

APPOINTED

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Autumn Miles


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*This book is dedicated to my God and Father.
Without Your love and forgiveness, I would not be able to truly live.
Thank You for being the Redeemer of my past and
the holder of my future. My life is Yours.
Use this book and the words in it to show whoever reads it
that You are King.*

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Introduction

I was addicted to getting attention until I was 18. “Anything for attention” was my secret motto. I thrived on shock value. My dad was a pastor in Indiana. When I found out that some people in the church didn’t approve of my being a cheerleader, I was determined to be the best cheerleader I could be. I spent my teen years eating weird things and saying offensive things to tickle this need to be somebody. If I was playing a game of truth or dare, I wouldn’t dream of choosing truth. Dare was the theme of my life, and I wore it well. Although I was a Christian, I knew Satan wanted to steal my influence for Christ, and on many occasions, I obliged.

My way brought me to the point of lying on the floor of my small house, married to a man who hated me, begging God for help. My quest to live a life of man-made significance had miserably failed, and now I battled a fate I had carved out for myself years earlier. In my insecurity, I thought I needed to create significance for myself when all the while God had already made me significant.

On my most desperate day, more than a decade ago, my significance became a reality to me when I surrendered my way to God and understood that He had accepted me all along. My life drastically changed for the better. When all the attention from others faded, and I was completely alone, God was there. He never left. He was waiting for me. In that moment, I became an ex-nobody.

My life has never been the same. My heart changed so drastically that day that I began to feel sorry for the girl I had been for so many years. I also began my journey of wanting to use my life, and the gifts God has entrusted to me, to help other young women.

Here’s the deal: We all want significance. It’s that burning desire inside of you to be noticed or accepted. Some of us, including me, have gone to great lengths to try to achieve a life we think we need. We, as young women, continue to buy a lie. Satan tells us that we need to add something to ourselves to be significant, such as a guy or a ton of money. But God tells us the opposite. He clearly tells us that we have purpose from the time of our conception



The Significance of You

I wish that I was [making a difference], and there are days that I feel that I am, but I'm not 100 percent of that purpose right now. The world could exist without me, maybe not even noticing that I was gone.

BLUSH ATTENDEE

Do you believe that the world could exist without you—
that your life makes a difference no matter what you are feeling?

It was a beautiful fall Sunday morning in a small town in Indiana. There was a time in my life when I had loved the morning. I used to love waking up to get ready for whatever was going to greet me that day. Those years seemed like a distant memory as my husband and I backed out of the garage to head to church. My heart sank when I noticed that something was clinging to the car. I knew there would be hell to pay if I had anything to do with it.

It was around the time of Halloween, and I could see that the colorful leaves on our trees had been decorated in brilliant white garlands of toilet paper. We had been the victims of a good old-fashioned toilet-papering prank. What most people would see as good fun was a major event in our life. My husband's frustration immediately ramped up as he tried to figure out why someone would TP our house and, more important to him, who did it. I sat in silence as we drove to church. I knew that any comment from me would be attacked.

I felt petrified with dread during church service as I thought about the repercussions this incident would have on me for the rest of the day. It would be a long afternoon. When we arrived home, I immediately went for the broom and silently started to clean up the mess. He came out of the house and began working, but it wasn't long before he began to verbally strip me of any sense of worth. All I can remember were the words "You are f*\$@ing stupid," repeated over and over. Those words cut like a knife, and I just stood there and took it. My body ached while I swept the porch of my little 1,200-square-foot house. I am not sure of the medical term when you hurt so bad emotionally that you hurt physically, and it doesn't matter. That day, I had given up hope of ever being significant, and the tears streamed down my face.

Let's Get Real

Are you at all familiar with that kind of scenario? Have you given up hope of ever feeling like an individual who will leave a legacy of significance? There are many reasons why people bury their significance. They stand at their own wake, forfeiting what could have been. Feelings of inadequacy, trials, betrayal, mistakes, lies, lack of resources—any or all can brainwash you into believing that you were simply created to exist, and nothing more.

I understand. When my hope died, so did my future. My sense of self lay dormant for a time, and I gave in to the death of my significance. Today, I want to challenge your thinking, sweet friend. The key to living a life filled with significance is to choose to believe what God has written about you in His Word. Many will say that they believe the Bible and the teaching therein, but they don't. How do I know that? Their lives don't reflect any excitement for Christ. They don't truly believe; they have merely retained the information of what the Word says.

Belief means living as if the Bible is fact. If our Christian culture believed that the Bible was fact—every living, breathing part of it—the news media would be clogged with stories of the miraculous performed by Christians through the power of God. There would be no stereotype of a Christian as someone who doesn't tip food servers on Sunday, or someone who is bound to legalism and rules.

