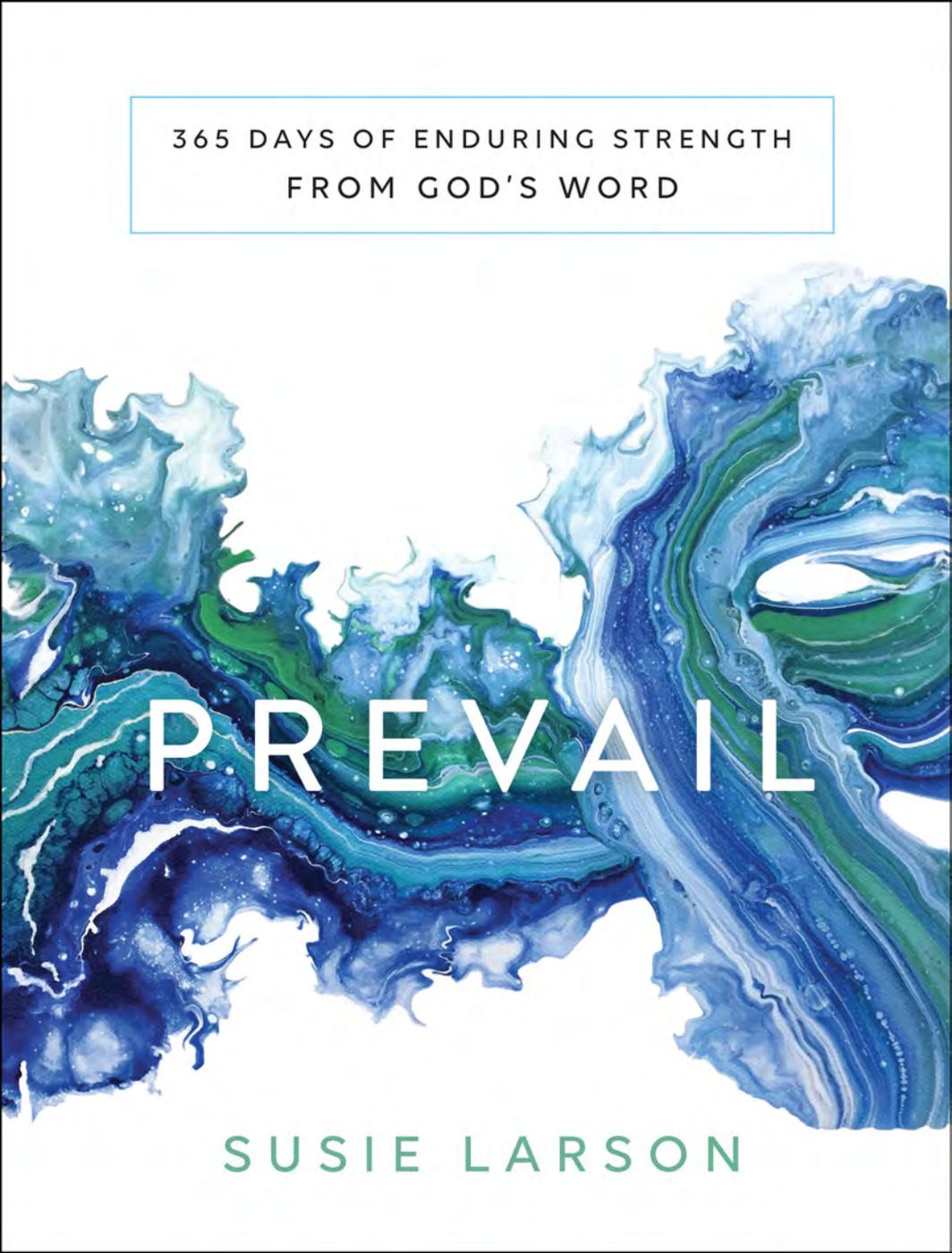
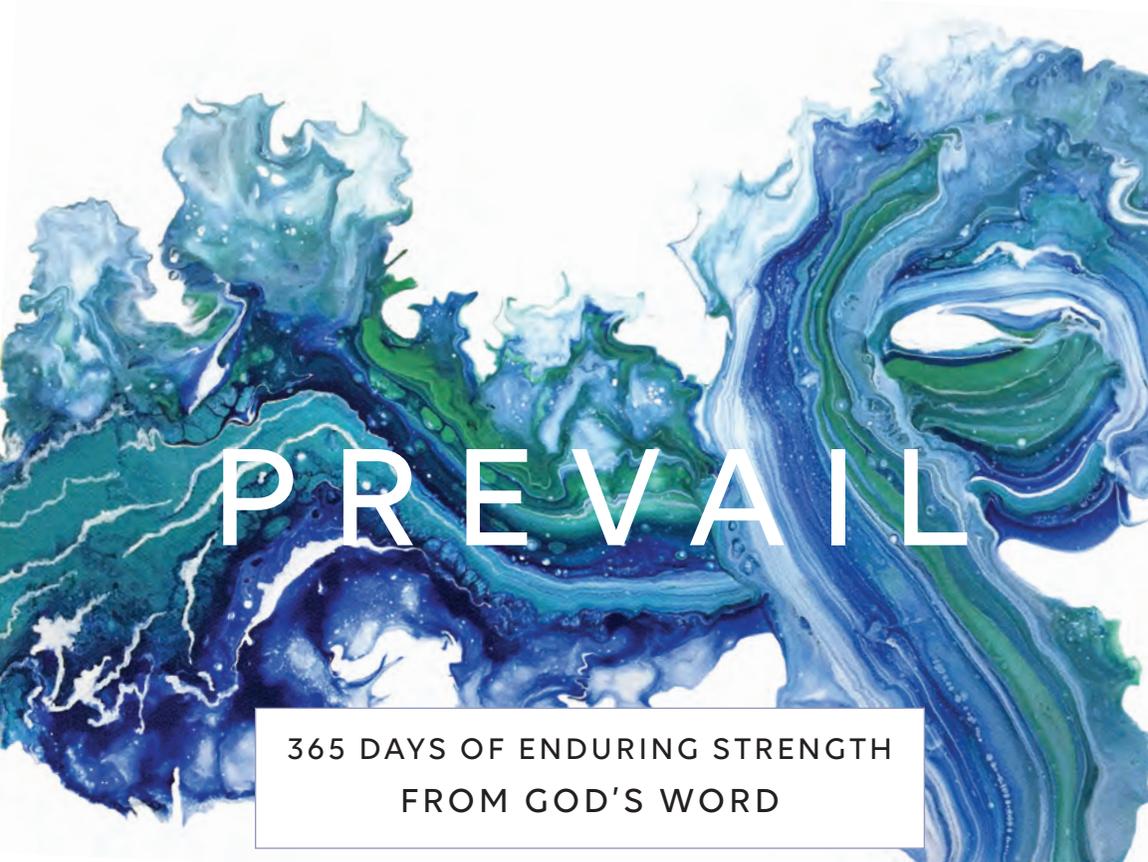


