

"These ladies have brought their unique and special talents together to make a devotional book that really speaks to the heart. The devotions are the perfect length to add to your morning routine and deep enough to keep you hiding the Word in your heart all day."

**Kim Crouse, Executive Director**

Bright Alternatives, Bradford, PA

"Mature Christians will delight in the encouragement to stay the course. New Christians will be inspired to be like Jesus in all they do. And the person who is still wondering what to do with Jesus will find answers to questions and the opportunity to know Him better."

**Lauren Law, Musician**

Salamanca Free Methodist Church, Salamanca, NY

"This devotional touches on so many relevant issues in a woman's life that even when I didn't see the importance in my life, God led me to think of women I know who would relate, who I could share with. This is a wonderful, short, and thought-provoking devotional book!"

**Shelley Butler, Church Clerk**

Gold Alliance Church, Ulysses, PA

"Peace Like a River takes us on a six-week journey of faith and reflection with four beautiful, Godly women. The ladies share poignant and personal insight that ties in with daily living as a "Jesus Girl". Thank you for sharing your hearts with this gift, and pointing up the Author and Perfector of our faith through each timely writing."

**Rebecca Plummer, Co-Founder & Director**

Destinations, Bradford, PA

"A perfect book to read in the mornings before the kids wake up. I could relate to all of the prompts. It was perfect for a mom of littles, like myself! Would recommend this to anyone who needs a daily dose of peace like a river."

**Ariel Stavish, Worship Leader**

Open Arms Community Church, Port Allegany, PA

"WOW, what an eye opening and life-changing devotional book. Each devotion gave me insight into my relationship with GOD, and how I can, and want, to grow closer to Him and truly have peace like a river. Sometimes after I read a devotion, I couldn't find the right words to express my thoughts to the Lord. Thank You for adding a prayer at the end of each one. I think the authors captured the struggles that all women are faced with on their journey to triumph."

**Robin Jeselnik, Maintenance Records Specialist**

StandardAero, Waynesboro, GA

"These young writers have sailed the wild seas and found the safe harbor of trust in God. Their stories and testimonies are an encouragement for us to keep sailing, not fearing the coming storms, but focus on Christ, our Lighthouse."

**Janice Sharpe, Retired Teacher**

Hiddenite, NC

"This book shows that God is using you right now without you even being aware of it. This has got to be hands-down one of the best devotionals I have read to date. All of these women are an inspiration to all women young and old."

**Kristie Murray, Program Site Supervisor**

YMCA, Bradford, PA

# Peace Like a River

A 45-Day Journey to Triumph

RaChelle Glauser

Michelle S. Lazurek

Beth Ann Owens

Tommie Young

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To everyone who has given their time, talents,  
prayer and financial support to help make  
Women's Power Surge Ministry a reality, and to  
the ladies who benefit from this ministry –  
it's really for you.



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And finally, thank you, Kevin Sharpe, my fiancé, for persuading me to pursue my dreams and for helping me see that I am worthy in Christ to do above and beyond all that I could ask or think. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen!

*Michelle S. Lazurek*

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Lastly, to Jesus for choosing me to spread your Gospel message of hope and encouragement in written form. May You be glorified always.

*Beth Ann Owens*

Thank you, Author of Salvation, for the gift of word, both spoken and written. Thank You for filling me with stories and for making me into "something beautiful."

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*Tommie Young*

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Last but not least, thank you, RaChelle Glauser, for inviting me to be involved in this project and having the confidence in me to do so.

# INTRODUCTION

*by RaChelle Glauser*

I was doing my hair one Sunday morning last December when I felt the Lord impress on me to write a 30-day devotional with two other ladies. So naturally I asked, "Who?" Immediately the names Beth and Tommie came to mind, and I knew we had to write a devotional based on the Women's Power Surge Ministry event theme for 2016.

I sent them each a Facebook message and waited for their replies. Busy with full-time jobs, families, and their own ministries, I was very surprised when they both replied YES! In fact, they both stated in their own words that they had wanted to do something very similar anyways, so this was the perfect opportunity.

