

# June Devotions

## Strengthened Through the Storm

“But the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with His comfort through Christ... If we are comforted, it is so that we can comfort you.” — 2 Corinthians 1:5-7

Life often brings storms we never expected. Trials, disappointments, heartbreak, delays, and spiritual battles can leave us weary and questioning why God allows difficult seasons. Yet Jesus lovingly reminds us in John 16:33, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” He never promised a life without storms, but He did promise His presence in the middle of them.

The storms of life are not meant to destroy God’s children; they are often the very places where He strengthens us. Just as muscles grow through resistance, our faith grows through testing. Trials teach us perseverance, deepen our dependence on God, and shape us into resilient warriors for His Kingdom. What once felt impossible becomes a testimony of God’s sustaining grace.

Paul understood suffering well. He endured persecution, hardship, and affliction, yet he declared that God’s comfort overflowed through Christ. The comfort of God is not merely sympathy—it is His strength, peace, wisdom, and sustaining power carrying us through every battle. When we walk through trials with Him, we emerge stronger, wiser, and more equipped to encourage others facing their own storms.

Sometimes God calms the storm immediately. Other times, He calms His child while the storm still rages. In every season, He is working something eternal within us. Romans 5:3-4 reminds us that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. The very battles you face today may become the ministry that strengthens someone tomorrow.

Do not lose heart in difficult seasons. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, faithful to uphold you, and committed to completing the work He began in you. Every storm surrendered to Him becomes training ground for greater faith, deeper trust, and stronger spiritual authority.

**Prayer:** Father, thank You that You never leave me in the middle of life’s storms. Strengthen my heart through every trial and teach me to trust You more deeply. Build resilience, perseverance, and unwavering faith within me. Let every hardship shape me into a stronger warrior for Your Kingdom and use my testimony to encourage others. In Jesus’ name, amen.

# Rooted in Jesus: A Journey Through Love, Peace, Joy, and Hope

## Part 1 — Agape: Love That Pursues

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!”  
— 1 John 3:1

The Hebrew understanding of love is far deeper than emotion. Though Agape is a Greek word often used in the New Testament, it reflects the covenant heart of God revealed throughout Scripture. This love is steadfast, sacrificial, unwavering, and intentional. It is not built upon performance or perfection. It is love that pursues.

From Genesis to Revelation, we see a Father continually drawing His people back to Himself. Even in wandering, rebellion, weakness, and failure, His love remains faithful. Agape love is the kind of love that sent Jesus to the cross—not because humanity earned salvation, but because the Father desired restoration and relationship.

When we truly encounter this love, it transforms the way we walk with Jesus. We stop striving for acceptance and begin living from acceptance. Fear loses its grip when we understand we are deeply known and deeply loved. The enemy wants believers trapped in shame and insecurity, but Agape reminds us that our identity is rooted in Christ, not in our failures.

Agape love also changes how we love others. We become carriers of mercy, forgiveness, compassion, and grace. The more we receive His love, the more freely it flows through us.

Love is the foundation of every other spiritual fruit. Peace grows where love is trusted. Joy flourishes where love is received. Hope awakens where love is remembered.

**Prayer:** Father, help me fully receive Your Agape love. Tear down every lie that says I must earn what Jesus already paid for. Root my identity in Your affection and teach me to love others from the overflow of Your heart. Amen.

### Supporting Scriptures

John 15:13, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 3:17-19, Psalm 136:26

## Part 2 — Shalom: Peace That Makes Whole

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You.”  
— Isaiah 26:3

Once we are rooted in Agape love, our hearts begin to discover Shalom. In Hebrew understanding, Shalom means far more than the absence of conflict. It speaks of wholeness, completeness, restoration, harmony, and divine well-being. It is the settled confidence that God is present and faithful.

The world offers temporary peace based on circumstances, but the peace of Jesus remains steady even in uncertainty. Shalom anchors the soul during storms because it flows from trusting God’s character rather than controlling outcomes.

Jesus is called the Prince of Peace because He restores what sin fractured. He brings peace between God and humanity, peace within our hearts, and peace in our relationships. Shalom heals fragmented places within us—the anxious mind, weary spirit, wounded emotions, and restless striving.

When Agape love takes root, fear begins losing ground. We no longer have to fight for worthiness because we know we belong to Him. From that security, peace rises.

