

# The 16-Day Challenge

*Bible Study Series*



*By Polished Cornerstones Ministry*  
*Edited by: Kayla M. Stewart*

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*Dear Reader,*

I am so excited that you are doing this study and want to learn more about these amazing promises! The truths in this guide are just a few of hundreds of others found in the Bible.

My prayer for you as you work through this study is that God will reveal Himself to you through His Word. When you're done with this study, I pray these promises will be more than just some words written on paper. I pray that they will be the lifeblood of your Christian walk.

This has been such an amazing experience for me, getting the chance to discover more about these promises. When I did the online series for this, I loved it! It was neat to get to learn more about the truths I'd heard and read over and over again but had never really meant anything to me. There were even some promises I had never heard of before. This study made the Scripture come alive to me and that's what I want for YOU!

This study is easy to relate to, as most of the stories in this study are written about young women. There are also questions about the promises for you to write down your thoughts and Scripture references for further study.

I am so grateful for the people that have come alongside of me on this journey and helped me. I've had the opportunity to pick their brains for ideas and suggestions. They have pushed me on my journey, encouraged me, and prayed for me. I am very thankful for all the support I have received.

I pray that you will use this study with an open heart and ears to hear what the Lord is teaching you. I am eager to see how the Lord will use this study to work in the lives of young women.

I hope that this study will be as much of a blessing in your life as it has been in mine. I am praying for you, as you work on this study over the next few weeks, with great anticipation for how the Lord will work!

*- Kayla Stewart (Editor)*

# Day 1

## *You are Wonderfully Made*

"Ugh," Makenzie groaned. "Why does my hair have to be so thin?" she said as she finished pulling the sliding barrette out of her hair. Makenzie always had some sort of problem with how she looked. She didn't like her thin hair, she wanted to be taller, she didn't like the color of her hair. "If I could change how I look, I definitely would," she muttered to herself as she finished getting ready.

Makenzie thought about her friends at school. Kathryn was the tallest girl in the school. Elisabeth had such thick hair, it was unbelievable! And Gabrielle. She had the brown hair Makenzie had always wanted. For as long as she could remember, she had wanted brown hair.

*If only I could look like them,* she thought as she stepped onto the school bus.

We all know what it's like to not appreciate the way we've been made. We want to change something about ourselves. But God has created us purposefully and intentionally, so it's up to us accept the way we've been made.

**Watch Day 1 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with Lauri**

Questions to ponder:

1. What outward features would you change about yourself, if you had the power?

2. How could these "unliked" features unlock doors to what God might be trying to accomplish in your life?

3. Since the battle begins in our MIND, are there any other God-designed elements in your life that you have rejected in your thought life? (Ex. the parents He chose, your siblings, or when or where you were born?)

4. Today I am choosing the following outward features:

5. What is something that might stand in your way of accepting this feature about yourself? Take a moment and ask the Lord to help you as you begin to accept these "unliked" features.

6. Has there ever been a time in your life that you have fully dedicated your body to the Lord?

For further study, look up these references and jot down your thoughts about each Scripture.

Psalm 139:1-2

Psalm 139:13-14

Jeremiah 1:5

Romans 12:1-2

## Day 2

### *You are Beautiful*

Katelyn walked into school and passed many of her friends on her way to class. When she saw them, she struggled with the same feelings she'd had the last couple of days: jealousy. She was jealous of their looks and their popularity.

At lunch, she sat by herself watching her friends. She couldn't help but think about how much more beautiful they were. Their hair was fixed just perfectly, they kept up with the latest fashion trends, and they seemed to get all the attention. If only she was as beautiful as them.

When she got home, she went to her room for her daily Bible reading. Today she would be in 1 Samuel 16. As she was reading, the words of verse 7 grabbed her attention. *But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or height. . . For the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."* As Katelyn read these words, she felt as if that verse was meant for her. She was comforted that even though her friends saw her for her looks, God saw her for her heart. She was beautiful in God's eyes and that was enough.

Beauty is much more than just our outward appearance. Who we are outside is a reflection of what's inside us.

**Watch Day 2 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with Elizabeth**

Questions to ponder:

1. How does this story relate to you?
2. Have you ever been jealous of someone else? (Ex. how they look, popularity, or what they do?)
3. How have you viewed yourself (recently or in the past) as beautiful or not beautiful?

