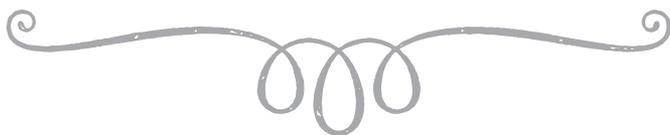


WOMEN
Who Move
MOUNTAINS



*praying with confidence,
boldness, and grace*



SUE DETWEILER



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To Joy Dawson, who inspired me to have an intimate friendship with God.

To Jack Hayford, who taught me that prayer is invading the impossible.

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To all the amazing women I've met,
and those I haven't, who pray with
confidence, boldness, and grace.

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FOREWORD

I love mountains and I love climbing them! I can't remember a time when I didn't relish the adventure of being out in nature and the challenge of getting to the top. In recent years, my love for climbing has taken me to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro (19,341 ft.) in Africa and Everest Base Camp (17,598 ft.) in Nepal. High elevation trekking is one of the hardest but most thrilling things I've ever done.

But what do we do when those mountains are not just for climbing, but they are very real obstacles, hindrances, or problems blocking our way forward—blocking the blessings that God has stored up for us but that seem impossible to grasp because of the mountain or mountains in our way.

We do what Jesus said we should do. We tell the mountain to **MOVE!**

Jesus said, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20 NIV).

Years ago, I was in line for a position I'd hoped and prayed would open up. When the job finally became available, I was sure they'd pick me! I felt it was a perfect fit for me, but no call came. But God in His mercy gave me a vision. I saw a large pile of debris

like you'd see after a storm (twigs and tree limbs) piled twelve feet high and twelve feet wide. It was totally impenetrable.

Somehow, I knew exactly what the vision meant! There was something blocking me from this position, something hindering management from seeing me in this role.

I knew I had to pray and tell it to move. Although I felt a little ridiculous, I called a friend and asked if she'd join me to move a mountain out of my way. After dark, we met outside the building, and we prophetically pushed that pile of debris out of the way. We declared it done and no longer able to hinder God's perfect will for me. The very next morning I got the call—and I got the job! And the rest is history.

In *Women Who Move Mountains*, Sue Detweiler takes us on a journey, where we learn to speak to the mountains of fear, discouragement, loss, pain, or whatever it is that's hindering us from moving forward with God, and then watch it move in the name of Jesus! You have the power. It only takes a mustard seed of faith. The same God who made the mountains and made them for climbing gave us the power to move them by our prayers! So get your hiking boots on because you're about ready to climb higher with your Savior than you've ever been and see for yourself that with God, you too can move mountains!

—Wendy Griffith, *700 Club* co-host, author,
and mountain climber

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I want to thank those in the body of Christ who have taught me to pray: Joy Dawson, Jack Hayford, Tom White, Larry Lea, Stormie Omartian, Neil Anderson, Dutch Sheets, Bill Johnson, Jim Goll, Glenn Burris, Dale Evrlist, Toni Kline, David Coffey, Kim Pitner, and so many more intercessors and friends who have labored long hours in prayer.

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PART ONE





Introduction



You Are Invited on a Prayer Journey

Every journey has a beginning. The starting point of prayer is God. Like a father who waits to hear every detail of your life, He waits for you. You don't need to get dressed up and go to church to reverently pray. The God of the universe invites you to come as you are. You can endure anything when you are at God's side. He is the transformer. He turns sorrow to joy. He turns bitter to sweet.

As you come close to God in prayer, He brings purpose even from the brokenness of your life. You can't remain downcast when you turn your face upward to God. He reaches down to your lowest pit, but He doesn't leave you there.

So many are saying, "God will never rescue him!" But you, O Lord, are a shield around me; you are my glory, the one who holds my head high. I cried out to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy mountain.

Psalm 3:2–4

Negative thoughts may try to convince you that God will never rescue you. Prayer rinses these plaguing doubts from your mind. As you cry out to God, He answers you. He shields you with His presence. The more you know God, the more you trust Him. You

no longer feel like you need to be perfect. You learn how to come into His presence. You begin the joyful pursuit of God.

