

# A Tidbit Romance

*Falling in Love with God's Word  
One Devotion at a Time*

Erin Coss

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Made in the USA.

This book is dedicated to my grandma,  
Lorraine Resch.

Thank you for being a light that continues  
to lead me towards Him.

# Table of Contents

<i>MY PRAYER TO YOU</i>	<i>X</i>
<i>INTRODUCTION</i>	<i>XI</i>
<i>WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT JESUS ANYWAY?</i>	<i>XIII</i>
<i>A GARDEN OF PUNISHMENT</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>A GENTLE WHISPER</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>KNITTED IN THE WOMB</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>PRAISE FROM THE INSIDE OUT</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>A WALK WITH GOD</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>TOLERABLE GRACE</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>OUT OF THE DESERT</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>UNFORGIVING GUILT</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>GRIN AND BEAR IT</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>PEACE</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>THE WEDDING INVITATION</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>GHOST STORIES</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>APPLE OF YOUR EYE</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>THE PAIN OF A PARENT</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>ASK!</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>SHINE!</i>	<i>34</i>

<i>HOT TAMALES</i>	36
<i>JETHRO</i>	39
<i>FEAST ON THE WORD</i>	42
<i>HANDPICKED</i>	45
<i>OVERCOMING OBSTACLES</i>	48
<i>LAZY DAZE</i>	50
<i>INADEQUATE?</i>	52
<i>TEMPTATION: YOU ARE NOT ALONE</i>	54
<i>DISCOURAGED NO MORE</i>	56
<i>SOLD!</i>	58
<i>HOMECOMING</i>	60
<i>EVEN UNTO DEATH</i>	63
<i>IN WEAKNESS, MADE STRONG</i>	66
<i>NAAMAN</i>	68
<i>TO DO LIST</i>	72
<i>WHATEVER YOU ASK</i>	75
<i>SEND ME</i>	78
<i>SPA DAY</i>	81
<i>THE PASSWORD IS JESUS</i>	84
<i>ELEVATOR PITCH</i>	87
<i>JOURNEYS</i>	90
<i>PASSPORT</i>	93

<i>CREAM OF THE CROP</i>	95
<i>ETERNITY</i>	98
<i>TOOLBOX</i>	101
<i>DRY BONES</i>	104
<i>KINGDOM DWELLER</i>	108
<i>STAND UP STRAIGHT</i>	111
<i>HUNGER PANG</i>	114
<i>GAME CHANGER</i>	117
<i>CRYSTAL BALL</i>	120
<i>WARNING SIGNS</i>	123
<i>DESPERATION</i>	126
<i>SCRIPTURAL UNDERSTANDING</i>	130
<i>RIGHTEOUS</i>	133
<i>DRY TO THE BONE</i>	136
<i>THE MISSING PIECE OF THE PUZZLE</i>	139
<i>I HAVE OVERCOME!</i>	143
<i>MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO?</i>	145
<i>FORGIVE MY UNBELIEF!</i>	149
<i>BREATH FROM HEAVEN</i>	152
<i>A PERFECT PLAN</i>	155
<i>BEAM ME UP!</i>	157
<i>A BUMP IN THE ROAD</i>	159

## MY PRAYER TO YOU

Dear Jesus,

I lift this reader, my friend, to you now, Lord, to hold in your mighty right hand. I pray that you would cause my friend to hunger and thirst for your word; to read, understand, and chew on your word throughout this book. I pray my friend will see the hidden scriptural tidbits that are so meaty and satisfying to the Spirit. I pray that you will instill in my friend a brand new way of reading your word as sustenance for daily living. Be with this reader today, Lord, meeting my friend's every need.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen!

Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.

Psalm 34:8

# INTRODUCTION

Dear Friend,

I'm excited to share with you some of my devotions that I have been led to write over the past couple of years. I pray that the Holy Spirit will lead me each and every time that I write. I love the word of God and eat up every moment that I spend reading it. I know it sounds corny, but it's true! Just ask any of my friends from Bible study. I've actually been called "corny" in group by a fellow sister-in-Christ. (Love you, Laura!)

