

CORRIE TEN BOOM

G O D
I S M Y
H I D I N G
P L A C E

40
DEVOTIONS
for
REFUGE AND
STRENGTH

GOD
IS MY
HIDING
PLACE

40 DEVOTIONS

for REFUGE AND STRENGTH

CORRIE TEN BOOM



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About the Author

CORRIE TEN BOOM, Holland's first woman licensed as a watchmaker, endured ten months in a Nazi prison camp for hiding Jews in the family home during World War II. She and her family had been arrested in a raid on their home; in prison she lost her father and her eldest sister. Her account of these days makes up her best-known book and a 1975 feature-length film by the same name: *The Hiding Place*.

At age 52, upon her release from Ravensbruck near Berlin, Corrie dedicated her life to telling of faith in God and the power of forgiveness. She traveled to 64 countries in 33 years, never resting anywhere long enough to call it home and, therefore, earning the title she wore affectionately, "a tramp for the Lord."

In 1977, exactly 33 years from the day of her arrest by the Nazis, the 85-year-old Corrie ten Boom settled in a small rented house in Placentia, California. She worked on books and short movies about gratefulness to God, trust in Him and both practicing and experiencing forgiveness.

Corrie went to be with her precious Savior on April 15, 1983, her 91st birthday.

Introduction from the Publisher

There are certain people whose wisdom, compassion and genuine love for God and His people span generations. Corrie ten Boom is one of those. Her insights were forged in the fires of tribulation during the Nazi Holocaust when she, her sister and her father were arrested for hiding Jews.

In this devotional, you will read accounts of her imprisonment, where the Lord met her and her sister in profound ways. You will glean from the 33 years of ministry that followed. But most importantly, we believe you will encounter the One who became Corrie's closest Friend—Jesus.

Her life is a story of timeless treasure, which deserves to be shared over and over again. She reminds us that in times of great darkness, God's love shines through. In Corrie's own words, "there is no pit so deep that the love of Jesus Christ is not deeper still."

Chosen Books thanks Elizabeth Sherrill, who with her husband, John, worked with Corrie to write *The Hiding Place*, for giving permission to use text from this beloved Christian classic. We also thank Revell, a sister division at Baker Publishing Group, for allowing us to draw upon the rich content from Corrie under their care. Lastly, we are grateful to Gretchen

Introduction from the Publisher

Rodriguez, who carefully compiled and edited the devotional content and wrote the prayers, which embody Corrie's heart and writings so well.

It is our delight to share with you these priceless nuggets of grace and truth from Corrie ten Boom.

Day 1

Victory Is Found in Him

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Ephesians 2:8–9

In Germany I once met a woman who told me that 42 years prior, she had committed a terrible sin and since then had prayed every day for forgiveness. She did not know that the sin problem was solved at Calvary's cross. I have met many people on my journeys who have similar stories. Faith is a problem for them because they do not yet know the Lord or the truth contained in His Word. Theirs is a torturous saga until they learn of the power of redemption. Once they do, their entire way of living changes for the better. Truth has the power to set everyone free.

The Bible is full of overflowing riches and victory. It is an unfolding story of God's love. The moment we believe what

it says, we are registered in heaven as one who has the rights and privileges that make us multimillionaires in the spiritual realm. When the heart learns to trust the Lord as He should be trusted—utterly and without reservation—He throws wide the doors of the treasure-house of grace. He bids us to come with boldness so that we may receive our share of the inheritance. He holds nothing back. As a matter of fact, God is watching over His Word to perform it in our lives (see Jeremiah 1:12). He is eagerly waiting for us to believe Him, my friend!

Ephesians 1:3 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (NKJV). What a glorious provision our loving Father has made for us. The moment we confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior, God releases the blessings of Christ into our lives. Everything Jesus paid for on the cross—forgiveness, acceptance and salvation—becomes ours. By a simple act of faith, we draw near to our Savior, knowing He will not reject us. We are no longer outsiders, begging for mercy, hoping and praying that He hears us. We are *in Him*, and this is where our victory is found!