You Are Invited to Become a Woman Who Moves Mountains

When I am standing next to a mountain, I feel small and insignificant. It towers over me with immovable fortitude. Jesus used this picture to call us to increased faith. He said,

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

Mark 11:22–24 NIV

To pray with this mountain-moving faith challenges each one of us to overcome the obstacles in our lives and make them opportunities of purposeful mission. It requires each of us to move out of our comfort zone, have faith in God, and speak to every mountain that separates us from God and His assignment in our lives.

Often the very barrier that has been used by the Enemy to stop our progress becomes the stepping-stone to grow in greater intimacy with Him. We grow stronger as we push against the resistance. Our spiritual muscles are exercised as we triumph over the plans of the Enemy.

You Are Invited to Be a Fellow Traveler

Just by picking up this book and beginning to read you are joining a whole company of women who are learning to pray with *confidence*, *boldness*, and *grace*. This book about prayer will not be ritualistic lists of do’s and don’ts. It is about being real and

raw with God, learning to uncover the weak parts of your life and receive His strength. It's about choosing to bring your wounded areas to Him and receive His healing.

When you remove these barriers that block the fulfillment of your destiny, you will grow closer to God and others. Many women want to be free but don't know how to be free. This book provides a step-by-step journey to finding true freedom in Christ.

The odd-numbered chapters explain how to transform your relationship with God and give examples of biblical and modern women who have moved mountains in prayer. The even-numbered chapters show how to apply these prayer principles to your own life as you discover the truth of God's Word. You may want to write your personal answers to these questions in your own journal or go to www.SueDetweiler.com to download bonus journal pages.

Removing barriers between us and God improves our prayer lives. That's what this book will do for you!

This book is for you if . . .

You are just starting your journey with God. . . .

You are a longtime traveler with God, but you want more. . . .

You want relationship, not religion in your prayer life. . . .

You want to pray, but you sometimes feel stuck. . . .

*You desire greater transformation in the
broken places of your life. . . .*

You want to be healed. . . .

You want to be whole. . . .

You want to know God intimately. . . .

You want a new beginning in your life. . . .

You want to be real, not fake in your prayer life. . . .

You want to go deeper. . . .

You want to find purpose. . . .

You want a fresh start. . . .

You Are Invited to Begin a Women's Prayer Group

We need to encourage each other in our lives of prayer. We may glance at someone else and think their time with God must be more incredible than our own. If we are honest, no one's perfect, but everyone is on a life journey. Christian women are fellow travelers with our sisters around the world. Our hope is not in learning a new method of prayer. It is in knowing the person and power of Jesus Christ.

As we travel together you will experience . . .

A new beginning in prayer . . .

A greater understanding of your calling to pray . . .

A stronger relationship with God, who is calling you to pray . . .

A fresh inspiration and momentum to pray . . .

A transformation of your broken places through prayer . . .

*A significant increase in your intimacy with God
through prayer . . .*

A genuine depth and purpose in prayer . . .

A greater knowledge of God's Word about prayer . . .

A clear understanding of God's ways through prayer . . .

A readiness to pray . . .

Consider meeting with a group of women and discussing this book and praying for each other. The power of prayer is multiplied when two or three gather together in agreement. Complete the assigned chapters prior to your women's group.

The format of your group can be simple:

- Ten minutes: Opening icebreaker (download icebreaker questions at www.SueDetweiler.com).
- Five minutes: Watch bonus video for chapter.
- Thirty minutes: Discuss the group questions and reflect on how the chapters impact each of you personally.
- Fifteen minutes: Pray for each other.

If you are a group leader and would like to watch a leader training video, go to www.SueDetweiler.com.

