



JOY IN  
THE MORNING

WORDS OF HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

TOPICAL TOMES BY SHARON VANDER MEER

# Joy in the Morning,

Words of Hope and Encouragement

*No. 1 in the Tiny Tomes series*

SHARON VANDER MEER

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## *Welcome*

Hi! Thank you for purchasing *Joy in the Morning, Words of Hope and Encouragement*. This collection of thirty-one inspirational readings is meant to uplift and inspire. I am merely a believer who prays that within these pages you will recognize your own story of faith. Be blessed and be a blessing.

– *Sharon Vander Meer*

## *Dedication*

To every role model, Sunday School teacher, and preacher I ever had. People of faith are not perfect. My own failings trip me up and make me fall, yet it is in the getting up that I learn and grow. So, thanks, people of faith, the examples you set every day make a difference in ways you can never know.

Day 1

## ***Faith***

*Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ~ Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)*

*“Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.”*

– Mother Theresa

Remaining faithful, being courageous in faith, willing to step outside your comfort zone in faith, faithfully resisting that which takes you away from the Light, and standing on faith when the world is falling apart around you. That’s a tall order.

Mother Theresa dedicated her life to serving the helpless and the hopeless, stepping out in faith, not that all would be well, but that she had a job to do and that job was right in front of her to be done now. Not later, not tomorrow, not when she had time, but now, in this moment. Today.

Faith is not passive; it is active and engaging.

~§~

## Day 2

### ***Peace***

*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ~ John 3:17 NIV*

My life is not easy, but then I don't know anyone whose life is easy. The outward person, the one we see every day, bears scars on his or her heart we will never know. I will not tell you my pain; it is no greater or more significant than yours. I will tell you my secret to peace, which is no secret at all. John 3:16 (paraphrased) reads: *God so loved the world he gave his son that I might be saved.* It is not an idle promise; it is God's clarity beyond any concept we are able to grasp. It is the gift of grace.

Despite our failings, God loves us. He sees our strengths and weaknesses and helps us build on each. This gift of grace is available to all. When we call upon God, he will hear. He will answer. He will comfort. In this truth, I find comfort and peace. God loves each of us for who we are. How amazing is that?

~§~

## Day 3

### ***In the beginning***

*Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. ~ 2 Timothy 1:9 KJV*

Think on it:

Life is more than the blink of an eye.

The you that believes you're not worth much,  
the you who feels disappointed when life doesn't go your way,  
you have a place in this world and in God's plan.

*This is true since the beginning of all time.*

God's love for you didn't begin when you were born;  
it began when the universe was formed.  
Doubt cannot stand in the way of grace,  
Christ, the gift of Heaven, rests in you.

Pass it on. Live well. Have faith.

You are the recipient of God's grace.

*This is true since the beginning of all time.*

~§~

*Day 4*

***Rejoice***

*Rejoice forevermore. ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16 KJV*

Rejoice in a new day,  
a new way to make a difference.  
Renewed faith, patience,  
mercy, compassion and wisdom.  
We love and are loved.

Rejoice always and forever more.  
Failure isn't failure,  
unless you don't get up.  
Rejoice and rise,  
opportunity and tomorrow  
are mirror words.  
Make the choice to rejoice.

~§~

*Day 5*

***He is my strength***

*The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. Psalm 118:14 ~KJV*

You are wandering in the desert, alone, afraid, disoriented. What do you do? Pull out your cellphone and pray you have service!

Life can feel a bit like being lost in an unknown place. Panic sets in and you know you need immediate help. How and where do you get it? Personal experience has taught me to get on my “cellphone” to God through prayer. My go-to prayers are:

~ I seek the Lord and he hears me, and relieves me of all my fears.

~ I release myself, my loved ones, my worries and my fears into the hands of God, and I trust him.

He is my strength. The song of His promise to be with me sings through my life. My prayer is that it sings through yours.

