri heard me say that I was grateful for the olives and cheese sauce. Siri heard, but she didn't understand.

And Lord forgive me, but sometimes I'm just like her. Sometimes I hear but don't understand.

There are times I believe that God is trying to tell me something and I'm filtering His words through my own feelings or personal motives. We often do this with stories we have read in Scripture.

Do you have one of those beginner's Bibles with the colorful pictures? Maybe it was yours or maybe you have one for your kids. The saddest page of

Adam and Eve's story shows them holding each other and leaving the garden with their little fig-leaf clothes and their sorrowful faces. When we were young, many of us were taught that because Adam and Eve disobeyed, they were punished and had to leave this paradise God had made for them.

This conclusion is mostly true, but we miss that this story is actually a beautiful picture of God's mercy. Adam and Eve did disobey God. They did do something God told them not to, and in that moment they stopped being perfect reflections of the Lord. They couldn't remain in the presence of a perfectly Holy God as they had before. They had to be separated.

But God didn't want them to stay in this state of separation from His original design forever. He created them to walk and talk with Him. He wanted this relationship restored, but restoration was in danger if Adam and Eve stayed in the garden.

Remember that when God made Adam and Eve, He said they could eat from any tree in the garden except the two trees mentioned by name—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life. We know that they ate from the first one, but what was so significant about the second tree?

When Adam and Eve sinned, God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”⁹

If they had eaten from this tree, Adam and Eve would have lived forever in a state of eternal separation from God. And God loved them too much to allow this to happen. He kept them from the tree of life so He could send His Son to restore humanity to right relationship with Himself.

When we read that God said Adam and Eve had to go, many of us hear punishment. We hear banishment. But God was saying so much more. He was

Don't Misunderstand My Love

saying, *"I love them too much to be separated from them forever."*

I think we all have places in our lives where we need to reevaluate what God has said to us. Perhaps we have always heard God's words through a filter of judgment, when we need to filter everything we hear God say through the filter of His love. We need to hear His words and His heart. Today, I believe the Lord would say to us, *I loved you too much. That's why I did it. I loved you too much, and that's why I kept you from it. I loved you too much. That's why I answered you the way I did. It wasn't to punish. It wasn't to hurt. It wasn't because I am cruel. Everything that I have ever done for you is compelled by My love. Hear My heart today. I am good.*

Lord, today we choose to repent for the moments we misunderstood You, and we thank You for being the God who redeems. We want to hear Your Word and understand Your heart. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.



Wait. It's a Redemption Story

God Speaks to Noah

Genesis 6–9

*M*aybe someday, I'll tell the story about the hardest two years of my life. The story about how I didn't know if my marriage would make it. The story of hurt and betrayal. The story I'm not sure I want my children to read in a book when they're grown. But until then, I'll share this. My husband and I have been in seasons when according to the world's standards, the smartest decision would have been to just walk away. When divorce looked like the healthiest option for both of us if we wanted to move forward with whole and complete hearts.

At least, that's how it looked. The truth is, that season wasn't the full story. Because while it appeared from all angles like the story of loss and heartache, God was writing the story of grace and forgiveness. God was writing a redemption story.

Have you experienced a season like this in your own life? Have you been in a season when everything looked like it was over? Where life seemed as though it would never go back to what it was before? When you were just sure that God was busy with something else and that ache of sadness or desperation or discouragement would never leave? Maybe it wasn't a relationship. Maybe it was a career

or a city you had to leave. Maybe it was a project or a dream that ended suddenly. Oh, friend, perhaps it was a loss of someone you loved dearly. Maybe you're living this story even now.

What do we do when our whole lives seem consumed by loss? What is God saying then? Where is the voice of the Lord in the midst of that kind of heartache? Where is God when we feel lost in a sea of sadness? I wonder if Noah ever asked this question.

When we think of the story of Noah, we often focus on the rainbow and the animals. We look at what God saved. We focus on the promise at the end, but from the middle of the story, I bet it felt pretty hopeless. I bet the moment the waters began to rise and the skies began to open, Noah looked out across all the loss and devastation and felt overwhelmed. Do you suppose?