The schedule of your group could be as follows:

- Week 1: Read chapter 1 and complete questions in chapter 2.
- Week 2: Read chapter 3 and complete questions in chapter 4.
- Week 3: Read chapter 5 and complete questions in chapter 6.
- Week 4: Read chapter 7 and complete questions in chapter 8.
- Week 5: Read chapter 9 and complete questions in chapter 10.
- Week 6: Read chapter 11 and complete questions in chapter 12.
- Week 7: Read chapter 13 and complete questions in chapter 14.
- Week 8: Read chapter 15 and complete questions in chapter 16.
- Week 9: Read chapter 17 and complete questions in chapter 18.
- Week 10: Read chapter 19 and complete questions in chapter 20.
- **Bonus:** After you have completed this women's study, throw a party and invite friends. Share personal testimonies of what God has done in your life as you have become *Women Who Move Mountains*.

Believe God for His Transformation in Your Life

Our confidence is in God. He is the One who has led you to pick up this book as a tool in His hands to transform you. It's the great exchange! He replaces your worst with His best. Remember, in order to move mountains in your own life, you need to have faith in God and speak to that mountain and watch it move. So let's begin right now.

Stand up wherever you are in the world and pray this prayer out loud with confidence, boldness, and grace.

All-powerful God,

I begin this journey with expectation. You are a mountain-moving God. I choose to change the way I think, speak, and act as I apply the transformative truth of your Word to my life. I choose

to trust you with the broken places of my heart. I give you my disappointment and I receive your hope. I place my confidence in you. You lead me and guide me. I open my heart to allow you to use the simple words of this book and the power of your Word to transform me. Merciful God, lead me to the home of your healing heart so I can share your heart with others. In Jesus' name, amen.



— 1 —

I Believe



Transforming Fear into Faith

The Prayer of Desperation

“Get my baby out!” I screamed with a raspy voice. My desperate pleas for help were barely heard. Smoke filled the room as the cries of my newborn awakened me into a living nightmare. The house was on fire, and I couldn’t get out.

As a young girl, my mind would wonder, *What would I do if my house caught on fire?* Then I would create a very clear, level-headed plan. However, smoke inhalation disorients your brain.

The sounds of my precious five-week-old daughter’s wails pierced my sleep. Walking to her bedroom in the dark, half-asleep, to feed her every night had never been a problem. Now, suddenly, I was lost and couldn’t find her doorway.

I clawed at the clothes in my closet trying to find my way out. Then, stumbling in the other direction, I felt the windowpane. It wasn’t until I opened the window and looked out that I realized

my house was on fire. I tried to scream for help, but no one could hear my cries.

I collapsed. In desperation, I prayed the prayer everyone prays when they think they are about to die—“*Help!*” My daughter and I would have died that night if my husband hadn’t gotten home in time. Imagine his horror when he rounded the corner and could see the sky lit up by orange flames.

Cars and people filled our street, watching in horror. The home next to us, which was under construction, had already burned to the ground. A home on the other side stood engulfed in a raging inferno. The family of four stood huddled together, watching all of their belongings turn to ash.

There was only one fire truck on the scene. The other fire trucks sat motionless, waiting for a passing train. My husband grabbed the arm of the fireman. Frantically he asked, “Did you get my wife and baby out?” The fireman dropped the hose and together they ran to the front door. The neighbors had assumed we were still on vacation. They didn’t realize we were trapped inside.

When I heard someone coming into our home, I began to scream hysterically, “Get my baby out!” I don’t remember what the fireman who saved my life looked like. I just remember him holding his flashlight up and saying, “Come toward the light.” I made my way toward what looked like a tiny pin-light in the smothering darkness. At last, I felt his arms as he led me out to safety.¹

Come toward the Light

Have you ever found yourself in a dark place, not knowing which direction to go? It’s in the blackest night that light pierces the darkness. Come toward the light. Prayer brings light to your path so that you know which way to go. Prayer taps into God’s power to transform your daily life. God is all-sufficient, all-knowing, and all-powerful. God is not only able to change situations, He is willing to change them.

The main way we connect with God's will for our lives is through prayer.

God is not an abusive, negligent dad who will scold you if you don't pray correctly. God is the ever-present, always-available Maker of heaven and earth. It is in His presence that there is fullness of joy.

Coming toward the light is a simple thing that a child can do. In fact, Jesus encouraged us to come to God like children.