Walking in Shalom requires surrender. We cannot carry peace while clinging tightly to worry, offense, or fear. Peace grows where trust is planted. Sometimes Shalom is not found in God removing the storm, but in discovering He is with us in the middle of it.

And from this peace comes something beautiful: joy.

**Prayer:** Jesus, Prince of Peace, quiet every anxious place within me. Restore what is broken and teach me to trust You completely. Let Your Shalom guard my heart and mind so I may walk in wholeness and rest. Amen.

Supporting Scriptures

John 14:27, Numbers 6:24-26, Colossians 3:15, Psalm 29:11

### Part 3 — Simcha: Joy That Strengthens

“The joy of the Lord is your strength.” — Nehemiah 8:10

From the soil of Shalom grows Simcha—a deep, overflowing joy rooted in God’s presence. In Hebrew understanding, Simcha is not shallow happiness dependent on favorable circumstances. It is a spiritual delight that rises from knowing God is faithful.

Biblical joy often appears in unlikely places. Paul sang in prison. David worshiped in wilderness seasons. Habakkuk rejoiced even when the fields were empty. Simcha is the confidence that God remains good even when life feels uncertain.

The enemy works hard to steal joy because joy strengthens believers for spiritual battles. Discouragement weakens vision, but joy renews endurance. Joy lifts weary hearts and reminds us that Heaven still reigns.

When we live in Agape love and rest in Shalom peace, joy naturally begins to bloom. We stop living under constant fear and striving. Instead, gratitude awakens. Worship becomes genuine. Hope begins stirring again.

Simcha does not deny pain; it declares that pain does not have the final word. Jesus Himself endured the cross “for the joy set before Him” (Hebrews 12:2). Joy allowed Him to see beyond suffering into victory.

There are seasons when joy feels buried beneath grief or disappointment. Yet God faithfully restores joy as we remain close to Him. His presence revives weary souls.

And where joy is restored, hope begins rising again.

**Prayer:** Father, fill me with Simcha—the joy that comes from Your presence. Restore strength where discouragement has weakened me. Help me rejoice in Your faithfulness even before I see breakthrough. Let Your joy overflow through my life. Amen.

#### Supporting Scriptures

John 15: 9-11, Psalm 16:11, Romans 15:13, Habakkuk 3:17-18

## Part 4 — Tikvah: Hope That Holds Firm

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.” — Isaiah 40:31

Agape rooted us in love. Shalom established peace within us. Simcha awakened joy in God’s presence. Now all three lead us into Tikvah—biblical hope.

In Hebrew, Tikvah carries the image of a cord or strong rope stretched tightly with expectation. It is not passive wishing; it is confident anticipation anchored in God’s promises. Biblical hope holds firm because it is tied to the faithfulness of God.

Hope becomes essential during waiting seasons. When prayers seem delayed or circumstances remain difficult, Tikvah reminds us that God is still moving behind the scenes. The believer’s hope is not built on emotions, timelines, or visible evidence. Our hope is anchored in the unchanging character of Jesus.

The enemy wants people trapped in despair, believing nothing will change. But Tikvah lifts our eyes higher. It reminds us that resurrection always follows surrender, morning follows night, and God still fulfills His promises.

Hope gives believers endurance. It keeps us praying when answers delay. It keeps us worshiping through uncertainty. It keeps us standing when storms attempt to shake our faith.

Jesus is our living hope. Because He conquered death, we know no situation is beyond redemption. Even now, God is weaving together every trial, delay, and disappointment into something eternal and beautiful.

Hope is the final thread tying together love, peace, and joy into a steadfast life with Christ.

**Prayer:** Lord, anchor my heart in Tikvah. When circumstances feel uncertain, remind me that my hope is secure in You. Strengthen my faith to wait with expectation and trust Your perfect timing. Help me live as one who believes Your promises are true. Amen.

### Supporting Scriptures

Jeremiah 29:11, Hebrews 6: 16-19, Lamentations 3:21-24

## The Aroma of Christ

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere.” — 2 Corinthians 2:14

In ancient Rome, a triumphal procession celebrated military victory. Crowds filled the streets as conquering kings returned in honor, while incense filled the air with a distinct fragrance announcing triumph and authority. Paul uses this powerful picture to remind believers that through Jesus Christ, we do not walk in defeat—we walk in His victory procession.