Please know that I am not a Bible scholar. In trying to meet a need for some women, I was led to write a tidbit. That one tidbit turned into two, then three, and eventually into this book. I do not have any special abilities, knowledge, or schooling in the way of the Bible. I have surrendered to the Lord and have decided to follow this direction that I believe He has for my life. Did you know that I tried to take AP English in high school? I was asked to leave the class because my writing skills were not up to par for the class. I just love Jesus and that is why I write.

I hope that this book does not come across as preachy in anyway. My hope is to meet you where you are, walk beside you, and discuss things I've come across while reading God's amazing word. I encourage you to begin or increase your time in God's word. If you find that you have a difficult time with self-study, I encourage you to sit and pray. Ask the Lord to show you what He wants you to know. In the words of the awesome Biblical teacher Les Feldick, "Ask the Lord that you would be able to read the Bible as easily as

a kindergarten reader.” Simply and easily. Pray that His truths will jump off the page and into your heart. Reading the Bible isn’t only for scholars, it’s for you and me. It’s for everyone who chooses to seek Him. He gives knowledge to all who seek it.

My desire is to have you see the word with new revelation. Bite down and chew on each and every word. Even the smallest morsels give amazing nourishment. A great example of this is the prayer of Jabez! Enjoy each moment reading this book. I pray that during your time you will be filled to overflowing, that each moment will fill and satisfy your deepest hunger pangs with His Holy Spirit.

Blessings,

Erin, The Chicken Dance Mama

## WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT JESUS ANYWAY?

Hey there! Are you someone that knows who Jesus is but just doesn't understand all the hype? Maybe someone gave you this book and you're thinking, "Nice gesture, but so what?"

I don't know if you've heard it put this way before, but here's the skinny on Jesus: Jesus is one cool dude. He listens to you when no one else will. He will help you when everyone else will turn their backs on you. He will forgive you when you've done the most horrible of horrible of sins. That's right! There is no sin too big for God. Jesus has a magic eraser that can wipe away any wrong. He is able to do that because of dying on the cross, a difficult concept for even the strongest of Christians to understand.

Here's the thing: If you're not a Christian and you are wondering about Jesus but can't handle all of the preachy Christians, first realize they are no better than you. The only difference between a Christian and a non-Christian is that Christians have told Jesus that they are poor sinners and need His help. And let me tell you, there is no one better to get help from than J.C. He rocks! He can meet our EVERY need.

All I ask from you is if you don't believe in Jesus or aren't sure, please just say, "Hey, Jesus, if you are real, please show yourself to me." Then wait. I promise He will. Once you learn that He's real, just tell Him that you are a sinner and need Him. Then you'll be a Christian if that's what you think you want, and I pray that you will.

If you are being led to a life as a Christian, please get into a

Bible-based church, one that believes the Bible is completely and wholly the word of God without error. Then start reading your Bible daily and praying to God. Remember, we don't have to sound great when we are praying. We just need to talk to Him from the heart as though He is our best friend in the room. Finally, find some strong Christians to hang around with. You will be amazed at how your friendships will encourage you in your daily walk with Him.

I really hope that you will understand all the hype about Jesus and what He's all about—YOU!

May you find the truth about Jesus very soon! Be blessed today!



# A Garden of Punishment



*22 And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." 23 So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

*Genesis 3:22-24*



At first glance, it seems like God is being awfully harsh here for eating just a piece of fruit. But when you look closer, you can see the depth of His love for us, His children.

In the middle of the Garden of Eden stood two trees, the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:9). Adam and Eve sinned when they ate from the tree. They disobeyed God. If they were

then allowed to eat from the tree of life, they would live forever in a state of sin. I can't even bear the thought. Can you picture life as we know it today forever?

