

God Has Never Failed Me, But He's Scared Me to Death a Few Times by Stan Toler & Martha Bolton (DC Cook, Colorado Springs, CO, 2009) (44 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols)

1. Discouragement

Why should I feel discouraged?
Why should the shadows come ?
Why should my heart be lonely
And long for heaven and home?
When Jesus is my portion?
My constant friend is He
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches over me!
Civilla D. Martin (Page 27)

2. Why Worry

A French soldier in World War I used to carry something with him to help overcome worry. It was a little card with the following words:

Of two things, one is certain. Either you are at the front, or you are behind the lines. If you are at the front, of two things, one is certain. Either you are exposed to danger, or you are in a safe place. If you are exposed to danger, of two things, one is certain, either you are wounded, or you are not wounded. If you are wounded, of two things, one is certain, either you recover, or you die. If you recover, there is no need to worry. If you die, you cannot worry. SO WHY WORRY! (Page 42)

3. Relief for the Worried

The point is not that Christians we stop worrying. The point is that we get to the place where our worry doesn't control us. At that place, we learn to utilize the faith that God he given us to take us out of the pit of worry and into the light of faith. (Page 45)

4. What Might Happen???

W. Phillip Keller
We fret and fume and fuss about the unknown future.
We drag tomorrow's imagined difficulties into this day.
So we desecrate each day with stress and strain.
Our Father never intended us to live that way.
He gives us life one day at a time.
Yesterday is gone.
Only today is mine to relish at a gentle pace.
It is too precious to overload.
So it is to be enjoyed in serenity and strength,
Put first things first.

The petty distractions can wait.
Time erases most of them.
(Page 52-53)

5. Promise Yourself

Christian D. Larson

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.
To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to accept only the best.
To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
To forget the mistakes of the past and pass on to the greater achievements of the future.
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble. (Page 53)

6. SEE

“I’m not saying Fred is a hypochondriac, but he did tell me he wanted his tombstone to read, ‘**SEE!**’” (Page 62)

7. Laughter can change attitudes

Laughter can change our attitude and lead to a crucial commitment. Ogilvie says:
To start, we probably need to bring our wants closer to our needs and then we can pray about them more honestly. And a good motive for that is to be able to have more to share with others in real need and with kingdom cause committed to introducing people to the Savior. Furthermore, we can never be free from worry, stress, depression until the day we commit all we are, have, want now and forever into His hands. (Page 73)

8. Florence Littauer asked: What is Grace?

“Does anyone here know what grace means?”

A seven-year-old girl on the front row, all decked out in a white dress, stood up and raised her hand. “I know, Miss Littauer, I know,” she said. “Grace is unmerited favor from God!”

Florence couldn’t believe what she just heard. She then asked the young girl to step up to the platform with her.

“Great answer,” Florence said, “now tell the audience what that means.”

The little girl folded her hands and shrugged, “I don’t have a clue!”

I laugh about that incident every time I think about it, yet I am concerned about those who truly don’t have a clue about God’s grace and what it means. Mark Twain once said, “Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would step out and your dog would go in.” (Page 78)

9. God’s Grace

God has not promised to give us all the answers, but He has promised Grace! (Barbara Johnson) (Page 80)

10. God’s Grace Illustrated

A little boy had been taught by his father how to carve toys out of driftwood. The boy’s greatest accomplishment was making a boat, complete with sails, rigging and rudder. The day came for him to test the water-worthiness of his boat. With great joy, he placed the boat in the water and watched it drift away, as the breeze filled the sails. Suddenly, a strong gust of wind came up and broke the twine attached to the boat, and with no one around to help, he tearfully watched his prize boat sail out of reach and out of sight.

Days went by. One day as he approached a store where various toys were sold, he thought he saw his boat on the window. Realizing that it was *his* boat he went in to identify it as his own creation. The shop owner told him that he would have to buy his boat back.

Retreating, he counted his money and decided to purchase his boat. As the little guy walked out of the shop, he was heard to say, “You are my boat twice over. I made you and now I have bought you.”