4. What is a character attribute of Jesus that you want to start praying over yourself?

5. How have you been comforted when you are reminded by God that you are beautiful?

For further study, look up these references and jot down your thoughts about each Scripture.

1 Peter 3:3-4

Colossians 3:12-15

1 Samuel 16:7

Proverbs 31:30

Ecclesiastes 3:11a

## Day 3

### *You are Bought with the Blood*

Grace put the finishing touches on the quilt. The soft pink and purple fabrics blended together beautifully. Grace had been working on the quilt for over two years. She had carefully cut the material and pieced it together. Then she started sewing. She had sewn the entire quilt by hand. When Grace laid the quilt out on the bed, it was breathtaking! Grace loved it! The best part about it, was that Grace had sewn the entire quilt by herself. The quilt was her most prized possession.

A few months later, Grace's family lost their house and almost all of their possessions to a fire. Although Grace was thankful that her family was safe, she couldn't stop thinking about the quilt. She was sure she had lost it forever. She was extremely disappointed. She had planned on giving the quilt to her daughter on her wedding day. Grace and her family searched for the quilt, but it was nowhere to be found.

A year later, Grace still had not found the quilt and her daughter's wedding was in two weeks. *I'll just have to find her a different gift*, Grace thought sadly. She waited one more week before she bought a gift, to see if by some miracle, they found the quilt. But they didn't.

So Grace went to a nearby quilt shop hoping she could find just the right gift for her daughter. She looked and looked, but she couldn't find anything. As she walked to the back of the store, she spotted one last row of quilts she hadn't looked at yet. Grace walked over to the row of quilts. As she neared the end of the row, she spotted a pink and purple quilt. Her heart started racing. She went over and took it down from the rack. When she unfolded it, she realized it was her quilt! *How did it get here?* she thought. She looked at the price tag - \$748. Grace was willing to pay anything to get the quilt back. She bought the quilt and went home to wrap it for her daughter's wedding.

When her daughter opened the box, she squealed with delight. Seeing her daughter so happy made everything Grace had done to get it, worth it.

The price of our redemption cost Jesus greatly; and that cost was His blood. He was willing to do whatever it took to get us back.

**Watch Day 3 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with MaryEllen**

Questions to ponder:

1. What is your most prized possession?

2. How would you feel if you lost it?

3. To what lengths would you go to get it back?

4. What do you think of Jesus giving His blood for us, so that we could have a relationship with Him?

5. What are some things that you are thankful Christ's blood covers, both now and in your past?

6. What do you think of the word propitiation . . . God taking our sin upon Himself and putting His righteousness upon us?

For further study, look up these references and jot down your thoughts about each Scripture.

Hebrews 9:12

1 Corinthians 6:20

Hebrews 13:12

1 John 2:2

1 John 4:10

Take the space below to write out a prayer of thanksgiving for His grace when He “bought you back” with His blood.

## Day 4

### *You are Forgiven*

Sophie loved watching her siblings work or listen to stories about their jobs. Her oldest brother, Matthew, was a geologist. Her sister Julie was a nurse. Jason was a firefighter. Her brother Thomas, loved football. He was the number one receiver on his team.

Sophie enjoyed listening to all of their exciting stories, but she liked Matthew's job the most. She loved looking at all the fossils he brought home or took pictures of for her to see. She really enjoyed it when Matthew took her to the different sites where he was working.

Matthew's favorite fossil, an original remains fossil, was always kept in his room. He found it at the very first site he had ever worked. He'd kept it for over four years. Sometimes, he would bring it out to show Sophie. She loved looking at the fossil. It was one of her favorites. The fossil had a fly that had been preserved in amber.

One day, Sophie's mom asked her to take Matthew's laundry to his room. When Sophie walked in, she sat the clothes on the bed and turned to leave. Before she left, she walked over to Matthew's shelf of fossils. She looked at all of them. *I won't touch anything. I only want to look*, she thought. When her eyes landed on the original remains fossil, she reached to pick it up and turned it in her hand. It was beautiful!

Suddenly, she heard footsteps on the stairs. She jumped. In her excitement, the fossil fell from her hand and crashed to the floor into millions of pieces.

