SHAKE ABLE

365 DEVOTIONS FOR FINDING UNWAVERING STRENGTH IN GOD'S WORD

CHRISTINE CAINE

A FRESH START

Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you.

PROVERBS 4:25

I love new beginnings. The first day of a new year always inspires me to take an honest look at every aspect of my life and schedule, and to decide any necessary adjustments. I want to always be sure I'm staying the course—laser focused. I love how Proverbs 4:25 tells us, "Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you."

I remember when my husband, Nick, bought me a Vespa—complete with driving lessons. The most important point my instructor made was that where I looked was where I would go.

What great advice for the start of a new year! God wants us to be diligent in keeping our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus—laser focused. He wants us to stay the course, and where we focus is where we'll go.

Let's commit to focusing on Jesus—the One who calms the storms. Then we won't be overwhelmed by our circumstances, problems, challenges, or feelings. We won't fear any waves of opposition. Instead, faith will rise up and make us *unshakeable!*

Lord, help me to stay focused on You, every moment of every day.

GOD'S STORYLINE FOR YOU

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

GALATIANS 5:1

The longer I live, the more I see how God has been writing a great story in my life. Its plot illustrates His power to transform a life shaped by shame into a life full of freedom—a life I live as a champion, Spirit-filled and Spirit-led. As a child and a teen, I never could have imagined such a beautiful story for myself. But God is a magnificent author, and I am so thankful I get to live His story for my life every day.

God wants to do the very same thing for you. He created you for a specific purpose. He has a powerful plan—a significant reframing—for your life. And guess what? Slavery has no place in God's storyline. Jesus came to set you free from every bondage—shame, fear, doubt, pain—from whatever has enslaved you. Yes, the Enemy will always try to throw his weights back on you, but when you feel them start to pull you down, declare today's verse over your life. Personalize it and remember to "stand firm" in your God-given freedom.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm and confidently move forward in God's new story for your life.

Lord, thank You for creating me to live free—and help me walk in that freedom each day.

LOVING GOD WITH ALL WE ARE

"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

MATTHEW 22:37-39

God took all the commands and laws and summarized them into two critical points: love God and love others. That's because His love *in* us heals and transforms us—and His love *through* us heals and transforms the world around us. Imagine how much He has entrusted to us! We can't help but share His perfect love and help others be made whole. What a gift! That's why God wants us to keep growing in loving others well.

Learning to love God first—and loving Him so completely that you love Him with every fiber of your heart, soul, and mind—is a lifelong process. It comes from daily meeting with Him, seeking Him, and allowing Him to change your heart to be more like His. Learning to love others next is how we cooperate with Jesus and His mission to win the lost and disciple others.

As you continue to grow in loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind, show your love for Him by loving those around you. Fulfill the greatest commandments. Love God. Love others. Be the love of Jesus everywhere you go.

Thank You, Jesus, for working in me so I can better love You with all my heart, soul, and mind—and show Your supernatural love to others.

RENEWED PASSION

His power . . . is at work within us.

EPHESIANS 3:20

Your life in God is an adventure of faith—and the fuel to keep you going is your passion. Our passion is that unapologetic willingness and enthusiasm to do what God has called us to do. *Enthusiasm* comes from two Greek words: *en*, which means "in," and *theos*, which means "God." So if you are in God, you have enthusiasm. When you live from a place of passion, you take performing your work and living your life from a place of "have to" to a place of "get to." You don't do anything out of obligation, but out of excited gratitude.

Passion will enable you to do what you never thought you could.

Passion will enable you to keep going when you want to give up.

Passion will help you to inspire everyone to come along on the journey with you.

We are filled with the Holy Spirit of the living God; therefore, we ought to be the most passionate people on earth. So, when you feel your passion begin to wane, stand on God's promise to us: "Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:30–31).

Your faithful, unfailing love keeps me going, Lord. It guides, heals, empowers, transforms, protects, and provides for me. Thank You.

OUR REJOICING GOD

[The LORD your God] will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

How else can we respond to such unconditional love except with gratitude and praise—rejoicing right along with Him? He loves us so much that He sings over us!

When you find it difficult to connect with God, or feel as though you can't hear His direction in your life, start praising Him for all He is and thanking Him for all He has done. Whether you sing it or say it, express your gratitude like the Word says, entering His "gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4). Magnify His name with prayers like the following:

"Father, You are wonderful. Thank You for being such a good God, who is so good to me. Thank You for being so faithful to me in every season. Thank You for never leaving me nor forsaking me. Thank You for always working all things for my good—even when I can't see You at work."

Lord, the idea that You sing over me in delight both thrills and humbles me. Thank You for Your love!

Show me how to delight in You right back!

LEARNING TO TRUST

Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

PSALM 9:10

At some point in our lives, we undoubtedly develop defense mechanisms—those habits we form to protect our hearts and minds from hurt and pain. We decide to never be truly vulnerable again. Or we become the person trying to control every aspect of our lives—and even those around us.

We think these mechanisms create a life that is easier to deal with than trusting an unknown future to a known God. But learning to trust God is actually the antidote to getting rid of all of our defense mechanisms. It's the journey He wants us to take.

Yes, learning to trust will take time. It will be helped by experience with trustworthy people. It will involve accepting challenges, undergoing trials, and coming out the other side. It will mean taking the risk of following God despite our fear.

Trust grows slowly. So, be patient and kind with yourself, knowing that "the Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

Lord, I know You are trustworthy—even when I don't feel it. Heal me, and lead me along the way to complete freedom in You.

LETTING GO OF THE PAST

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

ISAIAH 43:19

At my house, I firmly believe in having a place for everything and everything in its place.

I love to purge my house, office, car, and any other space of needless junk and clutter. If something has not been used recently or is simply taking up too much space, out it goes! (Nick and the girls often leave notes on their possessions, begging me to not give them away or throw them away.)

A harder assignment, though, is to purge our minds from past events. If we spend time replaying every scene when we failed or when someone hurt us, abused us, or disappointed us, then we will struggle to move forward.

If you hang on tightly to past memories, you might miss out on the life God wants you living today! Yes, it takes courage to let go of the weights you have carried around for years—whether those are actual, physical things (such as clothes, cars, jewelry, or houses) or intangible weights (relationships, bad habits, wrong thinking, or emotional baggage). It's time to clean out your mind. Then your hands will be free to hold the good things God has for you. The new things He wants to give you!

Lord God, I want to pursue the adventure You have for my life. Please help me see and release the things I don't need.