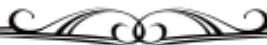
But God's mercy for us is great. He cast Adam and Eve from the garden so that they would not have an opportunity to eat from the other tree. I can picture Adam and Eve crying, begging——possibly on their knees——as the Lord walked behind them saying, "Move along." I can't even think about what their state of mind was at the time. I'm sure it was total despair.

Are there times in your life when it just seems unbearable? Does it seem like you're being punished to the extreme? I know there are times when it just seems like it can't get any worse, but we must remember that He is there watching out for us. Jeremiah 29:11 is a great verse: "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."

Friend, I want to encourage you today. If you are facing difficult times, remember there is hope! God has a future for us! He knows the sins and wrong decisions that we are going to make; and, thankfully, He does something about it. If we seek Him and ask Him for direction, He will lead us down the right path. It may not always be the most comfortable, but it will be the best for us in the end. Because of His love for us, we will live forever with Him in paradise!

I pray that you will rely on His word today. It is good and true! He is watching out for you. You have hope and a future with Him!

Praise the Lord!



# A Gentle Whisper



*11 The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.*

*1 Kings 19:11-13a*



I just love the word of God! I just love to let it soak in. It's so easy to let precious words like these blend in with a bigger story, but here we can experience the fullness of God's word.

Here we find Elijah fleeing from King Ahab and his wife Jezebel. He had just gone head to head with the prophets of Baal and, by the

Lord's hand, won the battle. Let's just say King Ahab and Jezebel were not pleased to hear that all of their prophets had been slaughtered. And that's where we find this treasure of Scripture.

There are times in my life when I plead with the Lord to give me answers. I beg Him to speak to me and to provide me with what I want to hear. I get confused and have trouble discerning what He is trying to say to me. Sometimes we look for Him in all the wrong places. This passage from 1 Kings says that first "there was a powerful wind . . . but the Lord was not in the wind" (v. 11). Next, "there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake" (v. 11). There was also a fire, but the Lord was not there either. Surely with such powerful forces, we would think that that is where we would find God. But that is not His way.

How many times do you go searching for answers in places where you think God should be? Are you seeking Him where you would like to find Him or where He truly is? When God finally appeared to Elijah, He came in a gentle whisper. I can feel that whisper travel down my spine. Do you feel it too?

Psalm 46:10 exalts, "Be still, and know that I am God." This week when you are looking for God in the hustle and bustle of this over-stimulated world, I ask that you take a moment, be still, and listen. In time, you will hear the gentle whisper of our mighty Father.

All glory be given to God!



# Knitted in the Womb



*13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*

*Psalm 139:13-16*



Thank the Lord for Psalm 139! I am overwhelmed by the thought that the Lord knit me in my mother's womb. When I think of knitting, I think of a tedious process that takes time, patience, and care. This may be why I don't know how to knit. In a world full of drive-thru everything, it's hard to think that many people knit anymore. So to think that the Lord didn't just snap His fingers to make me but took time, patience, and care to make me special——

well, you can see why I am overwhelmed!

I have many of what I call “ugly days.” These are the days that I wake up and no matter what I do I just don’t feel comfortable with how I look. Can you relate? Our world dictates to us how a woman should look, and women are dying to meet those requirements. But when I remember Psalm 139, I remember that I was fearfully and wonderfully made. As the popular saying goes, “God don’t make junk.”

Revelation 4:11(KJV) reveals, “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” Have you ever created something that didn’t please you? What did you do with your creation? Did you stick it in a closet? Did you throw it in the garbage? What about the creations that pleased you? What was it about your creation that gave you joy? Did you hang it on a wall or display it for all to see? That’s what the Lord did when He created you! He created you for His pleasure and He placed you on this earth, His creation, for all to see! What an amazing thought!

I want to remind you today that you are beautiful in His sight. You were created for His pleasure! No more “ugly days” for you or me because He didn’t stick us in a closet or throw us out. Take a good look in the mirror today and give glory and honor to the One who created you perfect in His sight. Praise the Lord, for you are fearfully and wonderfully made!

Praise be to the God  
who created us for His pleasure!