A few seconds later, Sophie's mom was standing in the doorway. "What did you do?" her mom asked sternly looking at the broken fossil. "I just wanted to look at the fossils," Sophie said. "When I saw the amber fossil I picked it up. I dropped it when I heard you coming. I'm sorry."

"You'll have to explain this to Matthew when he gets home," her mother said. "Now go ahead and clean this up."

Sophie dreaded having to talk to Matthew. She didn't want to tell him that she had broken his favorite fossil. *Why do I have to?* she thought, *He's never going to forgive me.*

When Matthew came home, Sophie told him what had happened. Matthew looked extremely disappointed. "Sophie," he began, "you shouldn't have touched the fossil. I'm very disappointed that I no longer have it. But I forgive you," he said as he reached out to hug Sophie.

We have been forgiven much because of Christ. As Christians we are called to forgive others. We are an example of Christ when we choose to forgive one another.

**Watch Day 4 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with Hannah**

Questions to ponder:

1. Have you ever done something so bad, you thought no one could forgive you?
2. As Hannah mentioned, God's forgiveness is limitless and unconditional. What do you think of that kind of forgiveness . . . God removing our sins "as far as the east is from the west"?
3. How can you extend forgiveness today to someone because of Christ's forgiveness toward you?
4. What is something that keeps you from forgiving others? (Ex. what they did, what they said or how they act toward you?)
5. How can you pray for someone who has hurt or offended you?

6. How can you be more like Christ today?

For further study, look up these references and jot down your thoughts about each Scripture.

Ephesians 1:7

Matthew 6:14-15

Psalms 103:12

Isaiah 43:25

Romans 4:7-8



4. Have you ever been tempted to keep the gospel to yourself?

5. How can you be more faithful to share the good news of the gospel with others?

6. How have you been comforted when you read that nothing we could ever do or say will make God stop loving us?

For further study, look up these references and jot down your thoughts about each Scripture.

Matthew 28:18-20

Romans 8:37-39

Romans 10:9-10

Colossians 1:13-14

## Day 6

### *You are Adopted into Royalty*

Sarah searched the streets looking for something, anything to eat. Sarah was just one of the many children in her village that, often times, didn't have much to eat. She looked everywhere for just a scrap of food, but there was nothing. As she walked back to her makeshift home, she bumped into a Man. "Sorry," she mumbled. "It's alright," the Man said kindly, patting her shoulder as He turned to leave.

When Sarah looked over her shoulder to see who it was, she was shocked when she realized it was the Prince of the village. It was strange to see Him out walking the streets of peasants.

The next day Sarah saw Him again. Again the next day, and the next. She saw Him every day for weeks, just walking the streets and stopping to talk to people. What is He doing? she wondered. She had never see Him in this part of the village before. And for so long.

One day, she saw the palace guards hanging notices on the doors of shops and homes. Sarah couldn't read what it said, but she watched as crowds of people gathered around and talked excitedly to one another. "Whoever heard of such a thing?" she heard one woman say. "A feast at the palace with the King and His Son?"

*Dinner at the palace?* Sarah thought. Her mind began racing through all the food and wonders the palace would hold. . . *But they couldn't have meant children. Why would they invite children to the palace?* she thought sadly. On the day of the feast at the palace, the messengers of the King announced that everyone was welcome. Sarah couldn't believe it! She was going to the palace!

As the lines of people passed through the grand doors of the palace, they were each given a brand-new garment. When Sarah had changed into her new dress, she joined the crowd of people that flooded the palace as they made their way to the great hall. When she entered the hall, she couldn't believe her eyes! There were tables full to overflowing with food.

When everyone was seated, the Prince stood up. "Welcome! I'm sure you are all wondering why you have been invited to the palace. For months I walked through the village and saw the despair and poverty that you lived in. I have made a way to change that. I have prepared a house for you to live in so that you can be with the King. If you should choose to accept this, you will be adopted into the royal family of the King!"

Sarah thought about what the Prince had just said. She no longer had to be a peasant! Because of the Prince, she could now be a royal daughter of the King!

