



WOMEN'S BUILD

2023

DEVOTIONAL
GUIDE

PREPARED BY

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Thank you for joining WMU of Texas Women's Build as we celebrate our 13th year to provide a home for a family in the Mission, TX area. We are grateful you are willing to give of your time, energy, and resources to bless a family in need.

We want this experience to be meaningful for you as serve. We are providing a seven-day devotional for you to begin on the day you arrive for your week. Spend a few minutes each day allowing the Lord to use the scripture provided, and the devotional words to inform your journey with Him.

Enjoy each day's reflections and allow the Lord to speak to you as you serve.

Blessings,
WMU OF TEXAS STAFF

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Day One

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

The Women's Build is a new experience for some. Others feel right at home with a nail gun and monkey saw. But wherever you fall on the scale of experience, the task we have is formidable. I believe this passage instructs us as we go.

Our command is from God. He has called you here. He knows your limitations and capabilities. He simply asks that you stand strong with courage.

Fear and discouragement often walk hand-in-hand. "This is too big for me" can bring a fearful heart that only leads to discouragement.

God says to be courageous. He wants to pour courage into you. The enemy wants to pour courage out of you through fear and dis-couragement. God's promise is that HE is the One Who is with you wherever you go.

Pray

Ask God to fill you with courage and strength today. Only He knows where your weakness lies and only He has just what you need to be strong, courageous, and fearless. Sit with Him for a few minutes and let Him fill you with exactly what you need to keep going.

Daily Reflection

What are you most grateful for today?

What was your greatest opportunity for growth today?

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Day Two

Psalm 28:7

The LORD is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

You will note a common theme this week. The word is STRENGTH. Whether you feel equipped to build a house or not, the work is tough, the heat can be exhausting and most of us don't normally spend our days performing manual labor.

I love the tenor of this verse. The Psalmist reminds us that God's strength is also His shield for us and it happens in the present tense. He isn't some future strength or some shield from the past. He is present with you each step to be your strength. The verse doesn't say He will give you strength. It says He is your strength. And He shields you. That says protection to me.

There also seems to be a progression. I (personal) trust Him (present tense – in the moment) with all (not part of but fully) of my heart (all that I am and are). The result? My heart is so full of joy that I can't help but burst out in songs of thanksgiving!

What song of thanksgiving does He want you to sing today?

Pray

Thank God that He IS your strength. That you can live in the presence of Philippians 4:13 is truly powerful. “I can do ALL THINGS through Christ Who strengthens me.” Let that be your prayer of praise and thanksgiving today.

Daily Reflection

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Day Three

1 Thessalonians 5:11

So, encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

Working together can be a challenge. When my children were young, I knew they needed to learn responsibility. They needed to know how to do things. They needed to know the importance of learning valuable life skills.

But honestly, in the midst of parenting, I was often tempted (often by sheer exhaustion) to just do it myself. I knew how, it was easier than patiently explaining, and then not so patiently waiting for them to perform a task I could do without any effort at all. I could have the playroom picked up in 3 minutes flat. And it was super organized. It took 15 minutes for them on a good day. And organization? Well the puzzle pieces were mixed up and the books were not replaced in height order. But the important thing was that I was teaching and training.

Some of us may find ourselves on one side or the other of this analogy. Those with experience are challenged to be kind and patient with the those who are just learning. We don't do it like the experienced one. But one thing I learned as a parent. The job was done, and it served the purpose it was intended to serve.

Let this verse serve as a reminder that although we definitely have a task to perform, we are performing alongside others. It is a balance. Yes. Instruct skillfully. Correct patiently. Listen attentively to those leading. But remember that God is doing a work as well. And His work is personal in the lives of those you are serving alongside.

Today remember the importance of encouraging others and building others up. And Paul, in this verse, assumes that we are already doing so!

Pray

Today, pray for the others on the build by name. Lift up each of your team members. Let God instruct your heart for how to pray for them, and how God wants you to encourage each one.

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Day Four

Nehemiah 8:10

This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!

Hard work is hard work. And hard work is biblical. In fact, man was made to work.

But Nehemiah knew about hard work and discouragement. He knew first-hand the frustration of building.

In case you need an Old Testament refresher, Nehemiah was one of the trifecta released by King Cyrus to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city and the temple.

