

### A Christmas Promise

I love Christmas trees, real trees that smell of winter pine woods and remind me of my dad. Every December, he would take us into the woods to chop down a Kentucky cedar tree for Christmas. The trees always seemed smaller in the forest than when we brought them home and tried to stuff them into the family living room. We would laugh as my mama sputtered about the size and the mess. It became a tradition filled with joy and life. Throughout the year, my daddy

continues to burn pine candles by the chair where he has his quiet time and prays for his family. In my heart, Christmas joy, my daddy, and the smell of pine trees are all wrapped up in the Christmas tree tradition.

Our little family simply drives 10 minutes to the lot at Lowe's, but it might as well be the woods for how much joy it brings me. I love trying to pick out the perfect tree, having my two sons hold the tree upright while I walk around and see if it has any bare spots. My husband assures

me that the 10-foot tree will easily fit into our 8-foot ceiling living room once we make a few cuts. We painstakingly deliberate and then hilariously attempt to tie the tree on

top of our Ford Expedition—or stuff it inside if we are feeling lazy. I love coming home and setting our tree up. Everyone willingly helps until the tree is standing in front of the window, and then suddenly the living room empties of helpers. No one wants to mess with the tangled lights or the endless boxes of decorations. I settle in to do the work of decorating. Carefully, I pull out our family ornament collection, usually mixed in with random gold and red balls from Walmart.

As each precious memory is added to the tree, I remember God's goodness to my family—the trips we have taken, the memories we have made, the places that are part of our family story. As I tenderly place them on a tree that is a little too large for my living room, Jesus draws near, and whispers hope to my heart with a promise: "I am the living God. I have been faithful to you and to your children, and I will continue to be faithful. I am the God of the future as well as the past. I will be faithful. Don't be afraid."

As my family wanders back in to drink hot cider and just be together, I sense again that God is with us and He is for us! During the next few weeks of Christmas, we all spend more time in that spot—with the lights, and the hope, and the memories. Conversations unfold around that tree that can only happen during Advent. Hope is felt. Hope is seen. Hope is given. We are reminded that our God is not only the God of the past; He is the God of the present; He is the God of the future.

Advent is a witness to His presence with us. The veil between this world and that world grows thin, and we experience transcendent moments mingled with ordinary ones, all of them a witness to His presence among us. He will be faithful, and we will learn in deeper ways to walk in His faithfulness, to rest in His love and to trust His goodness in the coming year.

—Cricket Alberston



May yowkrow the blessing of hope and God's love this Christmas!



### 12 Prayers for Christmas

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,
And the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall
be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and Peace,
there will be no end." —Isaiah 9:6

- 1. Lord Jesus, into the darkness, you came as a baby, the only one who could save us from ourselves. Would you come as the center of our holidays?
- 2. Lord Jesus, you are the ruler of all human history, please come and rule over the next 6 weeks of our human history.
- 3. Lord Jesus, can I give you all the burdens of my heart? Will you bear them on your shoulders?
- 4. Lord Jesus, you are wonderful! All that my heart longs for this holiday season, I find in you.
- 5. Thank you, Father, for being my Counselor. Please give me wisdom to know how to teach my children that these times of celebration are all about you.
- 6. This Christmas, Lord Jesus, would you make me a blessing to all my family members. Please give me wisdom in all my interactions and help me to love like you love.
- 7. Please, Lord Jesus, teach me how to be a loving wife. Would you help our marriage to be filled with the glory of your presence this holiday season?
- 8. Thank you for being the Mighty God! I surrender full control of my heart and my days to you. I trust you to order my time and my days.
- 9. Everlasting Father, you know our financial needs, our family's needs, the needs of my heart. Father, would you provide for us today? Help me to rejoice in my dependence upon you.
- 10. Prince of Peace, thank you that when you come into a home or a heart, the darkness and confusion leave. Would you come into my home so that we radiate the sweet presence and peace of Jesus?
- 11. Let me be a means of increasing your government this holiday. Would you please show me ways that I may reach out with your love and your good news to neighbors, family members and friends who do not know you?

12. Lord Jesus, this Christmas, I give you all of me!

## Winter Bible Study A Woman Who Counts



January 16, 2024 – February 27, 2024 Tuesdays at 7:00pm EST over Zoom Led by the Titus Council Sign up on the Titus website tituswomen.org

Save the Date

### Indian Springs Ladies Retreat

April 19–21, 2024
Indian Springs Holiness
Camp Meeting
Flovila, GA
indianspringscampmeeting.org
Registration begins January 3rd

### **Podcasts**

Hundreds of messages are available on the joy of living a Spirit-filled life and learning together how to abide in the love of Jesus. Messages from the Summit, Bible study lessons, sermons from Dr. Dennis Kinlaw and many many more podcasts are available for free on our website.

tituswomen.org

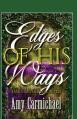






Needing the perfect Christmas gift?
Check out the Titus and FAS Bookstores
for wonderful Christmas gifts and
devotionals for the New Year!
tituswomen.org/bookstore







# Living Praise

### Discipleship Summit 2023



Approximately 130 women attended this year's Discipleship Summit held November 9–11 in Wilmot, Ohio. This year's theme was *Living Praise—"Let me live so I can praise you!"* (Psalm 119:175a NLT) Jesus met us in a powerful way. Following are just a few of the many survey responses testifying of how Jesus worked.