Do you think that at any time during the nearly four hundred days Noah spent on the ark he felt discouraged? That's a long time to be the sole survivors of the planet, stuck on a boat with a ton of animals and no land in sight. I wonder if Noah ever questioned God. I wonder if he was ever afraid. I wonder if the whole thing felt more like an abandonment than a rescue.

The heart of this story isn't that God destroyed all life on earth. The beauty of the flood is that while God could have just started over, He chose to preserve life through Noah. He continued the redemption story of sinful man through Noah's obedience and a boat until God could send Jesus to a cross to save us once and for all. Noah might not have been able to see the big picture from the middle of it, but the flood wasn't the story of destruction. It was the story of God's preservation.¹⁰

You know, in the middle of the craziness that is our lives, sometimes we feel as if it's all chaos. We feel it's just completely hopeless, the waters are never

Wait. It's a Redemption Story

going to recede, and we're just floating in the middle of an endless ocean of confusion.

But just when things seem to be at their worst, the Lord whispers to us, *It's a redemption story. It's a story of My mercy. It's not over. It's a story where life will be saved through My goodness alone. Don't get stuck in the middle and believe it's the end. You will reach dry land, and you will see that I keep My promises and have been with You from rain to rainbow.*

The voice that told Noah to go into the ark was the same voice that called him out. His voice is trustworthy in all seasons.

Lord, help us hear Your voice even when all hope seems lost. God, You are our refuge when the waters rise. You are our shelter when the skies pour. We put all our hope in You and trust that you are writing a redemption story for each of us. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.



There Are People Waiting on Your Obedience

God Speaks to Abraham

Genesis 12

One of my favorite moments of motherhood took place in a small café. I had two small children at the time, and I was a stay-at-home mom. I didn't have many mom friends, and other than keeping the kids alive and the house in reasonable order, I was kind of bored. Only moms understand this feeling. Exhausted, overworked, spread thin . . . and yet bored with the same cycle of to-dos every day.

During this season, I would use lunchtime as an opportunity to get out of the house and connect with other adults even if they were strangers at a restaurant. While we were out for lunch this particular afternoon, my son decided that he wanted to know if a stranger in the café had met Jesus yet. He began to ask loudly, "MOM! MOM! Does that man know Jesus?!" This wasn't the type of interaction I was hoping for. I just wanted a sandwich and to be around other people. I didn't want to have to preach the gospel.

I nervously told my son that I didn't know that man or if he knew Jesus, and then we took our lunch to go. All the way home I felt God tugging at my heart;

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I should have stayed and spoken to that man. When we arrived home, it was clear. The Lord was asking me to go back.

Nervously, we returned to the café and after a short conversation with the man, I understood exactly why God had put this on my heart. That small moment of obedience impacted the man in the café. It impacted my children, and I think I was the most impacted by those few minutes.

Since that moment, I've learned that when God asks us to go out of our way, even into uncomfortable situations, our obedience isn't just for our benefit. It is always for the benefit of others as well. There are always people waiting on the other side of our obedience.

In Scripture we find an example of what obedience meant in the life of Abraham. One of Noah's descendants, Abraham (then called Abram), was called by God to be set apart from everyone else on the earth. God said, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great . . . and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."¹¹

We know God kept His word, because God promised to bless all people on earth through Abraham, and Jesus was one of Abraham's descendants. Jesus was part of God's promise to Abraham. But it all hinged on Abraham's obedience to do what God had said. "Go from your country to the land I will show you." First the obedience. Then the blessing.

In our own lives, it can be so hard to understand why God calls us to certain things. Why He wants us to make that phone call or enroll our child in that school. Why He says things like *Talk to that mom* or *Offer to host that event*.

But the truth is, God intends to bless us and bless others through these opportunities that He gives us to be obedient. Today I believe He's reminding both

There Are People Waiting on Your Obedience

of us that our obedience has never just been for our own good. It has always been for the good of others as well. I believe He's reminding us today, *Make yourself available to be used by Me today, and together we can impact hearts. You are My ambassador on the earth, and My invitation for you to reach out to others has never been just for your benefit. I want to show you how much your life matters to the world around you. You were created to carry My light into the darkness. You were created to be a conduit of My blessings. I'm not calling you to make you uncomfortable. I'm calling you to action so I can bless your obedience.*

Our children, our families, our friends, and our communities are all waiting for us to decide if we are going to listen to the Lord's promptings. How willing will we be to go out of our way to do what He says?

