

FRESH FAITH

Leaning on God
in the
Corona Crisis

JON EDWARD FUGLER

Fresh Faith:

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in the
Corona Crisis

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To Get You Started...

“30 Truths for 30 Days of Faith”



[*Download Your Free Guide from Jon*](#)

“These are some of the most challenging times we have ever faced. A strong faith in God is vital, but sometimes it shakes. Before you begin this book, I invite you to download a special resource to help you in your faith walk.

“I’ve created a *one-page guide* called **30 Truths for 30 Days of Faith**. You’ll have a single, memorable, faith-

building statement of truth for the next 30 days. Each one points you to the Lord.

“Use this Guide however it works best for you. Store it on your device so you can refer to it instantly. Or print it out so you can keep it in your Bible, or put it up as a reminder.

“It’s a quick-reference guide to encourage you in your walk of faith.”



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John'.

Download your free **30 Truths for 30 Days of Faith** Guide at
www.YourLifeWithGod.com/30truths

A Test of Faith

I almost choked when I read the news headline: “Here are the Shows to Watch While Waiting Out the Coronavirus.”

“What a waste of time!” I wanted to shout. Four weeks of TV with all my free time? Eight weeks? Who knows how long? The thought of binge-watching Netflix left me empty.

The Coronavirus pandemic has rocked our world. Not just the globe, but our personal lives. Everyone is talking about it. Opinions are flying everywhere. Fear has nations in its grip.

As believers, how are we supposed to respond? Our faith is certainly put to the test. If we believe God is sovereign, ruler of everything (including the Coronavirus), fear shouldn’t overwhelm us. But, for many Christians, it does.

That’s easy to understand. The news saturates us with yet another update and morsel of information. Our eyes and ears are glued to the daily briefings. Every third email is about the Coronavirus, sent by my bank,

airlines, department stores, my church, hotel chains and my financial advisor.

Are we weary of hearing about this? Not really. We seem to hunger for more. Do we believe one of these sources will provide the vaccination to save society? Our eyes shoot up and down our phone screen, viewing news story after news story. We bookmark the Coronavirus interactive map so we can get the latest figures, checking them often. We mourn over the financial news and the pictures of empty store shelves.

Our emotions are frayed. On the outside, we appear calm, but our intense discussions say otherwise. In all of this, we might find it hard to shut out the world and open our hearts to Jesus.

Everyone is talking about the Coronavirus.

And so is God.

He has been talking about it for centuries. It may have been under a different name, but this kind of crisis is not new to him. Imagine leprosy we read about in the New Testament, the Plague centuries ago and Ebola that is still wreaking havoc in Africa. We remember the Swine Flu that hit us hard. And there are other earth-shattering health crises I could name.

These upheavals get our attention. And the attention of the world. God has been speaking about calamities since the beginning of time, with his heart of hope and love.

God's timeless words reach us in the pandemonium of the pandemic. Jesus beckons, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

(Matthew 11:28 NIV)

Words to the fledgling early church encourage us today: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6 NIV)

We need the reminder, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8 NIV)
He rose from the dead, is all-powerful, and is in control.
He is worthy of our trust.

This Crisis is an Opportunity

For the first time in my memory, our world has come to a halt. Not for days, or a week, but it could be for months. Who knows?

The roads were practically empty today when I drove for my morning caffeine. “This is just like Christmas Day,” I said to myself. But the reason was 180 degrees different. No one was celebrating in their homes.

Your social life is on hold. Your church life, too. Services have gone online and small fellowship groups are meeting by Facebook Live, Zoom and other apps. Sports and cultural events on your schedule are cleared away. No eating out, either. Trips you’ve planned are likely pushed back indefinitely. Schools are closed. Workplaces are resorting to remote officing.

Life is at a crawl. This is a serious thing for most businesses. My son works for an airline. That industry has been quickly devastated. Your own work situation might be tentative.

How can this be an opportunity?

You now have the time to spend with God.

Your schedule has opened up like it never has before and may never free up again in the future. The blocks of time you had set aside for events, trips, gatherings and other activities are now wide open. There’s certainly no fear of missing out. You may have to be creative if you

have kids around the house, but the time is there for you.

The question is, “How will you spend this time?”

We have a prime opportunity to develop our relationship with God, filling our minds with his Word. But will we opt for mindless, sometimes ungodly, content? Please, Lord, don’t let believers fall for that.

