

# But God

Overcoming Life's Dead Ends:  
A Year of Daily Devotions

**Cori Kelly**



# **But God**

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## JANUARY 1



*“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Corinthians 3:17).*

Take a moment to reflect on the following question before answering: “What do I see in my life that is important but really isn’t?” It’s a great question to ponder, especially this time of the year with new beginnings and changes being considered. The answer that came to me instantly was just one word, and I was well acquainted with it. It had ruled my life for many years. It was the dreaded *P* word—perfection.

I am a recovering perfectionist. I lived life needing everything to be perfect from my house to my family and, most of all, myself. I had to have a spotless home. My children went to school in matching outfits and well-coordinated accessories. Every meal had to be perfectly balanced and nutritious. Every task, from organizing a closet to overseeing the class Christmas party, was done with great precision and care. I was a slave to perfection.

“*But God*” stepped in and rescued me from my insanity. He used the example of His Son Jesus who, while perfect in nature, was not a perfectionist. Jesus’ attention was always on meeting the needs of others and building relationships. He worried not that His robe and sandals were dirty or that He appeared disheveled. People were what mattered.

Jesus taught us in John 8:32, “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” Have you answered the question above yet? Is there something in your life that you need to be set free from? Jesus is standing by to help you refocus your life. Why not start the New Year off right and gain your freedom at last!

## JANUARY 2



*“Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him” (Matthew 6:8).*

I was in a hurry trying to get all the birthday presents wrapped before the party. When I pulled off a piece of tape, it splintered and stuck back on the roll. I can never find those lost ends of tape on the roll. And when I do, they peel off sideways or just shred even more. I tried to make do with the tiny slivers I was pulling off, but it wasn't working very well. Time was ticking, and I was beyond frustrated. A true wrapping nightmare had just begun.

*“But God”*... the next time I reached for the tape, it was functional again. It had somehow corrected itself, and I was back in business, but not before I felt the Lord kiss me on the top of my head and whisper to me that He always knows what I need even before I ask. God cares about every seemingly insignificant thing that we care about—even malfunctioning tape dispensers! He loves meeting us right where we need to be met. He loves us that much!

Not only did my gifts turn out beautiful that day, but I got a wonderful kiss from God and a reminder of just how much He loves me and cares about my every need.

## JANUARY 3



*“Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice” (Proverbs 13:10).*

Admitting wrongdoing or asking for help are challenges for many people because they require a very rare thing called humility. Humility is not a very popular character trait in our world today. On the other hand, pride seems to have a very strong foothold. We love to take pride in our accomplishments and successes. And we usually want everyone else to know about them too.

King Solomon taught about the sin of pride in many of his proverbs, most likely because it is the one basic ingredient in every quarrel. We have a natural tendency to want to be right, to win, or to be validated. But Scripture warns us of the danger of thinking this way. It says pride produces disgrace and destruction.

When you find yourself getting caught up in the “I have to prove my point” scenario, stop and ask yourself, “Does it really matter?” Is being right worth sacrificing my peace and joy? Is winning the argument worth the hurt and resentment it may cause? Maintaining healthy relationships is more important than the need to be right. Ask God to convict you when pride rears its ugly head. Remind yourself that being obedient to God’s Word is far more important than being right. A pride-free life is a God-honoring life.

## JANUARY 4



*“The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress, and my Deliverer, my God is my rock in whom I take refuge” (Psalm 18:2).*

Growing a relationship requires learning about that person. When a new friend comes into our lives, we have to spend time with them to get to know them. There must be personal interaction for a bond to be forged.

Reading the Word of God is the best way to get to know Him. Scripture gives us deep insight into His awesome character, personality, and nature. His goodness and faithfulness are found on every page. This verse gives us three of His characteristics to look at.

God can be compared to a fortress because He is a place of security and safety. As a fortress protects its inhabitants, so does our God. He places a divine shield around us and keeps us free from harm. Nothing or no one can destroy our mighty fortress.

As our rock, God is the foundation upon which we build our faith and our lives. He is solid, firm, and unshakeable. He can withstand every human and supernatural force that comes against Him. We can depend on Him to keep us safe.

