


Blessings From the Heart
A WOMANS LEGACY

Weekly Devotions



*with
Max Lucado*

Weekly Devotions with Max Lucado

For the next 8 weeks everyone in the *Blessings from the Heart* program will be studying a weekly devotion from the book Grace For The Moment written by Max Lucado.

I want to challenge you to look into each one of these devotions and use them as a springboard in writing a letter of blessing to someone in your family. I've included two letters I've written to my children as samples. I hope they are helpful.

Grace For The Moment is the finest devotional book I've found for the *Blessings from the Heart* program. These short devotions are packed full of great inspirational nuggets for writing words of faith, hope and love.

*You need to BUY this book!
Go to a local Christian
bookstore to purchase it.*

Thanks Max, for all your efforts in helping women write from the heart.

Blessings to You

Greg Vaughn

Weekly Devotion #1

God's Plans

Devotions from *Grace For The Moment* by Max Lucado

*Enjoy serving the LORD, and He will give you what you want.
Psalm 37:4*

When we submit to God's plans, we can trust our desires. Our assignment is found at the intersection of God's plan and our pleasures. What do you love to do? What brings you joy? What gives you a sense of satisfactions?

Some long to feed the poor. Others enjoy leading the church...Each of us has been made to serve God in a unique way...

The longings of your heart, then, are not incidental; they are critical messages. The desires of your heart are not to be ignored; they are to be consulted. As the wind turns the weather vane, so God uses your passions to turn your life. God is too gracious to ask you to do something you hate.

What have you learned from this devotion?

What principles do you hope to share with someone, based on this devotion?

REFLECTIONS:

Allow the Holy Spirit to flow through you and write a few words or phrases that come to mind that you would want to share with someone in a card or letter.

GREGORY LEE VAUGHN

God's Plan for your life

Dear Trevor,

I just wanted to drop you a note to say how very proud I am of you. Proud that you are facing your future with confidence and trust in the God you serve. Trevor, when we submit to God's plan, we can trust our hearts desires. God loves you so much that He will help you avoid a wrong decision. Whether you are to go into the directing program at N.C.S.A. or stay in the acting program, rest assured God will give you the wisdom to make the right choice. The following are just a few thoughts from a praying father.

When we are faced with these important life decisions, I think we need to ask a couple of basic questions. *What do you love to do? What brings you joy? What gives you a deep sense of satisfaction?* Some long to feed the poor. Others enjoy leading a church. If we are Christians, God has created us to serve God in a unique way. As a young man I was so frustrated because I knew I wanted to serve God with my gifts and talents but the only thing I knew how to do was sell. As I gave this gift to God, He unfolded His wonderful plan that I was to be a film producer selling media products to His church. Who would have ever put this plan together? A guy from Lubbock becoming a film producer... Go figure.

Trevor, the longings of your heart are not incidental; they are his critical message to you. The desires of your heart are not to be ignored, they are to be consulted. As the wind turns a weather vane, so God uses your passion to turn your life. God is too gracious to ask you to do something you hate. Rest assured my son, no matter what your decision... I'm there for you!!! God will supply you with the wisdom to make the right decision.

Blessings and Peace to you my dear son,

Dad
5/8/03

Dad 54, Trevor 20, written the at end of his sophomore year at N.C.S.A
Decision: To stay in acting program or move to the directing program.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on you own understanding in all your ways
acknowledge Him and he will direct your paths (decisions).
Proverbs 3:4-5*

Weekly Devotion #2

The Answer to Arguments

Devotions from *Grace For The Moment* by Max Lucado

*Get along with each other, and forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, forgive that person because the Lord forgave you.
Col. 3:13*

Unity doesn't begin in examining others but in examining self. Unity begins not in demanding that others change, but in admitting that we aren't so perfect ourselves.

The answer to arguments? Acceptance.
The first step to unity? Acceptance. Not agreement, acceptance. Not unanimity, acceptance. Not negotiation, arbitration, or elaboration. Those might come later but only after the first step, acceptance.

REFLECTIONS:

Allow the Holy Spirit to flow through you and write a few words or phrases that come to mind that you would want to share with someone in a card or letter.

What have you learned from this devotion?

What principles do you hope to share with someone, based on this devotion?

GREGORY LEE VAUGHN

Dear _____:

As I come to my quiet office this Memorial Day I have one goal, to write and try to express my heart. Instead I sit, staring at a blank computer screen trying to put words on paper, for my oldest _____ and I are at odds and I hate it. We're not speaking and that makes me feel awful. Every hour of every day I experience sorrow over these circumstances. I just wish all this would go away but it doesn't. Both of us are hurt by angry words and actions said in the middle of the night. Both thinking they are right in saying, doing, and feeling the way they do.

As I ask the Lord for some words to write, I turn to my favorite devotional author Max Lucado and read from today's reading entitled, believe it or not, *The Answer to Arguments*. The focus verse says:

Get along with each other, and forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, forgive that person because the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13

Max writes:

"Unity doesn't begin in examining others but in examining self. Unity begins not in demanding that others change but in admitting that we aren't so perfect ourselves. The answer to arguments? Acceptance. The first step to unity? Acceptance. Not agreement, acceptance. Not unanimity, acceptance. Not negotiation, arbitration, or elaboration. Those might come later but only after the first step, acceptance."

