

366 Appointments with God

Lord,
I Give You
This Day

KAY ARTHUR

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P R E S S

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Italics in Scripture quotations indicate the author's added emphasis.

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*To Mark and Leslie
for the days ahead*



All to Jesus I surrender;
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

All to Jesus I surrender;
Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender;
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.

All to Jesus I surrender;
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power;
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

All to Jesus I surrender;
Now I feel the sacred flame.
Oh, the joy of full salvation!
Glory, glory, to His Name!

—*Judson W. Van DeVenter*

Introduction

Do you long for intimate communion with the Father? Are you eager to experience God's grace in all its glorious aspects?

Do you desire to truly walk by the Spirit, not giving in to the pull of the world and the flesh?

Do you yearn for God's balm to heal the wounds of the past?

Would you like to face each day with quiet confidence and bold faith, fully prepared to cope with whatever it brings?

All this and more—all the abundance of life promised by Christ—comes with surrender, my friend.

For believers, surrendering to God is not a one-time occurrence; it's a matter of continually bowing our hearts before the Lord, laying our desire for control at His feet, and rising again to do whatever He asks us to do, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Surrender means inviting the Potter to reshape us and transform us, moment by moment, into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. It means taking God at His word, trusting that He can and will use even our most painful circumstances for our good and His glory.

When you make a consistent practice of surrendering, inviting God to complete His good work in you no matter what it takes, you'll find your life and your relationships transformed. As you stop trying to control the direction of your life and instead allow God's Word and wisdom to guide your footsteps, you'll realize that His grace is sufficient for every encounter along the way. When you stop struggling against the frustrations of the day, choosing rather to dwell in the everlasting arms of the eternal God, you'll gain a deeper

understanding of the character of your Lord and of His un-failing, unshakable love.

While your circumstances may be difficult, even painful, through the discipline of surrender you will find God's strength perfected in your weakness. And you will be able to face each day, each moment, each opportunity and challenge with a hope that does not falter.

That's what this devotional is all about, beloved. Each brief, one-page reading addresses the challenges and joys of surrendered living and points you to unchangeable, eternal truths about your God, His Word, and His love for you. Within each devotional, you'll find a verse or two set in bold-face; these scriptures provide key thoughts on which you'll want to meditate throughout your day. You may even want to memorize these verses so you can bring them to mind and draw on their insights for encouragement and guidance.

I pray that God will use this book to strengthen and deepen your relationship with Him. May the verses from Scripture whet your appetite for His Word that it may become more precious to you than your necessary food. And in the days ahead, may you commit your way to the Lord, fully trusting Him to give you the desires of your heart.



Thank You, heavenly Father, for the privilege of knowing and being sanctified by Your Word, which is truth (John 17:17). May Your truths divinely minister to the precious readers of this book.

January 1

Oh, beloved of God, wouldn't you like to know that at the end of your life—not to mention the end of this day, the end of this year—you could declare, as the apostle Paul did, **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith”** (2 Timothy 4:7)?

Wouldn't you like to be assured that you could experience all the difficult situations Paul faced and say in total sincerity and truth, without one drop of egotism, “Follow me. Be an imitator of me, even as I am of Christ Jesus” (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17)?

Can you imagine having such confidence? Confidence, not brashness. Confidence in the midst of cross fire. Confidence even if the government threatened to take your life for what you believed and lived. Confidence that you could stand alone, even though others deserted you because they loved this present life more than the next.

This is the heart I long for, and I trust you do too, my friend. And because Paul, a human like us, had it, we can have hearts that beat with bold faith and passion for God if we'll follow his example.

When your heart belongs to God and you will to do His will, you can walk in the confidence that God will lead you by His Spirit, step by step. Our responsibility is simply to commit our way unto Him in faith's trust, and He will bring it to pass. (See Proverbs 3:5–6.)



Lord, thank You for holding my hand, for leading me in Your paths. Establish my steps today that I may walk in a way that is pleasing to You.



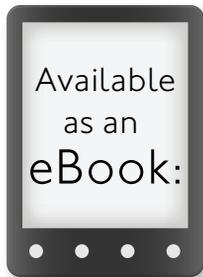
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