#### **Faith Seeds**

volume two

Devotional Thoughts to Spark Your Spiritual Growth

by

Jaye E. Seay

#### **SMASHWORDS EDITION**

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#### PUBLISHED BY:

Jaye E. Seay at Smashwords

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Cover Design by: Jaye E. Seay

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### Matthew 17:19-20 (KJV)

Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

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### **PREFACE**

This ebook is the second installment in the **Faith Seeds** series. This volume contains fourteen short devotional messages that were designed to inspire your faith. With all that we have to do from day to day, we sometimes miss out on spending time in God's Word. This ebook (and the **Faith Seeds** series) was created to provide a means for communing with God in spite of the busyness of life. Each message takes only a few seconds to read but will leave you with powerful truths to consider. I pray that this ebook will be helpful in your study of the Bible and that it will lead you to delve into the living Word and spend some quality time with God. May your spiritual pursuits be blessed.

Jaye E. Seay

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# WHAT ARE YOU HOPING FOR?

**Psalm 62:5-8 (KJV)** 

My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.

He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved.

In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

Have you ever felt like you were losing all hope? Perhaps you are struggling with your career, finances or relationships and you don't see any solutions. It may be that the reason why you are feeling that way is because you are hoping in things that won't last or satisfy the longings of your soul. The things of this world will leave you feeling hopeless. God is our only hope. Not only is He our only hope, He is all the hope that we need. He is our savior and defender. He is our comforter and provider. Depend on God for relief and place your hope only in Him, for He is our refuge and safe haven.

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#### **REAL REST**

# Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV)

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

We get weighed down when we try to endure burdens in our own strength. Instead of being self-sufficient, we would do well to become God-dependent. If we place our trust in Jesus and learn from Him (through prayer and Bible study), He promises to give us relief from our afflictions and refreshment for our souls. Real rest is found in being a disciple of Jesus.

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# **FEAR NO WEAPON**

Isaiah 54:15-17 (KJV)

Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.

Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

So much chaos exists in the world today that many find themselves almost in a constant state of fear. However, the Bible tells us to fear not! Because God is in control of all things, Christians can rest on the fact that He will keep us from harm.

Those who choose Christians as the targets of their attack only set themselves up for eventual failure. For God protects His people and makes them triumph over opposition.

While we live in this fallen world, we can expect enemy attacks from time to time but we have a Defender in God who makes us more than conquerors.

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#### **SALTING THE WATER**

#### 2 Kings 2:19-22 (KJV)

And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren.

And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought it to him.

And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land.

So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.

The Lord sends Christians out to be the salt of the world. We are to season the world with the Word of God to make it a more productive and fruitful place.

In this passage we see how Elisha used salt to purify the unproductive water. The water, which was once unproductive, became a blessing to the people of Jericho after it was purified by the salt. In the same way, Christians are called to flavor the world with God's Word to bless the world and make it a more useful place. Be the salt and enliven the world with God's Word.

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#### FROM THE HAND OF GOD

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 (KJV)

There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.

For who can eat, or who else can hasten hereunto, more than I?

For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

Both provision and the ability to enjoy provisions are blessings from God. Without God, we would not even be able to digest the food that we worked so hard to gather.

When we accept that all we have comes from the hand of God and are content with whatever He has given us, we will then find peace and satisfaction. Keep God first in your life because the key to living well is to live a life which is pleasing to Him.

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# THE UNCERTAINTY OF RICHES

1 Timothy 6:17 (KJV)

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

**Proverbs 23:4-5 (KJV)** 

Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

**Deutoronomy 8:18 (KJV)** 

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

In this world, many of us spend a great deal of time and energy striving to get wealth. If we are not careful, we could easily believe that we acquire wealth in our own strength. This could not be further from the truth. God is the provider of all that we have and He is the one who gives us the power to obtain wealth. It's not our jobs, bank accounts or investments that enable us to live. It is by the grace of God that we live.

Riches and wealth have no loyalty. They are here today and gone tomorrow. The Bible tells us that riches grow wings and fly away like eagles (Proverbs 23:5). We can never trust in riches or wealth for our provision. They are much too uncertain.

Fortunately, Christians do not have to rely on riches. We depend on God to provide for us and meet our needs. Unlike wealth, which is fleeting, God is solid as a rock. There is no need for Christians to get worn out chasing wealth, for God is the source of everything and He richly provides for His people.

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#### THE ANTIDOTE FOR ANXIETY

### Philippians 4:6 (KJV)

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Anxiety is a real threat to our health. It can cause both mental and physical suffering. Uncontrolled anxiety can lead to chest pain, lightheadedness, fatigue, nausea and a number of other illnesses. The bottom line is that anxiety hurts.

Not only does anxiety bring us physical pain but it can also bring us mental anguish. The worry that often accompanies anxiety can ruin our lives. Worry preoccupies our minds and debilitates our ability to live in peace.