Zerubbabel was sent to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem that had been destroyed in 586 BC. Ezra the prophet was the one who read the scrolls to the Jewish refugees and renewed their heart and devotion to Almighty God. And Nehemiah was tasked with rebuilding the wall around the city.

The Jews who chose to join these three leaders were allowed to leave after 70 years in Babylonian and then Medo-Persian captivity.

I think Nehemiah knew something of the frustration of the building process. While we don't have people fighting against us as we build, perhaps we do know something of the exhausting work that construction brings. While

Nehemiah instructed the builders to work on the portion of the wall behind each of their houses, with a building tool in one hand and sword in the other, we can be grateful that we don't have to fight and build at the same time.

But I digress. My favorite part of the is verse is the part we all know and quote.

I'm always taken by the irony that says the JOY of the LORD is the source of our strength. Are you just gritting your teeth and trying to endure the day's tasks? Or are you seeking the JOY of the LORD? I'm grateful that Nehemiah reminds me to seek the JOY of the LORD when I need to be strong.

Pray

Today, seek the JOY of the LORD. Let that be the source of your strength as you work.

Daily Reflection

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Day Five

Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Running. Walking. Building. Serving.

This verse lets me know that my strength needs to be renewed. Work is difficult and the journey is arduous.

Who is it that renews their strength? It is the LORD Who renews their strength. Not because they strive but because they WAIT.

I love that Isaiah uses the analogy of the eagle. Have you ever really watched an eagle? We call it soaring for a reason. An eagle is able to evaluate the air current and knows just how to use it to carry him. He simply spreads his wings and lets the wind currents do the work.

I think I'm often more like a hummingbird. Their wings go so fast that you can't even really see them! It requires lots of work on their part to remain airborne. But the eagle has learned to trust the wind to carry him aloft.

I want to be more like an eagle. I want to know my Lord so well, that I know just when the time is right to spread my wings and soar. Waiting on just the right time and just the right spot to let go, and let God do the work through me.

Run. Walk. Build. Serve.

Not in my strength, but in His.

Pray

Ask God to remind you to WAIT for Him so that you know the right moment to let Him take you and use you as only He can. Then, be prepared to soar!

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Day Six

2 Corinthians 12:9

Each time He said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

I’m grateful for Paul’s humble transparency in this passage. The world tells you that you need to be your own person. Give all you’ve got. Self-sufficiency is the most important life-skill you can learn.

But Paul shows us a better way. After begging God three times to take away the thorn that was plaguing him, he heard God say no. “Paul, I’m not going to fix your problem. I’m going to be the grace you need to live in your problem.”

I don’t know that Paul liked that answer. I’m not sure I like that answer when God says that to me. But in the end, it provides a constant reminder that my strength is not my own. God works best in me when I step aside and simply become the vessel He longs to use by His grace.

Weakness is considered a negative quality in our day and age. But God says, my weakness plus His Grace is enough. That is all I need.

You may be tired or discouraged. You may have things you wish God would release you from. But today, trust His Grace. Let Him be your sufficiency.

Pray

Thank God for His grace in your life today. Release your fleshly need to be self-sufficient and choose to let Him be your sufficiency today.

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Day Seven

Romans 15:13

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Overflow. I love that word. I want to experience so much hope, joy and peace in Him, that it just pours forth. I can't stop the overflow.

Sometimes I think there are beavers that try to dam up my overflow. Those beavers have names like Fear and Discouragement. Names that include Frustration and Disappointment.

The first part of the verse tells me it's all about God. He is the source, and He is the One Who fills me completely. And then there's the last line of the verse. The overflow isn't the leftover – just a little bit of hope. But the overflow is the CONFIDENT HOPE – unwavering and all-consuming. And the source? The POWER of the Holy Spirit in me!

Pray

Ask God to reveal the hope you have in Him through the power of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to provide the overflowing of confident hope in and through you. May He alone lift your spirit and give you confident hope that spills out all over everyone else.

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NOTES

Please take a few minutes and share your thoughts with us. WMU of Texas staff would like to collect this page from you before you leave. Thank you for participating in the WMU of Texas Women's Build.

1. If this was your first women's build, reflect on your experience and share your number one take away.

2. If you've been on the women's build before, how would you encourage someone new to join us for future builds?

3. How has your experience this week impacted your walk with the Lord?

4. What have you experienced this week that you would like to share?