~§~

Day 6

***Present, day-by-day***

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

*~ Hebrews 11:1 KJV*

God is present.

This isn't a maybe or a might;

it is an absolute.

In times of fretfulness and fear,

when you think you have been forgotten, remember this:

*“Cast all your anxiety on God for He cares for you.”* (1 Peter 5:7).

God is as concerned about life's trials as you.

Yes, for the dilemma,

more so for you.

Be not afraid.

Trust in the Lord.

Have faith.

God is present.

God is with you.

~§~

## Day 7

### ***Courage in the chaos***

*Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. ~ Joshua 1:9 NIV*

It is normal to slide into panic when life surprises you in negative ways; it is not in your best interest to stay there. Panic overload leads to poor decisions, causes words to be spoken that cannot be taken back, and generally keeps a person's life in a state of uncertainty bordering on chaos.

God is present. He can find us when we can't seem to find him. His promise is to never leave us. Each day brings opportunity, and yes, challenges. The challenges that create opportunities to get closer to God – and to each other – lead to renewal.



## Day 8

### ***How or Who?***

*Likewise, the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. ~ Romans 8:26-27 KJV*

How? That's the one word question we ask when a crisis arises. How am I going to get through this? How can God possibly fix this? How will I face tomorrow when today is so painful? How will other people think of me when they find out the messy lives my loved ones' lead? How will my loved ones get through this? How? How? How?

The question isn't how, but *Who*? Who will get me through this? Who is at work in the lives of all? Who has promised to be with those who call upon his name? Who will pray for and with me when I have no words of my own because I don't even know what to ask for? *Who*?

God, whose love is profound and indescribable. God, who knows the hearts of all. God, whose very Spirit breathes through us and renews us and guides us.



## Day 9

### ***From the heart***

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. ~ Ephesians 2:8 NIV*

Did you hear about the four-year-old who loaded up her Barbie car with toys and took them to a family whose house had burned down? It happened, and her gesture inspired others to send cards of encouragement, money, and yes, more toys for the family's three children who lost everything in the fire.

We never know when the opportunity will come to reach out and help someone. We don't need to be a global company with the power and the financial wherewithal of Bill and Linda Gates to make a difference. We aren't required to change the world. We are asked to love one another by our acts and by our choices, one person, one gift, one smile at a time.



## Day 10

### *Saving Grace*

*He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ~ Titus 3:5 NIV*

There is no formula for belief. It is based on trust and faith. It is understanding the Cross was not the easy way; it was the only way. It got the attention of early believers, and continues to do so today.

We learn from the painful Holy Week journey of Christ. *“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42 NIV)*. Jesus knew what he was getting into, but he did it anyway. For me. For you.

This is not a message meant to bring us down, but to remind us that sometimes what we want most in life lies on the other side of pain, of discipline, of doing the hard thing. Resurrection Day is joy-filled and cause for celebration, but remember what it took to get there. Love beyond reason, faith beyond fact.

God never said, “Believe in me and everything in your life will be perfect.” He did say, *“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV.*



## Day 11

### ***Healing in forgiveness***

*Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ~ Colossians 3:13 NIV*

Forgive and forget. The forget part is hard. We mull over disappointment, wrongs done to us, wrongs we have done to others. We slog through the murky depths of disappointment. Our focus finds its way to yesterday to the point we don't give attention to the joys and opportunities of today.

It isn't easy to forget, but it is something we must do to make a difference for ourselves and for those around us. Fears keep us from so much. Anger nails us to the floor of discouragement. Let go and let God is not a panacea; it is faith come alive.

God does not forget us. We are crafted with as much thought as the earth and sky. We are unique. Formed for a purpose. Given breath and life. Give back in the ways you can and leave behind that which holds you back. Forgiveness is healing; it is restorative; it is joyful.