But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Luke 18:16–17 NIV

Childlike hope spurs us on to discovery. Like a child, we can look to God's light, trusting that He is leading us. He is not going to leave us. We enter into His kingdom as children. It's when we come to the end of ourselves that we find God. He is the source of our life. He is the Maker of heaven and earth. He created you in His image. He gave you life, breath, and purpose.

If you are trying to walk through life without the help of God, you will be lonely, depressed, and overwhelmed. But if you are ready to find help, He is waiting to help you. He is ready to pour His life-giving, life-altering, life-changing power into you. He will replace your desperation with hope.

A Mother's Prayers

We spent a long, weary night in the hospital as the doctors examined and treated my baby and me for smoke inhalation. In the early hours of the morning we called my mom. That's when we had the conversation that forever changed my perspective on prayer.

"Mom, we're all right." The long pause of silence was deafening.

Finally, she spoke: “What happened?”

Wayne described the huge fire and how there was only one fire truck, leaving three homes devastated. The heat from the blazing inferno melted a car bumper and the shutters of our neighbors’ home. People lined the street as the fire lit up the night sky. As we told Mom about the fire, her quiet peace engulfed our stress.

“You’re the ones I have been praying for,” she said. The month before, my mom began to meditate, fast, and pray over Isaiah 43:

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep
over you.

*When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.*

Isaiah 43:2 NIV

Later I would look back on this telephone conversation and marvel at the power of prayer and the peace of my own mother. I would realize that prayer is a matter of life and death. I would rejoice in how God saved us from the fire. I would celebrate—just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—that God was with me in the fire. I would wonder at how the bondages of my life were burned up and I was set free. (See Daniel 3.)

However, my present reality was far from tranquil. My whole life-system was on overload. *I had no home . . . no baby furniture . . . no diapers . . . no clothes . . .*

As we walked into the shell of our home, trying to salvage things, my emotions were more charred than the black soot that blanketed every surface. The neighbors rallied and helped with our physical needs, but I was a mess. The only prayer I continued to pray was “*Help!*”

If you are in this place of desperation right now, lean into the wisdom of sisters and brothers who will hold up your arms in prayer. It’s okay to not be okay. All of us have times when our lives are falling apart. God will prompt people to pray for you and help you carry your burden.

Coming toward the light of Jesus will bring peace to your heart and mind. You don't have to have everything figured out. You just need to know the One who holds the world together—Jesus!

Jesus, born a baby in a manger, who grew to be a man, knows your pain and loss. He walked on this earth and suffered and died for us. God chose for His son to be born at a time in history when there would be no room in the inn. God chose for Jesus to be born of a virgin girl named Mary.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus

In the first picture I saw of Mary, the mother of Jesus, she had light surrounding her. We make fun of the old-fashioned paintings with halos, but now I realize that the artist is trying to paint on canvas what they sense. Mary was surrounded by light because she was in God's presence.

Mary was a girl from Nazareth. In the Bible, we see things about her character that got the attention of God himself. It wasn't unusual for a young girl to be a virgin, but it was amazing to be chosen by God to bear His one and only Son. When the angel first appeared to Mary, she was afraid. Gabriel said,

“Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!” Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. “Don't be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.”

Luke 1:28–31

Fear could have gripped Mary so tight that she wouldn't have been able to hear the angel's words. But Mary didn't let fear stop her from a fresh encounter. She was confused, but she wanted to understand. This “good news” that the angel brought was life altering. Every Jewish woman in Israel wanted the joy and privilege of being the mother of the Messiah. But no virgin wanted to be pregnant illegitimately. Mary asked the angel,

“But how can this happen? I am a virgin.” The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.”

Luke 1:34–35

How would you have handled the angel’s answer? He was giving an explanation that was impossible. It had never happened before and hasn’t happened since. Would your heart rise up to trust God and receive His Word like Mary did?

Here’s how Mary responded: “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.’ And then the angel left her” (Luke 1:38).