Never forget that God made you and He wants to save you! (Page 88)

11. Discouragement Defined

Discouragement comes when you try to start with what you wish you had but don’t have. And it intensifies when you insist on trying to be in a position you are not in and probably never will be in. (Stuart Briscoe) (Page 92)

12. Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace,

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master, grant that I may
not so much seek to be consoled, as console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is giving, that we receive;
It is pardoning that we are pardoned;
It is in dying, that we are born to eternal Life.

Amen (St Francis of Assisi) (Page 98-99)

13. Kindness

An act of kindness is the shortest distance between two hearts. (Page 120)

14. An Old Saying

If you want to lose friends quickly,
start bragging about yourself;
If you want to make and keep friends ,
start bragging about others.

Anonymous (Page 125)

15. Population of the Universe

I will remember that the entire population of the universe, with one trifling exception,
is composed of others. J.A. Holms (Page 127)

16. A Blueprint for Advancement

BELIEVE while others are doubting.
PLAN while others are playing.
STUDY while others are sleeping.
DECIDE while others are delaying.
PREPARE while others are daydreaming.
BEGIN while others are procrastinating.
WORK while others are wishing.
SAVE while others are wasting.
LISTEN while others are talking.
SMILE while others are pouting
COMMEND while others are criticizing.
PERSIST while others are quitting.

(Page 147-148)

17. Spiritual Commitment

Ordinary people who make simple, spiritual commitments under the lordship of Christ
make an extraordinary impact on their world. (John Maxwell) (Page 148)

18. Know and do the will of God

To know the will of God is our greatest knowledge. To do the will of God is our greatest achievement. George Truett (Page 153)

19. What we want to be

In the end, it is important to remember that we cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are. Max Dupree (Page 159)

20. Changing your self

Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself. *Leo Tolstoy*
(Page 161)

21. Changes Trough Persistence

Sometimes I think we've lost our ability to persevere before God. Harold Sherman wrote a book entitled, *How to Turn Failure Into Success*. In it, he gives the following code of persistence:

1. I will never give up so long as I know I am right. I will believe that all things will work for me if I hang on to the end.
2. I will be courageous and understanding in the face of odds.
3. I will not permit anyone to intimate or deter me from my goals.
4. I will fight to overcome all physical handicaps and setbacks.
5. I will try again and again to accomplish what I desire.
6. I will take new faith and resolution from the knowledge that all successful men and women have had to fight defeat and adversity.
7. I will never surrender to discouragement or despair no matter what seeming obstacles may confront me.

(Page 161)

22. You are the way you want to be

You are the way you are because that's the way you want to be. If you really wanted to be different, you would be in the process of changing right now. Fred Smith (Page 163)

23. Satan came into my Study

While I was seated at my desk, studying the Word of God, Satan walked into the room with huge scroll under his arm. He stopped me in the middle of my studies and said, "Martin Luther, listed on this scroll are all the sins that you've ever committed. Read your sins. Martin Luther, read them!"

Satan held the scroll up by one end and forced me to read all the sins I had committed in my entire life. Finally after about an hour of reading all the sinful things I had done, it seemed as though Hell was going to open up and I was going to fall down into the horrible pit. In desperation, I reached out and took hold of the scroll and unrolling it one more turn, I read, "But the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin. (Page 163)

24. Praise and worship are key to the heart of God.

Pause for moment and focus on the following praise verses:

Psalm 8:2 – "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger."

Psalm 34:1 – "I will extol all times, his praise will always be on my lips."

Psalm 48:1 – "Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain."

Psalm 145:21 – "My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever."

Psalm 150:1 – "Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness."

James 5:13 – "Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise."

(Page 164-165)

25. Changing

When you are through changing, you're through. Bruce Barton (Page 166)

26. YOU CAN TRUST HIM!

While cancer is certainly a cruel disease, God is greater than any health problem we may encounter. You can trust Him with your troubled!

He's the Master of the mighty

He's the Captain of the conquerors

He's the Head of the heroes

He's the Leader of the legislators

He's the Overseer of the overcomers

He's the Governor of the governors

He's the Prince of princes

He's the King of kings

He's the Lord of lords!

YOU CAN TRUST HIM! S. M. Lockridge (Page 167)

27. What Cancer Can't Do

Cancer is so limited . . .

