

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?  
I was lost, but He brought me in  
Oh His love for me, oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free. Oh, is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me, His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me  
Yes, He died for me

Who the Son sets free, Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am  
In my Father's house, there's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

I am chosen, not forsaken, I am who You say I am  
You are for me, not against me, I am who You say I am

Hillsong Worship

**Happy Birthday Kathryn  
& Richard (both 18th March)**



Father God, we bring you our  
praise and worship today, thank  
you for all the blessings you  
pour into our lives each day.

Today we are especially  
thankful for the roles that  
caring mums and women have  
played in our lives, whilst also  
mindful that associations of  
motherhood can be painful for  
many. We ask that you would  
especially comfort those for  
whom today is a reminder of  
loss or rejection, please bring  
your love and peace to these  
places in our lives.

Thank you Jesus, Amen.



**Psalm 150**

- 1 Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.
- 2 Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.
- 3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,
- 4 praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe,
- 5 praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

I recently spent some time going through some of the many verses in the bible that talk about **setting your heart and mind on things**. There are loads of them, but today we're going, to pick out 3. To set your mind and heart on something is to make a deliberate choice to go after something that's really important to you and it's a choice that's made very deliberately, on purpose with a determination that whatever comes against this, I am not going to give up.

As I was thinking about Mother's Day, it struck me that many women are usually very good at setting their hearts on things with great determination until it happens. I suspect that many of you men may have experience in that area if your wife or partner has set her heart on something particular, usually it's best just to go with it, if want a quiet life that is!!

For this service, I have picked out just 3 verses that talk about deliberate decisions to set oneself to something.

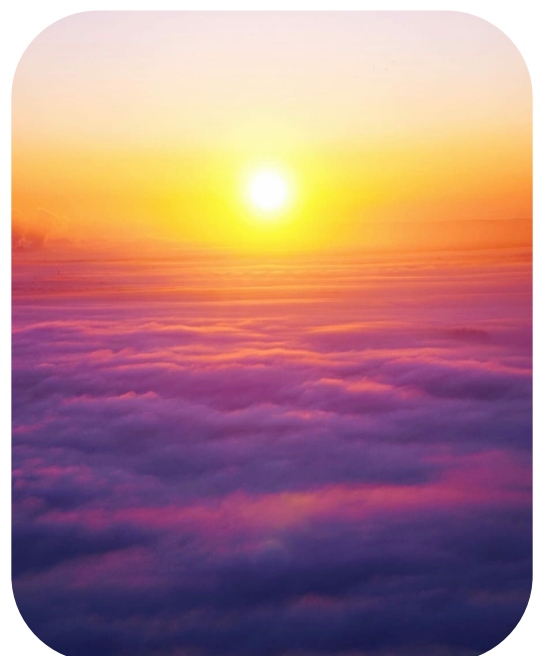
**Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; Psalm 84**

Set your heart on pilgrimage: Blessed are those who set their heart on living out their personal journey, discovering their God given purpose and drawing from his strength. The verse goes on to say that as those people travel through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs. Valley of Baca translates as Valley of Tears. The places of weeping and tears can become places of resource if we are walking through them with God; fertile places for future growth. Places where we gain wisdom and learn personal lessons that become woven into our life story and bring about blessing in some unexpected way.



**Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.**  
**For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:2**

Set your heart and your mind on things above. As we face our personal challenges, our valley of tears, we can pre-decide to set our hearts on the bigger picture. The picture beyond our capacity to fully understand at present, where God is in control weaving every situation and every life into a much bigger story that is without limitations



As we pre-decide to set our minds on things above, we are setting ourselves to respond to the different landscapes of our personal life story with the values that operate and the way things work within The Kingdom of God. We pre-decide to foster those attitudes from above like faith, thankfulness, forgiveness, compassion, standing up for the weak and vulnerable, speaking out on behalf of those who have no voice.

So, we set our hearts to walk the personal journey that God has planned for us in relationship with him. We set our minds on the values from above which layer into us and flow out in our life style.

**Therefore, with minds that are ready for action and self controlled, set your hope fully on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.**

**1 Peter 1:13**

**We set our hope** fully on the grace to be given to us when Jesus returns, our hope fully set in expectation of the grace of God at the end of the day, covering our lives, our actions, the mistakes we made, the things we didn't fully understand. Grace that is greater than all our sin.

Why is it possible to even have such a hope? Because there was a day over 2000 years ago when Jesus Christ, the Son of God **set his face** to go to Jerusalem where he would be falsely accused and crucified. Even knowing this and all the horrors in the valley he was about to walk through, he had set himself 100% to this personal journey, his personal story, demonstrating fully what a life looks like that has its heart and mind set on things above and determined to walk in his destiny to the end, knowing that his valley of tears would become a place of hope, new life, joy and restoration for the world as he broke the power of death through his resurrection, we now live in the promise and expectation of resurrection from the dead into a world restored and made new when Jesus returns.

As it's a day for celebrating the women, we're going to look really quickly at 3 women in the Bible, 2 whom were great examples of setting their hearts and minds in places that brought life and future blessing, and 1 who chose to set her heart on something really destructive in which she lost out big time on a massive opportunity in her life.