God is calling you to himself, not only to pour out your fears and anxieties to him, but to know him like you never have before. Your prayer time can be more meaningful and intimate than it has been in years.

Oh, my heart goes out for you. Please make the most of this time. You don’t want to come to the end of this season, look back and say to yourself with regret, “I missed it.” A fitting verse is, “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”

(Ephesians 5:16 NIV)

Pastor and author John Piper wrote one of my favorite books, **Don’t Waste Your Life**. Several years later, he came down with cancer. His pulpit message soon after was, “Don’t waste your cancer.” His call to Christians was that everything in our lives can be used for God’s glory. Even bad things.

Let's not waste the Coronavirus. This evil disease will not beat us, but it is a trigger to get our relationship right with God. We can experience a renewed intimacy with the Lord, going deeper than we ever have. Not for temporary results, but lifelong.

My Isolation Story

Many years ago, I was hit with a situation that changed my life. I was uprooted from good friends and transplanted to a city where I knew no one. I was lonely, regretful of the move, sorrowful about leaving my close friends behind. I kept thinking about my past life, imagining what those friends were doing at that moment. I wished I could transport myself instantly back into their world.

I had time, lots of it. And I filled it with God. I could say I was a spiritual giant and sought Jesus in a new way, clinging to him. But I'd be lying. I filled my time with God by accident. I had already been practicing a habit of a daily quiet time (or devotions). Alone time with God in his Word and prayer. I journaled, too, and still have the journals 40 years later.

What I found is that my 30-minute quiet times stretched to 45, then an hour. At one point, I was spending 90 minutes a day with God. I couldn't get enough of him.

Honestly, it was the most I have ever sought God in my life. This went on for at least three months, laying the foundation for spiritual maturity in my life. It was God and me. I enjoyed it immensely. When I look through those old journals, I realize God did some profound things in my life, helping me understand him and the Bible in a new way. I grew!

All this because of an earthquake in my life. My personal "Coronavirus" had isolated me from others. By God's grace, I didn't waste it.

Your Story

Now let's talk about Coronavirus today. Imagine discovering new things about Jesus because you didn't waste this season. You took time to look carefully into the Bible in an unrushed setting. Day after day. Week after week. An extended retreat with Jesus.

You had incredible conversations with your family and

friends as you shared the freshness of your relationship with God. You encouraged other people to go deep with Jesus, too, multiplying the impact of your conversations. You were propelled by God to bring the love and hope of Jesus to your neighborhood and friends.

If you seize this opportunity, you'll look back on this season, remembering how you grew in your relationship with God. You might write in a journal that becomes sacred to you because of all the things God revealed to you. Five years from now, you'll read it reflecting, "This time was a turning point in my life."

God will do amazing things in our lives when we throw ourselves completely into his arms.

That's what I'm inviting you to do for as long as this season lasts. Love and pursue God with all your heart.

Are you having marriage problems? Health issues? Financial troubles? Are you living in fear? Jesus is right there with you. He's calling you to come closer. He loves you. You won't go through these trials alone when you invite God to be part of your hurts and uncertainties. And now is a *most* uncertain time. In this season, spend more time with him than you ever have.

You might not be in the middle of a personal trial. Count your blessings as you dive into a renewed season with the Lord.

Enjoy an adventure with Jesus. I don't know exactly what he'll do, but I know he is faithful. As you seek him, he'll surprise you in exciting ways.

Your perspective will change. Your priorities will shift. Your faith will grow. We don't know the future, but God does. As your relationship with Jesus rises to the top of your life, you'll trust him more with the things that you've held onto tightly. Above all, you'll enjoy the richness of deep fellowship with God. There's nothing more satisfying.

You'll see the future in a whole new way.

Knowing Christ Jesus

Am I negating the importance of things cancelled? No. Many life-altering shutdowns have been handed to us. But compared to the incredible wholeness we experience by knowing Jesus, they're small. Paul said, "What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the

surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”
(Philippians 3:8 NIV)

For Paul, he was losing *everything* in order to know and follow Jesus. His profession, relationships, status, power, income. Yet, knowing Christ was his all in all. It was gold to him. And it should be gold to us.

Will you use this time to develop the most important relationship of your life? Or will you waste this opportunity by being swallowed up by the endless offerings of the internet, media and on-demand streaming? Don't coast through the Coronavirus period. Pursue your loving Lord in a way you never have before. God is beckoning you to spend time with him, hearing his truth and hope in the midst of fear and heaviness.