So, after those convicting words, I wanted to share a few thoughts and remind you of my love for you and full acceptance. You're my dear my first born joy. Where I have hurt you by speaking in anger, I ask that you please forgive me. Where my tone of speaking was overly harsh, I'm sorry and I will try harder to communicate in a manner of the respect that you deserve.

Always remember, you're uniquely created by God. You're a divine piece of art, signed by your creator God and delivered to Mom and me. You are a joy to my life and a treasure of unsurpassed value. Never —Ever forget that.

I miss your contagious laughter, precious smile and sweet voice.

Blessings to you this day and forever,

Dad
5/26/06

Dad 54, _____ 25, written while in your masters program at

Weekly Devotion #3

Faith Sees the Savior

Devotions from *Grace For The Moment* by Max Lucado

Be strong in the Lord and in His great power. Ephesians 6:10

Stand a few feet from a mirror and see the face of a man who failed...who failed his Maker. Again. I promised I wouldn't, but I did. I was quiet when I should have been bold. I took a seat when I should have taken a stand.

If this were the first time, it would be different. But it isn't. How many times can one fall and expect to be caught?

Your eyes look in the mirror and see a sinner, a failure, a promise-breaker. But by faith you look in the mirror and see a robed prodigal bearing the ring of grace on your finger and the kiss of your Father on your face...

Your eyes see your faults. Your faith sees your Savior. Your eyes see your guilt. Your faith sees his blood.

What have you learned from this devotion?

What principles do you hope to share with someone, based on this devotion?

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Notes

Weekly Devotion #4

God Knows You by Name

Devotions from *Grace For The Moment* by Max Lucado

*I have written your name on my hand.
Isaiah 49:16*

Quite a thought, isn't it? Your name on God's hand. Your name on God's lips. Maybe you've seen your name in some special places. On an award or diploma...but to think that your name is on God's hand and on God's lips...my, could it be?

Or perhaps you have never seen your name honored. And you can't remember when you heard it spoken with kindness. If so, it may be more difficult for you to believe that God knows your name.

But he does. Written on His hand. Spoken by His mouth. Whispered by His lips. Your name.

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Weekly Devotion #5

God's Signature

Devotions from *Grace For The Moment* by Max Lucado

*Before I made you in your mother's womb, I chose you.
Jeremiah 1:5*

With God in your world, you aren't an accident or an incident; you are a gift to the world, a divine work of art signed by God.

One of the finest gifts I ever received is a football signed by thirty former professional quarterbacks. There is nothing unique about this ball. For all I know it was bought at a discount sports store. What make it unique are the signatures.

The same is true with us. In the scheme of nature Homo sapiens are not unique. We aren't the only creatures with flesh and hair and blood and hearts. What make us special are not only our body but also the signature of God on our lives. We are his works of art. We are created in his image to do good deeds. We are significant, not because of what we do, but because of whose we are.

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Weekly Devotion #6

No Fears at All

Devotions from *Grace For The Moment* by Max Lucado

*I am the LORD your God,
who holds your right hand, and I tell you,
“Don’t be afraid. I will help you.”
Isaiah 41:13*

Could you use some courage? Are you backing down more than you are standing up? Jesus scattered the butterflies out of the stomachs of his nervous disciples...

We need to remember that the disciples were common men given a compelling task. Before they were the stained-glassed saints in the windows of cathedrals, they were somebody’s next-door-neighbors trying to make a living and raise a family. They weren’t cut from theological cloth or raised on supernatural milk. But they were an ounce more devoted than they were afraid and, as a result, did some extraordinary things.

Earthly fears are no fears at all. Answer the big question of eternity and the little questions of life fall into perspective.

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Weekly Devotion #7

Nothing on Earth Satisfies

Devotions from *Grace For The Moment* by Max Lucado

We brought nothing into the world so we can take nothing out. But if we have food and clothes, we will be satisfied with that.
1 Timothy 6:7-8

Satisfied? That is one thing we are not. We are not satisfied.

We take a vacation of a lifetime... We satiate ourselves with sun, fun, and good food. But we are not even on the way home before we dread the end of the trip and begin planning another.

We are not satisfied.

As a child we say, "If only I were a teenager." As a teen we say, "If only I were an adult." As a spouse, "If only I had kids"

We are not satisfied. Contentment is a difficult virtue. Why?

Because there is nothing on earth that can satisfy our deepest longing, we long to see God. The leaves of life are rustling with the rumor that we will – and we won't be satisfied until we do.

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Weekly Devotion #8

What Size Is God?

Devotions from *Grace For The Moment* by Max Lucado

*God can do all things.
Matthew 19:26*

Nature is God's workshop. The sky is his resume. The universe is his calling card. You want to know who God is? See what he has done. You want to know his power? Take a look at his creation. Curious about his strength? Pay a visit to his home address: 1 Billion Starry Sky Avenue.

He is untainted by the atmosphere of sin, unbridled by the time line of history, unhindered by the weariness of the body.

What controls you doesn't control him. What troubles you doesn't trouble him. What fatigues you doesn't fatigue him. Is an eagle disturbed by traffic? No, he rises above it. Is the whale perturbed by a hurricane? Of course not, he plunges beneath it. Is the lion flustered by the mouse standing directly in his way? No, he steps over it.

How much more is God able to soar above, plunge beneath, and step over the troubles of the earth!

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BLESSINGS FROM THE HEART

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