I finally understood the part of me that wasn't "all in". I thought I was. I wanted to be, but Jesus showed me that I was still controlling my responses. I'm letting Him do that now. It's so freeing in the midst of so many family trials!! Love you ladies. Love you JESUS!!

Jesus in His sweetness showed me that there is always more of Himself to give me when I jump in. All in.

Jesus came to me and restored my joy. Friday night when we went to the cross, He came to me with such love and His joy was so deep. It was wonderful.

God's presence was evident, as He ministered to my heart through each speaker, our table leaders, and the ladies I was able to interact with. Jesus refreshed my weary heart, as I have been dealing with a bit of burnout and other stresses of life. He reminded me that, as we enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise, that's when we know we will have prepared our hearts to hear from Him—and that we did! All praise to Him!

I loved hearing the prayers of the precious ladies around my table. Since last year's Summit, I have been praying for the ladies at that table. Now I have new ladies to pray for.

God is so faithful to knit hearts together. It's always such an amazing thing to feel so connected to my sisters—several of whom I didn't know at the beginning of the retreat, then felt like I'd known them all my life by the end of the weekend.







### **Giving Opportunity**



Please join the Titus Women Giving Team. The Lord is doing such beautiful things among His women, and we need your support to keep going forward. Visit our website at tituswomen.org to give online or send a check to Titus Women, PO Box 7, Wilmore, KY 40390.



We are so thankful for all of our supporters who give financially each month which enables the Titus Ministry to continue. Check out the Titus website for information on all events, for ways to stay connected, for prayer opportunities, resources, encouragement, and much more! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube for new podcasts and updates.



### Daily Prayer Calls

Join us as we gather together to pray every morning at 8:00am EST or in the evening each Tuesday at 8:00pm EST

Call 602-609-9676



### More from the Summit

I was blessed to be able to attend with two of my best friends and several other ladies from our church. What a wonderful blessing the entire Summit was. I came away so enriched and so fulfilled like I never imagined. Every day, I wrote questions for myself.

- 1. Am I ready to be used by God at such a time as this?
- 2. Am I courageous when God calls me to work for Him?
- 3. What is the default position in my life?
- 4. Am I winsome for Jesus?
- 5. Does it shine out to others?
- 6. All of me for all of Jesus Do I live like this?
- 7. Who am I?
- 8. Do I fully participate in the life God offers me?
- 9. Do I respond to how God needs me to be?
- 10. God WANTS to be all we need Do I give Him that place in my heart?
- 11. Can I / do I trust God with all of me?
- 12. Do I allow my yes to be for God or is it for me?
- 13. Am I a painted rock or a precious, living stone for God?
- 14. Or am I a rock that causes others to stumble?
- 15. Do I view myself according to the attributes of the people of God?
- 16. What is my identity?
- 17. Who is my identity in?
- 18. What do we need to do to stand during this time?
- 19. Am I ALL in? 100%?
- 20. Do I live in my old identity or in the new identity that God has given me?
- 21. What are the idols I bow down to rather than trusting .lesus?
- 22. Am I willing to live out God's intentions for me?
- 23. Am I double minded or divided in heart?
- 24. Do I live in the enoughness of Jesus?
- 25. Am I willing to encounter Jesus on a moment by moment basis?
- 26. Do I have enough margin in my life to meet Jesus at any moment?
- 27. Do I want to be where Jesus is?
- 28. Do I love Jesus with abandon?
- 29. Am I willing to jump right in for Jesus?

As I'm reading all these questions, I begin to cry and can barely speak. As soon as I finished reading them out loud to my husband, Jesus said to me, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace." This verse from Luke 8:48 (along with Luke 15:1–10) is my saving verse. My husband says Luke 8:48 is the only place in the Bible where Jesus called the woman "Daughter." The absolute peace that fell on me is indescribable.

Thank you so much Titus Women for enriching and renewing me every year. I love you all.

-Cari Evans



Thank you to your entire team. Everyone was so gracious. The bag on the bed with such great goodies, the time of prayer together. Laura did a great job each session and her little gifts for remembrance in prayer for that day was so kind. The food in the evening. The little soaps in the room. The beautiful decorations and the verses on the door. Having water available. Renita and her worship was outstanding. I loved how she had all the songs one after another and you didn't have to go looking for them. They all flowed so beautifully. Communion was great and the anointing with oil was a wonderful way to leave and go back home. Loved the emphasis on prayer and of course meeting all the women face to face from the morning prayer calls was a highlight. Thank you, Titus Women, for your ministry to women. Thanks also for the podcasts being available for listening to later. Thank you for your servant hearts.



This was only my second time and, since last year, I knew that coming again would not be any different with regards to hearing from the Lord. His Word truly does come alive when I get to "break bread" with you all. The Lord poured out through His Spirit and I left knowing that I was transformed and made more like Jesus this weekend! Glory to our God!

You make so much available to us now—prayer calls, women's Bible studies, books. Thanks for being the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus and staying true to the holiness call.



I'm not great at expressing the depth of my feeling and gratitude but I value what you do. Being with those who lead Titus Women stirs a hunger in me to stay close to Jesus and "follow you as you follow Christ." Thank you for leading by example.