As followers of Christ, our lives are meant to publicly display His goodness, faithfulness, and transforming power. Every word we speak, every action we take, and every attitude we carry releases an aroma into the atmosphere around us. We are called to spread the fragrance of the knowledge of Jesus everywhere we go.

The world is filled with the offensive odor of fear, bitterness, hopelessness, division, and spiritual death. Yet the presence of Christ within us carries a different fragrance—life, peace, mercy, purity, grace, and truth. When we yield ourselves fully to Jesus, His Spirit begins changing how we think, respond, speak, and love. Others begin sensing something different in us: the aroma of Christ.

Ephesians 5:2 tells us to “walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” Just as incense lingers in a room long after it is released, our surrendered lives leave the imprint of Jesus wherever we go. A kind word, patient response, gentle spirit, faithful prayer, or act of compassion may become the very fragrance that draws someone closer to God.

To “breathe in” the aroma of Christ means to savor His presence daily. We cannot release His fragrance if we are not continually dwelling near Him. As we spend time in worship, prayer, Scripture, and surrender, His character becomes more evident through our lives.

The Lord is calling His people to rise higher—to become carriers of Heaven’s fragrance in a world desperate for hope.

Supporting Scriptures: Ephesians 5:2, Matthew 5:16, Colossians 3:12-14, Psalm 141:2

**Prayer:** Father, make my life a pleasing aroma to You. Purify my words, thoughts, attitudes, and actions so they reflect Jesus everywhere I go. Help me surrender fully to Your Spirit and spread the fragrance of Your love, peace, and truth to those around me. Let my life point others toward Christ and overpower the darkness with the beauty of Your presence. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## **“Under His Wings”**

“He who dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” (Psalm 91:1)

Who do you turn to in times of trouble? Do you know you can abide in the presence of the Almighty? He is the shelter from the storm. He will answer your cry when you call upon Him. He is your deliverer. It’s like a mother hen who gathers her little chicks. She spreads out her wings like a canopy and the chicks run underneath her wings for protection. That is a picture of Psalm 91:4 “He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.” This is the comfort that comes from abiding in His presence. Trust in the faithfulness of the Lord. As a child of God, you can rest, knowing you can trust God in all situations. No matter what happens in the world and in your own life, you have the assurance that you have the Spirit of God to guide you through every storm and shaking of life. Run to the shelter of the Almighty and be safe in His presence. “If you say, “The Lord is my refuge” and you make the most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.” (Psalm 91:9-10 NIV) His open arms welcome you like a little child seeking protection.

**Prayer:** Father in heaven, I am in awe that you give assurance of your presence in the secret place, and you will keep me when it is a sunny day or a stormy day. Thank you for watching over me and keeping me under your wings. Amen

**Isaiah 4:6, Psalm 91:15, 2Samuel 22:2, Psalm 36:5, Psalm 46:2**

## **“His Workmanship”**

“Many, O Lord my God, are your wonderful works Which you have done; And your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.” (Psalm 40:5)

God is with us. He created us to have fellowship with Him. It is so encouraging to know we are not alone. “The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” (Deuteronomy 31:8 NIV) God is so good and He knows all about us. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10) He has said His plans toward us are only for good. He formed us in our mother’s womb. King David wrote so beautifully in Psalm 139 “O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up: You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.” (Psalm 139:1-3) Then, verse 7 sums it up. “Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence.” God is with us always. Verses 17-18 of this Psalm is such a treasure. “How precious also are your thoughts to me., O God! How great is the sum of them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with you.” This truly shows us how much God knows us and loves us. We are His workmanship, and this Psalm is like God gently whispering just how much He loves us and cares about all the details of our life. Such a beautiful picture of God’s love toward us. We are loved and “We love him, because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

**Prayer:** Oh Lord, you have known me all my life. Thank you for giving me breath. Help me to follow you in all my ways. I am your workmanship. Amen

**Psalm 46:7, Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 139:13**

## God Is In Control

“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.” (Psalm 28:7 NIV)

Sometimes, listening to the news, we can feel over-whelmed with anxiety. It can seem like everything is being shaken that can be shaken. So much we don't have answers to. However, we must remind ourselves that God is in control, and He knows the end from the beginning. We can trust God and leave our worries with Him. “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9) Jesus told us in advance “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33) As followers of Jesus, we have a peace that the world does not have or understand. The enemy of our soul would like to steal our peace. But...we have the Lord on our side and our faith shuts the door on anxiety that would steal our peace. We have God's assurance in times of trouble. “Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. (Isaiah 41:10 NLT) No matter, the dark clouds, look up and rejoice in the Lord our God.

