



You're God's Girl!

A DEVOTIONAL FOR TWEENS

WYNTER PITTS



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A special note from Alena Pitts,

actress from the movie *War Room*

Hi! My name is Alena!

I'm here to tell you something important.

Here it is: Devotionals are important!

You may be thinking, "Why are they so important?"

Well, I will tell you. Devotionals are important because they are a way for you to spend time with God.

Now, I know there are many ways to spend time with God, but having daily time for God to speak to you is awesome!

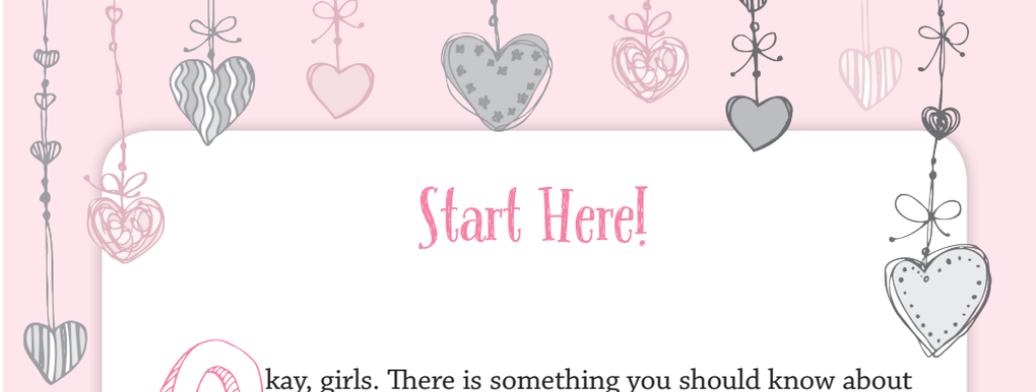
So this book—yes, the one you're holding in your hand—is a devotional, and it is for girls just like us.

You will understand all the words in here, you will have fun, and most importantly you'll be encouraged to spend even more time with God. God loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for your sins, so why not spend some time with Him, right?

Have fun reading this book, and remember, God hears you and He wants to have a relationship with you!



Love,
Alena



Start Here!

Okay, girls. There is something you should know about me and it is a little embarrassing...but I am going to tell you anyway.

I like to talk to myself.

Wait...maybe I should not start by just saying that.

I should say that I like to ask myself questions. Now, that sounds a little better, doesn't it?

Either way, it's true!

Sometimes I ask myself silly and weird questions, like, "What would I look like if I dyed my hair fuchsia?" This is the kind of question that makes me giggle. Just picture me with bright pink hair!

Funny, right?

But sometimes I ask myself really hard questions. For example, here are three pretty difficult questions I have asked myself:

What does God want me to say when I pray?

Why can't I do whatever I want?

Why does anyone else care about what I do?

Sounds like big stuff, doesn't it?

How about you? Do you ever talk to yourself? Or ask yourself hard questions even though you know you can't really give yourself an answer?

I am thinking you said, "Yes!"

I want you to know that asking God questions about Himself, about your life, and about what He is doing is *the best way* for you to get to know Him. But sometimes it can feel like the more you learn, the more questions you have. If you've ever felt like this, then this book is for you!

A row of seven hearts hanging from above. From left to right: a pink heart with a bow, a grey heart with stars, a pink heart with a bow, a grey heart with stripes and a bow, a pink heart with a bow, a grey heart with a bow, and a pink heart with a bow.

God wants you to learn about Him, but He also wants you to understand and really know Him. So let's talk and see if we can find answers to some of our really hard questions together. Maybe to some silly ones too.

There may be questions in this book you have never thought about, and that's okay too. I am sure you will learn something new from each of them.

Here is what I want you to do:

1. Grab your Bible, your favorite pen or pencil, and a journal.
2. Choose a time when and a place where you can concentrate on what you are going to read.
3. Pray and ask God to help you to get to know Him better.
4. Choose a devotional and read it.
5. Have fun! Learning about God is not boring because there are so many ways to enjoy your time with Him! At the end of each devotional, you will see an activity. Be sure to take time to do those.

Remember, you are God's daughter, and He wants you to know many wonderful things about yourself and about Him.



Why Does God Take His Name So Seriously?