**Watch Day 6 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with Elizabeth**

Questions to ponder:

1. Have you ever thought of yourself as an adopted child of God?
2. How has this changed your view of yourself, or adoption in general?
3. What do you think of Christ adopting you and giving you His name and reputation?
4. Elizabeth talked about us needing to walk in Christ's royalty. What are some ways we can do this?
5. What do you think of Christ adopting you and making you a fellow heir to His kingdom?
6. What are some ways we can model Christ and love needy children?

For further study, look up these references and jot down your thoughts about each Scripture.

Galatians 4:4-7

Ephesians 1:5

1 John 3:1

Romans 8:16-17

James 2:5

## **Day 7**

### *You are the Bride of Christ*

"Make sure everything is ready, so that when I return we can get married." Those were Joshua's last words to Candace before he left. Candace could still remember that day. It had been several months since Joshua had left with a group of missionaries to take the gospel to the people of India.

While he was there, he would build a house for them to live in after they got married. Neither of them knew how long he would be gone. Before he left, he had asked Candace to make sure everything was ready for his return, because when he arrived they were going to finally get married.

Candace patiently waited for him, making sure everything was ready for his return. Every day she hoped for a letter from him, saying he was coming home to her. But she never got one. There was no way for them to communicate while he was away. Candace never knew when he would be home. He could come any day at any time. She just had to make sure she was ready for him.

A year had gone by, and Candace still had received no word from Joshua about where he was, what he was doing, or when he would be home again. But she continued to diligently await his arrival. She woke up every morning and did what Joshua had asked. She made sure she was ready. She wanted everything to be just perfect when Joshua came.

Finally, after patiently waiting for two years, Joshua came home. Candace had never been so excited before! Joshua had come! They were getting married, and then Joshua would take her to her new home. The home he had built. Candace had never been happier! Joshua was taking her home.

Like a bride waiting for her groom, the Church is called to wait for the return of Jesus. Our Bridegroom.

**Watch Day 7 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with Elizabeth**

Questions to ponder:

1. Have you ever thought of Jesus as your Bridegroom? Why or why not?

2. Elizabeth encourages us to "make space" for Jesus to love us and call us His own. What are some practical ways we can do that?

3. How can we, as the bride of Christ, prepare ourselves for His return?

4. What do you think of what Christ has done for us; that He has made us His bride?

5. What are some ways we can allow Christ to be our Bridegroom?

6. Thinking of the waiting process like a bride waiting for her groom, what can you do as you wait for Jesus?

For further study, look up these references and jot down your thoughts about each Scripture.

Revelation 19:7-8

Revelation 21:2

Ephesians 5:27

## **Day 8**

### *You are a Polished Cornerstone*

Lydia felt so small and helpless. Her church was facing extraordinary times of hardship...and she was just a teen. What could she do to help support her church and their needs? After hours and hours of prayer and brainstorming for ideas to help, she came up with some.

"Dad, mom, if it's alright with you I would like to help support our church by teaching Sunday school," Lydia said to her parents. "I know they need help in that area and I would love to help teach. I could also make some things and sell them to donate the money to the church to help fund the missionaries and other needs."

After a few minutes of talking in another room, her parents came back. "Lydia, if this is something you feel like the Lord is leading you to do and you really want to do it, you have our support," her dad told her. "Thank you!" Lydia said, excited to get to work.

After several weeks of hard work and determination, Lydia completed all her things to sell and raised over \$500 to donate to her church to help with their financial needs.

She also really enjoyed teaching Sunday school and the opportunities she got to be around the younger kids in her class.

"Lord, show me more ways I can be foundational in my church but also my family as well," Lydia prayed.

**Watch Day 8 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with Faith**

Questions to ponder:

1. What are some ways you can be foundational in your family?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What are some ways you can be foundational at your church?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How can you stand firm in your beliefs at your school, in your neighborhood, etc.?

4. How can you be an example of Christ to others around you?

5. What are some thing you can do in your life that will help you be foundational (ex. prayer, reading God's Word)?

For further study, look up these references and jot down your thoughts about each Scripture.

Psalms 20:7-8

Psalms 144:12

Romans 5:1-6

2 Thessalonians 2:15

1 Peter 4:8-10

## **Day 9**

### *You are a Work in Progress*

Bethany kept growing more and more frustrated. Nothing was going right for her. School was getting harder, especially considering this was her senior year. Most of her friends had already moved on to college and her siblings had been driving her crazy the past few days. Not to mention she was extremely tired from the long night of study and other projects.

