

TESSA AFSHAR

FICTION SET IN BIBLICAL TIMES

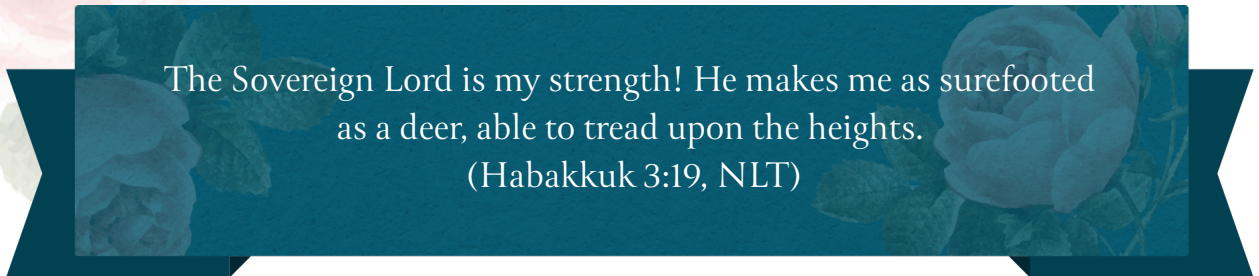


Seven Days of Prayer to Overcome Discouragement

For Land of Silence



Day One



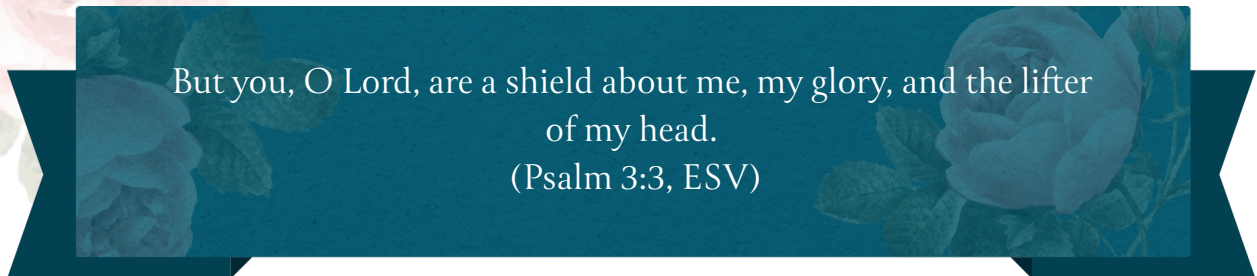
The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted
as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.
(Habakkuk 3:19, NLT)

Lord, I feel worn and discouraged. But you are my strength! Where I feel weak, you will empower me. Where I feel fearful, you will guide and counsel me. Where I feel I want to give up, you will enable me to tread upon the rocky, uncertain places, until I reach the heights of your presence. Until I can rest in your love.

Father, take these fragile threads of hope and bind me securely to you. I cry out to you, O Most High. You will fulfill your purpose for me. (Psalm 37:2, ESV)



Day Two



But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter
of my head.
(Psalm 3:3, ESV)

Father, you know where I am surrounded by lies. The lie that I am alone. The lie that it's all up to me. The lie that the future is not good anymore. The lie that I can't do this. The lie that you are far or uncaring. Every lie that discourages me. I don't know when I started believing these lies. But I want to stop living as if they are true.

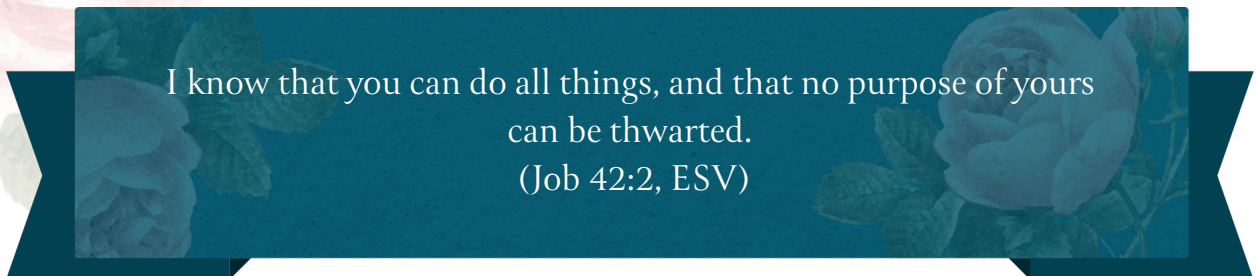
Jesus, you are the truth. You are the shield about me. You go before me and behind me. You lift up my head and heal me. Restore to me the joy of your presence, Lord. Draw me out of troubled waters and rescue me. Let my soul remember that you delight in me. (Psalm 18:19)

I will rest in you as you surround me with your shield.