Remember the nursery rhyme about the three little pigs? One built his house out of straw, one built his out of sticks, and the smart one—the spiritual one—built his out of brick. Only the brick one was left standing after the wolf blew on it. If our lives aren't built on a solid foundation, how will we survive when the big bad wolf comes calling?

## JANUARY 5



*“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God”  
(John 14:1).*

Words are my hobbies. Reading, playing Scrabble, and doing crossword puzzles make for a relaxing afternoon. So, when I’m reading and studying the Bible, I like to look up words in the dictionary to gain insight or get a fresh perspective. The word *trust* is defined as confidence, faith, belief, and dependence.

One of my favorite word pictures for *trust* involves a little girl and a bridge. The child is getting ready to cross a swinging bridge over a deep gorge. She looks over to the other side, and she sees Jesus standing there encouraging her to walk to Him. But the bridge is old and rickety and swings as soon as she puts her foot down on it. She looks over at Jesus with fear in her eyes. He puts His hand out, and He calls to her, “Trust me. You can do it. I’ll help you.”

The little girl has a choice to make at this point. She can either let her fear overcome her and walk away, or she can trust that Jesus is going to keep His promise. So, she takes a step. The bridge sways again, and she cries out. Jesus calls back, “Trust me. Keep your eyes on me.” One step leads to two, and she slowly starts walking. When the bridge sways again, she is not as frightened this time. She knows Jesus is watching and He won’t let her fall. Keeping her eyes on Him, she is soon safely in His arms.

Trust demands something from us. It requires effort, courage, and faith to believe that God is going to do exactly what He said He would do. If we keep our eyes on Him and don’t look away, we’ll be okay. Be like that little girl and don’t focus on the fall—even when the bridge sways!

## JANUARY 6



*“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else just as ours does for you” (1 Thessalonians 3:12).*

It’s not easy to love sometimes. In fact, it even feels impossible at times. What are we to do in situations like these? How do we love the unlovable? How do we care for those who care nothing for us?

“*But God*” ... in truth, we can’t do it on our own. That’s why we need to pray and ask God to fill us with His love so that it may overflow into others. God wants us to be able to love at all times. Jesus said in His Word that loving God and others is the greatest commandment. When God gives a command, He also enables us to follow it.

This verse came back to me recently as I was sitting in a restaurant with my family. The waitress came to take our order, but before she went on her way, I asked her if there was anything she would like prayer for. At first, she seemed surprised by the question, but then she spoke up and said, “Well, you know, I’m pregnant, and I have three little boys at home, and I would really like a little girl.” This opened a door for further conversation, and we were able to get a glimpse into her life as well as pray for her. Here was a young woman pregnant with her fourth child and waiting tables. It seemed to me that she could have used a little love and encouragement that day. It made us happy to know that we spread a little of God’s love that day.

I want to be intentional and passionate when it comes to love. I don’t want to love half-heartedly but love people like Jesus loved people. I want to be a vessel used by God that is totally overflowing with love for others. I want to be so full that when I am bumped or jostled only love spills out. If you feel like your love tank is on empty, pray and ask God to fill it. He will pour in just what you need.



## JANUARY 27



*“In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From His temple He heard my voice; my cry came before Him and into His ears” (Psalm 18:6).*

David loved to play his instruments and worship God. He wrote this song after the Lord delivered him from his enemies in answer to his cry for help. Many people can't put their pride aside to ask for help. They think they can pull themselves up by their bootstraps and soldier on in their own strength, or they turn to family and friends for the comfort and guidance that only God can provide. Psalm 108:12 says, “For the help of man is worthless.” God is the only One who can meet all our needs.

David is one of my biblical heroes. I connect with him because he suffered from depression at times in his life just like I do. I have prayed that same “help me” prayer, just like David, in my pain and suffering. God hears our every cry and plea. He is pleased when we admit we can't survive on our own because then we can rely on Him. This helps draw us closer to Him so we can learn to lean into Him. He lovingly reassures us that we've come to the right place for help!

Humility should be one of the hallmarks of the Christian faith. It is only the sin of pride that prevents us from humbling ourselves to admit that we need God. We are not weak because we ask for help. On the contrary, it takes a lot of strength and courage to ask for assistance. David wasn't weak. He was the greatest King in the Bible. He knew he wouldn't be where he was or what he was without God's help!