Mary’s response holds the key to why she was favored by God. In the depths of her heart, she was God’s servant. She rose up in faith to believe that God can do the impossible. She didn’t argue. She didn’t resist. She didn’t point out all the reasons that it couldn’t or shouldn’t happen. She simply opened her hands and her heart to receive the gift, and honor, of bearing God’s Son.

Mary quietly pondered God’s word to her. She prayed and remembered that the angel had mentioned her relative Elizabeth. The angel had said that the impossible was about to happen in her life as well. The angel said,

What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. For the word of God will never fail.

Luke 1:36–37

Within a few days, Mary found a way to travel to see Elizabeth. She was older and wiser and able to comfort Mary about the amazing miracle. Elizabeth had known the painful shame of being barren. Zechariah had been unable to speak after his angelic encounter in the temple. His fear turned to faith as he came home and somehow communicated with Elizabeth what God had said.

The confirmation was the miracle that at a very old age, Elizabeth was pregnant with Zechariah's child.

Our faith is strengthened through answered prayer. The prayer Zechariah and Elizabeth had carried together as a couple was a sweet fragrance to God, who saw their obedience but also knew the right time for John the Baptist to be conceived. John was to be the forerunner to Jesus' coming on this earth. Even in Elizabeth's womb, John preceded Jesus.

Mary rushes up the hill to Elizabeth, wanting not only her comfort but also confirmation that it was God at work in her.

At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

Luke 1:41-45

This prophetic word spoken by Elizabeth to Mary broke the silence of 400 years, when there were no prophetic words spoken between the Old Testament and the New Testament. Elizabeth was able to see the joy and honor with which Mary was blessed. Elizabeth understood exactly why Mary was blessed. It was because she believed that the Lord would do what He said.

Fear Puts God on Trial

Mary believed and was blessed by God. She didn't blame God. She didn't become fearful and back away from her calling. She pressed through the difficulty and embraced faith.

When we are fearful or anxious, we are declaring that we can't fully trust God to care about the details of our lives. Fear, anxiety, and intimidation are part of the Enemy's family. Satan's plan is that you

will be constantly stressed, uncertain, and hesitant about your daily life. He traps you with your desire to please people more than God.

Mary cared more about what God thought than the opinions of those around her. She didn't allow the poison of fear to block her call. She fought the battle of fear by choosing God's perspective on how to think and speak about her situation.

If we don't replace fear with faith, we will be led down the dangerous path of unbelief and disobedience. Unbelief accuses God at His very essence. It puts God on trial to prove himself while denying the undeniable evidence all around.

To engage in prayer is to declare war on the demonic forces of fear that accuse God. These accusations can come as subtle thoughts against the power of God. Fear will manifest in us as insecurity, concern, despair, doubt, dread, horror, panic, agitation, unease, fright, and even terror.

If you are struggling with some sort of fear in your life, you can know without a doubt that fear has come from the Enemy.

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:6–7 NIV

Many of us do not fulfill the call of God on our lives because we are chained to fear. Every time we try to move forward, the devil uses fear to try to stop us. Fear will make you want to stand still. Fear accuses God for every difficult thing you have experienced in your life. We let fear have power over us when we try to protect ourselves so we don't experience pain. The fear of lack, fear of failure, fear of rejection, fear of abandonment all take hold in our lives if we haven't thoroughly invited God in to help us overcome emotional pain and loss.

You and I need to learn to step out and obey God in spite of our fear. Sometimes, you have to do what God says even when you feel afraid.

Replacing Fear with Faith

We don't have a *fear* problem; we have a *faith* problem. It's not about fearing less; it's about believing more. If your goal is to have a fear-free life, you will be disappointed or your life will become small. Fear will be the boundary of your existence.

We replace fear with faith every time we make a decision to trust God in our daily lives. Replacing fear with faith is a moment-by-moment choice to anchor our confidence in Jesus. You may not feel 100 percent free from fear, but little by little, as you step out in faith, you will see God work miracles in your life.