There are so many inspirational women in the Bible, but here's one that I really admire personally. Her name is Deborah and she lived about 1150 BC in Israel in the period before the country had a Monarchy and was ruled instead by Judges. Deborah was appointed by God as a Judge and Prophetess at a time in history when these roles were more commonly given to men and she ruled as a great leader for about 60 years.



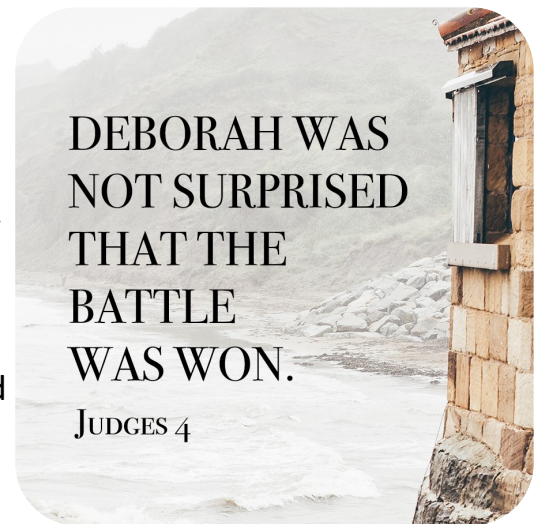
She judged the people according to the laws of God and heard from God, speaking out his messages to the people, famously holding her court under The Palm Tree of Deborah.

Deborah set her heart on living out the story and plans God had for her life, using her experiences and gifts to bring wise judgements as a good ruler. She was living in troubled times ruling over a nation that was paralysed with fear, due to the 20 years of oppression by the vicious commander of a foreign army named Sisera, but Deborah was not caught up in fear like everyone else because her mind was set on things above and her faith and trust was in God.

When God told her to instruct Barak, the leader of the Israelite army to go to battle against Sisera, she took God at his word and didn't flinch even though Sisera had a formidable army that included 900 iron chariots. She fully expected that God would deliver on his promise to give the enemy into their hands, and so she was not surprised when the battle was won! She courageously accompanied them into battle because Barak refused to go unless she went with them and in the face of his faltering courage she says... "Of course I'll go with you. But understand that

with an attitude like that, there'll be no glory in it for you. God will use a woman's hand to take care of Sisera." A courageous woman, a heart set on walking in her destiny, a mind set in faith to trust that God will do what he says he will do, and her hope set in God coming through for her. You can read the story of Deborah in Judges 4 & 5.

Our second woman can be found in the New Testament in [Mark 5: 25-34](#). We don't know her name or much of her personal life story, but we do know about a "valley of tears" experience that she had been going through. She had been experiencing a hideous health condition, experiencing really heavy bleeding for 12 years. She had bankrupted herself paying for different doctors and treatments which had all failed, with no change in her condition. Her condition classed her as an unclean woman and she wasn't even allowed to go out! Her only hope is Jesus. She hears that Jesus is in the area, and sets her mind on the bigger picture, a better story, believing in faith that this man who claimed to be the Son of God come to set people free, had the power to heal her. Her mind was so set that she was prepared to defy the rules, even though she was not allowed to go out, go to the temple or touch another person. She wrestled through the crowd to get to Jesus, set on the hope that if she could just touch the very edge of his clothing, she would be healed.



Jesus felt the power go out from him and recognised her faith, and healed her to walk out her destiny from a place of restoration. Another inspirational woman whose place of pain became a place of healing and who refused to settle for anything less than God's personal intervention in her circumstances.

Our third woman is called Herodias, a princess of the Herodian dynasty during the time of the Roman Empire. Her life story is taking place in New Testament times and she is contemporary with John the Baptist in the early days of the ministry of Jesus. She was initially married to Philip the half brother of Herod Anti-



ipas, but Herod has divorced his wife in order to marry his half brother Philip's wife and she is living in Herod's palace with her daughter Salome. John the Baptist is calling out this marriage as adultery and Herodias is nursing a grudge, her mind set **not** on things above, but on revenge. One day as King Herod is throwing a lavish banquet he calls Herodias's daughter Salome to come and dance for them and is so pleased with her performance, he promises to give her anything she wants, even up to half his kingdom. Wow, that is a massive offer, an opportunity of a life time! Salome goes to her Mother and says, "What shall I ask for?" Instead of taking hold of this amazing opportunity, Herodias burning with hatred and resentment and nursing a huge grudge misses the opportunity and sets her mind on revenge as she instructs her daughter to say, "Bring me the head of John the Baptist on a plate". Herod forced to save face in front of his guests and deliver on his promise had no choice but to give her what she had asked for.

Did you know that God has a purpose and plan for your life and longs to be in relationship with you as your Father.

Do you know how much he loves you and the incredible promises over your life for you to claim and walk in? Why not set your heart on walking out your personal life story with God, knowing his power and his presence as you walk through the valleys, setting your mind in faith that God is working all things together for good, and confidently setting your hope on the grace that he pours over your life as you learn to walk with him on a journey of restoration and wholeness?

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all now, and evermore. Amen**