



flourish



MINISTRY TO WOMEN
USA WESTERN TERRITORY

CONFIDENT FAITH: MAY

Just for fun I did a google search for “MAY”. I found a Reader’s Digest article about this fifth month of the year. The article was titled “May Observances to Celebrate Year after Year.”

The article listed the usual beautiful celebrations we all enjoy; Cinco De Mayo, Mother’s Day, and Memorial Day. This article went on to list some pretty interesting and unique sounding celebrations found in May.

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Some Month-long celebrations include:

ALS Awareness Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, National Hamburger Month, and National Strawberry Month to name a few.

Special Days in May include May Day, Lei Day, National Mother Goose Day, National Play your Ukelele Day, National Two Different Color Shoes Day, National Clean Your Room Day, National Frog Jumping Day, and National Talk Like Yoda Day.

(For the full list: <https://www.rd.com/article/may-holidays/>)

What will you celebrate in May? Celebrate Jesus!



Confident Faith: God Promises Deliverance

Hebrews 11:32; Judges

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Deliverance. What comes to mind...being saved from danger, trouble, or oppression? Being set free from sin, evil, or demonic influences? Or perhaps we think of God's intervention through healing, or liberation like the Israelites' exodus from slavery in Egypt. The word "deliverance" suggests external intervention. Intuitively, it implies the need for a savior—a hero, a rescuer, a deliverer.

From the beginning of time, because of Adam and Eve's disobedience to God, sin entered the world. Sin fractured humanity's relationship with God and with one another. It brought pain, sorrow, death, and decay, distorting God's perfect order. At times, I wonder why God didn't simply start over. Whether shaping clay, composing a song, or designing a building, we can discard flawed attempts and begin anew. But because of God's infinite love and wisdom toward His creation, He chose not to start over. Instead, He devised a plan—a plan of redemption.

Mankind needed a deliverer, a savior who would reconcile broken, sinful people back to a holy God. Genesis 3:15 declares: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." This verse hints at a future deliverer, one who would defeat evil at great personal cost.

The book of Judges records the life of the Israelites following their exodus from Egypt and reveals a repeating cycle of failure and divine deliverance. While their leader Joshua was alive, the Israelites followed the Lord. After his death, however, the people forsook the Lord and fell into apostasy. In response, the Lord allowed surrounding nations to oppress them. After a time, the Israelites cried out for deliverance. In His faithfulness and mercy, the Lord raised up military leaders, deliverers called "judges" (Judges 2:16–19). As long as each judge lived - from Othniel through Samson - the people followed the Lord; but after each judge's death, they again fell into apostasy. And so, the cycle continued.

As I read their history and recount the many extraordinary miracles, I catch myself critiquing and even condemning the Israelites. How could they slip so easily into apostasy? Didn't this generation grow up hearing the stories of how the Lord delivered their parents and grandparents out of Egypt and how He parted the Red Sea long enough for more than two million people to cross on dry ground? Weren't stories of God's daily provision - manna from heaven, water flowing from rocks, and sandals that somehow never wore out, told to them as bedtime stories of recounting God's faithfulness?

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I see this same cycle in my own life. When I am consistent in spiritual disciplines like daily Bible reading, scripture meditation, prayer woven throughout my day, church attendance, giving, Sabbath rest, and moments of silence and solitude, obedience flows more naturally and I delight in God's presence. But when I allow distractions of sin or busyness to creep in, I begin to drift. Before I realize it, I am no longer abiding in Him. And if I remain in this state for too long, like a loving Father, the Lord disciplines (not punishes) me to draw me back to Himself. I repent and the Lord graciously restores me to fellowship with Him.

Though these judges saved Israel, they were only temporary deliverers from temporal troubles. Everything on earth comes to an end. Humanity needed something more - something eternal and someone who could deliver once and for all. There is a superior and final deliverer, Jesus, the Son of God. Deliverance comes from God alone not from human strength. "But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son...to redeem those under the law" (Galatians 4:4-5).

Approximately 1,300 - 1,500 years after the era of the judges, Jesus Christ was born. The Jewish people expected the promised Messiah to be a political or military figure who would overthrow Roman rule and restore Israel's national glory. But the deliverance God offered was not political and therefore not temporal. It was spiritual and eternal.

Like the Israelites, the Lord delivers His people from life's troubles. "And call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." (Psalm 50:15). God promises deliverance, but I must remember that it is not always from every trial in the way I expect, but always through them. His repeated acts of deliverance are meant to produce trust within me. Calling to mind what God has done strengthens my faith today. Past deliverance fuels my present obedience, and God's faithfulness becomes the foundation of my hope.

God's ultimate deliverance is deliverance from sin and spiritual death, and from eternal separation from Him. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)



MAY

FLOURISH IN THE WORD

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
				1 Genesis 1:27	2 Proverbs 31:10-31	3 Galatians 3:28
4 Psalm 46:5	5 Proverbs 3:5-6	6 Philippians 4:6-7	7 Ruth 1:16-17	8 Proverbs 31:25-26	9 1 Corinthians 12:4-7	10 Psalm 139:14
11 1 Timothy 3:11	12 1 Corinthians 11:12	13 1 Corinthians 15:10	14 Luke 1:45	15 Proverbs 11:16	16 Proverbs 19:13	17 Isaiah 41:10
18 Philippians 4:13	19 Proverbs 31:25	20 2 Timothy 1:7	21 Jeremiah 29:11	22 1 Peter 2:9	23 1 Corinthians 16:14	24 Galatians 5:13
25 Colossians 3:14	26 1 John 4:19	27 Proverbs 16:3	28 Isaiah 26:3	29 Nehemiah 8:10	30 Psalm 126:3	31 Esther 4:14

MUSIC FOR THE HEART

Confident Faith inspires us to learn about God, to seek Him, who He is, and how He loves us!
Listen to the words of these songs and let them speak to your heart.

These songs are found on YouTube. Copy and paste these into your browser or simply go to YouTube and search by title and artist.

Believe For It - CeCe Winans

<https://youtu.be/2LapBD80200?si=G4hNI8z1DO-42Mj8&t=4>

Keep The Candle Burning - Point Of Grace

<https://youtu.be/l9ZsOTfZ8BY?si=jcMXw4AqzAqmO2Ld&t=2>

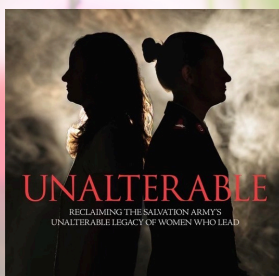
Resources For Us All



Spanish Language Resource!

You will find this resource on our USW WM Website at: <https://usw-womensministries.org> or copy and paste this link into your browser:

<https://usw-womensministries.org/material-ministerios-femeninos/>



New Podcast!

Unalterable: Reclaiming the Salvation Army's Unalterable Legacy of Women who Lead. Stream Unalterable on your favorite podcast platform starting on Tuesday, March 3rd.

Copy and paste the link below in your browser:

<https://www.salvationarmy.org/resources/unalterable>

Looking for inspiration?

Check out these Salvation Army Women's Ministries websites:

International Headquarters
USA National Resources
USA Western Territory
USA Southern Territory
USA Eastern Territory
USA Central Territory

<https://www.salvationarmy.org/womens-ministries>
<https://wmresources.org>
<https://usw-womensministries.org>
<https://www.sawomensministries.org/>
<https://women.saconnects.org>
<https://uscwomensministries.com>