Radical, heroic and impossible acts would define us, because we walked with the power of the King of kings. A status quo Christian life wouldn't be tolerated by anyone who believed what the Bible says so firmly that he or she was determined to see its principles at work every day. Living a life defined by attaining all that God has scripted for us to bring Him glory would overtake our mental capacity and leave us speechless.

Does this kind of life sound impossible? Well, this can be a description of your life! So trash your way of thinking that you are a has-been. You have been appointed by God to be a main-stage player in God's plan. Get over your excuses, and fight for it!

To achieve significance, you must first of all *stop believing lies*.

Are you tired of feeling miserable? You may not outwardly manifest miserable emotions, but what about on the inside? When my ex-husband called me stupid for almost seven years, I chose to believe that I was stupid. You could not have told me otherwise. I had accepted a lie.

That lie almost tanked my life. I chose to accept as fact something that was a complete fallacy. I had decided to believe that repetitive phrase: "You are stupid." God certainly didn't tell me that from His Word. But I didn't check its reality with Scripture; therefore, I easily accepted it as the truth. Here's what Scripture tells us about Satan's character:

You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is *no truth in him*; . . . he speaks from his own nature, for *he is a liar and the father of lies* (John 8:44, emphasis added).

This verse is paramount to understanding what you are up against. If Satan can get you to believe something that is false because you do not hold it under the accountability of Scripture, then he has won. Most of the time, the most harmful lies will be the ones that if not subjected to Scripture can steal what God has for you. If I walked around now and believed that I was stupid, I would never attempt the things God is asking me

to do. Some days, I am still tempted to believe that lie, but I know that it is just that—a lie—and no longer will I accept it as truth.

Foundational Truth Is Where We Begin the Battle for Significance

Take a moment before reading further and identify any lies Satan has been telling you. All the lies from your past, the lies you believe right now and even the attack on your future need to be brought to light through the lens of what Scripture says. Today is the day to stop believing them. You need a clean slate. No form of spiritual legacy can result when built on a foundation of lies. It is time to substitute the lies for the truth that is only found in God's Word.

The Bible is the only barometer of truth, and it is true all the time and on all subjects, including you. God's perspective of you will differ from your perspective of yourself. You will most likely look at yourself and decide that you have too many problems to be used in a significant way by Him. The truth is that He made you intentionally for His purposes.

And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free (John 8:32).

Begin to consistently shed biblical light on each lie you are tempted to believe and it will show you if you have believed a lie. After you understand that what you have believed is false, and Scripture sheds light on the issue, you are able to move forward in seeking your appointed role on earth.

Significance Is a Decision, Not a Natural Thought Pattern

You probably didn't look in the mirror this morning and say, "I am super-significant! I am awesome, and I lack nothing to achieve my calling." The thought that each of us is appointed for a specific purpose is not a natural thought pattern. Most times, we struggle even to accept compliments because we feel like we aren't good enough to receive them. To instinctively believe that we are amazing does not come naturally. I love it when people come to my house and compliment it, but my first response rather than saying

thank you is to make an excuse why something isn't perfect. It is so hard for me just to accept that someone likes my house.

The decision to believe that you are appointed for a purpose, although it feels unnatural, is to accept the truth. God says that He created you for a purpose. Are you going to call God a liar? Umm, no. Changing your thought process will be challenging; but without that change, you will fail in seeking all that God has for you.

You are created for the glory of the Lord. Each act God asks of you is not ultimately for your benefit, but for His glory. When you understand that your calling and your achievement of all God has for you are actually for Him, it is much easier to accept the call.

You Have Everything Necessary

Genesis 1:31 tells us:

God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

God made Adam and Eve with everything necessary to carry out their significant call. Nothing needed to be added to Adam or Eve to make them more qualified for their calling. They were created to do one of the most incredible jobs ever—to cultivate and farm the Garden of Eden.

Our minds trick us into believing that we must add to who we are to be people of significance. It's hard for us to accept that the eye color, hair color and personality traits we have are the exact ones that were planned for us. We look at ourselves and see blatant and raging problems. So does Satan. His outlook on you is to attack you where he knows it will hurt. He tempts you to believe that you lack something. But, sweet reader, God's outlook on you is that you are very good. Not one thing is missing that shouldn't be there. Not one thing was left out to cause you shame. Each unique trait was considered and executed by the powerful hand of the Master Craftsman. Your traits—from your weaknesses to your strengths—are very good.