With the holidays in full swing, we left details vague until after the New Year when Beth sent out a message asking how we would feel about asking a mutual friend to come on board. I practically slapped myself in the head because, of course! Michelle and I met several years ago at a Mother's Day luncheon at her church, and we had stayed in touch ever since. She was also a featured speaker at the first annual Women's Power Surge Event in 2015, as well as an author.

Bringing Michelle into our group to co-write this book was really a game changer. No more was this going to be a quick, throw-together 30-day e-book. Now it was transforming into a 45-day hard copy. At times the magnitude of my first project was a bit overwhelming, but these ladies really made this job rewarding. All of our devotions display our different personalities and perspectives. We hope and pray you will find peace on this journey towards living a triumphant life!

### Ways to Use This Book

#### *45-Day Devotional*

Place this book in a convenient location for you to read daily. Read alone or invite a friend to read along with you, share your hearts and pray together.

#### *Small Group Bible Studies*

Gather a few ladies you know who would like to have more peace in their lives. Agree to meet faithfully once a week to share notes, memorize Scripture, encourage and pray for one another.

### *8 Weeks by Author*

Week 1: RaChelle Glauser - Days 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21

Week 2: Michelle S. Lazurek – Days 2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22

Week 3: Beth Ann Owens – Days 3, 7, 11, 15, 19, 23

Week 4: Tommie Young – Days 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24

Week 5: RaChelle Glauser – Days 25, 29, 33, 37, 41, 45

Week 6: Michelle S. Lazurek – Days 26, 30, 34, 38, 42

Week 7: Beth Ann Owens – Days 27, 31, 35, 39, 43

Week 8: Tommie Young - Days 28, 32, 36, 40, 44

### *10 Weeks*

Read five devotions every week for nine weeks.

Celebrate your new-found peace on week 10.

### *12 Weeks*

Read four devotions each week for the first 10 weeks, read the final five devotions for the week 11, and rejoice for your group's journey to triumph with a special event on week 12.



*Day 1*

## *Puzzle Pieces*

*by RaChelle Glauser*

---

Jeremiah 17:14 MSG

God pick up the pieces. Put me back  
together again. You are my praise!

---

I sat on my bed with my legs folded. A large piece of cardboard covered my bed and upon it was a brand new box. Inside this box was – to my delight – a 2,000 piece Victorian puzzle. My heart skipped a beat as balmy hands dumped the delicate pieces out of the box, and I began to sort.

The adrenaline that charges through my veins to see a masterpiece come together is the same driving force that influences the broken pieces in my life. Perfectionism. Pretense. Approval addiction. Obsessive compulsions. Anxiety. Just when I think I've conquered an area, and I can see the picture coming together, life happens and the puzzle falls apart leaving me to put the pieces back together.

Do you ever feel that angst of defeat? Does your M.O. come in the

form of over-achievement, cynicism, self-reliance, or pride? Does it manifest itself in the form of self-indulgence, depression, anger or addiction? If so, it's no wonder you may feel tired, alone and frustrated.

Friends, if we are ever going to experience triumph over our trials and tribulations in life we have to let go of our fears of failure, disapproval and disappointment. Then we have to step into freedom, forgiveness and fortitude. Discard the pieces that don't belong in our lives and embrace the ones that will complete the perfect picture God has designed just for us.

---

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your grace over our lives.  
We don't deserve the blessings that You so willingly bestow on us. Teach us how to give You all the broken pieces in our lives so that You can turn them into something beautiful. May our lives be a masterpiece for You. Amen.

---



*Day 2*

## *Endure Your Cross*

*by Michelle S. Lazurek*

---

Matthew 16:24 NIV

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

---

I have endured many hardships as a Christian, but none compare to the difficulties a friend of mine endures on a daily basis. She developed a tumor in her brain that, due to its location, makes it impossible to remove.

