

# Extraordinary Women

Feb 2021

I just loved the encouragement given in the UCB Word for Today in the first two days of January this year. The gist of the notes is to remember that the Lord has prepared this day for me and I can **choose** to actively see His plans, accept them and enjoy them in His grace, strength and blessing. What's not to like???

Perhaps like me, you may be finding it increasingly difficult to memorise and remember all sorts of things in general, but I don't want to lose these precious thoughts, not just for the new year, but whenever tedium, tiredness or anything else the devil sneakily throws at me, attempt to take over my well-being. I hope that you can be encouraged to continue being Extraordinary as you look over these words – slightly pruned! Marilyn

*The land which you go to...is not like the land...from which you have come...the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord...are always on it, from the beginning...to the very end of the year' (Deuteronomy 11 vv. 10-12 NKJV)..*

'The land which you go to possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come.' Egypt was the place of stress, sorrow, and struggle. But Canaan was the place of God-given success, self-worth, and spiritual growth. In other words, this year doesn't have to be like last year for us. Why? Because 'the Lord your God cares'. Jeremiah said:

*'Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him' (Lamentations 3:21-25 NLT).*

David said:

*'His anger lasts only a moment, but his favour lasts a lifetime! Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning' (Psalm 30:5 NLT). We don't have to dread what lies ahead. This year we can experience God's love, mercy, faithfulness, goodness, and favour in our lives.*

**This year we will face some mountains and go through some valleys. And we need both. The strength gained from climbing and conquering our last mountain is what will get us through our next valley. It's in the valley that the sweetest fruit grows. That's because it's watered by streams that flow from the mountains.**

This year Jesus wants us to be more fruitful in His service. And He tells us how:



**'Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing' (John 15:4-5 NKJV).**

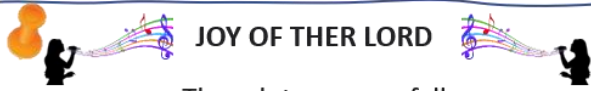
What kind of fruit is God looking for in my life and your life this year? Paul tells us:

**'When we live God's way...He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard – things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely' (Galatians 5:22-23 MSG).**



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## JOY OF THE LORD

Though tears may fall  
My song will rise, my song will rise to You  
Though my heart may fail  
My song will rise, my song will rise to You  
While there's breath in my lungs  
I will praise You, Lord

In the dead of night  
I'll lift my eyes, I'll lift my eyes to You  
When the waters rise  
I'll lift my eyes, I'll lift my eyes to You  
While there's hope in my heart  
I will praise You, Lord

The joy of the Lord is my strength  
The joy of the Lord is my strength  
In the darkness I'll dance  
In the shadows I'll sing  
The joy of the Lord is my strength

When I cannot see You with my eyes  
Let faith arise to You  
When I cannot feel Your hand in mine  
Let faith arise to You  
God of mercy and love  
I will praise You, Lord

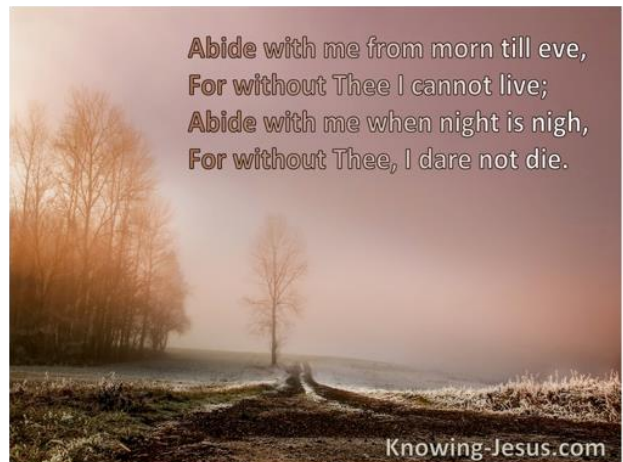
Oh You shine with glory Lord of light  
I feel alive with You  
In Your presence now I come alive  
I am alive with You  
There is strength when I say  
I will praise You, Lord

When sorrow comes my way  
You are the shield around me  
Always You remain  
Like courage in the fight  
I hear You call my name  
Jesus, I am coming  
Walking on the waves  
Reaching for Your light

Dear Lord, I know that I am commanded to abide in You and I desire to live my life day by day, simply resting and abiding in You. Teach me Lord how to abide in You, so that all that is of myself will melt away as the Spirit of Christ pulses through my being.

Give me the strength to be a fruitful branch, for You alone are my sufficiency. Enable me to abide in Your love so that I may produce much fruit, out of the abundance of Your grace. In Jesus' name

I pray,



We're going to be sending out a monthly devotional thought and if you have something that you would like to share with us please get in touch and we will be delighted to send it out  
You can contact us on [ExtraordinaryWomen@outlook.com](mailto:ExtraordinaryWomen@outlook.com) or 07889397373 (Moyra), 07776412884 (Helen)