*What is the purpose of all this?* she wondered. She decided to ask her parents their thoughts on this. "What do I do? I don't want to be mean or rude but all these late nights of studying are really frustrating me. What should I do?" she asked again.

"Bethany, first of all, I would strongly encourage you to read your Bible and pray daily," her dad said. "Talk to God. Tell Him what you're struggling with. Ask Him to help you.

"Secondly, remember that you're a work in progress. God is still working in you, Bethany. And He won't stop no matter what you do or how bad you might act. Think of what He might want to be teaching you right now. How is He working in you?"

Over the next few weeks, Bethany saw that what her dad said was true. She began to notice how the Lord was working in her. He was teaching her about faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness and loving her family and those around her well.

Years later when Bethany looked back to that time of her life, she was grateful for all that the Lord had worked on in her life. *And He's still working in me today*, she thought with a smile.

**Watch Day 9 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with Uncle Harold**

Questions to ponder:

1. Have you ever thought of yourself as a work in progress?

2. What are some areas that God is working on in your life right now?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. "Failure is an event, not a person." How do you view yourself when you make a mistake and how can you now view yourself from God's perspective . . . as growing and learning?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. When is a time that you were doing something, but it turned out differently than you wanted it to?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What are some important qualities that came from that?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How have you been comforted by the fact that God is the Beginner (Author and starting point) and the Ender (Finisher and Completer) of our faith?

For further study, look up these references and jot down your thoughts about each Scripture.

John 1:1-3

Philippians 1:6

Philippians 2:13

Hebrews 12:1-2

Hebrews 13:20-21

## Day 10

### *You are a Temple of the Lord*

School was becoming exceedingly harder and harder for Anna. And it wasn't just algebra. It was constantly having to fight the urge to do what others around her were doing, like when one of her friends asked her if she wanted to go to a party with them after school. *Sure*, she thought. *Why not?*

When she asked her parents, the answer was a firm no. "Anna," her dad said, "it may seem harmless now but you never know what happens at something like this. You could say or do something wrong. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit dwells inside of us. What we say and do affects the temple of the Lord. And your body is that temple."

Anna had never thought of it like that. She agreed with her parents. She didn't want to do anything damaging to the temple of the Lord.

It also made her think of something else. *How am I representing Christ at school?* she thought. *Lord, help me to represent You well in my life and to everyone I meet. Let them see You living in me.*

Our body is where the Holy Spirit resides. What we say, do or think affects the Lord's temple.

**Watch Day 10 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with Rachel**

Questions to ponder:

1. What does my body say about the temple of Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Am I glorifying God with the way I use my body (eat, put into, listen to, my actions)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How can we represent Christ well?

4. What are some ways we can damage the Lord's temple?

5. Have you ever thought of your body as the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit?

6. Have you ever done anything that seemed harmless at the time but then ended up regretting it?

For further study, look up these references and jot down your thoughts about each Scripture.

Romans 8:9

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

1 Corinthians 10:31

## Day 11

### *You are a Living Stone*

Erin couldn't wait for her parents to get home. She had some exciting news for them. She had been accepted into medical school! She couldn't wait to tell them. They had helped and encouraged her so much during this journey.

Since she wasn't sure when they would be back, she went ahead and made dinner for herself and her two younger brothers. After they had eaten, Erin was cleaning up when she heard a car pull in the driveway. She grabbed a towel to dry her hands and ran to the door.

But it wasn't her parents. It was a police officer. "Miss Palmer?" he asked. "Yes?" she replied, hesitantly. "Miss, I'm so sorry to tell you this, but your parents were killed in a car accident. I'll need you to . . ."

The officer was still talking, but Erin wasn't listening. She couldn't believe this! Her parents were dead? She had seen them just this morning, how could this happen?

The next few days were a blur to Erin. After the funeral, the Palmer children moved to be with their Aunt Cara. She had agreed to take in the children after she had heard what happened.

Aunt Cara helped Erin a lot as she tried to adapt to life without her parents. Aunt Cara had lost her husband and knew what Erin was going through. One day she told Erin, "Even though your parents are gone, Jesus is still here. He won't ever leave you. He'll help you through this." Erin never forgot that.