You might be isolated from the rest of the world, but don't isolate yourself from God. Jesus awaits. Tell him how you feel. Be with him in hushed blocks of time. Pour over his Word, contemplating Bible verses you had passed over before. He may lead you into spontaneous worship. Put your headsets on, welcoming uplifting praise music to block out a noisy home. Speak to God in prayer. Listen. There are no rules.

Come through this experience with an exciting new relationship with God.

Are You In?

As you read this, you might be inspired to act. But good intentions never accomplish anything. I recommend you block out time on your calendar.

Now.

See where you have commitments that have been cancelled. Use those openings to know Jesus. An hour here, two hours there, even three hours in some slots. Can you imagine what will happen when you have uninterrupted hours with God?

Getting into quiet mode may be difficult for you. You could have an active and noisy household, especially now when everyone has to stay put. That makes it hard to find even a few minutes to yourself. Your alone time might be at night or early morning when there's no action.

You might be a person who has a hard time being quiet

before God. Be still. Begin by considering God's character. Silently or with a whisper, praise him for each quality.

Center yourself on Jesus. Any fear, doubt, discouragement and angst you feel right now is not from God. It's from Satan, the father of lies. Tell Jesus about it. Fill yourself with God's Word of truth.

Know Christ during this season. Then know him more. For as long as this season lasts.

I beg you to reject idleness and adopt a proactive approach to blocking out time with God.

Once you experience a next-level richness with Jesus, you'll want more. You'll hunger for God each day, long after the Coronavirus exits. This disease is driving you to the Lord. Your engaged heart will keep you there.

My Invitation to You

I invite you to immerse yourself in five experiences with God. Use the following pages as your guide. I'll lead you through reading, praying and reflecting. Take a day

with each experience. Or a week. Move at your own pace. There's no completion deadline.

The idea is to enjoy unrushed time with God, letting him lead you. Use this historic period in the Lord's timeline to build a profound relationship with Jesus.

Getting Started

JOURNAL:

In a few words, how would you describe your feelings in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic? Be completely honest with yourself.

What words or phrases describe your relationship with God?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Experience #1: Jesus My Rock

Rocks are mentioned throughout the Bible, often symbolizing strength, protection and stability.

David expressed it this way, “. . . my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield.” (2 Samuel 22:3 ESV). He says later in that chapter, “The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation.” (verse 47)

The Psalms are filled with statements about God as our rock. Reading them builds our confidence:

“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” (Psalm 18:2 ESV)

“Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily! Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!” (Psalm 31:2 ESV)

Those in the Old Testament may not have realized it, but Jesus was their rock. As they looked to God as their rock, that rock was Jesus, too. For he is God and has existed for all time.

Paul tells us about the Israelites in the wilderness, “They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.”

(I Corinthians 10:2-4 NIV)

In the Psalms above, notice the words surrounding “rock.” Refuge, shield, fortress, deliverer, stronghold, rescue. Jesus is here for you in this world, in the middle of the pandemic. Are you being poked by fear, anxiety, uncertainty, instability, the unknown? My friend, your rock is Jesus and he is your shield. He is your stronghold. He is your rescuer.

Jesus is here with you. Look again at Psalm 31 where David cried out, “Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!”

Do you need to be saved from anxiety or fear? Turn to Jesus, your rock.

Let me encourage you to take a few minutes and spend time in Psalm 31. Whatever your pain, the Lord, the rock, is here for you.

“In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;
be my rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me.

Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide
me.

Keep me free from the trap that is set for
me, for you are my refuge.

Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.”

(Psalm 31: 1-5 NIV)

READ:

[Read the entire Psalm here.](#)

RELECT:

Journal your thoughts about Psalm 31.

What jumps out at you?

What do these words mean to you?

- refuge _____
- rock _____
- fortress _____

Who is God according to this Psalm? Describe his character.

What quality of God do you want to get to know better?

PRAY:

Take some time to slowly read Psalm 31 as your personal prayer to God.

Experience #2: Jesus, My True Vine

One of my favorite passages in all of Scripture is John 15:1-8, which holds the secret to living the Christian life. It's a simple concept that I return to often. These verses are a great reminder of how Jesus intended for us to relate to him.