365 DAYS OF ENDURING STRENGTH  
FROM GOD'S WORD

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# PREVAIL

SUSIE LARSON



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365 DAYS OF ENDURING STRENGTH  
FROM GOD'S WORD

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BETHANYHOUSE

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To Jesus . . .  
*The more I know You, the more I love You;  
I cannot wait to see You face to face*

To my husband, Kev . . .  
*Your patient persistence and humble strength  
make God's love absolutely tangible to me*

And to you, my dear reader . . .  
*I pray that each day's reading for you is divinely timed.  
I pray God's Word comes alive and fans the flame  
within you. And I pray Jesus grants you a fresh revelation  
of His love, His power, and His divine purpose for you*

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## Introduction

God is on a rescue mission. We could never jump high enough or perform well enough to save ourselves, so Love came down to rescue us. He made a way where there was otherwise no way to secure our eternity, no way to begin the miracle work of inner transformation within us. If you are in Christ, *Christ is in you!*

God is profoundly committed to us. We're prone to wander. He is utterly faithful to His promises; we tend to forget those promises. His mercies are new every morning and His compassions never fail. We're the ones who turn on ourselves. God sees the big picture while noticing every nuance of our story. Our gaze either drops to our feet and we forget about faith, or we stare off into an imaginary world where the enemy reigns and God has seemingly forgotten us because we've forgotten all about love. Yet in it all, Jesus beckons us to follow Him and, in the process, we become more like Him.

Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil. When we're perfected in love, fear no longer has the last say in our lives. When we remember who we are, the enemy doesn't get away with as much as he used to. The whole arc of Scripture is God's love letter to the ones He created. Everything He does, He does for love. Everything He asks of us is for our good and for His glory. I want everything He has for me. Don't you?

God wants us to *prevail*—to prove we're more powerful than our enemy. He wants us to overcome every battle with increasing courage and strength.

I've learned that whenever I ask for more from God, He asks for more from me.

As you align your life—every part of it—with His Word and His ways, you *will* find freedom, wholeness, and redemption you never dreamed possible. Use this book in a way that best suits you. Read chronologically from Genesis to Revelation, or read only by topic. I'm praying for you as you work your way through these pages. I'm so very honored to get to spend this time with you.

