

Devotions
for the
God Girl

A 365-Day Journey

Hayley DiMarco



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Introduction

The God Girl wants what every other girl wants: to love and to be loved. She wants acceptance and laughter. She wants hope and peace. But her life, like everyone else's, isn't perfect. It's messy and lonely, it's stressful and hard, but one thing sets her apart, one thing makes her life amazingly different from others, and that's her heart. Her heart is set on something above, something greater than her that gives her strength and hope. She has found the truth, and the truth is that God lives. He lives above and he lives within. She calls him Father, she calls him God, and she calls him her salvation.

Because of that **the God Girl wants more than anything else to hear from him.** She wants his words to ring in her ears. This

makes her crave him. It makes her look for him, listen for him, and wait for him. When other people are sleeping, the God Girl is waking up to wait and watch for him. She knows that a day that starts off in his presence is better than a day when he



is forgotten or pushed aside for other more pressing things. Sure she has a lot to do, sure she is tired, but when a girl is in love, she must spend time with the object of that love.

If your life isn't what you would like and you wish you had more of God in your life, then you're on the right path. A desire for more is the first step. **Your willingness to be uncomfortable, to be put out, to be tired all mean spiritual success.** Each day you are given a finite amount of time, and often it doesn't seem like enough time to do all the things you have to get done. That can mean that God, in his graciousness and kindness, gets pushed to the bottom of the list. All that does is ensure that you will do life today on your own strength and not on his, and that leads to exhaustion and stress. But when you start your day off waiting for your orders from him and watching to see what he wants you to do next, life becomes almost effortless. Time seems to become more abundant.



In his book *The School of Obedience*, Andrew Murray calls this time spent with God **the "morning watch."** He challenges students all over the world to be faithful enough to devote a significant amount of time to the one they love the most, and to give their most important time at that. Take a look at his call to begin living a life fully devoted to the one you love the most by practicing the morning watch:

You tell me there are many Christians who are content with ten minutes or a quarter of an hour. There are, but you will certainly not as a rule find them strong Christians. And the Students' Movement is pleading with God, above everything, that He would meet to train a race of devoted, whole-hearted young men and women. Christ asked great sacrifices of His disciples; He has perhaps asked little of you as yet. But now He allows, He invites, He longs for

you to make some. Sacrifices make strong men. Sacrifices help wonderfully to wrench us away from earth and self-pleasing, and lift us heavenward. Do not try to pare down the time limit of the morning watch to less than the half-hour. There can be no question about the possibility of finding the time. Ten minutes from sleep, ten from company or amusement, ten from lessons. How easy where the heart is right, hungering to know God and His will perfectly!

If you think you are too busy to spend a half hour with God, make a list of everyone you spend more time with in conversation during the day and list God below them. Yikes, right? My hope is that with the help of *Devotions for the God Girl* and maybe even the book *God Girl* and the *God Girl Bible*, you will find the passion and desire to devote more of your time to the pursuit of God and watching for him each day. But if you are ready right now, then by all means go for it. **Give your time to him and watch how it impacts your day and even your life.** As you do you will notice that your emotions soften, your fear diminishes, and your stress lessens. The more time you spend with God, the more things you can actually get done. If you want to spend your day in devotion to God, in obedience, and as far away from sin as possible, then you have to get close to him, talk with him, and listen to him.

I pray that God will give you the desire for more of him and the urgency to wake before the sun. Pay attention to your sleep pattern—if you find yourself awake in the early morning, then consider it his calling you to his side. Crawl out of bed and dive in. If



you aren't sure what to do, consider reading your daily devotion and then praising him and adoring him for who he is. Confess your sins and offer your repentance, then dive into his Word. Read. Study. If you need help knowing what to read, pick up the *God Girl Bible* and use the guides in the back. Get yourself some good worship music; it can really help you to get into the worship mood and draw you closer to him.

There is not one right way to devote your time to God. If this doesn't work for you, then try something else. If you have the *God Girl Bible*, you'll find a lot of ideas for study in the front of it, so check that out. Just don't delay. If you want more of him, then now is your time and this is your call. Devote yourself to more than a superficial reading of these devos—read, pray, study, and listen. When you do, you'll find your faith growing deeper and your love growing stronger.