The holy moment when Mary said yes to God's call, she was taking a step of faith. She did not know every difficulty she would experience in being Jesus' mother. Still, she made a choice to trust God. She felt all the same feelings of anxiety, fear, and worry that every adolescent girl struggles with. What made her unique and favored was that she didn't allow her feelings to overshadow her faith and trust in God. She was able to privately ponder God's word to her before it was evident that she was pregnant.

Not long after Mary returned to Nazareth, it probably became clear that she was pregnant. Just by walking through the village, she was in danger of being dragged outside the city and having stones thrown at her until she died. The rejection and suspicion were inevitable. Again, Mary had faith in God.

Mary was engaged to be married to a kind man named Joseph. As her fiancé, Joseph did not want to disgrace Mary publicly, so he decided to quietly break the engagement. But before he could take action on his plan, an angel appeared to him in a dream and said,

“Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:20–21

Joseph, in many ways, is the hero in this story. He stepped up and shielded Mary (and Jesus) from harm. He protected her. He took her as his wife but did not have sexual relations with her until after Jesus was born.

Learning to Pray

It's easy to see why Mary has been revered by so many. Her faith-filled response to God is amazing. She didn't argue or fight with His word. There is nothing recorded to show that she became angry or blamed God for her rejection. Beginning this book with Mary the mother of Jesus as our example is intimidating.

When my house was on fire, I didn't have a halo over my head as I prayed for help. But I did have fire over me. I did have a fireman saying into the darkness, "Come toward the light." I believe that I did have angels encamped around our house, protecting both me and my precious newborn from serious harm.

God wants to walk with you through every moment of your life. You can be as close to Him as you want to be. He is available every moment of the day. He isn't too busy for you. He isn't bored with you. He isn't disgusted that you come back to Him again and again, just like Elizabeth and Zechariah did when they prayed for a child. God wants to be with you personally. He wants prayer to be as simple as breathing and as powerful as giving birth.

Learning to Respond to God Like Mary Did

We tend to make prayer too difficult and religious. We need to be more like Mary, who innocently trusted God to be true to His word. She wasn't cynical; she wasn't sarcastic; she wasn't angry. She was able to come to God uninhibited.

I am on this journey with you. I have neglected prayer and tried to "work my way" to the answer. I have been cynical, sarcastic,

disappointed, and angry with God. My point is that all of us can learn to pray so heaven hears.

Just to be clear again, God is not up in heaven listening to your prayers with a scorecard. He is not comparing you to someone else. He is not waiting for you to follow some sort of legalistic secret code. Our main guide to learn about authentic, heartfelt prayer is the Bible. As we tell the story, remember Mary and the other characters in this book are real people with real problems.

The Key of Faith

Faith unlocks the door to prayer and opens the way to God's presence. It may seem simple, but it is truly profound. The way that you can have favor with God and please Him is through faith. If you want to learn about prayer, you have to have faith. You have to believe that God rewards those who diligently seek Him.² To be diligent is to actively pursue God. Your eager and earnest pursuit of God doesn't fade away in a day. You are persistent and tireless.

To be a woman of faith in prayer will require that you take risks. It's a walk of faith to constantly face unknowns. Obeying God does not guarantee that you will be free from disappointments or problems. When Mary said yes to God about being Jesus' mom, she didn't know the heartbreak she would experience when she watched Him being crucified on the cross. Our walk of faith will not be free from pain and loss, but it will be filled with God's presence as He leads us every step of the way. Prayer is communing with the One who walks with us on our faith journey.

A Song of Prayer

I encourage you to speak (or sing) Mary's song of prayer out loud. Her prayer is known as the *Magnificat* and has been sung by the most famous choirs throughout the ages. The words of her prayer

of praise are based on Scripture. In order for us to pray like Mary prayed, we need to form our prayers in agreement with the Word of God.

Mary responded,

“Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.
How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!
For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.
For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for me.
He shows mercy from generation to generation
to all who fear him.
His mighty arm has done tremendous things!
He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.
He has brought down princes from their thrones
and exalted the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.
He has helped his servant Israel
and remembered to be merciful.
For he made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever.”

Luke 1:46–55