I have often heard people say, “I *hope* that I’m a child of God,” or, “I *try* to be a good Christian.” As if the responsibility to behave perfectly is our ticket to heaven. We cannot work our way into heaven—it is a gift from God. The burden of sin has been lifted by Jesus’ nail-pierced hands. When we resign ourselves to the truth that we *are* His children, it becomes easier to enjoy the freedom of our salvation. We no longer fearfully strive to please the Lord, and living for Him becomes

*I am no longer an outsider,
begging for mercy, hoping and
praying that God hears me.
I am in Christ, and this is
where my victory is found!*

effortless, as long as we remember who we are. Peace will rule our hearts when we believe that His Word is true.

I believe that we are too often failure-conscious. Faith makes us victory-conscious. Faith brings the unreality of hope to the reality of now. Hope is future. Faith is present. Faith is the radar that shows us the reality of Christ's victory. The moment that radar works correctly, we dare to say, "God has made me able to conquer weakness, fear and inability, and I stand and declare that whosoever believes in Jesus shall not be put to shame."

Jesus was victor, Jesus is victor, Jesus will be the victor. And now His victory has become ours. Jesus has triumphed, and nothing could ever separate us from His love. Hallelujah!

Prayer

Father, I am eternally grateful for Your gift of salvation, which You have so graciously bestowed. Thank You for washing me and drawing me close. The victory of Your love has set me free. Your nearness is my heart's desire. With the strength You have given me, I will honor You for all my days. And I will worship You, for I am Your child—beloved, accepted and courageous. I set myself apart for Your holy purposes.

Day 2

Thankfulness

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

My sister Betsie taught me a great deal. She had a knack for finding things to be thankful for, even in the most devastating circumstances. One such circumstance was during our imprisonment in Ravensbruck. When we were taken to our barracks, it was our noses that first told us the place was filthy. The plumbing had backed up somewhere. The bedding was soiled and rancid, and we struggled against nausea that swept over us.

When we laid back on the straw-covered platform that was to be our bed, something pinched my leg. “Fleas!” I cried. “Betsie, the place is swarming with them! How can we live in such a place?”

“Show us. Show us how,” Betsie replied. It was said so matter-of-factly it took me a second to realize she was praying.

More and more, the distinction between prayer and the rest of life seemed to vanish for Betsie.

“Corrie!” she said excitedly. “He’s given us the answer. ‘Give thanks in all circumstances!’ That’s what we can do. We can start right now to thank God for every single thing about these new barracks!”

“Such as?” I asked.

“Such as being assigned here together.”

I bit my lip. “Oh yes, Lord Jesus!”

“Such as what you’re holding in your hands.”