## Day 12

### ***In the valley***

*Yea, though I walk through the shadow of death, thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ~ Psalm 23:4 KJV*

Why must today hurt so much? We all have days when we don't think we'll make it through breakfast much less through the rest of the day. To deny our hurt, loneliness, pain, isolation, anger, discontent or whatever name you put to your well of sadness or sorrow, you can't help but feel alone in the pit.

No one understands. How can they? Your pain is your own. No one else can bear it.

When that is the pit you are in, tell God, because you are right in this, no one understands, possibly because in your pain you can't articulate what you feel, nor do you believe anyone will listen. God will. He won't argue with you, tell you everything is going to be okay, offer empty platitudes. He will just listen, even if you shout and tell Him your mess is His fault. He listens. *Yea, though I walk through the shadow of death (hurt, loneliness, pain, isolation, anger, discontent\*) thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)* God is present.

Enter into his protection. Vent your pain. He listens. When *you* listen closely, He may lead you to those who will hear you, to those whose life commitment is to give you a sounding board, a friend a counselor, a minister. Help doesn't end with God; it begins with God.

*\*Paraphrase mine.*



## Day 13

### ***Give me understanding***

*Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart. ~ Psalm 119:34 NIV*

When we have no purpose other than to please ourselves, we are alive but lifeless. When we seek to understand others, we find ways to help those God puts into our paths. We reach out, and grow inside. We look up, and our horizons expand. We bow our heads in prayer and know we have made a connection, the most important connection of all. When we look to our neighbor and try to understand them we see God's plan at work in all people everywhere.

In Matthew 22:38-40, Jesus said: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

Who is your neighbor? Who is my neighbor? It may be the person next door or it can be someone a world away.



Day 14

## ***The gift of today***

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens... ~ Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV*

When I was a child my family lived in southeastern New Mexico, where it rarely snowed. Wintery weather was a delightful surprise. I remember coming out of church on a Sunday morning with a pristine layer of white covering everything. The overlay muffled sound and made me think the whole world had gone silent and peaceful, fresh and new.

When I think about those yesteryear gifts of winter, I think of how God works in my life. He muffles the noise of discontent and negativity and makes all things new and fresh. He covers me with forgiveness, and creates in me a renewed spirit, one able to be compassionate and merciful, eager for the next amazing moment along the journey that is life.

~§~

Day 15

***Because He has promised***

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

~ *Philippians 4:13 KJV*

There have been too many times  
when I thought I could do “it”  
– whatever “it” was at the time –  
all on my own.

And yet I know  
anything I am able to do  
comes from placing  
the outcome in God’s hands.  
Blessings abound,  
courage is a mantle when I need it,  
gifts are abundant,  
all because of God’s generosity and strength.  
With Him I am able.

I *can* do all things for which he has prepared me,  
not because of my abilities,  
but because he has promised  
to be with me in all times and places.  
I am thankful beyond measure.

~§~

*Day 16*

## ***Be glad***

*Be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead! ~ 1 Peter 1:6 KJV*

Treat every day as more than *everyday*.

Make it count.

Reach out to someone in need. Lift them up.

Give God thanks and praise.

Look for the joy in life.

There are countless reasons to be glad  
and few reasons to be sad.

Why let the sad and bad times rule?

God has a plan.

We have a purpose.

Embrace this truth.

Make choices to celebrate and give thanks.

No one has a perfect life;

we do have perfect moments.

Gifts of grace.

Melodies of joy.

Whispers of peace.

~§~

## Day 17

### ***Encourage one another...***

*And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:14 NIV*

It is good to encourage others. By doing so, we are encouraged. When we reach out to help someone, we understand that at some point we, too, will need help. Find the good in your neighbor. Look for the talents in your friends. Tell someone how much you appreciate them. Draw strength from being kind and patient. Kindness builds character.

You never know when your encouragement will make a difference in the life of another person. Anne Mansfield Sullivan did not give up on Helen Keller. She encouraged her, instructed her, and brought discipline into her life. She gave Helen hope, which put an end to her unruly behavior and gave her a future. Helen overcame her limitations. She was world renowned for her advocacy on behalf of the blind. “We are never really happy until we try to brighten the lives of others,” she wrote. Helen understood, perhaps better than most, that encouragement of others has a personal benefit to the one who gives it.



