

Daily Devotional Prayers
of Peace, Joy, and Hope



Jesus Listens

SARAH YOUNG

Author of *Jesus Calling*®

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December 16

Dear Jesus,

I come to You with my gaping neediness—asking You to fill me with the Light of Your Love. I realize that a heart yielded to You doesn't whine or rebel when the going gets tough. Instead, it musters up the courage to thank You during hard times. Subordinating my will to Yours is ultimately an act of trust.

I long to walk peacefully with You through this day, yet I'm distracted by wondering if I can cope with all that's expected of me. My natural tendency is to mentally rehearse how I will do this or that. Help me instead to keep my mind on Your Presence and on taking the next step. The more demanding my day, the more I need to depend on Your strength. Teach me to view my neediness as a blessing—believing that You designed me for deep dependence on You. Challenging times wake me up and amplify my awareness of my inadequacy.

When I don't know what to do next, I will wait for You to open the way before me. I want to be ready to follow Your lead—trusting that You know what You are doing. I rejoice in Your promise to *give me strength and bless me with Peace*.

In Your empowering Name,
Amen

EPHESIANS 5:20 NLT; DEUTERONOMY 33:25;

PSALM 27:14; PSALM 29:11 NKJV



December 17

Faithful God,

Help me *hold unswervingly to the hope I profess*, trusting that *You are faithful*. Sometimes—especially when many things are going wrong—all I can do is hold on to You. I would love to be able to sort things out in my mind and find the way forward, but often this is impossible. At such times, what I really need to do is *seek Your Face* and *profess my hope*.

To profess hope is to affirm it openly. My words matter—not only to other people but also to me. Speaking negatively discourages me as well as the people around me. But when my words affirm my hope and trust in You, I gain confidence that You will show me the way to proceed.

The basis of my confidence is that *You are faithful*. Moreover, You have promised *You will not let me be tempted beyond my ability to endure*. Sometimes *the way of escape* You provide comes through my own words, such as: “I trust You, Jesus; You are my hope.” This affirmation keeps me holding on to You as my hope—unswervingly and trustingly.

In Your hope-filled Name, Jesus,
Amen

HEBREWS 10:23; PSALM 27:7–8 NKJV;

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 ESV

December 18

All-wise God,

You have been teaching me that understanding will never bring me Peace. Your Word instructs me to *trust in You with all my heart instead of relying on my own understanding*. This verse challenges me every day of my life.

I confess that I have a voracious appetite for trying to figure things out—attempting to gain a sense of mastery over my life. But the world presents me with an endless series of problems. As soon as I master one set of difficulties, another set rises up and unsettles me. Soon my mind is gearing up again—striving for understanding and mastery instead of seeking *You*, my Master. Please forgive me, Lord, and help me to *seek You* above all else.

I'm thankful that Your Peace is not an elusive goal, hidden at the center of a complicated maze. Because I belong to You, I'm already enveloped in the Peace that is inherent in Your Presence. The more I look to You, Jesus, the more of Your precious Peace You give me.

In Your trustworthy Name, Jesus,
Amen

PROVERBS 3:5 HCSB; JEREMIAH 29:13;
ROMANS 5:1; 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16