Affectionately His,

*Susie Larson*

# Build an Altar

Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to your descendants.” And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Genesis 12:7

*W*e have to let go of the old to lay hold of the new. We have to leave what’s comfortable if we want to experience God as our provider, our defender, and our way-maker. God called Abram away from everything he knew to a land God had not yet revealed. But God’s promise to Abram far outweighed his need to know every detail about the journey ahead. It’s the same for you and me. We are pilgrims, traveling to a most holy city. And God’s promise over us far outweighs our need to control every twist and turn. We’re on a need-to-know basis, and when we need to know, God will let us know! But this we do know: The land ahead is a good land. And our good God will ensure we make it to our new home safely. Will you pause today and build an altar of remembrance? Before you take another step, remember His faithfulness. Remember His goodness. It’ll strengthen you for the road ahead.

**LEARN** ▶ Read Genesis 12:1–9.

**FLOURISH** ▶ As pilgrims, we’re always on our way to a next place of promise. Take some time today and “build an altar.” Make note of this sacred place where you now stand. God is in this place. How would you describe the holy ground beneath your feet? What treasures will you take with you to your next place?

**PRAY**

*You are here with me. I pause today to remember Your presence in my life. Thank You, Lord.*

# Release and Trust

“The whole countryside is open to you. Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want the land to the left, then I’ll take the land on the right. If you prefer the land on the right, then I’ll go to the left.”

Genesis 13:9

*W*e can go through life one of two ways: We can posture for position, constantly trying to maintain control, or we can live wholly submitted to God, trusting Him with every step. But did you know that God will never bless faithless posturing? He won’t pour provision into a clenched fist. Both Abram and Lot acquired great wealth. Soon the herdsmen began to bicker, and the two men needed to part ways. Abram gave Lot first choice of the land. Though Lot had benefited greatly from Abram’s constant generosity, he still grabbed for himself the best share of land, even though it meant he’d live among the ungodly. His story didn’t end well. Scarcity and abundance both reveal the condition of our hearts in different ways. If we’ll grab for ourselves in difficult times, we’ll grab for ourselves when there’s more than enough to go around. As Christ-followers, it’s always a good idea to refuse selfishness, to open our hands and receive and release. We can trust God.

## LEARN

Read Genesis 13.

## FLOURISH

No matter which season you find yourself in at the moment, determine to release your grip on anything you’re holding too tight. Breathe in faith. Exhale fear. And know that God does His best work through His surrendered saints.

## PRAY

*You come to me with open-handed provision, so I come to You with open-handed trust. You’ve always provided, so I have nothing to fear. I trust You, Lord. Amen.*

# Deal with the Disconnect

Then Abraham bowed down to the ground, but he laughed to himself in disbelief. “How could I become a father at the age of 100?” he thought. “And how can Sarah have a baby when she is ninety years old?”

Genesis 17:17

God promised Abraham that the generations would come through Abraham and Sarah. His response? He bowed low. *But he laughed on the inside.* How often do we do the same? We sing about God’s faithfulness, but do we really believe He’ll do the *impossible* in our situation? When the gap widens between what our outward “Christian” actions reflect and what our inward beliefs reveal, we must make note of it (but without condemnation). We often arrive here because we’re weary in the waiting or tired from battle. But we must not allow the gap to linger within us for very long. Reengage your faith today. Remember, God can do in a moment what takes us a lifetime to accomplish. And when faith awakens your heart *and* inspires your actions? Well, that’s the stuff of miracles.

**LEARN** Read Genesis 17:15–17.

**FLOURISH** It’s time to deal with the disconnect. God is better than we know and He’s kinder than we can fathom! Remind your soul today that NOTHING is impossible with Him! Wrestle with God and contend for His promises until you believe them again. Your faith is so very precious to Him.

**PRAY**

*Precious Lord,*

*You are a faithful God! Show me the gap that exists between what I do and what I truly believe, and then fill in those empty spaces with more of You. Awaken my heart and I will engage my faith. Do the impossible in my life. In Your name, I pray. Amen.*

# When Our Unbelief Speaks

So Abraham said to God, “May Ishmael live under your special blessing!”

Genesis 17:18

ut of the heart, the mouth speaks. When we've waited long to see a breakthrough or a fulfillment of a promise, our hearts grow faint. Unless we regularly take the time to strengthen ourselves in the Lord and remind ourselves of His faithfulness, unbelief and even offense will settle into our souls. In due time our own words, which reflect the condition of our hearts, will diminish our own faith. Abraham and Sarah had waited long for their promise. When the time of fulfillment was upon them, they laughed in unbelief and Abram tried to edit God's promise by telling God where the blessing would land! Pay attention to how you talk about the longings of your heart. What do they reveal? Your faith is precious to Him. There are no time constraints on God's ability to do what He will do. If He's making you wait, it's because He's making you ready. May God bless you with a fresh and hopeful expectancy today. May your words inspire hope and reflect your actively engaged faith!