Although it causes her excruciating pain and memory loss, you would never know it by her outward demeanor. It is rare I ever see her depressed or angry about her condition. She always greets me with a big smile and kind words. When I am tempted to grumble about my difficult situation, I think of my friend. She inspires me to live with contentment regardless of my current circumstances.

Jesus knew the price He had to pay for our sin. Even in the knowledge of tremendous pain and suffering, He endured His cross, knowing the pain was temporary compared to the gift of salvation that awaits all generations.

We all have difficult circumstances we must deal with on a daily basis. But our reaction demonstrates to whom our eyes are fixed upon. If we approach our difficult circumstances with grumbling and complaining, our focus is on ourselves. But if we approach life like my friend with optimism and enthusiasm, our focus is rightly placed on God, who turns all circumstances into good for His glory.

C.S. Lewis wrote, "God knows our situation; He will not judge us as if we had no difficulties to overcome. What matters is the sincerity and perseverance of our will to overcome them."<sup>1</sup>

How do you approach your life? Do you face every day with your eyes fixed on Jesus, willing to take up your cross? Or do you look upon your circumstances with disdain and disgust?

---

Lord, help us to deal with difficult circumstances with grace, love and contentment. Amen.

---



*Day 3*

## *Take Heart*

*by Beth Ann Owens*

---

Proverbs 4:23 NLT

Guard your heart above all else, for it  
determines the course of your life.

---

I love coffee. I mean, I really LOVE coffee. As I peel the lid from the freshly sealed container of the gourmet gold, and breathe in its coffee bean goodness, my heart pounds, my taste buds tingle, and I salivate.

I also love my husband. And yes, he makes my tongue swell sometimes, too. I love my job. I love the smell of the air after a hot summer's rain. I love the ocean. I love sweet puppy kisses in the morning. I love watching movies, the color pink, back massages, campfires, and Butterfingers. But I love none of these the same as the other.

The word "love" is overused. We use it as a verb, noun, adjective, and even an adverb. So, don't you find it odd that the New King

James Version of the Bible uses love only 310 times? There are 66 books in the Bible, 1,189 chapters, and approximately 807,361 words. And love is only mentioned 310 times?

But the Bible mentions the word "heart" 830 times. 830! That's more than love, and more than love, joy, and faith combined. Why? Because the heart is the wellspring of life.

Yet, so many of us have "lost heart." We've lost heart from the lies, fallen relationships, broken promises, shattered dreams, disappointment, and tragedy of sin in this world. John Eldredge writes in *Waking the Dead*, "Because somewhere along the way, in a moment of carelessness and desperation, we gave our heart away, and now we can't get it back."<sup>2</sup> If the heart is central, to find our lives, we must make it central again.

Enter God.

He holds the heart you had when you first fell in love with your husband. The heart you had when you gave your all at that new job. The heart that once was before tragedy, depression, loss of a loved one, adultery, flunking out of college, arthritis, filing for bankruptcy, addiction and abuse.

We may have lost heart. But God found it. He's had it all along. Now He wants you to have it back. So, why not ask Him? Ask Him for your heart back.

---

Lord Jesus, oh merciful Father,  
I confess I have lost heart. I have given up and given in.  
I allowed Satan to steal my heart from me  
in my moments of weakness, and  
I've become so accustomed to living without it, that  
I accepted this so-called life I have been living. But  
Jesus I want to live again!  
Lord, renew me, renew my heart!  
Lord, restore me, restore my heart!  
Fill me once again, Heavenly Father, with the heart  
that once lived to its fullest in and through You.  
Father, I want my heart back. Amen.

---



Day 4

## *Radiant Fruit*

*by Tommie Young*

---

1 Peter 1:15-16 NIV

But just as he who called you is holy, so  
be holy in all you do; for it is written:  
Be holy, because I am holy.

---

Have you ever been around a person that just radiates a kind of holiness? You know without a doubt they are a Christian? And somehow you envy that quality in them? I know several women like that. They are gentle, soft spoken, patient, self-controlled, kind and they seem to have joy beyond their circumstances.