What do you call your mom? You may call her many different names when you are trying to get her attention—Mom, Mommy, Mother. However, I bet there are also a few names you would never call her.

For example, my mother's name is Viola. When I was a little girl everyone called her Vi. Everyone except my brother and me, of course! If we needed her help, we would never scream, "Hey, Vi!" I know she would not have liked that very much! Even though Viola is her name, it would be so disrespectful for her children to just walk around screaming "Viola" whenever we felt like it! As a way of showing her respect, when we needed her or just wanted to talk to her, we would call her Mommy.

Think about your teachers at school, your grandparents, or even the pastor of your church. They all expect you to show respect when you call them as well, right?

Do you know who else expects us to show respect when we call Him?

That's right, God does! He definitely wants us to talk to Him whenever we want. However, He does not want us to just scream His name for fun. It's actually very disrespectful to Him.

Did you know the Bible tells us not to use the Lord's name in vain? To use the Lord's name in vain means to say it casually or carelessly, and this warning is actually the third of the Ten Commandments. (You can read all of them for yourself in Exodus 20:2-17). This is God's way of telling us to respect His name. He



wants us to show respect when we talk to Him or about Him to others.

I know it is very popular right now to scream things like, “Oh my God!” But God wants you to remember what He says in the Bible: “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name” (Exodus 20:7).

In other words, respect God’s name and let your friends and others know you take God seriously, just like you would any important person!

Dear God, thank You that I know Your name and I can call on You when I need You or when I just feel like talking. Help me to always treat Your name with respect and importance, like it deserves. In Jesus’s name, amen.



God does not want you to use His name disrespectfully, but His name can definitely be celebrated! Here are five ways you can celebrate God’s name:

1. Thank Him anytime you want and for anything.
2. Spend time talking to Him.
3. Share what He means to you with your friends.
4. Sing about Him and to Him.
5. Look for Him and His love during your day.



What Is Faith and Why Do I Need It?

Peter walked on water!

I know the world has a lot of Peters in it, but just so we are clear, the one I am talking about was one of Jesus's disciples. And he's the only Peter who has ever walked on water!

Have you ever walked on water?

I didn't think so. Me neither!

If you know anything about water, then it may be hard to believe that Peter actually walked on it. But you can believe it because it is true!

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus (Matthew 14:28-29).

So wait! Are you thinking what I am thinking? Not only did Peter walk on water, but it was his idea!

Yes, that is exactly what this Scripture is saying. Peter asked Jesus to help him walk on water, and Jesus did it.

Wow! Can you believe that?

Peter knew a lot about water. The Bible tells us Peter was a fisherman, which means he spent a lot of time in and around

A row of seven decorative hearts hanging from the top edge. From left to right: a pink heart with a bow, a grey heart with stars, a pink heart with a bow, a grey heart with wavy lines and a bow, a pink heart with a bow, a grey heart with a bow, and a pink heart with a bow.

water. Yet he was not afraid to ask God to do something impossible. He believed God could do it, even if it didn't make sense to him.

In other words, Peter was a man of crazy faith!

Having faith in God means you believe He can do something even though you don't see Him or even always understand what He may be doing.

So let me ask you a question. Do you have crazy faith? Have you ever asked God to do something impossible?

Did He do it?

It can be a little hard to really understand what it means to have faith, but think about Peter. Having faith means you do not do things based only on what you *know* is possible, but you look to Jesus and believe He can do so much more than what seems possible!

What do you think the other disciples in the boat were thinking when they heard Peter's strange request? They probably thought he was crazy, right? But Peter believed Jesus could help him walk on water even though it is a totally crazy idea. No one walks on water unless God is in control of it!

Always remember, Jesus wants you to have faith in Him. You also have to remember that Jesus wants what is best for you. Even though He may not do exactly what you are asking Him to do, still have faith in Him because He will always do what is best for your life—and you can believe that!



Dear God, thank You for Peter and for all the stories of faith in the Bible. I want to have crazy faith too! Will You help me to not be afraid to ask You for what seems impossible? Help me to trust that You will do what is best for my life even when I do not understand it. In Jesus's name, amen.



Read Hebrews 11 to see some of the amazing things God did when people had faith in Him. Then make your very own "Faith Book." All you have to do is make a list of things God has done in your life. Whenever you start to have doubts, read your book. I am sure it will not take you long to remember that God will do crazy things in your life when you believe in Him!