With the team at The Blush Network, we celebrate strengths. There have been times when I've called one of my staff members just to tell them I appreciate how God made them. In times when I celebrate their strengths, I also celebrate my weaknesses. Because of my weaknesses, their strengths aid the ministry God has entrusted

us with. Our team has a culture of celebrating each other (even the weird quirks in each of us) because we are created very good.

Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it (Gen. 2:15).

Can you imagine knowing that God had just created the world and then He looked to you to make sure the Garden was properly maintained? What an amazing thing to be asked to do! Adam was also in charge of naming everything. What an honor! The names of every living thing we know of today are not the result of some nuclear scientist deciding on acceptable names; it was Adam's job. Adam didn't have a degree from Harvard or Yale. He wasn't a billionaire, nor had he written a best-selling novel. He didn't use a focus group to help with his calling from the Lord. He was simply presented with the task, and he obeyed.

The fact that Adam and Eve did their job is namely why we enjoy the lions and tigers at the zoo and can put the herbs basil and oregano in our spaghetti. They took their call seriously and didn't focus on the fact that they may not name the animals correctly or farm the land efficiently—they simply believed God. God had said that all He created was *very good*, and they chose to believe Him even when it came to them. In the very next verse, God told Adam and Eve the one rule they had to follow:

The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die" (Gen. 2:16-17).

Your Call Without an Evil Influence

If God's plan for your life wasn't affected by the enemy's evil influence, it might look easy. We look at Adam and Eve's purpose in the Garden and we think, *That wasn't that hard*. If I didn't have Satan attacking all the time, my job of leading The Blush Network would be much easier. When we choose to accept the challenge God gives us to follow through on a task that He has asked us

to do, we seem to forget that if God has asked us to do it for His purpose, then Satan is against it.

Satan was lurking when God created Adam and Eve. He saw all the traits God poured into each of their souls. He saw the characteristics they were given as gifts to achieve the task God had set before them. He also was privy to the dictation of the one rule to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And he immediately started plotting evil.

Before that, Satan witnessed the creation of the universe. Read what God said to a man who challenged God's involvement in what was happening to him:

Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
 Tell Me, if you have understanding,
 Who set its measurements? Since you know.
 Or who stretched the line on it?
 On what were its bases sunk?
 Or who laid its cornerstone,
 When the morning stars sang together
 And all the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38:4-7).

God was talking to a man named Job in this passage; however, it indicates that the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God (angels) shouted for joy when the earth was created. The hosts of heaven literally praised God while He was creating the world and all that was in it. Satan was there because he was a cherub. After he was cast from heaven, Satan watched the attributes and characteristics of the male and female as God created them, and no doubt he took detailed notes.

Ezekiel 28:13 tells us:

You were in Eden, the garden of God;
 Every precious stone was your covering:
 The ruby, the topaz and the diamond;
 The beryl, the onyx and the jasper;
 The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald;
 And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and
 sockets,

Was in you.
 On the day that you were created
 They were prepared.

Satan was beautiful. He was the most beautiful thing God created. He was more beautiful than anything in the Garden of Eden, and all the trees were jealous of it:

The cedars in God's garden could not match it;
 The cypresses could not compare with its boughs,
 And the plane trees could not match its branches.
 No tree in God's garden could compare with it in its
 beauty.
 "I made it beautiful with the multitude of its branches,
 And all the trees of Eden, which were in the garden of
 God, were jealous of it" (Ezek. 31:8-9).

Because of Satan's beauty, he has the appeal to sway you. His power is mostly limited to temptations and attempts to get you to give in to them. His goal is for you to give in to his appeal because he is ambitious about your forgoing your purpose, because it will bring God glory. He knows that if you push away from temptation and power through it, he has lost. So he'll try to get you to the point of hopelessness or distract you into choosing to live a life of ease because you think your life doesn't really matter.

Satan's Timing Is Strategic

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" The serpent said to the woman, "You

surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Gen. 3:1-5).

Satan took great notes when Eve was created, and he strategically chose to approach her when she was alone. With one sentence, he questioned God’s integrity and her intellect, which put her significance in danger. How many times does Satan come to us and ask a simple question such as, “Did God say that you really are important?” Maybe, “What was the rule on sex?” Even, “What did God say about having an abundant life?” Satan’s timing is so strategic that the right question at the perfect time gets us to think, *Hmmm, did God really mean what He said?*

Don’t Talk to Satan

Eve’s biggest mistake was to engage in conversation with Satan to clarify what the exact rule was that God had given her. Her biggest problem was that she answered the question. If she had stopped Satan when she had the chance, he wouldn’t have led her to the place of sin; however, she talked back, and the conversation heard around the world began.