## JANUARY 28



*“For without Him who can eat or find enjoyment?  
To the man who pleases Him, God gives wisdom,  
knowledge, and happiness” (Ecclesiastes 2:25-26).*

People interpret the word happy in many ways and according to the circumstances of their life at the time. They allow life to dictate their joy and contentment instead of acknowledging the only true source of all good things. The world’s view of happiness comes and goes with the changing tides. But God’s happiness permeates our hearts for all eternity.

True fulfillment and happiness can only come from being in a relationship with God. Without Him, satisfaction is a futile search. Only in God does life have true meaning and pleasure. Without Him, nothing satisfies. The happiness that the world offers has no staying power. It can be here today and gone tomorrow. The happiness that Jesus offers is fixed and solid. Nothing or no one can take it away from us.

There is one caveat, however, to experience this promise of happiness. Scripture says, “To the man who pleases God” this happiness will be awarded. This means we must live our lives not for ourselves but for God. Being happy has nothing to do with us and everything to do with God. Give up trying to find it and let it come to you by way of a personal relationship with Jesus. Only then will you fill that hole in your heart and stop that vacuum from sucking the air out of your soul. When you choose Christ, you are choosing a happy fulfilled life. It is the most significant life-altering decision you will ever make!

## JANUARY 29



*“But remember the Lord your God for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:18).*

The term “self-made millionaire” is frequently used in our society today. We are only too eager to take credit for our accomplishments and flaunt our achievements. We take great pride in ourselves. But, nothing is self-made in this life. If it weren’t for God giving us the abilities and His hand of blessing upon us, we would never be able to achieve anything.

God is in total control of our lives and can bless or take away. 1 Samuel 2:7 says, “The Lord sends poverty and wealth; He humbles, and He exalts.” Our talents and successes don’t come by our own merit. John 15:5 says, “Apart from me you can do nothing.” God wants to see us succeed. He wants us to have nice things in life and enjoy them. He wants us to live life abundantly. But He also wants and expects us to acknowledge that it is only by His hand that we have anything at all.

God wants us to overflow with thanksgiving for every good thing He has given to us. Do we remember to thank Him for His generous provisions? Do we thank Him for the many gifts and abilities He has given us to live such successful lives? We must get in the habit of practicing an attitude of gratitude if we want God’s continued hand of generosity upon us. There is nothing that exists that is self-made. God is the maker and provider of everything. His stamp is on every success and achievement in our lives.

## JANUARY 30



*“Train yourself to be godly” (1 Timothy 4:7).*

How do we train ourselves to be godly? When you think of the word *training*, you might think of people working out at the gym. It could be the athlete who trains for a triathlon, the bodybuilder who trains for a contest, or maybe the gymnast who is training for a competition. These athletes can't just show up and expect to perform well, let alone win. They can't assume they are ready for the challenges ahead without practice. They have to put in the time and effort to get ready. They must work hard, be dedicated, and exercise huge amounts of self-discipline. Their success depends on their training.

Godliness is the same as physical training. It requires the same commitment of time, energy, and diligence. It is not some by-product of our faith. We just can't pray to be godly and achieve it. We have to work at it. Further, in the book of Timothy, Paul tells us to, “Pursue godliness.” The word *pursue* is a verb, and verbs suggest action. You can't pursue something and be passive at the same time.

Why do we spend so much time working on our physical bodies and so little time on our spiritual bodies? A spiritual workout is much more important for our total well-being.

Do you have a spiritual workout routine? Are you in training to be the godly person Christ intends for you to be? You can practice godliness by making time to read and study the Scriptures, to pray, to worship, to fellowship with other believers, and to share your faith with others. These disciplines, if practiced regularly, will keep you in great spiritual shape!

## JANUARY 31



*“But your iniquities have separated you from God; your sins have hidden His face from you so that he will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2).*

Reuben was one of Jacob’s twelve sons. Scripture doesn’t say much about him except that he was the first-born of his large clan. In the Jewish culture, the first-born was given a great blessing by his father as well as inheritance rights. This was all in store for Reuben until the day he sinned by defiling his father’s marriage bed. This one bad choice cost him everything. Reuben was disinherited and excluded from his place of honor in the family. In a weak moment, Reuben sacrificed all that was good in his life.