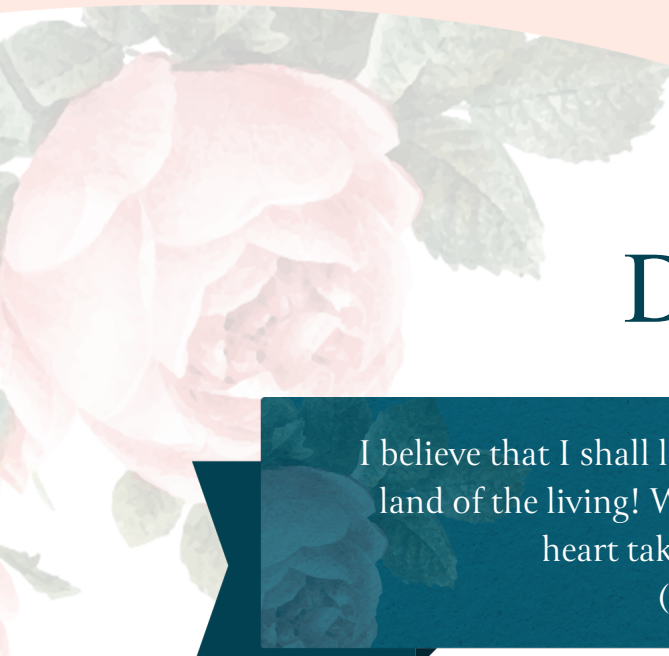
Day Three



I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours
can be thwarted.
(Job 42:2, ESV)

Lord, sometimes I forget that you can do all things. Sometimes, I act as if you are as limited as I am. As limited as this world is. Forgive my limited faith! Jesus, you can do *all* things! And I can do all things through you, because you strengthen me in your love. (Philippians 4:13)

Whatever purpose you have in my life, it cannot be thwarted. I invite you to take over every part of my future. Let nothing I choose block your purpose in my life. Release the fullness of your will for my destiny.



Day Four

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord: be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!
(Psalm 27:13-14, ESV)

Father, as I wait upon you, grant that I wait without falling into discouragement. Without falling into despair. Without allowing disappointment to lead me into sin. Without becoming joyless and discontented. Help me wait upon you with courage. Help me to remain strong in you and wait in hope. Your goodness is waiting for me. It will not miss me. It will not bypass me. It is here. Help me take hold of it right now, even in this hard place.



Day Five

For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal,
declares the Lord, because they have called you and outcast.
(Jeremiah 30:17, ESV)

Lord, you are the God of shalom. Of peace in body, soul, and spirit. Of peace in the mind and in the heart. Of restoration and wholeness. Restore your well-being and health to every part of my being. Heal my wounds, Jesus. Restore Your loving community in my life.



Day Six

But God was with him and rescued him out of all his afflictions
and gave him favor and wisdom. . .
(Acts 7:9-10, ESV)

Lord as you were with Joseph, be with me. Be with me in the pit. Be with me in the chains. Be with me in unfair situations. Be with me in my lonely times. Be with me when the future seems dark. Rescue me out of all my afflictions. Protect me from a spirit of discouragement. Help me walk in Your favor. Give me wisdom, Father to navigate the path that is before me.

Help me to lay hold of the promise of Joseph. Help me lay hold of the future you have for me. Lord, you brought your people to their desired haven. (Psalm 107:30) Help me remember that you can do that again for your people.





Day Seven

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.
(1 Chronicles 29:11 ESV)

Father, sometimes my view of you is so small. In my pain, I limit your greatness and power. Forgive me. Remind me that to you belongs all the power this world needs. On the Cross the victory was won. Yours is the Kingdom, O Lord.

Now be exalted over my life. Be head above all. Be head of my tomorrows. Be head of my dreams and plans. Be head of my sorrows. Be head of my broken pieces. Lord, rule over me. Reveal your glory to my inmost being.

Help me rely on you. Help me remember at my very core that you will see me through. Help me put you first and follow you.