Day 18

## ***Hope and Faith***

*For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ~ Romans 5:10 NIV*

God loves me, not because I have deserved it or earned it, but because he is loving and compassionate. God's love was revealed in the most earth-shaking way imaginable. Through Christ's sacrifice, I am assured of pardon. Through Christ's resurrection, I have hope.

All the realities of life that trouble me are as nothing before the Lord. I have made countless mistakes. Made many foolish choices. Been irresponsible and thoughtless. Through it all I have never doubted God's love for me. I may have questioned, "Why me, why now?" but I have always known – and know now – that I am forgiven, redeemed, and saved.

His grace abounds in this broken world and in my sometimes fractured life.

~§~

## Day 19

### ***First choice***

*But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. ~  
Jeremiah 17:7 KJV*

God is not the last resort; He is the first and best choice. The only choice. That's who Jesus turned to in his darkest hours.

Knowing he was bound for an unspeakably painful and barbaric death, Jesus gave hope to his followers and strength to his trusted disciples. They would fail him; he did not fail them.

He was made strong through faith in God's plan. We are made strong by God's profound love. We have hope because we know we are redeemed by grace, not because we have earned it, but because God loves us.



## Day 20

### ***Help, thanks, wow***

*This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. ~ Psalm 118:24 (NIV)*

Glory hallelujah! We have every reason to rejoice and be thankful. When we enter each new day with an attitude of optimism, life is sweeter. In Anne Lamott's book, *Help, Thanks, Wow, The Three Essential Prayers*, she encourages the simple approach to prayer. It doesn't take a deluge of words to get your message across to the one and only present and loving God. Ask for help when you need it, give thanks all the time and don't forget to acknowledge the "wow" moments with awe and praise.

Sunrise is a wow moment. Rejoicing in the gift of life is a wow moment. The birth of a child, the touch of a mother, the strength of a father, these are all Wow! moments. Life is full of wow moments.

The heart-stopping, heartbreaking moments come as well, but not in the abundant way the wow moments come. When the difficult times do come, we can still rejoice in the Lord for he is standing with us. *"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."* Psalm 23:4. NIV

Rejoice. What an awesome word. It means to be happy and to make someone else happy. You can't beat that as a way of life.



Day 21

## ***Amazing grace***

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ~ Colossians 3:12*

Among the chosen. How awesome is that? God in his glory, fully realized in every sense of the word, powerful beyond imagining, greater than anything human minds can conceive, creator and author of all of life, in all the cosmos, God has chosen to love me.

I am struck speechless at the idea of it, knowing full well I haven't deserved this love and have at times forgotten that it is there, holding me up, protecting me in the storms of life, taking it as my due.

God's love for me is singular. It is based on his infinite love for his creation: me. The thing is, although it is singular to me, it is also singular to every person who calls upon his name. His choice. His love revealed in the form of a wee babe who grew to be a teacher, friend and redeemer.

Amazing grace beyond words.

~§~

Day 22

## ***Music of life***

*The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17 (NKJV)*

Think about that for a second. God will rejoice over you with gladness. If that doesn't make you smile I don't know what will. All the rumbling in your mind, he will quiet that and give you peace.

Can you hear him singing? The very thought of it takes my breath away. Have I taken time to listen? Have I stopped worrying long enough to know God is greater than anything that comes my way?

God wants the best for us. When we listen for his instruction we are blessed to know his love for us is greater and more influential than the trappings of life. Peace comes in knowing he is with us in the day and in the night. He is with those we love and he is in the midst of every battle and every quiet moment. He knows us better than we know ourselves, and he loves us anyway. Hear him singing?



Day 23

## Love

*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ~John 15:12-13 NIV*

We are forgiven and redeemed, not because of anything we have done, but because our Savior loved us enough to lay down his life.