I am praying for you, God Girl. **I pray that God will be your everything** and that you will discover his true worth. If you'd like, come by GodGirl.com and hang out. Tell me how your morning watch time is going. Share your ideas for study and get more ideas yourself. All for one and one for all! Let us lean on one another as we make this walk of faith. I look forward to hearing from you. Enjoy your God Girl journey.

Hayley

Obedience and Grace

I don't reject God's kindness. If we receive God's approval by obeying laws, then Christ's death was pointless.

Galatians 2:21

When it comes to God's Word, there are two popular lines of thought. One is that your salvation depends on doing all that it says. This is called legalism, and it's wrong. Salvation doesn't come from anything other than the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When you turn your life over to him and make him your Lord, then you are saved. Period. The end.

The other line of thinking when it comes to God's Word is that because of his grace, or great kindness, we are free to break the rules because his grace is relentless and he'll forgive us for it all, so why worry about it? This kind of thinking goes like this: "I really want to do this sinful thing, and since it's too hard to say no, I'm just gonna do it and then ask for forgiveness later." This way of thinking is just as bad as legalism, and it becomes a way of life that is contradictory to God's Word. God's grace isn't cheap, and it's not meant to be abused or used as a loophole to sin.

The truth about God's grace and your salvation is that you don't need to keep any rules to be saved or to keep yourself saved, but you love him because of what he's done for you. And out of that love

flows your obedience to his Word. Only God himself gives you the power to keep his law. People who try to keep it on their own are gonna fail; it's just too hard. But through the help of the Holy Spirit, you can be faithful.

The law is powerless to save you and powerless to change you, but as you fall more and more in love with God, you will find yourself changing more and more into the image of Christ. That's because of his Holy Spirit in you. As you become more like Christ, you will naturally be pulled into a love affair with God's Word. You will want more and more of its life-giving message. You will want to know more about the one you love so that he may be the only one you serve, and you will find following his law becoming your delight and not a chore.

As you read God's Word, remind yourself of the gospel message. Speak it to yourself. Remember the life of Christ, his death, his burial, and his resurrection. And know that only this unmatched sacrifice can save you. Your life is a miracle. Your mind being opened to the life of Christ in you is a miracle. Your God has reached down and touched you, and because of that you are different. If you don't feel different or believe you are different, then take some time to read God's Word. Get to know him and his unfathomable kindness in that while you were dead because of your failure, he made you alive together with Christ (see Eph. 2:5).

Nothing can keep you from this salvation but your own decision not to accept it. It is there for you today: accept it and your life will be forever changed. What you could not do before, you will do today. What you were ruled by yesterday, you will be free from now. God promises to save you—all you have to do is believe it.

If the light hasn't come on for you yet and you aren't sure if you are saved or not, stop by www.godgirl.com and do some digging. You can start to answer the question of your salvation. Don't put it off. Start today to realize the amazing kindness of God and how freely he offers it to you.

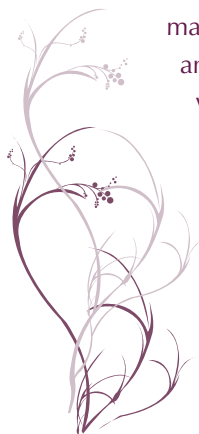
The man and his wife . . . hid from the LORD God among the trees in the garden. The LORD God called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden. I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

Genesis 3:8–10

The world might tell you that you are a victim. You were hurt, abused, rejected, and abandoned, and that's why you have issues, addictions, and drama in your life. But **when you believe that your messed-up life is because of something beyond your control, you give away the power over your own life that you so desperately want. As long as you are busy blaming someone else for your life, you'll never be free.** You'll never have control, and you'll never take responsibility for yourself.

Part of becoming a God Girl is choosing to stop running away from the stuff that will make you more holy and happy, and that is being honest about your role in your own messed-up life, no matter who started it. It's called confession, and confession is good stuff. It purifies the soul because it gets to the bottom of what's going on in yourself without worrying about what someone else did or didn't do.

Confession agrees with God and his Word about sin and says to him, "You are holy and I want to be holy too." It says, "No matter what others do or have done, I'm siding with God and living a life that pleases him because I know that's his will." And when you do that, you'll have all the protection and hope you need. Don't accept the pattern of avoiding honest confession like the first people did or like the world around you does. Confession might hurt, and it will probably feel totally uncomfortable and even dangerous, but the truth is, it's the safest and healthiest thing you could do. Confessing is good for the soul, and it proves that you don't belong to yourself but to God.



