

365 DEVOTIONS

Embracing Joy *in* His Presence

# Jesus Always



AUTHOR OF *Jesus Calling*<sup>®</sup>

*Sarah Young*

## JESUS ALWAYS

January 2

**I AM YOUR JOY!** These four words can light up your life. Since I am always with you, *the Joy of My Presence* is continually accessible to you. You can open up to My Presence through your trust in Me, your love for Me. Try saying, “Jesus, You are my Joy.” My Light will shine upon you and within you as you *rejoice in Me*, your Savior. Ponder all I have done for you and all that I am to you. This will lift you up above your circumstances.

When you became My follower, I empowered you to rise above the conditions in your life. I filled you with My Spirit, and this Holy Helper has limitless Power. I promised that *I will come back and take you to be with Me* in heaven—that you may be where *I am* forever. Whenever your world is looking dark, brighten your perspective by focusing on Me. Relax in My Presence, and hear Me saying, “Beloved, I am your Joy!”

PSALM 21:6; PHILIPPIANS 4:4 NKJV;  
JOHN 14:3

## JESUS ALWAYS

September 10

AS THE WORLD GROWS INCREASINGLY DARK, remember that *you are the light of the world*. Don't waste energy lamenting bad things over which you have no control. Pray about these matters, but refuse to let them haunt your thoughts. Instead, focus your energies on doing what you can to brighten the place where I have put you. Use your time, talents, and resources to push back the darkness. Shine *My Light* into the world!

I am *the true Light that shines on in the darkness*—even in the most terrible conditions. Your light originates in Me and reflects from you. I have called you to *reflect My Glory*! You do this most effectively by becoming more and more fully the one I designed you to be. Spend ample time seeking My Face, beloved. Focusing on My Presence and My Word helps you to grow in grace and discern My will. Your time spent with Me nourishes your soul, providing comfort and encouragement. Thus I strengthen you and enable you to be a source of strength for others.

MATTHEW 5:14 NKJV; JOHN 1:9;  
JOHN 1:5 AMP; 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18



May 5

**I WANT YOU TO LINGER IN GRATITUDE.** This is a most delightful place—where the Joy of My Presence shines warmly upon you.

You often pray fervently for something until you receive the answer you desire. When I grant your request, you respond joyfully and thankfully. But your tendency is to move on rather quickly to the next matter. I want you to remain for a while in an attitude of grateful Joy. Instead of experiencing only a short-lived burst of gratitude, let this pleasure flow freely into the future by training yourself to recall what I have done. One way is to tell others about it. This blesses both them and you, and it pleases Me. Another way is to write down the prayer-answer someplace where you will see it again and again.

Keep bringing your gratitude to Me. This thankfulness will bless you doubly—with happy memories of answered prayer and with the delight of sharing Joy with Me.

PSALM 95:2 NKJV; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:57;  
1 CHRONICLES 16:12 NKJV

## JESUS ALWAYS

September 6

*I BROADEN THE PATH BENEATH YOU so that your ankles do not turn.* I don't want you to focus overly much on what is ahead of you—wondering whether you'll be able to cope with it. Only *I* know what your future really holds. Moreover, I am the only One who fully understands what you are capable of. Finally, I can alter your circumstances—gradually or dramatically. In fact, I can widen the path you are walking on right now.

I want you to realize how intricately involved in your life I am. I delight in taking care of you—“tweaking” the situation you are in, to spare you from unnecessary hardship. Remember that I am *a shield for all who take refuge in Me*. Your part in this adventurous journey is to trust Me, communicate with Me, and walk with Me in steps of joyful dependence. I will not remove all adversity from your life, but I will widen the path you are traveling on—to *bless you and keep you* from harm.

PSALM 18:36; PSALM 18:30;  
NUMBERS 6:24 NKJV

## JESUS ALWAYS

February 4

*IT IS GOOD TO PROCLAIM MY LOVE in the morning and My faithfulness at night.* Proclaiming this Love is exceedingly good for you. When you declare the wonders of My loving Presence, you are strengthened and encouraged. This glorious blessing flows into you more fully as you speak these words out loud. Let this delightful declaration fill you with *Joy inexpressible and full of Glory!*

Ponder some of the qualities of My amazing Love: It is sacrificial, unfailing, priceless, boundless—*reaching to the heavens.* It shines so brightly that it can carry you through your darkest days. When you get to the end of each day, it is time to proclaim My faithfulness that *reaches to the skies.* Look back over the day, and notice how I helped you navigate your way through it. The more difficulties you encountered, the more help I made available to you. It is good to give voice to My great faithfulness, especially at night, so that you can *lie down and sleep in peace.*

PSALM 92:1–2; 1 PETER 1:8 NKJV;  
PSALM 36:5–7; PSALM 4:8

## JESUS ALWAYS

January 12

*DO NOT BE TERRIFIED OR DISCOURAGED, for I am with you wherever you go.* It's easy for My followers to feel frightened and pessimistic when the mainstream voices in this world speak so heavily against them. Looking at this life through godless, biased lenses will indeed pull you down. Christian courage is the antidote to this poisonous input, and it is nourished by the knowledge that I am always with you.

It is crucial to remember that what you can see of reality is only a very small piece of the whole. When Elijah was deeply discouraged, he said he was the *only one* who had remained faithful. Yet there were thousands in Israel who had not bowed down to Baal. Elijah was blinded by his isolation and his discouragement. Similarly, Elisha's servant was terrified because he couldn't see what Elisha saw: *horses and chariots of fire all around* to protect them from enemy forces.

Beloved, not only am I with you, but I have unlimited resources to help you. So look beyond the way things appear, and *take courage!*

JOSHUA 1:9; 1 KINGS 19:14;  
2 KINGS 6:17; MATTHEW 14:27

December 6

TRUST ME, BELOVED. Every time you have an anxious, fearful thought, you need to take multiple looks at Me. Speak My Name to remind yourself I am near, ready to help you. Quote Scripture back to Me: “*I trust in You, O Lord; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in Your hands.*” Express your love to Me, saying: “*I love You, O Lord, my Strength.*” Remember that I—your Savior and King—*take great delight in you.* You’re a cherished member of My royal family forever!

Connecting with Me interrupts the negative thoughts that tend to course through your mind. So the more consistently you communicate with Me, the freer you will become. Since *I am the Truth*, living close to Me helps you recognize and break free from distortions and lies.

Trusting and loving Me are at the very core of your relationship with Me. These beautiful ways of drawing near Me protect you from being too focused on yourself and your fears. Turn to Me over and over again—secure in My sheltering Presence.

PSALM 31:14–15; PSALM 18:1;  
ZEPHANIAH 3:17 NET; JOHN 14:6 NKJV