

# *Praise on Purpose*

A Year of Uplifting Words

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*Praise On Purpose: A Year of Uplifting Words*

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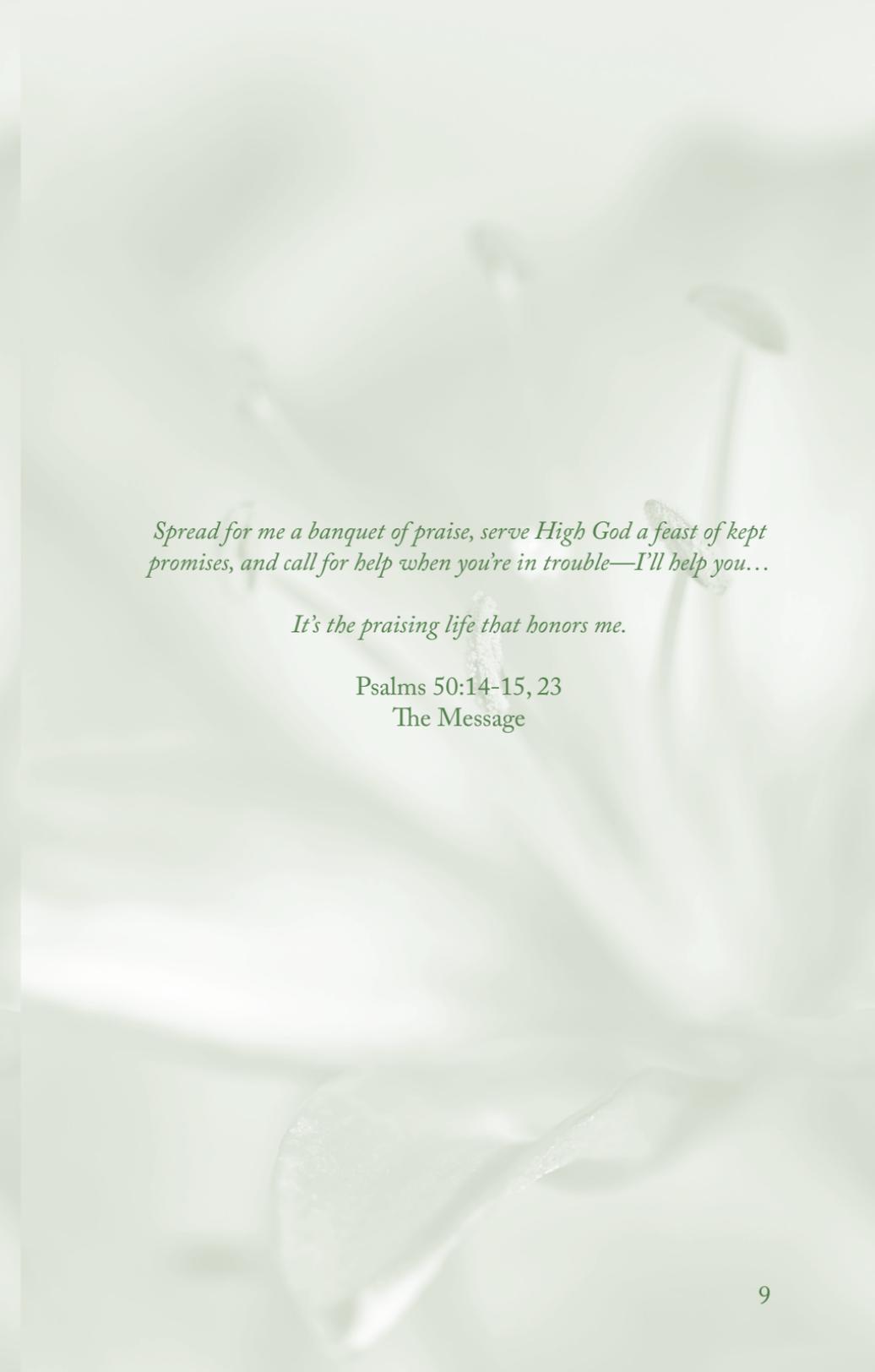
Finally, Lord Jesus, You surprised me with this book! I thought *No Prissy Shoes* was my one-and-only, but You always have bigger and better plans than I do. Be glorified in this book. Bring comfort and conviction to many through these devotions, by Your mighty hand. May Your name always be praised!