This is a powerful example of the consequence of sin. The first place we battle with sin is in the mind. Temptation enters, and we have to decide immediately what to do with it. Are we going to act on it as Satan would love for us to do or be strong and run far away from it, which would have been a much better choice for Reuben?

God gave us tools to use to avoid moral failure. He gave us a Spirit-filled mind to empower us to withstand temptation. He gave us armor to put on every day to do battle with the flesh. He also gave us Scripture which is the most powerful weapon of all. Even Jesus used Scripture to battle temptation when Satan tried to trip him up.

It’s hard to think about the consequence of sin in the heat of the moment. That’s why it is so important to be ready all the time. If Reuben had been better prepared, things might have turned out much differently for him. Always be ready to stand against temptation. Never give Satan a foothold by showing your weakness.

## FEBRUARY 1



*“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).*

I have asked God this question many times in my life: “Lord, what is your will for me?” We are told in His Word that God has a plan and a purpose for each of us. Yet I have felt uncertain at times of what that means for me.

Thankfully, Scripture has an answer for whatever questions we struggle with. We don’t have to wonder or guess about anything in our lives. The answers to all of life’s questions are gathered together in one book for us. The answer to this question is found right here in this verse. 1 Thessalonians tells us very clearly what God’s will is for us. His will for us is to “be joyful always, pray continually and be thankful in everything, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

God’s design for us is a spiritual steadfastness. It is a determined resolve to live by the commands He has set before us in His Word. His will and purpose for all of us is to choose joy, pray consistently, and always give thanks no matter what we feel. This is God’s will for you and for me and for every believer who truly seeks to live a godly life.

## FEBRUARY 2



*“Ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding” (Colossians 1:9).*

Wise King Solomon knew the value of insight and understanding. When God posed the question, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you,” the King replied, “Give me wisdom and knowledge” (2 Chron. 1:7). Would any of us give God the same answer if asked to share the true desires of our hearts?

We are exercising great wisdom when we pray for wisdom. James 1:5 says, “If any of you lacks wisdom he should ask God.” Wisdom is not just acquired information or know-how. It is not theology or facts. It is the everyday application of living for God. What should I do in this situation? How should I handle that conversation? Do I need to confront this person?

The acquisition of spiritual knowledge is of little use unless we can apply it to our lives. Wisdom produces a transformed attitude which then rolls over into righteous living. It enables us to make choices and decisions that line up with God’s best for us.

Colossians 1:10 says that we pray for wisdom “In order that we may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way, bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God.” Wisdom teaches us how to please God and live a life worthy of Him. God made it so simple for us to accomplish this task. All we have to do is ask.

## FEBRUARY 3



*“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).*

What better way to begin each day than by asking God to help us live our lives in honor of Him? David is praying that everything he says and everything that he does be pleasing to God. What a beautiful prayer!

All our thoughts and actions are born in the mind. We can't say or do what we haven't thought of first. It is difficult to keep our minds pure in the world today. Satan seeks to corrupt it on an ongoing basis. The evil one makes it his full-time job to jeopardize our relationship with our Father. So, we must make a conscious effort to keep our minds focused solely on God.

Colossians 3:2 says, “Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth” (NLT). It is so easy to get caught up in the circumstances of everyday life. We must be intentional about keeping our focus on God. This doesn't come easy as we are so incredibly busy and pulled in so many different directions.

David also loved to meditate on God's Word. Maybe that's why he was known as “a man after God's own heart.” Reading and meditating on God's Word pleases God and encourages us to live out our faith. We can't live out what we don't know. A Bible sitting on a shelf does us no good. Pray and ask God to fill you with a passion for His Word and the desire to become an eager student. You will be blessed, and God will be glorified!



## FEBRUARY 4



*“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires” (James 1:20).*

The Bible doesn’t tell us that we should never be angry, but it does point out that it should be handled properly. If vented carelessly, anger can hurt others and destroy relationships. If bottled up inside, it can cause us to become bitter and resentful. If not dealt with, it can be like a cancer that will eat us up on the inside and metastasize to every area of your life.