The passage starts out, "I am the true vine." (John 15:1 ESV) I find these words assuring. Jesus' statement sets the scene. He shows me the source of life. He's not just any vine. He's the *true* vine.

Picture a garden with vines running through. You can trace each one to the source of its nutrients. In his analogy, Jesus is likely illustrating with a grape vine, familiar to everyone in that day. Imagine a complex set of intertwined vines crawling up a pole or a fence. We used to have grape vines that continually grew and expanded their reach every year.

This is the picture in John 15. Jesus is the source of life. All other vines find their nutrients in this one true vine. Every shoot that emerges from Jesus the true vine should be full of life.

But that doesn't always happen. Some branches die. They've stopped absorbing their nutrients from the true vine.

Jesus says it this way about our relationship with him, "Whoever abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 ESV).

It's so simple! All we need to do is abide. That's an ancient word that needs some clarification. It means to remain in, dwell in, live in.

It's more than *connecting to*, because dead branches are still connected to the vine. You can have a relationship with Jesus, but as they say, you could be "dying on the vine." You might describe your Christian life as lackluster, boring, dry or stale.

I think the best phrase to make it clear is "live in." Am I living in Christ? In an instant, I bet you can answer that question. You know whether you are *living in* Christ or not.

What could be blocking spiritual nutrients coming to you from Jesus the true vine?

You may not be spending time getting to know Jesus,

enjoying his presence by talking to him (praying) and reading the Bible. A half hour each day, away from noise and distractions, can make a big difference.

Perhaps sin is junking up the pathway from Christ to you. Impurities will block nutrients from the vine to the branch and kill it off.

Or maybe you're trying too hard to live the Christian life. Look again at John 15:5 and see what Jesus says about bearing fruit: "Whoever abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit." A branch doesn't exert any effort to produce fruit. It simply absorbs nutrients from the trunk or vine and the grapes appear.

Turning away from Christ to produce fruit on our own is not only futile, it's an insult to Jesus.

Live in Christ, the true vine.

READ:

[Read John 15:1-8](#)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes,

that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”
(ESV)

REFLECT:

Journal your thoughts about this passage. What jumps out at you?

What do these words and phrases mean to you?

- I am the true vine (Jesus) _____
- abide _____
- fruit _____

Who is Jesus according to this passage? Describe him.

What quality of God do you want to get to know better?

PRAY:

Read John 15:1-8 aloud. Then pray about becoming an *abiding believer*.

Experience #3: Jesus Restores

When Jesus returns, followed by God establishing the new heaven and new earth, all creation will be restored. Christ will return to judge sin and evil, and he will usher in righteousness and peace. Sin will be eradicated. Perfect fellowship with God will be enjoyed.

Jesus will make things right when he comes in glory. He will restore.

Even today, Jesus restores.

He restores marriages.

He restores broken relationships between friends.

He restores our joy when it's stolen by tragedy, hurt or disappointment.

He restores our hope when we're consumed by loss.

He restores our fellowship with the Father when we've turned away from him.

He restores our faith when we have little to hang on to.

He restores our love for him when our heart is cold.

He restores our peace when worry overtakes us.

Jesus' purpose in coming to earth was to restore our relationship with God. After centuries of man's alienation from our Creator, Jesus stepped down from heaven to do what only he could do for us. He went to the cross a perfect God-man and took on every sin for all time, bearing the wrath of God. Because of this, we are restored in our relationship with God.

What is it in your life that needs restoration today?
Health, finances, marriage, parent-child relationship,
church squabble, deep hurt, emotional heartache?
Whatever it is, Jesus can restore.

If he restored humanity's relationship with God, is
anything too hard for him?

The bonus in all of this is that Jesus is motivated by his deep love for you. He's not an impersonal God who simply wields his power to restore – zap! His heart is behind it. He loves you. He wants you to experience restoration. Yes, he has his timing, but everything he does in your life is an outflow of his love for you.

Sometimes we just have to relax and stop striving. We need to fall into the arms of Jesus and let him restore. He's been doing it for centuries.

READ:

God's love can melt your heart when you need restoration. No matter what the obstacle is—worry, loss, sin, broken relationship—God's love can overcome your sense of isolation from him. As a believer, you are never cut off from the love of God in Christ. Romans 8:35, 37-39 (NIV) assures you:

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

REFLECT:

How do you feel when you read the passage above?

What do you need Jesus to restore in your life?

