

Power for Living

Marlene Bagnull

The Lord and I in Dialogue

Oh, Lord, you know how often my own strength seems insufficient and too weak to enable me to cope with the problems I must face. Sometimes I feel totally drained and exhausted from the multiplicity of the demands and pressures that confront me daily.

I am with you; that is all you need. My power shows up best in weak people.¹ I have promised to give power to the tired and worn out, and strength to the weak.²

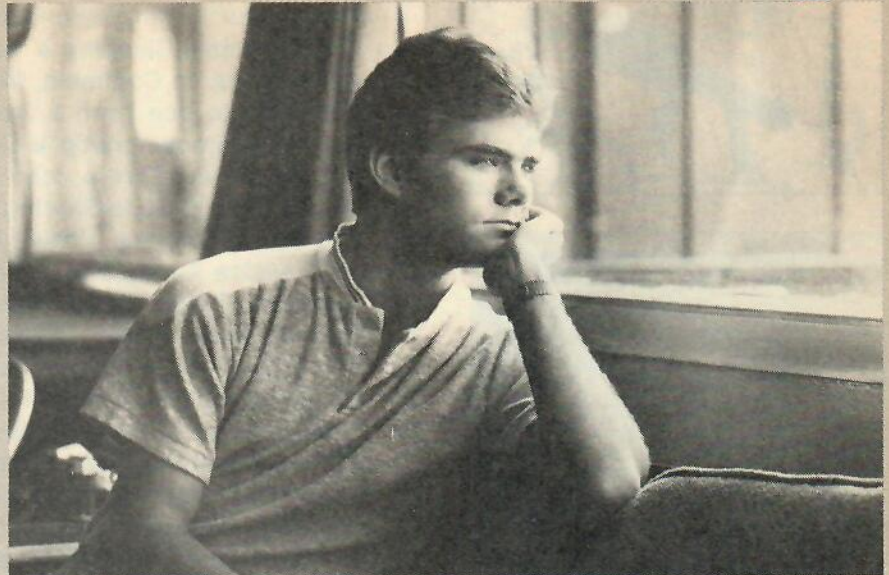
Lord, show me how to claim your promises that I might experience your "power for living."

Learn to wait upon me and I will renew your strength.³ Don't be intimidated by the pressures you are under.⁴ Stand silent and know that I am God.⁵ I will strengthen you; I will help you.⁶

I especially need your help, Lord, with the feelings of hopelessness and discouragement that sometimes seem to overwhelm me.

Don't be discouraged. Don't be upset. Expect me to act!⁷ I am in control of everything;⁸ and my promise is that in ways you cannot see or understand I will work all things together for good for those who love me.⁹

Thank you, Lord, for your encouragement. But sometimes I question why you want to help me when I fail you, myself, and others. Sometimes I feel so unlovable that I even doubt your



love for me.

I showed my great love for you by sending Christ to die for you while you were still a sinner.¹⁰ I will continue to love you now that I have made you right with me.¹¹ I want you to be able to feel and understand how long, how wide, how deep, and how high my love for you really is, and to experience my love in personal and life-changing ways.¹² And I promise you that nothing—not even your feelings of unworthiness or your failings—will ever be able to separate you from my love.¹³

Lord, keep reminding me of your promises and teach me how to appropriate your peace in the midst of life's problems and difficulties.

Learn to come to me with all your needs, and you will experience my peace which is far more wonderful than

the human mind can understand. My peace will keep your thoughts and your heart quiet and at rest as you trust in me.¹⁴

I do thank you, Lord, for the strength, hope, love, and peace you have given me. I will draw close to you knowing that you will draw close to me¹⁵ and will give me abundantly your "power for living."

The Scriptures were quoted or adapted from *The Living Bible*:

¹2 Corinthians 12:9

²Isaiah 40:29

³Isaiah 40:31

⁴Isaiah 41:10

⁵Psalms 46:10

⁶Isaiah 41:10

⁷Psalms 42:11

⁸1 Chronicles 29:11

⁹Romans 8:28

¹⁰Romans 5:8

¹¹Romans 8:32; 5:10

¹²Ephesians 3:18-19

¹³Romans 8:39

¹⁴Philippians 4:6-7

¹⁵James 4:8

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