



# Journeying with God

God's faithfulness  
in all things

with the Rev Keith V Garner AM



Devotional guide

Exploring faith with the  
Rev Keith V Garner AM

Discover your purpose in an inspiring service at  
[wesleymission.org.au/outreach](http://wesleymission.org.au/outreach)

## Discovering your purpose

At some stage of our lives many of us will ask: “What should I do with my life? or “What is my life’s purpose?” or “What on earth am I here for?”

Having purpose provides meaning and direction in life. It offers fulfilment in a way status or money cannot provide.

So how do you discover your purpose? Purpose and fulfilment can firstly be found through a relationship with God.

Secondly, it's understanding that purpose comes from service. By giving our lives away to help others, we can find meaning and significance.

So, what are you doing with what you’ve been given? How are you using your talents, resources and influence to serve others?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Gunn". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a single horizontal line that starts under the first letter and extends to the right, ending under the last letter.

## How to use this devotional guide...

For each day there is a Bible reference, a thought and a prayer.

- If you have only a few minutes, simply read the entry each day and carry those thoughts with you.
- If you have more time, prayerfully read through the complete Bible passage and thought. Spend some time meditating and reflecting on it then start your prayer.

## Journeying with God

We often start the New Year with optimism, with 'resolutions' and grand plans for the year ahead. As we approach the end of 2018, we may start to feel discouraged with our lack of progress or reflect on the fact that we have been held back by challenges.

One writer described discouragement as "like the Trojan horse of ancient myth". He was suggesting that if discouragement gets inside of us, it can conquer us from the inside out, and prevent us from achieving the positive outcomes that we long for in our lives.

Now let us be clear, most of us experience discouragement at some point in our lives. Seldom do we live through a day without something discouraging happening. But the kind of situation I have in mind is when all of our days become 'just one of those days' and when discouragement takes hold of our lives in such a way that we find it difficult to have a positive view of the world.

After Jesus' death and the discovery of the empty tomb, hope was almost lost as Jesus' downhearted followers were overwhelmed with grief and abandonment. When I consider Jesus' early morning appearance to his disciples on the shore of Galilee, where at first they were unable to recognise him, somewhere between the despondency of the fishermen and the stranger's voice on the shoreline lies the nature of hope.

Whatever the discouragement we may be facing, we can place our trust in the real and living hope of God's resurrection promise that he will be with us always. I encourage you to reach out and embrace this hope, knowing that Jesus will always be our ever-present friend no matter what life has in store for us.

## Day 1

### Why do I need to journey with God?

#### **Bible verse:**

“Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.”

#### **Psalm 100:3 NIV**

**Thought:** You are God’s creation and a child of God. So, the natural progression is to grow in your understanding of God, the world and yourself. The life of faith is an intentional lifestyle of growing deeper in the knowledge and wisdom of God.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you for assuring me that I am your child and that you care for me. Help me to want to learn more about you and give me the wisdom to understand your Word.

## Day 2

### God wants us to depend on Him?

#### **Bible verse:**

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

#### **John 15:5 NIV**

**Thought:** We live in fascinating days. Ideas, relationships and material possessions abound—but so often they do not last. Our journey as Christians will not be ‘easy living’ in our complex world. But God will give each of us the strength required to press on daily and to overcome any situation. God promises to work in your life until the end, so that you will become more like Christ. The Christian life is like a huge adventure with Christ, we can do nothing without Him.

**Prayer:** Lord, the journey to follow you will not be easy. Please give me the strength as I live each day and guide my path so that I can be more like Christ. Thank you for never leaving me alone to face the world.

## Day 3

### God wants to have a relationship with us

**Bible verse:**

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”

**Psalm 119:105 NIV**

**Thought:** God wants to have a personal relationship with each of us. His Word directs us in our work and way, and the world would be a dark place indeed without it. A life filled with studying the Bible, obedience to what it says, and trusting God is a lifelong adventure that will bring true understanding of the world and a deep love for its Creator.

**Prayer:** Thank you Heavenly Father for your love and guidance. Quieten my heart, open my eyes and ears so that I can see and hear you clearly. Lord, please give me wisdom to understand your Word.

## Day 4

### Trust in the Lord

#### **Bible verse:**

“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 NIV**

**Thought:** We are taught to be self-reliant, living a life guided by our own knowledge and wisdom. But living the life God has called us to requires that we unlearn this lesson and become reliant on Him. It is wise to rest in God’s understanding because our God is an all-knowing God, His understanding surpasses ours. To trust in the Lord means to have confidence in His guidance leading you in all situations.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, please forgive me for not relying on you in all situations as I should. Please teach me to acknowledge my weaknesses and have faith that you are the Almighty God in whom I can put my trust.

## Day 5

### Your role in this world

#### **Bible verse:**

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

#### **Matthew 5:13-16 NIV**

**Thought:** As a follower of Jesus we are to bring out the true flavour of life, the same way that salt enhances the flavour of food. As ‘salt’, the Christian is to counteract the power of sin. Christ tells us, “You are the light of the world”. As ‘light’ we are to illuminate and make visible the ongoing witness of Christ’s presence in our lives.

As we consider the way we share this good news of Christ, I commend to you the words of Steve Hollinghurst: “It’s not enough for us to speak of another way; we must live this out. Indeed it is not enough to speak of the transforming power of Christ unless it can be seen in us.”

**Prayer:** God, it is not easy to fulfil your calling for us to be the salt and light of the world. Please give me the courage to shine for you and give me the strength to stand out and live a purposeful life that brings glory to your name.

Sign up to our 'Discover your purpose' devotion plan series at  
**[wesleymission.org.au/outreach](https://wesleymission.org.au/outreach)**

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