We do the same thing. We mentally engage in conversation with Satan. When we engage in conversation with him, we give him power. Even the smallest response on our part invites his response. When Eve answered the question, Satan acted shocked that God would have told her she couldn’t eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He said (paraphrased), “What? You will not surely die! You will be just like God and know exactly what He knows.” This response got her thinking, *Do I want to be like God or just farm the garden?* The very thing Satan manipulated with Eve was her feeling of significance. God had already given Eve her call, which gave her great significance; if she had known the gravity of her call, she would have been honored.

Satan Strikes at Your Most Vulnerable Moments

Shortly after the Old Testament begins, it records sin entering the world; but watch how the New Testament begins with the answer to sin!

Before Jesus started His public ministry, Satan questioned and tempted Him while He was in the wilderness for a period of 40 days. In Matthew 4:1, the Bible says that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by Satan. Jesus was in an incredibly vulnerable state. He hadn't eaten or drunk anything for 40 days, and when He was vulnerable, Satan made his move:

After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only'" (Matt. 4:2-10, *NIV*).

Satan wanted to catch Jesus in a vulnerable state to try to sway His purpose on earth. Because Satan is the opposite of God, he uses moments of vulnerability and weakness to make us even weaker. His goal is to engineer our defeat. God's goal is to be our strength in our weakness.

Satan offered things to Jesus that weren't his to offer. He merely played on the circumstances of the moment. How can we assume that Satan would deal any differently with us? Notice that Jesus did not engage the great tempter in conversation—He shut him down with the Word of God. Satan departed only after Christ used Scripture. Because of that deliberate act on Jesus' part, His purpose on this earth was not affected, and Satan left. Satan's goal was to defeat Jesus before He even began His public ministry, but Jesus

shut him down. Not so with Eve—she entered into a conversation with Satan rather than refusing to listen, and it led to her demise.

Positional Pride Is a Graveyard for Christians

Satan's first question to Jesus was to raise doubt about His position: "If you are the Son of God . . ." then prove it. Pride is a horrible stealer of significance. Being obsessed with a position you may hold now, and loving it too much, can rob you from taking a huge step of faith God wants you to take. If we hold our position too dearly, we will be tempted to defend that position even when God asks us to lay it down. Hold your position lightly. Your position in ministry or your job or your financial status will become an idol if you do not understand that the Lord only lends it to you.

Position is often mistaken as calling. Just because God has blessed you with position does not mean that at any time He cannot require it from you. Defending your small position is a sign of weakness. To achieve all that God has for you, be aware that it is not uncommon for Him to ask you to surrender the position you currently have to give you something greater. Jesus wasn't threatened by Satan's ploy, and therefore He wasn't defensive.

Manna Is No Match for God's Might

In Matthew 4:4, Jesus' reply to Satan when he asked Him to prove that He was the Son of God was, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." Right answer!

There is probably no better example of man's utter need to depend on God's provision than in the story of the children of Israel during their long exodus from Egypt. We read the same words Jesus spoke to Satan in their story:

He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD (Deut. 8:3).

God allowed the Israelites to be hungry to drive them to dependence on Him. Manna is an immediate fix for a fleshly need. Our culture doesn't want for much. If we want something at the store, we borrow if we have to and buy it; immediate gratification steals from us the blessing of waiting on the Lord. We are even tempted to fix our sexual desires by having sex without being married or by looking at porn. When we fix our fleshly needs ourselves, we forfeit waiting on God and seeing how He can come in and do miracles for us. Depending on ourselves and not on God's power robs us of seeing what He could do for us.

There have been many needs in my home that I was tempted to not pray about and simply take care of through my own devices and control. Sometimes, I have failed in seeking God for my needs; but the times when I have prayed and sought God's power to meet my needs, He has blown me away. His answer was so much greater than anything I could have thought of. It's in those times that we build our dependence on the Lord, and our faith is strengthened. Seeing God's might paves the way for us to do whatever He asks us to do.

Satan's Use of Scripture vs. God's Use of Scripture

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test'" (Matt. 4:5-7, *NIV*).

Notice in verse 6 that Satan began to use Scripture on Jesus. And then Jesus answered him with Scripture. Satan knows the Scriptures better than you do. He watched as the stories in Scripture played out in real time. He saw the prophets and giants from the pages of the Bible firsthand, as they lived. He will use Scripture as a weapon when it works in his favor. So you need to use wisdom

in deciphering the difference between Satan's use of Scripture and the Lord's.