It cannot cripple love, it cannot shatter hope,

It can't control faith, it cannot eat away peace,
It cannot destroy confidence,
It cannot kill friendship,
It cannot shut out memories,
It cannot silence courage,
It cannot invade the soul,
It cannot reduce eternal life,
It cannot quench the spirit,
It cannot lessen the power of the resurrection.

(Page 168)

28. Grate Quotes

- A. The greatest enemy is not disease, but despair. Source unknown. (Page 168)
 - B. Don't despair... Even the sun has a sinking spell every night. But it rises again in the morning! (Page 171)
 - C. Don't be afraid of the day you have never seen. English Proverb (Page 175)
 - D. We always hope and in all things it is better to hope than despair. When we return to real Trust in God there will no longer be room in our soul for fear. Goethe (Page 177-178)
- 29.** All our frets and fear is caused by calculating without God. *Oswald Chambers* (Page 178)

30. Courage to Overcome Fear and Adversity

Art Linkletter tells the story of Wendy Stoker, a nineteen-year-old freshman at the University of Florida:

Last year she placed third, just 2 1/2 points from first, in the Iowa girls' state diving championship. She'd worked two hours a day for four years to get there. Now at the University of Florida, she's working twice as hard and has earned the number-two position in the varsity diving team, and she's aiming for the national finals. Wendy is carrying a full academic load, finds time for bowling, and is an accomplished water-skier.

But perhaps the most remarkable thing about Wendy Stoker is her typing. She bangs out forty-five words a minute on her typewriter—with her toes. Oh, did I fail to mention? Wendy was born without arms. (Page 180)

31. The Present

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is mystery. Today is a gift, that's why it's called the present!

(Page 187)

32. You cannot shake hands with a clinches fist. Golda Meir (Page 188)

Quotes on Forgiveness

33. Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a permanent attitude. Martin Luther King Jr. (Page 191)

34. Unless we are willing to forgive, we destroy the bridge whereby we receive and perceive God's forgiveness of us. Dr. David Seamands (Page 192)

35. The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong. Mohandas K. Gandhi (Page 192)

36. A Short Course in Human Relations

The six most important words: "I admit I made a mistake."

The five most important words: "You did a good job."

The four most important words: "What is your opinion?"

The three most important words: "If you please."

The two most important words: "Thank you."

The one most important word: "We."

The least important word: "I."

Source Unknown (Page 197)

37. I Never Forget

General Oglethorpe once said to John Wesley. "I never forgive and I never forget." To which John Wesley responded, "Then, Sir, I hope you never sin." (Page 198)

38. God working in our lives

Dr. Dobson gives the following four principles he has learned over the years about God working in our lives:

1. God is present and involved in our lives, even when He seems deaf or absent.
2. God's timing is perfect, even when He appears catastrophically late.
3. For reasons that are impossible to explain, we human beings are incredibly precious to God.
4. Our arms are too short to box with God. Don't ever try.

(Page 200)

39. He Calms His Child

Sometimes God calms the raging storm. Sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child. Barbara Johnson (Page 202)

40. Vitamin

Faith is the vitamin that makes all we take from the Bible digestible and makes us able to receive it and assimilate it. If we do not have faith, we cannot get anything. A.W. Tozer (Page 203)

41. God's promises are as good as His presence. Andrew Murray (Page 204)

42. Obey God, Discard the Negative Voices

As you obey God, you often have to discard the negative voices that come from the crowd. Rebecca Olson, in an article to *Decision* magazine, said:

The story of Noah is an example of the truth of that the crowd is often wrong. Noah stood against public opinion for 120 years because his heart and mind were set on a predetermined course: one that he believed in fully. Another reason was that his outward life matched his convictions, he practiced what he preached. Noah was also assured of success because he knew the master plan.

(Page 206)

43. God is the great I am.

Am is in the present tense.

He is ready to do it now,

So when you pray, believe that

the promises of God are

yea and amen in Christ Jesus.

Buddy Harrison (Page 208)

44. Faith is like radar

Faith is like radar that sees through the fog—

the reality of things at a distance

that the eye cannot see. Corrie ten Boom (Page 210)