Anger can cause hostile feelings toward someone and cause us to want to retaliate. When we’ve been hurt we naturally want to take revenge. However, Scripture tells us, “Vengeance is mine says the Lord” (Romans 12:19 KJV).

I had an experience once where someone had hurt me so deeply I didn’t think I could ever get over it. The pain was so intense that it literally consumed me. I didn’t think I would ever be able to get past it, let alone forgive the person. And yet I knew that I was causing my own suffering by rehearsing the incident over and over in my head, feeding my anger.

Then one day it hit me. I didn’t have to try to get over this on my own. In fact, I couldn’t get over it on my own. I needed God’s help if I was ever going to heal and move forward. I began praying that God would not only soften my heart towards this person but also that He would soften theirs as well. I began to pray for the person I was angry with. In the process, I discovered that it’s hard to have spiteful feelings towards someone you are praying for. Slowly but surely all that incapacitating anger started to seep away as I prayed for this person. The process of forgiveness had begun as I relied on God to do what I couldn’t in my own power.

## FEBRUARY 5



*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).*

When we have important decisions to make, sometimes we feel that we can't trust anyone—even God. “*But God*”... always knows what is best for us. We must trust Him completely and allow Him to lead and guide us in the right direction. We must be willing to listen to Him and be corrected by Him. Every area of our lives must be submitted to His authority.

There are many times that we don't particularly like the path that God has us on. We don't like our current circumstances or the testing God's allowing us to go through. That is when it is wise to remember this verse and trust that God knows what He's doing. Trusting Him is all He ever asks of us.

We can't possibly understand all the things that God does in our lives or in the world. God never intended for us to understand Him and His ways completely. There are mysteries of God that no one will ever know. Deuteronomy 29:29 says, “The secret things belong to the Lord our God.” God doesn't want us to doubt and question. He wants us to trust that He has everything under control. We need God's presence in our lives, not His explanations.

## FEBRUARY 6



*“Whatever you do work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord and not for men” (Colossians 3:23).*

I often think about this verse when I am doing housework. Instead of thinking how monotonous the work is, I try to shift my thoughts from the mundane work over to the positive side. Everything we do can be done for His glory. Every time we thank Him for something we are glorifying Him. So, as I am cleaning, I thank Him that I am healthy enough to bend over the tub and the toilets and scrub them. I thank Him that I have such a beautiful home to take care of. I thank Him for my husband who provides for me and is always so appreciative of my efforts.

Working to serve others is an act of worship to God. Our service—whether to our family or the community—is pleasing to Him and brings Him great glory. God has given all of us work to do. And He expects it to be done with the right perspective and attitude.

We serve an audience of one. It matters not if others are impressed with us. Our focus should be on pleasing God and not the world. I don't particularly care for work day at our church. To be honest, I'm also not crazy about taking my turn in the nursery on Sundays. But when I stop to remind myself that I am serving God and not man, I can enjoy what I'm doing. God wants us to be cheerful givers and cheerful servants in everything we do.

## FEBRUARY 7



*“The Lord was grieved that He had made man on the earth and His heart was filled with pain” (Genesis 6:6).*

Adam and Eve are responsible for introducing sin into the world forever. Their disobedience brought evil into existence. When man began to increase on the earth, wickedness started abounding. The Bible gives vivid descriptions of how depraved humanity had become. David foretold this in Psalm 14:3. He wrote, “All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good not even one.”

How did something that God created and said was good turn so corrupt? All of creation was pure perfection as God intended it to be until Adam and Eve decided to listen to the devil and disobey God’s command. Now all mankind would suffer the consequences. Sin will always be prevalent in the world until Jesus comes back and restores it as it once was in the Garden. But until that day, all of creation will suffer great tragedies and injustices.

Human sin is God’s sorrow. God’s precious creation rebelled against Him, and His heart was filled with pain and sadness. God doesn’t regret creating humanity. He didn’t make a mistake. God does not lie nor does He ever change His mind; however, He does mourn when we turn our backs on Him and go our own way. Adam and Eve fell for the lie that they could be greater than God if they just ate that apple. Don’t allow yourself to be tempted by such false promises. Stand firm in your faith and listen only to the voice of God.