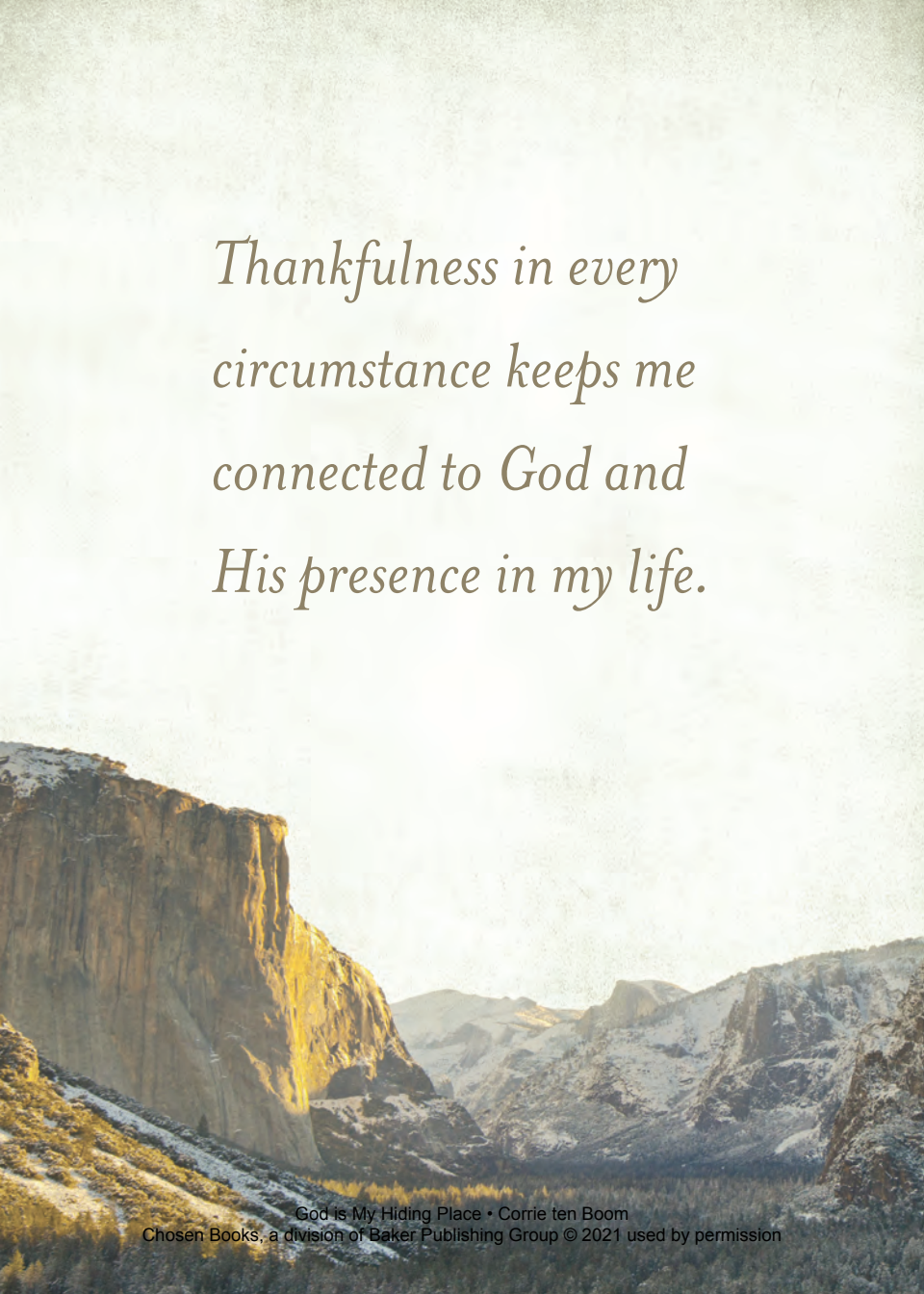
I looked down at the Bible. “Yes! Thank You, dear Lord, that there was no inspection when we entered here! Thank You for all the women, here in this room, who will meet You in these pages.”

“Thank You,” Betsie went on serenely, “for the fleas and for—”

“The fleas!” This was too much. “Betsie, there’s no way even God can make me grateful for a flea.”

“‘Give thanks in all circumstances,’” she quoted. “It doesn’t say, ‘in pleasant circumstances.’”

And so we stood between the bunks and gave thanks for fleas. But this time, I was sure Betsie was wrong. Sometime later Betsie was assigned a knitting job in our barracks with some of the other prisoners. Because she was a lightning-fast knitter, she found herself with most of the day in which to minister to those around her. She kept our Bible with her and spent hours each day reading aloud from it. Betsie was never commanded to stop.

A scenic landscape of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a river flows through a valley, surrounded by green and brown vegetation. The middle ground shows a large, steep, rocky cliff face on the left, and a valley with snow-capped peaks in the distance. The sky is a soft, hazy yellow, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and majestic.

*Thankfulness in every
circumstance keeps me
connected to God and
His presence in my life.*

“You know, we’ve never understood why we had so much freedom in the big room,” she said. “Well, I’ve found out.”

That afternoon, there’d been confusion in her knitting group about sock sizes, and they’d asked the supervisor to come and settle it.

“But she wouldn’t. She wouldn’t step through the door, and neither would the guards. And you know why?” Betsie could not keep the triumph from her voice. “Because of the fleas! That’s what she said, ‘That place is crawling with fleas!’”

And then I remembered the day Betsie bowed her head and encouraged me to thank God for creatures I could see no use for. It had been the fleas that kept the supervisor and guards away, leaving plenty of time for Betsie to minister to those women.

Thankfulness keeps us connected to the reality of God in our lives. May we all emulate my sister and look for the good in every situation. When we determine in our hearts to be thankful—in *all* circumstances—we open the door to God’s unexpected blessing and provision.

Prayer

Father, You are glorious in all of Your ways and in Your many blessings of mercy and grace. Forgive me for neglecting to thank You as often as I should. Like the angels around Your throne that ceaselessly cry, “Holy, holy, holy,” if I spent all day, every day, praising You, it would never be enough. I want to cultivate an attitude of thankfulness. From the smallest pleasures to the most momentous events, may I become more aware of Your many blessings.