The Bible talks a lot about fruit. Just like we can identify a tree by the kind of fruit it bears, so we as Christians should be that identifiable. So what are these holy qualities that we are to produce?

In Galatians chapter 5 we find the list of the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. I know. It's a pretty hard checklist. We will never reach

the height of holiness that Jesus has until He returns and changes us into our glorified bodies, but it is a command that we are to follow and strive for until that day.

True transformation produces the fruit of the Spirit in us and that transformation happens when we surrender our will to the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. Trying to make ourselves holy will never work. We are not redeemed through possessions, wealth, family status or just doing good things. We are only redeemed by the precious shed blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish. The One and Only who is without sin.

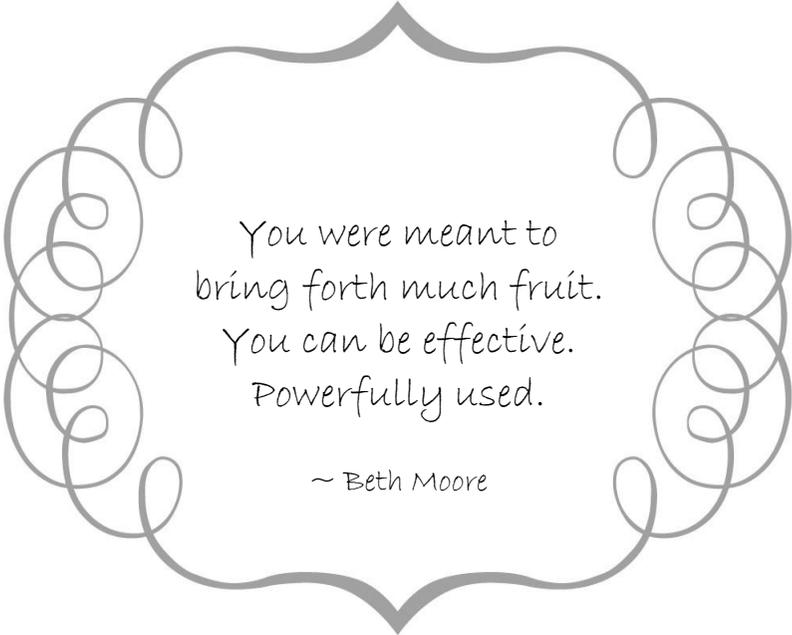
Through Him we believe in God, so our faith and hope are in God. We are born again and Jesus transforms us to be holy. Once "saved" we are to leave our sinful nature behind and grasp our newness in Christ. That's when we begin to produce the fruit of the Spirit.

What about you? Where are you at on this journey towards holiness? Is your fruit shining radiantly before others? Take some time to reflect: Am I identifiable as a Christian woman? If your answer is, "I'm not sure," then you need to get to know your Lord a little bit more. The more we know Him, the more we will be like Him.

---

Lord, I open up my heart before You, right now. Show me the areas of my life that I need to turn over to You. Help me on my journey towards holiness so that others see You in me. Amen.

---



You were meant to  
bring forth much fruit.  
You can be effective.  
Powerfully used.

~ Beth Moore

## NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*. (New York, New York: Harpercollins Publishers, 1952).
- <sup>2</sup> John Eldredge, *Waking the Dead: The Glory of a Heart Fully Alive*. (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2003).
- <sup>3</sup> Lysa TerKeurst, *Unglued: Making Wise Choices in the Midst of Raw Emotions*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010).
- <sup>4</sup> Lysa TerKeurst, *The Best Yes: Making Wise Decisions in the Midst of Endless Demands*. (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2014).
- <sup>5</sup> Joyce Meyer. (January 21, 2016.) *The Help of the Holy Spirit* [online video sermon]. Retrieved from [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCty9qjDxEVpyC2UPwmRc2PQ?sub\\_confirmation=1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCty9qjDxEVpyC2UPwmRc2PQ?sub_confirmation=1)
- <sup>6</sup> Lysa TerKeurst, *Made to Crave: Satisfying Your Deepest Desire with God, Not Food*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010).
- <sup>7</sup> Helen H. Lemmel, *Turn My Eyes Upon Jesus*. Public Domain.
- <sup>8</sup> Brent Curtis and John Eldredge, *The Sacred Romance: Drawing Closer to the Heart of God*. (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1997).