## FEBRUARY 8



*“Above all, love each other deeply because love covers over a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8).*

Love is a “no matter what” proposition. It is not predicated on good behavior. Just like Jesus can’t love us any less for our bad actions, we can’t love people any less for theirs. Unconditional love is what we are called to practice. Loving people *no matter what* should be our vision statement.

Feelings can’t be controlled. Emotions can just take over. But what we do with those feelings and emotions is what is important. We can’t control how we feel, but we can control our actions and reactions. We have a choice as to how we’re going to respond to everything that happens to us. We can choose grace and mercy or anger and vengeance.

Sometimes it takes dying to our own desires to make the right choices. It takes courage to be the bigger person. *“But God”* ... promises to be that strength and courage when we need it. 1 Corinthians 16:13 says, “Be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.” Love should cover over every hurt ever inflicted upon us. If Jesus’ love covered over all the injustices done to Him, we can too.

It’s challenging to follow in Jesus’ footsteps. But the Bible never promised us that it would be easy. In fact, it promises the complete opposite. It tells us we will experience trials and tribulations. However, 1 John 5:4 reassures us, “For everyone born of God overcomes the world.”

Love no matter what. Forgive no matter what. Choose God’s ways no matter what. It’s the only right action we can choose. Don’t base truth on feelings—base truth on truth! God is our source of truth, and He will provide all we will ever need.

## FEBRUARY 9



*“And if Christ has not been raised our preaching is useless and so is your faith” (1 Corinthians 15:14).*

The Resurrection of Christ is one of the most debated events in the Bible. There will always be people who say that it didn't happen. They simply refuse to believe that Jesus rose from the grave three days after His crucifixion.

What is not debatable is that there were hundreds of eyewitnesses to this fact. Jesus appeared to Peter and the Apostles on Easter Sunday. And after that, He appeared to over 500 believers (1 Corinthians 15:6). This same testimony is given by all the Gospel writers.

Jesus' half-brother James did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah before the Resurrection (John 7:5). He was like the Apostle Thomas who doubted and needed proof. Thomas told the other Apostles that unless he saw the nail marks and the wound in Jesus' side, he would not believe. Not long after that, Jesus appeared and told Thomas to reach out and touch the evidence and stop doubting. Then He said, “Because you have seen me you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

The Resurrection of Christ is at the center of the Christian faith. Because Christ rose from the dead as He said He would, we know that He spoke only truth. He is the One True God! There is no other person nor another god who can make this claim. Putting your faith in anyone or anything else is a useless faith. Only Jesus Christ can provide life after death. Take a stand and reject useless faith and grab hold of the truth!

## FEBRUARY 10



*“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us” (1 John 5:14).*

I had been scheduled to go on a vacation with a friend for months. I was excited until I developed a serious back problem and was somewhat incapacitated. My activity level was way down, and I began to doubt whether I should go. But my friend had purchased the ticket, and I didn't want to disappoint her. So, I began to pray that something beyond my control would happen that would prevent me from going. I guess what I was really hoping for was God to intervene and provide me with a gracious way to avoid going.

Then one morning in my quiet time the Lord showed me this verse and suggested that perhaps I was praying for the wrong thing. He suggested that maybe I should try praying for His will to be done instead of mine. Truth be told, I've always thought that praying for God's will to be done was somewhat of a risky prayer because of the possibility of not getting my own way. But I obeyed and earnestly changed my prayer to, “Thy will be done.”

It became obvious all too soon that God's plan for me was to go on the trip. I wasn't there long when God gave me another Scripture verse in Mark 6:31. It said, “Come with me by yourself to a quiet place and get some rest.” I ended up having one of the most restful vacations I've ever had as well as some amazing personal time with the Lord. He poured into me every day through His word and spoke to me when I was out walking albeit at a snail's pace. He revealed His next project for me, which I credit to being obedient to His command to go on the trip.

If we pray for God's will to be done, it is always what

is best for us. I thought what was best for me at the time was staying home. But in the end, I saw that God's will was much better than mine. I now have more confidence that He always has my best interests at heart. I think our prayer requests must entertain God sometimes as we think we know what we need instead of Him.