**Prayer:** Father in Heaven, you have provided for me and I know you will be there for me when anxiety or fear tries to get in my thoughts. I can look to you to lead me and guide me even if things seem to be falling apart. You will be there for me, and you will be my strength. Amen.

**Ephesians 1:11, Isaiah 46:10, John 10:10**

## **Yielded Hearts, Surrendered Lives**

### **Part One: What Does It Mean to Yield and Surrender?**

We often hear phrases like, “Just surrender it to God,” or “Yield your life to Him.” But what does that truly mean? How do we actually do it in everyday life?

To yield means to give way, to release control, and to trust God’s direction above our own. Surrender is not weakness; it is an act of faith. It is choosing God’s will even when we do not fully understand His plan. So often we hold tightly to our fears, timelines, relationships, finances, dreams, or disappointments because letting go feels uncomfortable. Yet God never asks us to surrender so He can take from us; He asks us to surrender so He can lead us into something greater.

Scripture reminds us in Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Yielding begins with trust. It says, “Lord, Your wisdom is greater than mine.”

Jesus Himself modeled surrender in the Garden of Gethsemane when He prayed, “Not My will, but Yours be done” (Luke 22:42). Even in deep anguish, Jesus yielded fully to the Father. Surrender is often a daily decision, not a one-time moment.

Practically, surrender looks like praying before reacting, forgiving when offended, obeying God’s Word when it is difficult, and releasing outcomes into His hands. It means choosing peace over control and faith over fear.

## **Yielded Hearts, Surrendered Lives**

### **Part Two: Living a Yielded Life Today**

A surrendered life is not passive; it is deeply connected to God. When we yield to Him, we invite Him into every part of our lives—our thoughts, schedules, conversations, and decisions. Romans 12:1 urges believers to “present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.” A living sacrifice continually chooses surrender.

Consider Peter walking on water in Matthew 14. As long as his eyes remained on Jesus, he walked in the impossible. The moment fear and distraction took over, he began to sink. Yielding means keeping our focus fixed on Christ instead of the storms around us.

In daily life, surrender may mean giving God the first moments of your morning, pausing to listen before making decisions, trusting Him during uncertainty, or laying anxious thoughts before Him in prayer. Philippians 4:6-7 reminds us to bring everything to God with thanksgiving, allowing His peace to guard our hearts and minds.

The beauty of surrender is that God meets us there. When we release what we cannot control, we discover the faithfulness of the One who holds all things together. Yielding is not losing ourselves; it is finding true life in Him.

May we daily pray: “Lord, I surrender my plans, my fears, my desires, and my future to You. Lead me, shape me, and teach me to trust You fully.”

## Prayer Points for Yielding and Surrendering to God

- Father, teach me to trust You fully and surrender every area of my life into Your hands. Help me lean on Your wisdom instead of my own understanding.

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

- Lord, reveal the places in my heart where fear, pride, or control are keeping me from fully yielding to You. Give me courage to release them.

*Psalms 139:23-24*

- Jesus, help me daily pray, “Not my will, but Yours be done.” Strengthen me to obey You even when it is difficult or uncomfortable.

*Luke 22:42*

- Father, teach me to surrender my plans, timelines, and expectations, trusting that Your timing and purposes are always good.

*Jeremiah 29:11*

- Lord, help me keep my eyes fixed on You in the middle of life’s storms so fear and distraction do not pull me away from faith.

*Matthew 14:28-31*

- Holy Spirit, renew my mind and transform my heart so my life becomes a living sacrifice that honors You daily.

*Romans 12:1-2*

- Father, teach me to respond with prayer instead of anxiety, surrender instead of striving, and peace instead of fear.

*Philippians 4:6-7*

- Lord, help me surrender my relationships, finances, ministry, family, and future into Your faithful care. Let every part of my life glorify You.

*1 Peter 5:7*

- Father, increase my sensitivity to Your voice so I may walk in obedience and follow wherever You lead.

*John 10:27*

- Lord, remind me that surrender is not loss but the pathway to deeper intimacy, freedom, and abundant life in You.

*Galatians 2:20*