Satan's use of Scripture will completely throw you from what God is asking of you. It always speaks to a fleshly desire in you and normally evokes fear. His use always causes confusion and brings up questions on your part. For example: You are at a crossroads with a decision. God says to power through with faith. Satan will give you an excuse to wimp out. Never in the Bible does it say that it is okay to quit. It always says to be strong and press on.

God's use of Scripture is life giving. It always complements what the Holy Spirit is telling you. Even though God may be asking you to jump out in faith and do something that appears to be crazy, God's use of His Word always brings perfect peace. You will know when God speaks to you through His Word—when He does it is undeniable.

If Jesus had obeyed Satan's use of Scripture and "thrown Himself down," and His angels had come after Him, it would have disqualified Him from the cross, which was His ultimate calling.

When we interpret Scripture in a way that confuses God's obvious will throughout His Word, we are in danger of abandoning our calling.

Satan Offers What He Does Not Own

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me" (Matt. 4:8-9, *NIV*).

In an effort to lead you from where God wants you to go, Satan tends to offer you things that aren't his to offer. He may tell you things like, "Instead of taking that step of faith, stay right where you are; you will be happy here." He may lead you to believe that if you have sex only with your significant other before marriage, it's okay. He may tempt you to look at porn and tell you it will meet your sexual needs. Things that Satan cannot control he offers to us without any guarantee of getting them. He has no power to distribute peace and joy and fulfillment, but he is a professional

at making you believe that he does. Stay alert; he will promise you something that may sound better in the moment than what God is asking of you. But it will be an empty promise.

A Bold Stance Causes Satan to Flee

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only’” (Matt. 4:10, *NIV*).

Jesus took a bold stance and commanded Satan to leave. Because of the power that is in the name of Jesus, we have the opportunity to take that bold stance and tell Satan to be gone. Satan will leave when made to submit to God.

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you (Jas. 4:7).

Satan’s goal is to keep you from doing what you are placed on this earth to do. Remember, attacks of the enemy are a sure sign that you are working toward your significance. Stand and assume your position! Significance is yours for the taking. When you are resolute and decide to do exactly what God wants you to do to achieve His glory, you will be attacked, but none of those attacks will overcome you, because you have the power of God.

Satan will try to distract you, little by little, from attaining the true significance that is found in your calling in Christ. He will do it through money, stuff and even ministry. All these things he will use to masquerade as things that satisfy, even as he knows that God is the answer to finding your significance. He will whisper to you and say that you can be significant if . . . you look like her, or marry him, or have a ton of money. His purpose is to lead you further and further from the truth.

I wonder today if you have been lied to? Do you believe that you must be something you are not to make a difference? God says that all He made was *very good* (see Gen. 1:31). That includes you, my sweet friend. You need nothing added to you to make you more significant. You are significant just the way you were created.

Now your job is to explore the gifts and the call on your life to use it for Christ.

If you are a child of God, Scripture says that you are called with a holy calling (see 1 Tim. 1:9). You don't need to waste your life taking up space; you need to seek what that calling is and go for it unashamedly. In doing so, you will find the person God created you to be in an intimate relationship with Him. Challenge yourself today to be vigilant against the enemy's lies, and go after the truth.

I am so excited for your journey as you accept your calling and live as you were created to live! Seize your significance today!

QUESTIONS THAT SEEK TRUTH



1. Do you believe that you are significant? Based on the truth of your significance, how can your mark in the world make a difference?
2. I talk about the day when I lost the hope of ever being significant; have you experienced that? If so, describe what brought you to that conclusion?
3. With the realization that Satan is the father of lies (see John 8:44), what lies have you thought were true?
4. In order to believe that you are significant, you must start with truth. What does God's Word say that can help you counteract three major lies you have believed about yourself?
5. Because significance is not a natural thought pattern, write out an anthem for yourself that will remind you that you are perfectly placed on this earth for a purpose. What did you write as your first sentence?
6. According to Genesis 1:31, "God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good." Look at this verse as it applies to your strengths, your weaknesses and even your quirks. They are all at the exact level needed to achieve your calling. How do you see yourself now?
7. Satan was there when we were created, and he knows how to attack us. Given his advantage, what is one way that he continually attacks you?

8. Eve, in the Garden of Eden, engaged in conversation with Satan, which led to her demise. What conversation are you having with Satan that you need to shut down?
9. Sometimes we meet our physical needs without depending on the Lord. What do we stifle when we do that? Decide today to forego immediate gratification and depend on the Lord to supply your needs.
10. You have just read that Satan was there when the acts of Scripture were played out; he understands how to use Scripture to his advantage. What emotions does Satan's use of Scripture evoke versus God's use of Scripture?