

DAY 1

JOY 2020
JOURNEY
TOGETHER FORWARD

Devotionals

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” (ESV)

I'll never forget the very first time this verse really resonated with me. I was living in another state, 500 miles away from the home I had known my whole life. My husband was about to finish his military time, and he began searching for a new job. Of course, we both wanted to return to Tennessee, but every job offer and opportunity seemed to be coming from everywhere but where we wanted. However, I was adamant that Seymour was the place I wanted to plant my roots, but I was not trusting the Lord. I was trusting myself and my husband to find a job. A dear friend even said to me, “What if returning home is not God’s path for you?” I refused to even acknowledge that thought until one day the Holy Spirit really shook me. I realized I was not trusting the Lord, and I realized I didn’t know better than God. I cried out to Him, broken and with anger in my voice and said, “Fine! I will go wherever you send me. I may go kicking and screaming the whole way, but I will go because that is your desire for me.” God already knew how I felt. He was just waiting for me to put my whole trust in Him. I can’t even begin to describe the peace I felt after giving it over to God and trusting in His goodness, and it was His goodness that allowed a job to open for my husband in Tennessee.

When my trust is in Him, it is He who gives me peace. It is He who gives me joy. It is He who gives me the ability to forgive and love others the way that I should. When I feel myself relying on self and not God, I recall this scripture and the first time God used it to breathe peace into me and to speak truth to my heart.

— Ashley Arnold

Prayer Thought

*Trusting is hard to do. It seems so much easier to be in control.
Pray that God will reveal His will for you.*