There are many life events that can trigger worry. Issues on our jobs, in our families, with our finances and demands on our time can all lead to some serious worry sessions. Thanks be to God that there is a way to overcome worry.

The Bible tells us that prayer is the cure for anxiety. Whenever we feel anxious and overwhelmed, we should immediately go to God in prayer. Especially in these times, we need to pray boldly and with great sincerity. We can and should take everything to God in prayer; both the big and little issues of life.

Confident prayer begins with our remembrance of God's majesty. God is all powerful and all knowing. He can provide an answer to every prayer. When we think about all of the prayers that God has answered over the course of our lives, we should run to take our cares to God.

The world is at war with the things and people of God. We should expect enemy attacks from time to time. However, when we turn our worries over to God through prayer, He promises to give us a peace that transcends all understanding. This peace will guard our hearts and minds from worldly worry. Through prayer, we receive God's provision and protection. We also receive relief from anxiety.

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#### FAITH AND WISDOM

### **James 1:5-8 (KJV)**

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

We need wisdom to overcome the troubles of this world. Fortunately, God will generously provide us with the wisdom we need. All we have to do is ask with full expectation that God will do what he says. Ask God for discernment to triumph over your affliction.

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#### LEAN ON THE LORD

### Psalm 55:22 (KJV)

Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Our burdens become heavier when we try to do everything in our own strength. Lean on the Lord and cast all your troubles onto Him. God will not leave the righteous. Rather, He will sustain and comfort them. You can trust in the Lord. He won't let you down.

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### **KEEP ON PRAYING**

### **Luke 18:1-8 (KJV)**

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Wait on the Lord! Whenever I read the parable of the persistent widow, I am greatly encouraged. With this parable, the Lord is teaching His people to be fervent in their prayer life and to never give up on the power of prayer. In this parable, a widow who desperately seeks justice, constantly badgers an unjust judge until he gives in and grants her justice. Though this judge does not fear God or man, because he grows tired of her requests, he decides to grant the widow what she asks

Fortunately, God is not like the unjust judge. We do not have to badger God to answer our prayers. However, persistent prayer is pleasing to God. God patiently listens to us as we pray through our circumstances. There may be times when we feel our prayers are not reaching God but He hears. While we pray, God is working behind the scenes to orchestrate our deliverance. So, keep on praying with full trust in the goodness of our Lord. God's timing is perfect and if we do not give up on our prayers, God will not give up on us.

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#### WHERE OUR HELP COMES FROM

#### 2 Chronicles 16:12 (KJV)

And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.

In this modern age, with all of its medical and technological advances, we must not forget that God is the ultimate source of help and healing. He is the creator of all things and holds everything together in His hands.

When we are sick in our bodies or find ourselves suffering in a hard place, we can find help when we seek the Lord in prayer. Place your complete trust in the Lord today and give Him the honor that He deserves.

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#### THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

### 2 Chronicles 20:17 (KJV)

Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

Do not be discouraged when you are facing trials of many kinds. Seek the Lord and He will make you victorious. Stand firm in faith and wait on the Lord to deliver you.

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#### A SHEPHERD YOU CAN TRUST

**Luke 15:3-7 (KJV)** 

And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Would you leave 99% of your flock to go after one sheep who got lost? To many, this would seem counterproductive. Leaving your entire flock unattended to recover just one sheep would seem to be a risky proposition. However, to the shepherd who cares for each and every one of his sheep, he is delighted when one lost sheep is brought back into the fold.

Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd, is concerned with the welfare of all of His people. He finds us when we get lost, restores us when we go off track and rejoices when we repent of our sins.

When we make the Lord ruler over our lives, His provision and protection are continually with us. We are safe and secure under the care of the Good Shepherd.

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#### DON'T GIVE UP

# **2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (KJV)**

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is

renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

When trouble shows up in our lives, it is sometimes accompanied by pain that feels unbearable. When we are suffering, it helps to remember that the pain we experience in this world does not last always. Although we will experience discomfort and discouragement in this life, God's Word promises that at the proper time, we will bring in a harvest if we don't give up (Galatians 6:9).

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Thank you for reading **Faith Seeds: Volume Two**. I pray that this ebook has been a blessing to you. If you enjoyed these devotional messages, please consider writing a review for **Faith Seeds: Volume Two** and telling your friends and family about this ebook.

# **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Jaye E. Seay is a Christian writer, specializing in devotional messages. Jaye is a graduate of both Hampton University and Howard University. Jaye is married to his lovely wife Jaime and has a beautiful baby daughter. The Seay family currently reside in Virginia.

Jaye's mission is to inspire faith and provide encouragement through the Word of God. These devotional messages are born from Jaye's love for God. From his personal Bible study time, Jaye is led to share what he has learned by writing devotional messages. It is Jaye's sincere desire that many will be blessed by reading these devotional messages and that they will have a giant impact in the Kingdom of God.

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