The man answered, "That woman, the one you gave me, gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?" "The snake deceived me, and I ate," the woman answered.

Genesis 3:12–13

When someone makes you mad, who is more to blame, them or you? After all, if they hadn't done what they did, then you wouldn't have to get all mad. Or if someone tempts you to do something you know you're not supposed to do and you do it, whose fault is it? Where does the blame lie? The truth is that at the first sign of trouble, the human mind tends to look for someone to blame. The mind is like a super detective: always getting to the bottom of things, always searching to figure out who started it and who is responsible for the mess we're in.

So it's not surprising that blame was the first response to the first spiritual mess people got into. Adam and Eve both blamed someone else instead of taking responsibility. Was it the snake's fault? Would they have taken a bite without him? It's hard to say. But either way, the result of pointing a finger at the "real" problem wasn't quite what they had hoped.

When you blame others for your mess-ups or misery, you miss out on the one thing that can help you, and that's taking responsibility. Taking responsibility for the things you say, do, and think is the first step in the life of faith. When you confess your sin and accept Christ, you are taking responsibility, and suddenly something amazing happens: he takes responsibility for you as well. And voila! You have found all you wanted by doing the very thing you didn't want to do—accepting responsibility for your own life. If Adam and Eve hadn't tried to shift the focus off themselves, would life have been different for them? We'll never know, but what we do know is that blaming others doesn't please God.

Enoch walked with God; then he was gone because God took him.

Genesis 5:24

The test of your faith is not in the amazing moments but in the boring and mundane ones. Your true faith shows through when you can be happy when you aren't in the spotlight and when no one of any importance is looking on. That's when your true character is revealed. When you are with someone who can't do anything for you, who you really are comes through. When you aren't trying to impress someone you think is important, then the real you comes out.

So who are you when no one is looking? And who are you when the people you are with can't do anything for you? Do you notice a different character than the one that shows itself when the spotlights are on or the popular people are around? Only you can judge, since you are in both situations, but take a look at your home life versus your friend life. Are you less holy, kind, and compassionate at home with the people who know you and can't improve your standing? Or are you just the same? Why is it easier to be cranky with your family than your friends? Usually it's because you know they can't do much for you as far as your social life goes. You aren't trying to impress them like you are your friends and even acquaintances. But who you are in your most unimpressive moments is who you truly are.

The God Girl is the same no matter who she is with, and if she sees some differences, she's willing to get to the bottom of it. She doesn't blame her failures on the people around her but on her own moral mistakes, and so she does something about it. When it's all about you and not them, you have the power to change. So take an inventory of your life and see if there are two you's, and if so, decide which you is better and ditch the other one. Your life will be better, and so will the lives of the people around you.

The LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ship with your whole family because I have seen that you alone are righteous among the people of today."

Genesis 7:1

God's commands don't always make sense. They sound unrealistic, unsafe, and crazy at times. Build an ark in the middle of town? Spend your money on the poor? Turn the other cheek when bad people hurt you? Pray for people who persecute you? **Sometimes the things God asks you to do are going to hurt, and they might even make you look crazy.** But you have to decide now, before that time comes, if you're gonna do what he says no matter how it looks or how crazy it seems or if you're gonna run everything through your "common sense" filter.

You get it all backwards when you use common sense or the world's ideas of right and wrong as the final say on what you're going to do or think. **Relying on your own smarts is rejecting the mind of God** and saying your own mind deserves more respect and worship. As a God Girl your final filter should always be God's Word, not the world's ideas. You have to ask yourself, "Is what I'm being asked to do consistent with God's Word? Is it crazy-sounding but biblical?" If so, then the question is, "Am I willing to do it anyway?"

It couldn't have made any sense to Noah and his family to build an ark where there was no body of water, but it was all part of God's plan. Faith can mean you have to do some things the world thinks are crazy. Take the pack of gum back to the clerk who forgot to charge you for it. Tell the truth when everyone else is telling lies.

Pray when others panic. Faith doesn't always make sense, but what does make sense is God's dependability. No matter what he wants you to do, you can be sure that it is for the best.



Then Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD regarded that faith to be his approval of Abram.