The story does not end there. He is alive, risen from the dead and present with us all the time. How this awesome thing can be, is beyond my poor ability to understand. All I know is that my trust is in him. My life is in his hands.

The veil of fear that tries to separate us from this fact is torn into by the power and strength of God's promise, unassailable and evident in all of life. We don't understand, but we live by faith knowing his plan, beyond our comprehension, is the greatest plan of all.

No, we are not puppets being strung along by life, we are gifts to those around us dancing to the tune of his freedom and grace.

~§~

Day 24

## *Trust*

*Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ~ Galatians 3:23-28 NIV*

Faith is a synonym for trust. In Christ we are children of God, no matter who we are or what background we come from. We can trust in His promise to be with us always and in every circumstance.

Perhaps better stated, our every day is a gift from God, and our relationship with him – living with trust – will shape who we are.

We have that scary thing called free will, and when we exercise it in opposition to God's will, we create messes of our own doing. It is God's promise to be with us through these troubling times.

Sometimes life deals us a knock upside the head with tragedy or disappointment. That too, is life, and God promises to be with us in those times as well - no matter who we are or where we are from.

~§~

Day 25

## *Temptation*

*No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*  
~ 1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV

Temptation is a beast. Not always a ravening beast, one that is evident and huge, jerking you around with relish; sometimes it is far more subtle, a gentle nudge here and there to compromise your values and your morals.

C.S. Lewis in *The Screwtape Letters* pointed out the gradual slide into sin. “You are anxious to be able to report spectacular wickedness,” Screwtape says to Wormwood. “It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing... Indeed, the safest road to Hell is the gradual one.”

God’s promise is the trump card. When we know the beast is at our doors, we know God is there ahead of it, ready to stand with us to overcome.



*Day 26*

## ***Stand firm***

*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. ~ 1 Corinthians 16:13*

What does God want of us? Humankind has been pondering that for age upon age. Much has been written to bring understanding to God's word and to shine a light on his purpose for us. Sometimes we get it right; sometimes we get it wrong.

There has been a lot of blood spilled in the name of God and much Bible pounding to support the notion that God is a vengeful being who chooses up sides in conflict. This verse sums up what God wants of us: to be on guard against false feelings and faddish ideas; to be firm in our faith, trusting in his guiding mercy; to be courageous in the face of ideologies and religions that rip at peace and destroy kindness, hope and integrity; to be strong when we are tempted.

We can do these things because God is with us. He has provided for our salvation. We are redeemed. Christ is our shield and defender.



*Day 27*

## ***Get busy***

*Be doers of the word and not merely hearers. ~ James 1:22*

Sunday celebrations of our faith are wonderful experiences. The music, the interchange with church friends (who are frequently not our, you know, friends away from church), the (mostly) inspiring sermons, the food and coffee at fellowship after church; it is (usually) uplifting and smile-making... except then it's not.

Either way, at the end of the day we can say, "I went to church," as though it's something on our check list we're able to mark off so we can move on to the busy week ahead, forgetting like they never happened the lessons we learned on Sunday.

I wish I could say that doesn't describe me, but too often it does. I love the people in my church family, but other than church events I hardly see them. They're not among my "going out to dinner and meeting for coffee" group. Those are other people, who go to other churches... or not.

There are many opportunities to live my faith. I want to trust in the Lord to open doors for me to be a "doer of the word" not just a hearer. I want to celebrate my Lord all the time by the way I live my life every day, not just on Sunday.

~§~

Day 28

## ***Persevere***

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ~ James 1:2-4*

Perseverance. Not one of my natural virtues. I don't stick with much of anything. When it gets too hard, I find excuses to quit. I move on to something else that isn't so hard, until it becomes hard, too.

I am thankful in all things – I think – and am grateful for God's presence in my life all the time, even in the tough times, but inasmuch as it is possible, I avoid tough times.