# Introduction

Welcome to a new and exciting way to walk through the ups and downs of everyday life—by praising God on purpose. For the next 365 days, even in the midst of difficulties and disappointments, we will deliberately thank God for something in our day, because He is worthy of that gratitude. As we lift up our hearts and voices to the One who showers us with blessings, He will give us eyes to see His God-gifts. Yes, as we embark on this holy habit of praise, a rising-up-inside-joy will awaken in us, one not dependent on good circumstances. This praising-Him-gladness flies in the face of the one who tries to deceive, derail and depress us, because praise has power. Satan knows it. That's why God ordained it. So, step into this new, jubilant way of living. You won't be sorry. It will be a transforming 365 days!





*Spread for me a banquet of praise, serve High God a feast of kept promises, and call for help when you're in trouble—I'll help you...*

*It's the praising life that honors me.*

Psalms 50:14-15, 23  
The Message



## Day 1

### *You Are For Me!*

*Thank You, Lord, You are for me!* Why is it easier to believe the world's lie that You are *mad* at me? Crazy! As a flower opens up to the sun, Your love and Christ-bought acceptance awaken and soothe my wounded soul. No more hiding, no more fear. You are in my corner, working for me. And You have not recently decided that I was good enough to love, but before the world even began. You set this plan in motion before time, because You didn't want me to just live, but to intimately live in a close relationship with You.

**Have You Thought?** Do you feel as especially loved by God right now as I do?

#### **His Answer:**

Blessed be the Lord—day after day he carries us along. He's our Savior, our God, oh yes! He's God-for-us, he's God-who-saves-us. Oh you, his people—bless God!

Psalms 68:19, 35  
The Message

## Day 2

### *Quiet My Ways*

*Thank You, Lord, Your ways are so simple and free.* When I seek You, I find You and I find freedom. You are always waiting for my cry...for my focus to turn to You. Sadly, some days my attention gets distracted. I get all tangled up in the things of this world. They drag me in and pull me down. Keep my eyes fixed firmly on You today, Lord, and my ears immune to the drone of the world's charms. I long to live an unhindered life before You, empowered and set free by You to be the true me You have designed me to be. But that won't happen if I am not in Your presence. You refuse to scream over the noise in my life. Quiet my ways, Lord.

**Have You Thought:** What's tangling me up today?

**His Answer:**

Light, space, zest—that's GOD!

That's the only quiet, secure place in a noisy world, the perfect getaway, far from the buzz of traffic.

Point me down your highway, GOD.

Psalms 27:1, 5, 11

The Message

## Day 3

### *I'm Safe With You*

*Thank You, Lord, You are the listening ear when no one else is interested. When comfort is long exhausted or dreams I've spoken fall to the ground unopened, You hear and You care. The conversation is never over with You, Lord. Wise counsel or encouraging affirmations are never lacking at Your throne. You lift me up and take me seriously. You even let me dream or vent with no reprimands. Every word I long to speak is safe with You. Thank you for allowing me to be the true me with You, my faithful God. The next time my earthly companions fail me, remind me what a wonderful Comforter and Counselor You are. Thanks.*

**Have You Thought:** What do I need to share with God today?

#### **His Answer:**

You've always given me breathing room, a place to get away from it all, a lifetime pass to your safe-house, an open invitation as your guest. You've always taken me seriously, God, made me welcome among those who know and love you.

Psalms 61:3-5

The Message

## Day 4

### *In Confident Trust*

*Thank You, Lord, You are with me in the highs and lows of life. Don't let me get so caught up in the good times that I forget to thank You...the One who orchestrated my good times. And when bad things happen which I didn't expect or longed for results don't pan out, help me not fall into despair. Everything, good or bad, must be sifted through Your Hand before it reaches me. You ordain and allow it all to work for my good in order to perfect me into Your image. Help me to walk with confident trust in Your plans for me. All creation gives You the final word, Jesus. Today I choose to follow You that closely too.*

**Have You Thought?** Have I given You the final word in my life?

#### **His Answer:**

All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but *forever*. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything.

Ephesians 1:20-22  
The Message

## Day 5

### *God's Smile*

*Thank You, Lord, You give me more grace than I give myself. As I think about last year, I list all the things I didn't get done...and I frown. You see the times when I trusted You, or reached out to a stranger, or chose Your truth over the world's opinion... and You smile. I need to put on Your God-Glasses this year to see my way clearly. Yes, I'll mess up again, and neglect things. You, God, will love me anyway, and smile. You see all the ways You will *still* grow me into Your woman.*

**Have You Thought?** Where do I need to relax and trust Your work in me?

**His Answer:**

GOD bless you and keep you, GOD smile on you and gift you, GOD look you full in the face and make you prosper.

Numbers 6:24-26

The Message