Lord, help us not become so busy that we miss Your voice calling us to share Your love with the world around us. Teach us how to respond in obedience, remembering that there are people waiting for us to say yes to You. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.



Trust the Path

God Calls Lot to the Mountains

Genesis 19

I just don't think I can do it, God." I've said this more than once in my life. I said it just days before I was supposed to give birth (to each of my children). I've said it when God called me to start new ventures. I said it daily as our big move across the country got closer. And yet, the Lord accomplished everything that He began in me. It didn't matter whether or not I thought I could do it. What mattered is His continual faithfulness. God doesn't call us to anything that He doesn't have full provision to accomplish in our lives.

He doesn't first say, "Do this," and then work on a plan as He figures out how it will happen. No, God calls us to take on assignments that He already has a plan to complete. But I've done my fair share of arguing with Him. I've done my best to try to convince Him that I know better than He does. I bet I'm the only one who does this. I bet you've never argued with the Lord. *wink wink*

Lot, Abraham's nephew, argued with an angel who brought a message from the Lord. Lot and his family were living in Sodom just before God intended to destroy it. Because of the promise God had made to Abraham, God sent angels to rescue Lot and his family, to get them out of this city before destruction came. As morning approached, they took Lot and his family by the hands and led

them out of the city, saying, “Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!”¹²

I know how I would have responded in this situation. I would have run. But Lot’s response?

“No, my lords, please! Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can’t flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I’ll die. Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it—it is very small, isn’t it? Then my life will be spared.”¹³

Lot said, “Look! There’s a little town! I can’t make it to the mountains, but I can make it over there.” The angel agreed, and Lot and his family (except for his wife who made the mistake of looking back) found refuge without having to go all the way up the mountain.

It would be easy to read this and think that Lot changed God’s plan. It would be easy to think that because Lot was not certain he could make it to the mountains, God allowed him to go just to the nearby town instead.

But we read in the next few verses that Lot and his family went on to live in the mountains. They eventually made it to the place God was calling them.

Lot didn’t change God’s plan for his life. He just added a stop and shifted the timeline a little.

My question for you is, What is God calling you to today that you are trying to compromise about? What are you trying to argue yourself out of doing? Where are you trying to convince God that you don’t really need to go?

Because there is no safer place than the perfect will of God for you. There’s no place better for you to be than exactly where He calls. And to each of us today, I believe He is saying, *Look up to the mountains. I’m calling you higher*

Trust the Path

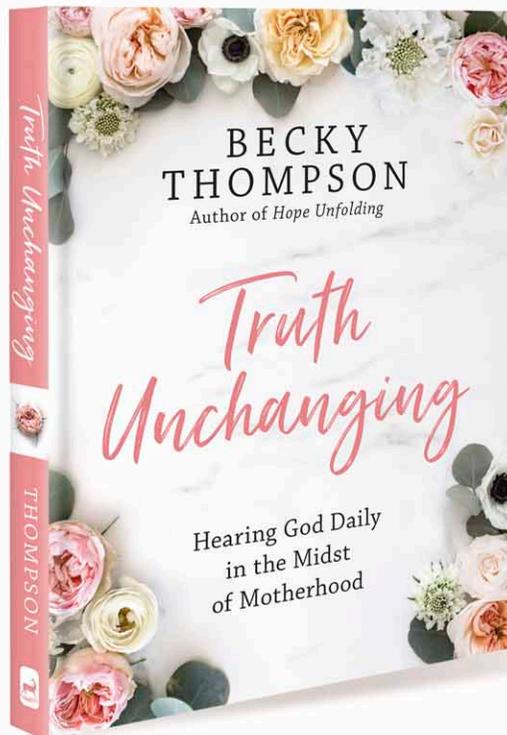
up and farther up into My presence! Dream bigger. Aim higher. Believe deeper. You are going to make it. And the sooner you trust Me, the sooner you will get to where I'm calling your heart.

I wonder what greatness waits for you in the perfect plan of God? It's probably not nearly as overwhelming as it appears on this side of the climb.

Lord, You are faithful and You have full provision to help us accomplish everything You have set before us. When we don't think we can make it, remind our hearts that You are calling us to take on certain mountains for a reason. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

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