**LEARN** ▶ Read Genesis 18:1–14.

**FLOURISH** ▶ Has unbelief or offense settled into your soul? Today's a good day to remember and rehearse the things God has promised you. Talk about them. Sing about them. Remember them.

**PRAY**

*Lord, I believe; help my unbelief! Help me remember the promises You've made to me. I've got to remember in the darkness what You told me in the light. I know Your voice. I know what I heard. I know what Your Word says. Fan the flame of faith within me today. I choose to trust You. Amen.*

# God's Wisdom and Revelation

“Should I hide my plan from Abraham?” the LORD asked. “For Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him.”

Genesis 18:17–18

*W*as God talking to himself here? Wondering out loud? We know this: God knows the end from the beginning. Our days are established before Him. He knows the plans He has for us and they are good plans. He also knows what troubles lie ahead for us and He intends to be intimately near during such times. In and through His wisdom, God reveals what we need to know. Scripture also tells us that He confides in (tells secrets to) those who fear Him. Eventually God told Abraham about His plan. Interestingly, that occurred just after Abraham radically trusted God with his future. Could there be a connection between our obedient faith steps and God's revelation in our lives? Absolutely. As we walk intimately with Him, He reveals His heart and His ways to us. Upward and onward we go.

**LEARN** ▶ Read Genesis 22:1–18.

**FLOURISH** ▶ God has some great plans and good gifts up His sovereign sleeve, and they're assigned to you! He wants to give you insight into your story and your future. He wants to fill you with hope. He wants you to persevere. Do you believe Him enough to trust Him? What would reverence and obedience look like for you today? Don't delay. Trust and obey.

**PRAY**

*Nobody modeled trust, obedience, and faith like You. And Your life was marked by wisdom, power, and revelation. Give me a heart to do Your will. Please reveal Your heart and Your ways to me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

# How to Lose Your Credibility

So Lot rushed out to tell his daughters' fiancés, "Quick, get out of the city! The LORD is about to destroy it." But the young men thought he was only joking.

Genesis 19:14

**A**braham interceded for the city of Sodom because God was about to destroy it. (His nephew lived there, and Abraham hoped to influence God's decision.) He begged God to promise not to destroy the city if He could find even a small remnant of righteous people still there—perhaps fifty people, or forty, or even ten. But Sodom's sins had piled so high, there weren't even *ten* individuals who feared God within its borders. Imagine! God sent angels to warn Lot about the coming destruction. But when Lot tried to warn his family, they thought he was joking. They didn't take him seriously. Lot had camped among the ungodly for so long, he lost his credibility. Lot didn't live a set-apart life, so his words didn't carry much weight. Most compromise happens subtly. A fallen pastor once explained it to me this way: "I kept changing the rules, a little at a time." We are drifters by nature, and the drift happens subtly. May God recapture your heart today.

**LEARN** ▶ Read Genesis 19.

**FLOURISH** ▶ Ask God to show you if you've blended with society in a way that's affected your testimony. Get with God and make things right again. Repent, reset your course, and ask God to fill you afresh with the convicting and assuring work of the Holy Spirit.

**PRAY**

*Show me how my little compromises have affected my relationship with You. Show me how my justifications have diminished Your life-giving power in my life. Call me up higher with You. In Your name, I pray. Amen.*

# Your Birthright for a Bowl of Soup

“Look, I’m dying of starvation!” said Esau. “What good is my birthright to me now?”

Genesis 25:32

When we let ourselves get overtired, overextended, and over-committed, nothing good comes of it. God never asks us to grind our gears to the point of exhaustion. Such a life not only wears us out, it also makes us vulnerable.\* We tend to take shortcuts when we’re tired. And worse yet, we lose sight of the life to which our souls are heir. Esau was so wrapped up in his immediate need for comfort that he lost sight of his inheritance. We must not go through life reacting to our immediate cravings at the expense of the greater story God is writing in our lives. Though God graciously gives us all good things to enjoy, not everything is profitable for us. If you’ve overdone it with your indulgences, now would be a great time for a sacred fast, a time to seek God and reset your ways. Whenever we say yes, we say no. And what we say yes and no to today will impact the lives of many tomorrow. Our story matters that much.

## LEARN

Read Genesis 25:27–34.

