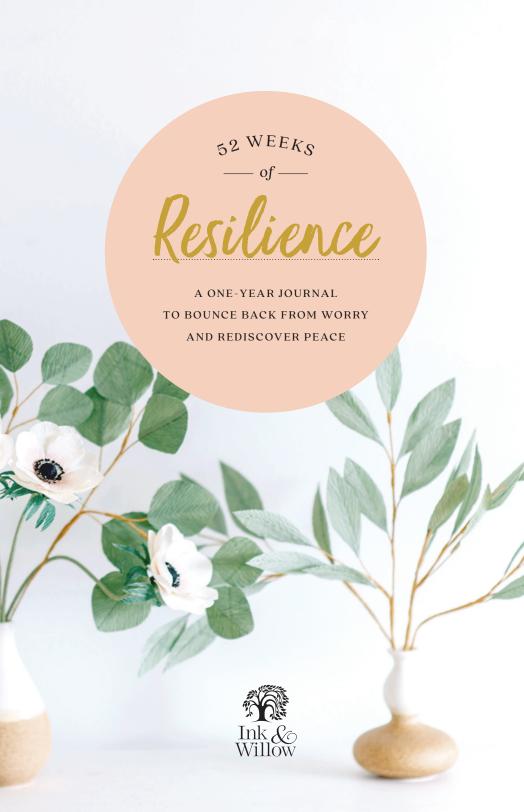


**UNCORRECTED PROOF** 









| NTRODUCTION                    |
|--------------------------------|
| E THANKFUL                     |
| EEK 1 ▶ Rejoice Always         |
| EEK 2 ► A Firm Foundation      |
| EEK 3 ► Count Your Blessings   |
| EEK 4 ▶ More Than Enough       |
| EEK 5 ► Count It All Joy20     |
| EK6 ► Calling to Peace. 22     |
| EEK 7 ► The Glad Game Strategy |
| EEK 8 ► Safe in His Hand       |
| EEK 9 ► The Trees of the Field |
| EEK 10 ► Who God Is            |
| E[K 11 ▶ People Need People    |
| EEK 12 ▶ Rain from Heaven      |
| EEK 13 ► He Will Provide       |
| E PRAYERFUL                    |
| EEK 14 ▶ Tell God About It     |
| FFK 15 ▶ Overflow              |

| WEEK 16 | ▶ Only One Thing46           |
|---------|------------------------------|
| WEEK 17 | ▶ Let It Go                  |
| WEEK 18 | ▶ Sing!                      |
| WEEK 19 | ▶ Lighten Your Load          |
| WEEK 20 | ▶ Pray for Others            |
| WEEK 21 | ▶ Fear No Evil               |
| WEEK 22 | ▶ Trust in the Lord          |
| WEEK 23 | ▶ Like a Tree                |
| WEEK 24 | ▶ Short and Simple           |
| WEEK 25 | ▶ Get Closer 64              |
| WEEK 26 | ▶ Even the Little Things. 66 |
| BE TH   | OUGHTFUL68                   |
| WEEK 27 | ▶ Rest Your Mind             |
| WEEK 28 | ▶ Can You Imagine? 74        |
| WEEK 29 | ▶ A Material World           |
| WEEK 30 | ▶ Such Things                |
| WEEK 31 | ▶ The Lord Is80              |
| WEEK 32 | ▶ He Is with You. 82         |
| WEEK 33 | ▶ It's About Time. 84        |
| WEEK 34 | ▶ Fix Your Thoughts86        |
| WEEK 35 | ▶ God Loves You              |

| WEEK 36 ▶ Prudence Pays         |
|---------------------------------|
| WEEK 37 ▶ Take the Test         |
| WEEK 38 ▶ Day and Night         |
| WEEK 39 ▶ Please God (Only)96   |
| BE PRACTICAL                    |
| WEEK 40 ► Lessons from the Past |
| WEEK 41 ▶ Break the Habit       |
| WEEK 42 ▶ Be Still              |
| WEEK 43 ▶ Put It Off            |
| <b>WEEK 44</b> ▶ Run Away       |
| WEEK 45 ▶ Get Healthy           |
| WEEK 46 ▶ Look Outward          |
| <b>WEEK 47</b> ▶ Breathe        |
| WEEK 48 ▶ Just Ask              |
| WEEK 49 ▶ Just Do It!           |
| WEEK 50 ► If You Can't Sleep    |
| WEEK 51 ▶ Plan Ahead            |
| WEEK 52 ► Forget the Past       |
| DAILY RESILIENCE TRACKER        |



Worry often gives a small thing a big shadow.

#### SWEDISH PROVERB

here's no upside to worry. We lie awake at night imagining worst-case scenarios. We miss out on opportunities because we've become afraid of failure. We turn to coping mechanisms that turn into unhealthy habits that we then start worrying about.

Over the next fifty-two weeks, this journal will help you move from giving in to uneasiness to leaning on and trusting God. It is divided into four sections, each highlighting a simple practice you can apply to adjust your response to life's bumps. You'll learn how being thankful, prayerful, thoughtful, and practical can help you overcome anxious feelings. Each week, you'll find a Bible verse to read and meditate on, a question to reflect on and journal about, and an action prompt to help you let go of worry. Finally, at the end, you'll find a twelve-month "Daily Resilience Tracker," where you can begin the habit of recording one situation you encountered and how you bounced back.