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



### *RaChelle Glauser*

graduated from Fredonia State University with a degree in Childhood Education with a concentration in music. She is a former elementary teacher turned Satellite Director for Bright Alternatives, a faith-based pregnancy resource center. She is the Founder of Believe Berries, a blog that encourages women in natural health & beauty, builds faith, and supports local community. RaChelle serves as Publication Coordinator for Women's Power Surge Ministry, has sung on worship teams and led small group Bible studies. She is a mother, coffee connoisseur, and (recovering) perfectionist. For more info, please visit her website at [www.rachelleglauser.com](http://www.rachelleglauser.com)



### *Michelle S. Lazurek*

is an award winning author, speaker, pastor's wife and mother. She has been published over ninety times in places such as Charisma Magazine, Crosswalk.com and Christianity Today's website Gifted for Leadership. She teaches a

public speaking course for Gannon University and writer's workshops for various places such as the Montrose Christian Writers conference. Her newest release *An Invitation to the Table: Embracing the Gift of Hospitality* explores hospitality as an element of discipleship. For more info, please visit her website at [www.michellelazurek.com](http://www.michellelazurek.com)



### *Beth Ann Owens*

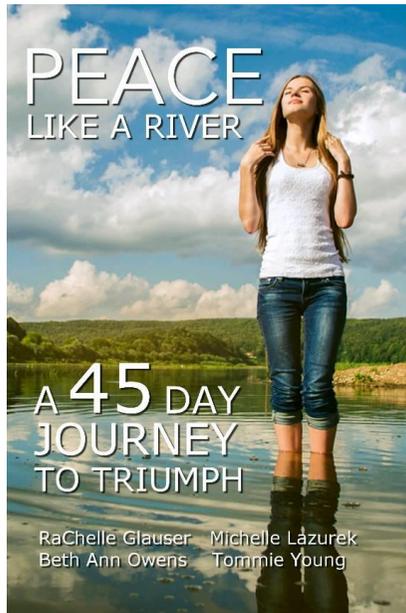
graduated Cum Laude from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford with a dual major in Elementary Education and Psychology. She is the Assistant Administrator of Bradford Area Christian Academy. Beth speaks to both large and small groups for women and youth organizations. She posts a regular blog, writes devotionals and e-books, and she is soon to publish her first independent non-fiction work. Beth is the proud mother of three children and two step-children. She and her husband enjoy adventure, and together seek after God's heart. Beth is the GPS Director for Women's Power Surge Ministry, leads small groups and focuses on helping women live out their extraordinary story of faith. For more info, please visit her website at [www.bethannowens.com](http://www.bethannowens.com)



## *Tommie Young*

is the Founder & Connections Group Director of the Women's Power Surge Ministry. God laid on her heart to start a ministry for women, but it took almost five years before she finally said yes to God. Once that door was opened, God began to do some amazing things. Besides her job as a bus driver, Tommie teaches art classes at her daughter's Christian school. She is active in her church as a sound technician, praise and worship team member and VBS director. Tommie also has a heart for the people of India and supports a local pastor and his wife in Chennai, India, who minister to the poor, homeless and orphans. Tommie is married, has three children, and one grandson on the way. She enjoys gardening, outdoor activities, sewing, writing and reading. She posts a weekly devotional at [www.riseandshinedaily.com](http://www.riseandshinedaily.com). For more info about the women's ministry, please visit [www.womenspowersurge.com](http://www.womenspowersurge.com)

Have you been blessed?  
Do you want to read more?



The full, hard-copy version of  
*Peace Like a River*  
is now available on Amazon.com!