Erin went back to school to continue her education. Even though it was hard for her, she saw it as an opportunity to be a light to others who might be going through a difficult time at her school as well.

One of her friends, Abigail, who had just lost her dad, saw how well she handled her parents' death and wanted to know how that was possible. She asked Erin if they could talk. Erin told Abigail about how hard it was to adjust to life without her parents. Then she shared with Abigail about her relationship with Jesus and the assurance she had that she would one day see her parents again.

Abigail was so touched by her story, that she asked Erin to share more about Jesus with her. Erin did. Abigail accepted Jesus into her life. Together, her and Erin grew in their faith together and ministered to the hurt and the broken students that surrounded them.

Jesus calls us to be a light to those around us in the world. We are called to set an example for others.

**Watch Day 11 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with Faith**

Questions to ponder:

1. How can you be a living stone in your community?
2. What is a practical way to be a living stone TODAY?
3. Faith talked about the Israelites building monuments of God's faithfulness. How have you been reminded of God's faithfulness in your life?
4. How can we show others that God is faithful and merciful to us?
5. Do others see Christ when they look at your life?
6. How are you setting an example for others to follow?

For further study, look up these references and jot down your thoughts about each Scripture.

Matthew 5:14-16

Luke 11:35-36

2 Corinthians 4:6

Philippians 2:15

1 Peter 2:4-6

## Day 12

### *You are Washed by the Word*

Evangeline's family was moving. She was both discouraged and fearful. She was discouraged because it had taken her years to establish her relationships with her friends. *How long will it take to befriend more?* she wondered. She was fearful of all the changes that would come with moving.

Moving meant a new home, neighborhood, school and friends. Everything would be different for Evangeline now. She was leaving her best friends behind. She was heading into a whole new part of life.

As she got in the car for the long trip to Arkansas, she was overwhelmed by feelings of fear, doubt, and discouragement. She didn't know how to make it all go away.

*The Bible!* she thought. Evangeline pulled out her phone and turned on her Bible app. She was comforted by verses, like *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous hand."* (Isaiah 41:10, ESV)

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9, ESV)

As Evangeline read, her thoughts of fear, doubt, and discouragement were washed away and replaced with courage, certainty, and boldness.

Thank you, Lord, for Your Word, she prayed. Even though she was leaving behind her friends and wasn't exactly sure what the future would hold, she knew that her God would always be with her. She was thankful to be able to read about these promises and assurances in the Bible.

We need to be bathed daily in God's Word. He will wash us whiter than snow.

**Watch Day 12 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with Elizabeth**

Questions to ponder:

1. The Word of God is many things . . . what are some describing words you think of when you think of the Bible?



Isaiah 1:18

Romans 1:1-2

Hebrews 10:22

Take the space below to outline three ways in that you will be intentional about “washing yourself in the Word” over the next month.

1.

2.

3.

## Day 13

### *You are Heard by God*

Ellen loved watching her older sister Patricia's horses. They had a little two-wheel cart they would pull around. Ellen liked watching them pull the cart, but she really wanted a little buggy they could pull around instead. But as much as Ellen wanted a buggy, it was too much to buy simply for pleasure, so Ellen started praying and asking that God would give them one. For a while, nothing happened. Then, after three years of asking the Lord, He provided!

Ellen's family had some Amish friends that were no longer Amish. They had a buggy that they didn't use anymore. They didn't have horses to pull the buggy and asked Ellen's family if they would like the buggy. Ellen finally got what she had been praying for when her family accepted the buggy. The Lord had heard her prayer and provided.

Even when it seems like God doesn't hear us and is far away, He is right there beside us the whole time. All we have to do is acknowledge Him.

**Watch Day 13 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with MaryEllen**

Questions to ponder:

1. Think of times you thought God wasn't listening, but it turned out He was hearing you the whole time and working behind the scenes. Jot them down.
2. MaryEllen talked about crying out to God. What are your thoughts on that and how can we call out to Him in our hour of need?
3. How can we acknowledge God in the midst of a difficult time in our life?



## Day 14

### *You are Created for Such a Time as This*

The principal had asked Heather to stay after school that day. One of her teachers wanted to talk to her about an area she was failing in with her grades.