Do you have friends or family members who need Jesus' restoration? Who are they and what kind of restoration do they each need?

What quality of God do you want to get to know better?

PRAY:

“Jesus my restorer, I need you to restore something in my life. And here it is...”

Pray also for friends and family members who need to experience the restoration of Jesus.

Experience #4: Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” (Revelation 22:13 NIV)

What do those words do for you when you read them?

For me, they give me a sense of awe. I feel energized. I want to praise Jesus!

“Long live the king!” is the shout we hear for human royalty. I want to shout that for Jesus, The King with a capital K.

Jesus is our all in all. Three times in this verse he announces his eternal existence. What a mind-blowing thought. Jesus *from* all eternity *into* all eternity.

Can you wrap your mind around the eternal existence of Jesus? If you can't, that's ok. We shouldn't be able to understand it fully with our limited, human minds. The thought of the eternal Jesus is beyond us.

How is it possible to have an intimate relationship with Jesus, who is the Beginning and the End? The contrast of the infinitely huge to the infinitely personal is extraordinary. The beauty is that while Jesus is eternal, he also longs to have a deep relationship with you.

The Apostle John felt the same awe that you feel. Even after spending three years with him! While in exile many years later, he wrote in Revelation, “When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: ‘Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.’” (Revelation 1:17 NIV)

It’s as if Jesus sets aside certain character qualities that would make us shudder in awe. And then he sits with us as our personal, loving Savior. We need both. We need to know he is the Alpha and the Omega while we experience his cross-bearing love for us.

Jesus is your all in all, the eternal God who came to earth to have a personal relationship with humanity. With you.

READ:

Consider Revelation 1:17-18 (NIV). Alone in exile in the latter days of his life, the apostle John wrote these words about Jesus:

“When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: ‘Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!’”

Read these words, also written by John, during his season of ministry -- I John 3:1-2 (NIV):

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

REFLECT:

As you consider Jesus right now, complete these sentences:

- When I think of Jesus as the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, I . . .

- When I think of Jesus as my personal Savior, and consider the Father as *my* Father, I . . .

Ponder the answers you gave. Add more thoughts. Let your mind run free.

You are a child of the God of the universe. He is your Father. Think about that. What are the benefits of being his child? How does it make you feel?

What quality of God do you want to get to know better?

PRAY:

1. Do you need to trust Jesus with something that burdens you? Something that is constantly on your mind? Spend time praying to your loving Savior about this, claiming his promise, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28 NIV) Be honest with Jesus. Spend as much time as you need. Other burdens might come to mind, too. Talk with Jesus and release your burdens to him.

2. Take time to thank your loving heavenly Father that you are in his family. All because of his Son's death on the cross. Give the Father thanks for the benefits you reflected on earlier.

Experience #5: Trusting Jesus

“Just trust Jesus.”

It’s spoken like Jesus is a good luck charm, here to make our wishes come true.

Sometimes the phrase is a cop-out. It rolls off our tongue but it’s far from our heart. We say it, but we don’t believe it.

Are you trusting Jesus these days? *Really* trusting him?

Think through the challenges you’re facing right now. Where does Jesus fit in? Is he at the center of the challenges or do you recite a mechanical prayer?

I use catch phrases in my prayer routine. The more I use them, the more I fool myself that I’m really trusting Jesus. I feel better that I’ve seemingly given things to Jesus, but I’m actually passing them off to him without heart or sincerity.

Will you join me in an attitude shift? Let’s trust Jesus with everything, starting with the things that are weighing on us most.

Instead of throwing catch phrases at Jesus, try this:

1. *Trust desperately.* We aren't supposed to wring our hands when we pray. Rather, we need to approach Jesus with a healthy desperation that expresses that he is our only hope. This kind of trust goes deep into our soul. It is more than words. We feel it. When my wife had cancer, my soul was moved when I prayed, throwing myself fully at Jesus' feet. Not a trite word in my prayers.
2. *Trust confidently.* Hebrew 4:16 (NIV) says, "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." God himself invites us to approach him confidently. That's an invitation we should accept . . . every single day.
3. *Trust freshly.* If you're caught up in praying the same things over and over again, the same ways, the same tone and drone, snap out of it! Speak differently to Jesus. Change your words. Read Bible verses or passages that address your challenges. Get a fresh perspective that will lead to fresh trust.

