BUILDING ON SOLID GROUND SCRIPTURES FOR THE SINGLE MOTHER

If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

—John 8:31–32 ESV

BALANCE

We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. —2 Corinthians 1:8–9

Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. —Psalm 62:2

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." —Matthew 19:26

I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

—Psalm 40:1–2

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. —2 Corinthians 4:8–9

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." —Matthew 7:24–27

COMFORT

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you. —Isaiah 66:13

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. —2 Corinthians 1:3–4

May your unfailing love be my comfort. —Psalm 119:76

COMPANIONSHIP

Psalm 139

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. —Matthew 28:20

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. —Joshua 1:9

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. —2 Corinthians 15:13

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

—John 15:15

I will never leave you nor forsake you. —Joshua 1:5

DIRECTION

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. —Psalm 32:8

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight..—Proverbs 3:5–6

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. —James 1:5

Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen. —Psalm 77:19

FORGIVENESS

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish. Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.

—Psalm 25:16–18

Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. —2 Corinthians 13:11

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. —Matthew 6:12–13

HEALING

In that day I will restore David's fallen shelter—I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins— and will rebuild it as it used to be. —Amos 9:11

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? —Isaiah 58:6

They did not realize it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. —Hosea 11:3–4

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

—Psalm 34:18

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. —Luke 4:18–19

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.

—Psalm 103:2–4

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. —Psalm 147:3

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. —Luke 4:18–19

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. —Galatians 5:1

HOME

In that day I will restore David's fallen shelter—I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins— and will rebuild it as it used to be. —Amos 9:11

Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. —Psalm 127:1

One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

—Psalm 27:4

I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings. —Psalm 61:4

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. —Psalm 23:6

Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you. —Psalm 84:4

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
—Psalm 91:1

For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." —2 Corinthians 6:16

My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

—Ezekiel 37:27

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. —Psalm 90:1

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." —John 14:23

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'—Acts 17:26–28

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

—1 Corinthians 3:11

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. —2 Corinthians 5:1

So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic.

—Isajah 28:16

"As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete." —Luke 6:47–49

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. —Matthew 7:25

Wisdom has built her house; she has set up its seven pillars. —Proverbs 9:1

"May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels." For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity. —Psalm 122:7–9

Let him lead me to the banquet hall, and let his banner over me be love. —Song of Solomon 2:4

By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. —Proverbs 24:3–4

HOPE

We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

—Romans 5:3–5 (ESV)

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. —Psalm 27:13–14

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. —Romans 15:13

Then you will know that I am the Lord; those who hope in me will not be disappointed.

—Isaiah 49:23

IDENTITY

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. —Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. —1 Corinthians 13:12

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

—2 Corinthians 5:17

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. —2 Corinthians 10:5

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

—Romans 12:2

Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
—Colossians 3:10

Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession. —Deuteronomy 14:2

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

—2 Corinthians 3:18

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.—Isaiah 61:10

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. —James 1:22-25

To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

—Revelation 2:17

You shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. —Isaiah 62:2–5

LOVE

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. —John 3:16

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. —1 John 4:11–12

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. —Mark 12:30

I will search for the one my heart loves.—Song of Solomon 3:2

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. —Romans 8:38–39

Let him lead me to the banquet hall, and let his banner over me be love. —Song of Songs 2:4

I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. —Isaiah 2:19

You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood. For your Maker is your husband—the Lord Almighty is his name.—Isaiah 54:4–5

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

—Zephaniah 3:17

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! —1 John 3:1

PEACE

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.
—Philippians 4:6–8

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. —1 Peter 5:7

Be still, and know that I am God. —Psalm 46:10

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. —John 14:27

PERSEVERANCE

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. —Galatians 6:9

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. —2 Corinthians 4:7–9

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. —James 1:2-4

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. —James 1:12

But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.

—2 Chronicles 15:7

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. —Romans 12:12

PROVISION

Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.—Isaiah 46:4

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. —2 Corinthians 9:8

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.
—Philippians 4:19

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

—Matthew 7:7

Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

—John 16·23–24

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. —Philippians 4:6

<u>PROTECTION</u>

2 Samuel 22

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. —Isaiah 41:10

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?—Psalm 27:1

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. —Psalm 57:1

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. —Psalm 46:1

PURPOSE

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. —Romans 8:28

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands. —Psalm 138:8 (ESV)

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

—Proverbs 19:21

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. —Jeremiah 29:11–14

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. —Ephesians 4:1

REST

Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.
—Isaiah 40:28–31

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. —Genesis 2:2–3

There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the LORD.

—Leviticus 23:3

In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength. —Isaiah 30:15

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. —Psalm 23:1–3

Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the LORD loves rests between his shoulders. —Deuteronomy 33:12

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
—Psalm 91:1

When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

—Proverbs 3:24

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety. —Psalm 4:8

I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. —Psalm 3:5

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. —Matthew 11:28–30

Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.

—Mark 6:31

This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." —Jeremiah 6:16

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. —Hebrews 4:9–10

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night.

—Psalm 91:4–5

STRENGTH

But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.

—2 Chronicles 15:7

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. —Psalm 27:14

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. —Philippians 4:13 (ESV)

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. —Isaiah 41:10

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

—Philippians 4:11–13

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.—2 Corinthians 4:7–8

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

—Psalm 73:26

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. —Psalm 40:29–31

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.—Ephesians 6:10

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. —2 Corinthians 12:9–10

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD. —Psalm 31:24

In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength.—Isaiah 30:15

TEMPTATION

Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so perishes the hope of the godless. What they trust in is fragile; what they rely on is a spider's web. They lean on the web, but it gives way; they cling to it, but it does not hold.—Job 8:13–15

Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. —Hebrews 2:18

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. —Hebrews 4:15–16

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

—1 Timothy 6:11–12

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. —Matthew 6:13

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." —Matthew 26:41

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.—1 Corinthians 10:13

WISDOM AND DIRECTION

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. —Psalm 32:8

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.—Proverbs 3:5–6

I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. —Isaiah 42:16

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."—Isaiah 30:21

By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. —Proverbs 24:4

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
—Philippians 3:13–14

Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen. —Psalm 77:19