Is my faith weak because I do not trust God to finish his work in me through the work he gives me to do?

My fear cascades, and while I don't appear fearful, I fear that fear is getting in the way. Are perseverance and faith equal partners? Ah ha! Faith may very well be the mind muscle required to persevere.

~§~

Day 29

## ***After Sunday***

*Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life. ~ 1 Timothy 6:12*

Is faith the result of fighting the good fight? I've always thought of faith as something that you have, not something you must fight for. And yet...

Think about all that happens in life that erodes faith. Think about the times when you believe God has forgotten you or gotten tired of listening to you or given up on you. None of those things are true and never will be, but you have given up the fight to be faith-filled. Instead your faith is weakened because you give up on God and yourself.

We are in a fight against the negative forces that weigh on each of us. The enemy is relentless. Believe this – faith is a buttress that will deflect the attacks of despair, negativity, fear, frustration and anger, forces that try to erode that faith.

You are not alone in this fight; you have the assurance of God's presence every step of the way.

~§~

*Day 30*

## ***Anxiety***

*Cast all your anxiety on Him for He cares for you. ~ 1 Peter 5:7*

Worry today about what might happen tomorrow and you give your life away to what *might* happen. Live what is; it's right in front of you. Living in fear and anxiety robs you of peace.

I read somewhere that ninety percent of what we worry about never happens. Ninety percent. What a waste of the gift of time!

When we are anxious about something, we spend time staring into the darkness at night, thinking about all that might go wrong. Try instead to think of all that might go right. I am blessed in ways I can't even articulate, simply because I am surrounded by God's love and generosity. That doesn't mean there aren't worrisome realities, but those realities pale in comparison to the great gift of God's love and mercy, and the saving grace of my Savior and Redeemer Jesus Christ.

I am forgiven. God is present.

~§~

## Day 31

# *Trust*

*Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and has made the Lord his hope and confidence. ~ Jeremiah 17:7*

How do I make trust an active verb every day? Trust equals hope. Trust equals confidence. Trust equals power.

There are countless examples of people overcoming great obstacles because they had trust in God and in themselves. They climb mountains and beat new paths. Their ideas and plans become realities. When confronted with impossible odds, they figure out a way over, under, around or through them. Trust drives the persistent among us to go one step forward and three steps back if necessary. They do not give up.

Trusting in God's promise gives confidence. When the onslaught of the inner naysayer is trying to hold you back telling you you're not good enough, smart enough, talented enough, trust blossoms into confidence. Trust reminds you of all the ways you have prepared and worked to get where you are.

Trust in God builds you up; it never tears you down. Helen Keller, blind and mute from birth, said, "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."

Trust is a powerful form of hope and confidence. First you must believe.



Sharon's website  
[www.oneroofpublish.com](http://www.oneroofpublish.com)

## Other Books by Sharon

### BLIND CURVE

*Ada left home to get away from betrayal. She returns to escape failure. Can she move forward and leave the past behind? Can the handsome nerd-turned -hunk from next door help her find the way past failure and guilt? Can she reconcile the past with the present and find peace?*

*E-Book format*

### FINDING FAMILY

*What happens to a widow whose quiet life is interrupted when her estranged niece, Annie, arrives on her doorstep with three children and a dog of questionable breeding in tow? From the moment they blow into her life on a windy fall night, and Krank the dog pees on her carpet, Lilly Irish begins a life-changing journey. Funny and heart warming.*

*E-Book format.*

### TWENTY FIVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS AN ADVENT JOURNEY

*Rejoice in the birth of Christ. Words and phrases that evoke this time of expectant waiting for the Child of Wonder inspired each poem. The accompanying scripture reflects on the promises of old, when prophets spoke of a Son, a King, a birthplace, a promise.*

### FOG ISLAND

*In this 26th Century action/adventure, Jake Casey discovers his murdered friend's body and is thrown into a tangle of intrigue and lies.*

*E-Book format*