Genesis 15:6

The only way to become right with God is to believe in him. It was faith that made Abram righteous in God's sight. It was his faith that made him do what God told him to do. And it's faith that will give you the power of God on your side.

People who don't believe don't get the gifts of God. **Belief—not doubt, not suspicion, not fear, but belief—is your permission to allow God to work in your life.** Because you have free will, you can choose not to believe and not to take the gifts of God into your life. You can choose not to hear from him, not to serve him, and not to love him. That's your prerogative. But you can also choose to believe, like Abram did, and get more of what you need from the God who knows everything you need. Abram could have doubted God's promises—after all, they were preposterous—but he chose to believe them anyway. And thousands of years later Abraham is known for his faith.

During the time Jesus walked on this earth, he healed everyone who came to him with faith that he could heal them and save them from their sins. If they hadn't believed him, they wouldn't have found what they were looking for. As a God Girl your faith defines you and sets your limits. You'll be blessed to the exact degree of your faith. Want more faith? Then you have to know God more so that you are able to believe him, trust him, and wait upon him for the things he promises. You have to believe that God's Word is true, relevant, and practical for your daily life before you can grow in your faith. So think about what you believe: is it consistent with what God says? Don't let the world tell you a lie that sounds godly but is really just sin dressed up as righteousness. Go after the truth as if your life depends on it, and you'll be rewarded for your faith.



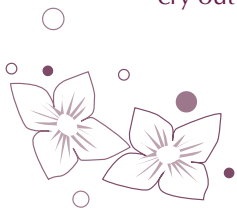
Abraham remained standing in front of the LORD. Abraham came closer and asked, "Are you really going to sweep away the innocent with the guilty?"

Genesis 18:22–23

Payer is direct contact with God. It isn't meditation or contemplation but a conversation, a back-and-forth with the God who has the power to do all you could ask. Our prayers can get repetitive and boring. But the prayers you see in the Bible are totally different. When these men and women of God pray, they are relentless, not passive. They beg, plead, and ask over and over again. Abraham wouldn't give up asking for God to save the town of Sodom from destruction (see Gen. 18:20–33). Moses pleaded with God (see Exod. 32:11). Hannah "poured out her heart to the Lord" so much that people thought she was drunk (see 1 Sam. 1:15). King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah called to heaven (see 2 Chron. 32:20). Paul fell to his knees in God's presence (see Eph. 3:14).

Prayer is where you plead with the one who can do anything to do what he wills. Prayer is free access to the Creator of the world, available to all who make Jesus the Lord of their lives. And the Word of God says you can be sure that he hears your prayers and he will answer according to his will (see 1 John 5:14–15). He listens to your pleadings. In fact, he expects them. When Jesus told the parable of the widow and the judge, he said we should "cry out to him for help day and night" (see Luke 18:2–8).

So make your prayer active. Be fearless about asking for what you need, knowing that God answers prayers and no matter what answer you get, you can be sure it's the best thing for you. Just don't neglect to pray. That's where the power lies. Be persistent. Be vocal. Talk to God as the only one who can. And you'll find that he is truly the one who will.



Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I will show you.

Genesis 22:2

Abraham was told to sacrifice his son Isaac—not for just any old reason but to reveal the truth that only through death can your life be truly devoted to God. But it wasn't the death of Isaac that was really the point here but the death of Abraham. It would be worse than death to have to kill the one you love, but that's what God wanted Abraham to do in order to prove his faith, die to himself, and die to his feelings that fought against him with every bit of their energy, telling him not to do what he was being commanded to do.

Dying to your urge to do what makes sense even when it's directly opposed to God's commands is at the foundation of faith.

Dying to self is refusing to let you be your boss any more and deciding that no matter what God asks, you'll do it. No matter how crazy it sounds, you're in. You're in because you know that God can be trusted and that you want his best. That makes it easy to do the hard things; they are no-brainers when you know that of course God is good and can be trusted, so you can do whatever he asks without any worry about the outcome.

Abraham was asked to do an unimaginable thing, but he never hesitated because he knew God and he knew that if God asked him to do it, it must be for the best. The world might consider that insanity, but the believer considers it necessity. When doing what God commands seems impossible, remember Abraham, and remember who God is. Either he is perfect or he is imperfect. What you decide to do after he commands you to do something proves which one you think he is.