Heather was disappointed. She had a Bible study to attend that night, a test to study for, reports to write; she didn't have time for this. She was barely going to be able to get all that done without having to stay after school. *Why did this have to happen today of all days?* she thought.

The meeting with the teacher lasted for over an hour. She helped Heather with anything she didn't understand and tried to help her so that she would succeed more in her physics.

As soon as the teacher let her go, Heather walked as fast as she could toward their home. It was mid-November and it was cold. It was also getting dark really fast.

Just before she reached the street her house was on, she saw a young girl she guessed to be about 12 years old, huddled up against a house. Heather had never seen this girl before. She walked over to the girl.

"What are you doing out here in this cold?" she asked the girl kindly. "We don't have a home," the girl responded, her teeth chattering. "We have to..."

"We?" Heather asked.

"It's just my parents and two younger siblings."

"How old are they?"

"My little sister is 5 and my brother is barely 4 months old," the girl said.

"Where is the rest of your family?"

"Trying to find shelter for the night."

"Hold on," Heather said. "I might be able to help you and your family."

She stood up and pulled out her phone. She called her mom and explained what had happened. Her mom told her that the girl and her family were welcome to stay at their house as long as they needed to. She would come pick Heather and the girl up and her dad would go get the rest of the family.

When Heather got off the phone, she bent down and put her coat around the girl. "My mom is coming to pick us up. You and your family will stay with us for a while," she told the girl. "Everything's going to be alright."

They soon discovered that the baby was extremely sick. When they took him to the hospital, they found out it was pneumonia. "If they baby would have been brought in a day or two later . . . he wouldn't have survived," the doctor told them.

Heather thought about what he had just said. *If I wouldn't have been asked to stay after school, I may have never met this family, she thought. And the baby may not have made it.*

She also thought about Esther, in the Bible, and what she had been called to do for her people, the Israelites. Because of her courage and sacrifice, her people had been spared. Heather thought that what had happened with her was a lot like what happened with Esther.

*Thank you, God, for giving me the opportunity to help this family. Thank you for putting me where I am "for such a time as this."*

God has put us where we are for a specific purpose. We were made to help complete the story He started.

### **Watch Day 14 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with Faith**

Questions to ponder:

1. Have you ever thought of yourself as a girl on a mission?
2. What are some ways we can prepare for the mission God has for us?
3. God has a special purpose for you . . . how can we look for ways to achieve that special mission when we are young?
4. What are some things you have encountered in your life that you didn't like at the time, but it turned out that God had a plan for that happening?

5. How can we follow in the footsteps of Jesus as we carry out our mission?

6. We are called to strengthen and encourage others in Christ. How can you help and encourage others around you who are carrying out their mission?

For further study, look up these references and jot down your thoughts about each Scripture.

Esther 4:14

Isaiah 14:27

Jeremiah 29:11

## Day 15

### *You are Loved Everlastingly*

Andrew and his wife Kaylee, had been called to go to Paraguay to take the Gospel to the lost people there. Kaylee had been to Paraguay with a mission team from her church when she was a college student. She was looking forward to reconnecting with the friends she had made while she was there.

Before sunrise, Andrew and Kaylee would be up preparing for the day and the people they would encounter. Kaylee already had a large group of women that wanted to hear more about Christ and salvation.

Andrew, on the other hand, was constantly trying to engage in conversation with the men of the village, but they rejected him continually. Andrew loved the people and didn't want to give up on them, but they slowly grew more hostile toward him and his family until they finally ordered him to leave the village.

It was a great discouragement to Andrew. All he had done was show love to these people. Why did they reject him?

Because they were not allowed in the village, they were beginning to run out of food and basic needs. There was no way to get back to America for many weeks.

One day, sometime after they were forced to leave the village, they heard a knock on their door. When they opened it, they saw a group of women with baskets full of food, clothes, dishes and many other things.

The women explained that they wanted to help any way they could and asked if it was possible to continue their Bible studies. Andrew and Kaylee were overjoyed! They still had a group of people willing to listen and learn.

Over time, men started joining the gatherings at their home. Many of the villagers were eager to learn but were afraid of what their leader might do.