Do I Have to Do It?

My favorite socks are pink and fuzzy with little dangling turquoise balls at the top. I just love them so much! I normally wear them with really soft pajama pants and a too-big T-shirt. Wearing these clothes makes me feel super comfortable, and I love to be comfortable!

When are you most comfortable? Maybe you like being dressed up and feel best when your hair is nicely curled and you are wearing your favorite dress. Or maybe you prefer to wear your gym shorts, favorite sneakers, and athletic gear!

If you are not sure, take some time to think about when you feel the most comfortable. It is good to know what you like!

However, you have to be careful, because sometimes being too comfortable can be a bad thing.

Let me explain.

What would happen if I wore my pink fuzzy socks and pajama pants all day while sitting on my couch? I would certainly be comfortable, but I would not be able to do the things I need to get done. Sometimes we have to get away from what makes us the most comfortable to do what we are being asked to do. Think about it—would I go on a job interview wearing my pink fluffy socks?

Everyone has a “comfort zone,” and it is normally where they feel safest. But it can also make them not want to try anything new or hard. In the Bible God often asked people to do things that were not very comfortable for them. For example, God called Moses to speak to Pharaoh and be a leader to His people. Moses did not want to do this. He was not comfortable speaking to large crowds. He did not think he spoke well at all. (Maybe you don’t like



speaking to big groups of people either!) However, God had a big plan for His people. To accomplish that plan Moses needed to do what God commanded, even though it made him uncomfortable. He could trust that God would give him the courage he needed!

Often God asks us to step away from the areas where we are most comfortable so He can use us to do something different. He wants your faith in Him to be more important than being comfortable! If God is asking you to do something, do it. It could be talking to a friend about something hard, joining a sports team, or traveling somewhere far away from home.

Is God asking you to do something different, scary, or strange? Pray and ask Him to help you. Then trust and have faith that He will, and go do it!

Dear God, I know You have special things for me to do. Help me to never be so comfortable doing what feels good to me that I don't want to do what You need me to do. In Jesus's name, amen.



Read the story of Esther (Hint: Her story is in her book in the Old Testament of the Bible!) and answer the questions below:

1. What was God asking Esther to do?
2. If you were Esther, what would you be most afraid of?
3. What was she afraid of?
4. What did she do to overcome her fears?
5. Is God asking you to do something right now?



How Can I Be Beautiful on the Inside?

Have you ever watched someone build a house? Yeah, me neither! Well, unless you count those fun homebuyer shows on TV. You know, the ones where they tear down walls, knock out windows, rip up floors, buy new furniture, paint the ceilings, and create an entirely new living space in just three days? Yes, I love those shows!

I am not a homebuilder and I won't even pretend to understand everything it takes. However, I do know building anything takes a lot of materials, supplies, instructions, and especially patience. You need materials like bricks, concrete, nails, and wood if you want your building to last.

What do you think would happen to a house if the builders decided not to use any nails? Or to use plastic where they should use wood? The house might look good for a little while, but eventually the walls would start falling down, right? How awful would that be?

You and I are kind of like new buildings. You may be thinking, "Well, I don't need nails and concrete inside me." But we need different types of supplies. As children of God we want to grow into beautiful, well-designed women, so we need things like honesty, patience, and kindness inside us!

These building supplies—or characteristics—make up what we call our *character*. They are the pieces of our lives that matter the most. Most people do not see them, just like they don't see



the nails that hold up a house. But if you want a strong, beautiful character, they must be present. And guess who our builder is?

Every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything (Hebrews 3:4).

God is the builder of everything. That includes you and your character. He created you and knows just how He needs you to look on the inside. If you want to make sure you are full of the characteristics you need, then you have to spend time with Him! Let Him give you what you need to stand strong and beautiful.

Our character is on the inside, but people will definitely notice the difference on the outside. Spending time with God, seeking Him, and asking Him to build you is what makes you beautiful!

Dear God, I want to be strong and beautiful on the outside and on the inside. When people see me, I want them to see You. Will You build my character? Help me to be full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. In Jesus's name, amen.



Go to Galatians 5:22-23 to find the characteristics God wants to use as He builds you into a strong, beautiful woman.