This year resolve to switch your focus from the looming shadows of your problems to the greatness of the God who loves you.\*

<sup>\*</sup> Please note, this book is not intended to replace the advice of a trained psychologist or medical professional.







Gratitude doesn't change the scenery. It merely washes clean the glass you look through so you can clearly see the colors.

### RICHELLE E. GOODRICH

s children, we learned to always say "thank you" when someone gave us a gift or did something kind for us. It's an excellent habit and, when expressed with sincerity, a word of appreciation can also convey respect, honor, and humility.

What we may not have perceived at a young age, however, is the benefit a grateful attitude has on our mind-sets and emotions. Many people see the connection between joy and gratitude as a one-way street. Sure, joy leads to gratitude, but how much sweeter it is when gratitude leads to joy!

When your default setting is "thankful," you change course from worry to gratitude because you've already decided to be joyful and peaceful without waiting for perfect circumstances. Worry doesn't stand a chance around you. When you choose gratitude, you're automatically a winner!



# WEEK 1 Rejoice Always

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

## 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 (ESV)

Each day, you have twenty-four hours to do all the things you need and want to do. During each second you're awake, you also get to make choices about how you will think, feel, react, and behave. The more of that time you spend rejoicing, praying, and thanking, the less time you'll have left over to worry.

### $R\,E\,F\,L\,E\,C\,T$

| Why do you think God wants you to rejoice, pray, and give |
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| thanks on a continual basis?                              |
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|        | WRITE PHRASES SUCH                      |
|        |   |
|        | AS "REJOICE!" OR "KEEP                  |
|        | PRAYING" ON SEVERAL                     |
|        | STICKY NOTES AND POST                   |
|        | THEM WHERE YOU CAN                      |
|        | SPOT THEM THROUGHOUT                    |
|        | THE DAY.                                |
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## WEEK 2

## A Firm Foundation

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

HEBREWS 12:28-29 (ESV)

Unexpected challenges — a cancer diagnosis, the death of a loved one, losing your job — can shake your world and leave you feeling unsettled and scared. But remember, God's promises, power, and provision are constant. Now there's something to be thankful for!

### REFLECT

| What worries are you facing currently that you can turn over |
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| to God?  |
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|   | ATTRIBUTES OF GOD THAT<br>INSPIRE REVERENCE AND<br>AWE IN YOU. THANK HIM FOR   |

# WEEK 3

## Count Your Blessings

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;

I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

PSALM 9:1 (ESV)

To worry is essentially to tell God we don't trust His ability—or willingness—to take care of us. If we are clutching on to worry in our heart while we're expressing thanks to God, that's halfhearted gratitude. We need to count our past blessings and trust Him with future ones.

## REFLECT

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|       | RESPOND                                 |
|       |   |
|       | IF YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR                  |
|       | WITH IT, LOOK UP THE                    |
|       |   |
|       | OLD HYMN "COUNT YOUR                    |
|       | BLESSINGS." LISTEN TO IT                |
|       | SEVERAL TIMES THIS WEEK,                |
|       | PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION                  |
|       | TO THE LYRICS. MAKE A NOTE              |
|       | OF ANY INSPIRATION YOU                  |
|       | DRAW FROM IT.                           |
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# More Than Enough

Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.

Then he . . . divided the two fish among them all.

#### MARK 6:41

The Bible has many examples of small faith rewarded with great results. Here we see Jesus thanking God for providing food for the crowd of thousands—through a young boy—before it was multiplied. God provided so much, there were even leftovers for the disciples to take home!

## REFLECT

| When in your life has God surprised you by providing much |
|---|
| more than you needed? How did you feel?                   |
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| <br>RESPOND   |   |
| <br>ON AN INDEX CARD, DRAW FIVE LOAVES OF BREAD         |   |
| <br>AND TWO FISH. ON THE BACK, WRITE A PRAYER OF THANKS |   |
| <br>FOR GOD'S PROVISION. KEEP THE CARD WITH YOU AS A    |   |
| <br>REMINDER THAT GOD CARES  AND PROVIDES.              |   |
|   |   |
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# Count It All Joy

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

JAMES 1:2-3 (ESV)

Feeling thankful for problems is not only countercultural but it's also counterintuitive. It doesn't seem logical! Yet James lets us in on a marvelous secret in this passage: Difficulties make us stronger. So, even when you're worried, there's always a reason to rejoice.

## REFLECT What's your instinctive response when a new problem pops

| nate year meane ever respense when a new president pepe       |
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| up at home, in a relationship, or at work? Think of a current |
| problem you are worried about and write out how you can       |
| reframe it as a blessing.                                     |
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| RESPOND  |
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| USE A BLANK THANK-YOU  CARD TO WRITE A NOTE TO GOD     |
| THANKING HIM FOR SPECIFIC  DIFFICULTIES HE BROUGHT YOU |
| THROUGH SAFELY IN THE PAST AND NOTING HOW THOSE TRIAL  |
| STRENGTHENED YOUR FAITH. THANK HIM FOR HOW HE          |
| WILL BE WITH YOU IN <u>FUTURE</u> TRIALS.              |
|  |



## **BUY NOW**