No one is immune to falling into bad habits when it comes to trusting Jesus. I'm with you as we practice trusting him in a new way.

The Bible tells us that we are to love God from the depths of our heart. I think our trust in Jesus should be like that, too.

READ:

Read this amazing story from John 4:46-53 (NIV), It will encourage you in your trust in Jesus:

“Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

‘Unless you people see signs and wonders,’ Jesus told him, ‘you will never believe.’

The royal official said, ‘Sir, come down before my child dies.’

‘Go,’ Jesus replied, ‘your son will live.’

The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, ‘Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.’

Then the Father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, ‘Your son will live.’ So he and his whole household believed.”

REFLECT:

How can you trust God more desperately?

([Read David's words in Psalm 56](#))

How can you trust him more confidently? (Look back at Hebrews 4:16)

How can you trust the Lord more freshly? (Read John 4:46-53 again)

What quality of God do you want to get to know better?

PRAY:

What do you need to trust God with these days? Is there something you're trying to do in your own power, wisdom or talent? Maybe it's time to abandon that way of doing things and trust God fully. Put him first in whatever you're facing.

Go to the Lord and pray through this issue—or *these* issues. Put Jesus back in control. Speak trust to him, desperately, confidently and freshly. Read the above Bible passages out loud if that helps.

Where Should You Go From Here?

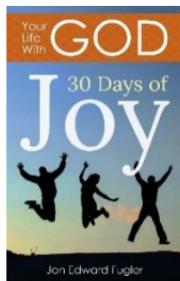
Has this time with God over the past several days or weeks made a difference in your relationship with him? I hope so.

More than that, I hope your time with God has taken on a new meaning. You're meeting with him differently. You've established new habits in the way you have a quiet time with him.

Of course, lasting change comes over a long period of time. If you've found these five experiences have produced change, I invite you to continue. **Read** God's Word. **Reflect** on it. **Pray**.

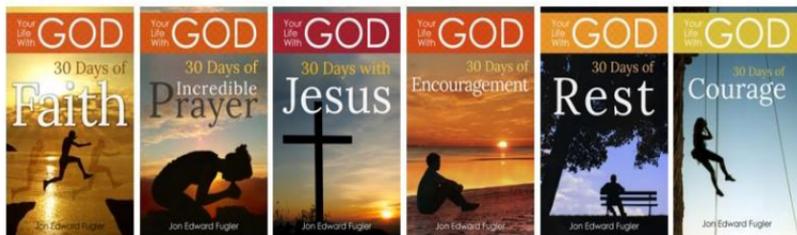
Do this every day. There's nothing more important than your relationship with God. Invest time in developing it, just as you have through the five experiences in this book.

If you need continued guidance, I recommend spending time in one of my **Your Life With God** 30-day devotionals. I've developed them on a variety of Christian life topics, but I suggest you start with [30 Days of Joy](#).



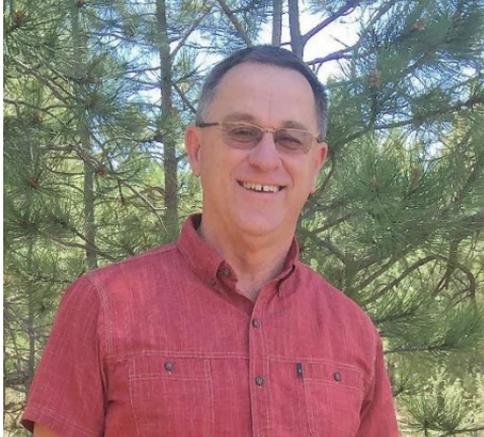
We need more joy in our lives and community, especially right now.

Each devotional is designed to help you develop your relationship with God. It's that simple. I hope you'll freely experience a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ that permeates every area of your life. These devotionals are all available on Amazon in print and Kindle.



Thanks for reading this book. I'd like to hear whether it has made a difference in your life at this tough time. You can email me at jon@yourlifewithgod.com.

About the Author



Jon Edward Fugler has been writing for Christian audiences for 40 years, sharing simple truths that have had a profound impact on the lives of believers. He has a long career in Christian broadcasting, publishing and missions and has a passion to take the Gospel to the least reached and unengaged around the world. Jon is the author of the **Your Life With God** devotional series, inspiring readers to immerse themselves in their relationship with God. He and his wife, Noonie, have three children and eight grandchildren. They live in North Carolina.