"When we saw what you did for our wives - sharing this good news with them - we thought you were crazy," one man told Andrew at one of their gatherings. "You had been rejected and cast out of the village. But then we slowly realized that it was because of your love for us, that you did this. Thank you for showing love to us when we were not willing to show love to you. I don't know of anyone that would do what you have done for our village."

Because of this simple act of love to the villagers, they wanted to know more about it. They welcomed Andrew and Kaylee back into their village where they planted a church for all who wanted to know more about the Gospel.

God loves us on our good and bad days. We should take this kind of love and extend it to the others around us, even the ones we really don't want to love.

**Watch Day 15 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with Rachel**

Questions to ponder:

1. Who is God asking you to love unconditionally?
2. Will showing love to others help you see God's unconditional love better?
3. How can you be more loving to the people around you?
4. What are some ways you have experienced God's love even on your bad days?
5. When are some times you have seen evidence of God's unconditional love (on the good and bad days) in your life?

For further study, look up these references and jot down your thoughts about each Scripture.

Jeremiah 31:3

Romans 5:8

Romans 8:31-32

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 John 4:9-11

1 John 4:19

Take a moment to write out a prayer...that God will show you how to LOVE others.

## Day 16

### *You are a Warriress*

Charlotte wanted to be a warrior, but according to her brother, that wasn't possible. She was a girl. Only boys could be warriors, they told her.

William and James had been warriors since they were 15 years old. Their best friend, Mark, was also a knight. Charlotte would hear of their stories of battles and she wanted to help in some way too. But her brothers insisted, it just wasn't for girls.

Their parents had raised them to love and serve the great King of their land. Although the King lived in another kingdom, they were still His people and He was worthy of their love and devotion. Her brothers served the King by becoming His warriors.

When Charlotte was not thinking about fighting, she liked to read the Ancient Book of the land. One day, she came across something she hadn't noticed before. In the Book the Writer said,

*"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood . . . but against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12, ESV)*

Charlotte couldn't figure out what that meant, so she asked her father. "Does this include anyone?" she asked. "Even young women?"

"Well, yes. It's for everyone. We are all called to fight against spiritual forces. The only question is, how do we respond to this call?"

Charlotte thought about that for a minute. "I want to be a warrior for the King."

"A warriress," her father corrected with a smile.

We are called to battle against the spiritual forces of this world. We are called to be warriors.

**Watch Day 16 of the 16-Day Challenge on our YouTube channel...with Faith**

Questions to ponder:

1. Have you ever thought of yourself as a warrior or a fighter? Why or why not?

2. How do you respond to this call of being a warrior?
  
3. What are some ways we can fight against these spiritual forces?
  
4. What are some tools (there's more than the armor of God!) that we have been given to win?
  
5. What are some ways to stay focused on the real battle?
  
6. What might keep you from being able to do this? Take a minute and ask the Lord to help you as you try to overcome these distractions from the real battle.

For further study, look up these references and jot down your thoughts about each Scripture.

Psalm 89:18

Psalm 144:1-2

Isaiah 54:17

Jeremiah 46:3

Ephesians 6:10-18

1 Timothy 6:12

This is your last day...what is one way you want to walk away changed and never back to the OLD you?

## **About the Editor**



**Kayla M. Stewart**

Kayla is the second oldest of eleven children and resides with her family in South Central Kentucky. She plays many different roles in serving her family. When she's not preparing meals, helping children with school work, or reading with the little ones, you can find her reading, writing, or sewing.

Kayla was introduced to PCM at a distance by family and attended her first event in June of 2016. In that same month, Kayla participated in the 16-day challenge online. Through the experience of the 16-day challenge and God placing the desire in her heart to see others gain the full benefit of the material covered, Kayla has worked with the PCM team to develop this study guide.

# **Polished Cornerstones Ministry**

*Our Mission is to come along side parents and the Church and equip, prepare, and support Daughters of our Heavenly King. We realize that each young woman has a specific calling on her life, given to her by God, supported by the Word and His Holy Spirit. Through the Word, we endeavor to encourage and equip others to live out their callings and follow the Great Commission in the ways God has ordained for them.*

For more info on our events, other online Bible studies, our blog and book reviews, check out our website. You can also follow us on Instagram where we post the happenings of PCM, or subscribe to our YouTube channel! Feel free to email us too.

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