## FLOURISH

Maybe it’s time to loosen up your calendar, adjust your task list, and give yourself some time and space to be restored so you can think and see clearly again. Your choices today deeply impact your tomorrows.

## PRAY

*I’m so quick to forget who I am and Whose I am. Forgive me from digging my own wells and for being surprised when they don’t satisfy. I want more of You in me, Lord! Awaken fresh life in me! Amen.*

\*I write all about this in my book *Your Sacred Yes*.

# No Hindrance, No Harm

You know how hard I have worked for your father, but he has cheated me, changing my wages ten times. But God has not allowed him to do me any harm.

Genesis 31:6–7

Laban was a manipulative, passive-aggressive man. He changed Jacob's wages ten times. He tricked him and cheated him, seemingly bent on controlling Jacob's future. But God observed everything, and He refused to let Laban stand in the way of His promise to Jacob. Laban was in a position of power and authority, yet ultimately, he'd have no power to actually hinder Jacob or keep him from prospering. Let Jacob's story encourage you today. You may have people in your life who are impossible to deal with. They may seem to slow your progress. But when you're in Christ, there's no enemy scheme or man-made manipulation that can keep you from all God has for you. Christians experience only *temporary* setbacks. God's purposes will ultimately prevail. Take some time today to reset your perspective if necessary. Scripture tells us that the powerful aren't what they appear to be.\* Nobody has more power to establish you than God himself. He will use difficult people to chisel your rough edges and to make you more like Christ.

## LEARN

Read Genesis 31:1–16.

## FLOURISH

Rejoice today that no man can hinder what God has appointed. Praise!

## PRAY

*You are all that I need. Forgive me for giving people power that belongs to You alone. Give me savvy wisdom to navigate difficult relationships. Grant me the calm assurance to know in the face of frustration that all will be well because You are with me. I trust You, Lord. Amen.*

\*See Psalm 62:9.

# Perspective before the Breakthrough

When Joseph saw them the next morning, he noticed that they both looked upset. “Why do you look so worried today?” he asked them.

Genesis 40:6–7

*W*hen Joseph was a young man, God put a dream in his heart. Yet the journey getting there involved painful betrayal, injustice, and false accusation. God used heartbreak to prepare Joseph for greatness. And at every turn, Joseph rose to the top of his game in attitude, performance, and perspective. One day he noticed two prisoners who looked distressed. In so many words, Joseph asked, “Why the long face?” What? Why *wouldn't* you be distressed if you were unjustly thrown into prison? Yet Joseph had found such joy and perspective that he could minister to others while he waited for his own breakthrough. My pastor used to say, “You’re not free to go until you’re free to stay.” May you wrestle for a right perspective. May you see those who need what you possess. And may you believe, with all of your heart, that God will move you on when the time is right.

**LEARN** ▶ Read Genesis 40.

**FLOURISH** ▶ You may not be where you want to be, but God has you here for a reason. Find the high place of joy today. Look for those God has given you to encourage. Forgive your offenders and believe with all of your heart that no man, no scheme, and no devil can thwart God’s purposes for you!

**PRAY** ▶

*Father, show me my heart so I can find You here. Whom do I need to forgive? How should I pray? Help me to steward my life in this place while I wait for You to move me to my next place. I trust You, Lord. Amen.*

# May God Remind Them, and You

Finally, the king's chief cup-bearer spoke up. "Today I have been reminded of my failure," he told Pharaoh.

Genesis 41:9

Joseph honored God and guarded his heart through every painful, unjust circumstance he endured. One day while in prison, God used Joseph to interpret dreams for the cupbearer and the baker. Interesting how the man with a dream helped others to interpret their dreams. Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him when God restored him to his position. But he forgot all about Joseph until a later time. You've no doubt crossed paths with those who've witnessed and confirmed God's gifts in you. Maybe they promised they'd help you and open doors for you. Yet you've heard nothing. Pray for those people today. Ask God to remind them of their words to you. And trust God's perfect time and grace in your life. He is faithful. Though man sometimes forgets, He never will. Remember too that Jesus consistently called greatness out of others. He saw them not for where they'd been but for who they could be if they followed Him. May you do the same for others. You have a position of influence.

**LEARN** Read Genesis 41:8–13.

**FLOURISH** Who can you encourage today? Help someone succeed today. Move them forward in their God-given calling. And trust that God will remind your cupbearers of your God-given gifts at just the right time.

**PRAY**

*I seem to fall into one of two extremes: I either forget to dream because I'm consumed by my problems, or I'm so consumed with my dreams, I forget to help others achieve theirs. Use me to help others. And remind others to remember me when the time is right. Thank You, Lord. Amen.*