

GLORIA GAYNOR

I WILL SURVIVE

A JOURNEY OF FAITH, HOPE,
AND A MAGNIFICENT SECOND ACT



10 DAY DEVOTIONAL

GLORIA GAYNOR: I WILL SURVIVE is the story of a Disco legend who, for five decades, has inspired millions with her words I WILL SURVIVE, but only understood the lyrics when she hit rock bottom at age 65. With unwavering faith and the spark of new dreams, the film follows Gaynor as she embarks on an unexpectedly difficult 8-year journey to write and record a gospel album, rising up after downfall. Going behind the mic, we discover a tale of the remarkable challenges that fueled Gaynor's music and path to stardom, and her present-day message empowering audiences to believe it's never too late to transform dreams into reality. "Gloria Gaynor: I Will Survive" celebrates reinvention, the power of faith, and a magnificent second act.

"I am finally at a place of joy and self-fulfillment, and I am ready to share my secret to not only 'surviving but thriving' with the world."

— Gloria Gaynor

Watch the I WILL SURVIVE trailer [HERE](#).

To find out where you can view I WILL SURVIVE, visit GloriaGaynorIWillSurviveMovie.com.

Day One - Amazing Grace

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in your weakness".

- 2 Corinthians 12:9

When my producer and I began to write the songs for my gospel album, "Testimony," he came up with the idea to redo a couple of standard gospel songs. I have loved the song "Amazing Grace" since I first remember hearing it as a child. We decided to do it, but update it and make it more personal for me.

As we were working on the lyrics, I began thinking of subject matter, and began to ponder in what ways the Lord had shown me His grace. I remembered the scripture in which Paul says He was suffering what he called a "thorn in the flesh." Paul said when he asked the Lord to relieve him of the problem the Lord had responded, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in your weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9a) Then what came to my mind was how I felt years before, when I awoke sick with a bad cold one morning.

Feeling terrible, I got out of bed, but could not get ready to go to work. I was weak, had a fever and chills and was aching all over. After calling my job to say I was sick and couldn't come in, I went to my bathroom looking for something to relieve the symptoms and make me feel better. I found a name brand cold remedy that I knew to be very good and began to take it. By that evening I was feeling somewhat better. I took a dose before going to bed.

I awoke in the morning feeling soooo much better. I got up, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, and got ready for work. When I arrived at work, everyone was surprised to see me. I just said, “that stuff works miracles.” Well, right after lunch, the medicine suddenly wore off and I felt so weak and so sick that I wondered how I had ever made it to work. I was sent to the nurse and immediately back home. It took me nearly a week to completely get over that cold. As I lay in bed recuperating wondering why I had felt so good the morning before, I began to pray. I asked the Lord why I had felt so good the day before although I wasn’t well. I thought, “I’ll bet that was the devil making me think I was well, just so he could snatch the rug out from under me and make me feel even worse.” But the Lord quickly made me understand this had been a lesson in how His grace works. You see, the medication I took had relieved all of my debilitating symptoms so that even though the illness remained, I was able to carry on as though the illness did not exist for me. This is how God’s grace works. This is what He did for Paul. Even though the Lord did not remove the thorn from Paul, as Paul would have liked, He gave him His grace so that Paul could carry on doing the Lord’s work unhindered. He’s done it for me time and time again and He’ll do it for you. We must remember that He says, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are my ways your ways, says the Lord”. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9) So when you’re going through something that is really getting you down, whether it is something physical, mental, financial, or whatever, the Lord might not immediately remove the problem as you would like Him to do, but by His grace, He will enable you to get through it. We must trust that the Lord is using the situation to work out something more that you are not aware of. Perhaps He’s building your character or preparing you for something else that will come your way down the line. We don’t know, but the key word is “trust” in the Lord, that He knows and wants only what’s best for you, and His grace is sufficient for you.

Day Two - Back On Top

Many of us can look back on our lives and see that we have been on a roller coaster ride. Many can say the ride does not seem to be over or even ending soon. It seems you barely make it past one crisis when another ensues. If it's not the children having some unexpected ailment, it's your spouse, or you. If it's not the loss of an expected job promotion, it's the company down sizing. If it's not a daughter wanting an expensive wedding, it's another getting a divorce. My mom used to say, "people say, if it's not one thing, it's another." But I say, "If it's not one thing, it's a dozen." The truth is, the enemy is always looking for and finding ways to mess with us. (1Peter 5:8) But, the Lord says, "they will fight against you, but they will not prevail, for I am with you. (Jeremiah. 1:19) Still, we become insecure when we don't feel close to the Lord. We become fearful when we know we are not in fellowship with the Lord. We can become ashamed to ask the Lord for help or protection. Some of us don't want to ask the Lord for help because we don't trust He will hear or answer us. The truth is we humans find it difficult to trust God because it is difficult to trust someone that we know cannot trust us. The remedy for that is to simply purpose in your heart to be trustworthy for the Lord. Purpose in your heart to walk in His will, Word, and ways to the best of your ability. Hear and heed His commands. Examine, not only your actions, but your intentions. When you are in fellowship with the Lord and find yourself in the enemy's crosshairs, you can call on the Lord without hesitation and trust that He will respond. I have often felt, the most frustrating thing about our Lord is that He is never in a hurry. There will be times when the Lord will not send relief right away because He is using the situation to stretch you or mature you. It might seem like He doesn't care or that He doesn't fully appreciate how you feel or what you're going through. But, He knows exactly what you're going through. Jesus suffered betrayal, jealousy, apprehension, and emotional and physical pain beyond anything any of us has suffered. This is why He says, He will perfect that which concerns you. (Psalms 138:8)

There is nothing that will build your faith and trust in God than when you have gone through a period of hardships and find that you can look back and see His unchanging hand has been on you, leading, guiding and protecting you through it all. Nothing is more encouraging than when you felt you were going down for the last time and the Lord pulled you out just when the enemy felt He had won. When you can see that His timing has been perfect and that He really does know exactly what He's doing, you feel secure in His care and find it easier to trust Him the next time. We need never be afraid and we should never be afraid, because what "the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self discipline". (2 Timothy 1:7) No weapon formed against you shall prosper. (Isaiah. 54:17)

Day Three - He Won't Let Go

I've been a committed Christian since 1982. I say I've been a committed Christian since then because, some time after I decided to get serious about God, I found a Baptismal certificate that reminded me that I had made that decision years before, when I was just 16 years old. But, after that incident, baptism and all that, I grew up. I allowed peer pressure and all the fun that young people like to indulge in take my mind off and my heart away from the Lord. I'm more than certain my story isn't unique. But, let me tell you, if you haven't had the experience, I think hearing someone else's is worthwhile.

We all think we're just taking a normal route through life, making our own choices and decisions about the things we should do, the people we would associate with, the places we should go, etc, etc. But as we enter the business world or whatever jobs or career we choose, our choices often become more plentiful and more diversified. We never suspect for a moment that we are being led, lured, even to a set of choices that certainly our parents would never have set before us. I am sure a similar scenario happens to everyone as we grow up and leave home and the constant guidance and protection of loving, caring, wise and understanding parents. We often think they are old, overbearing, strict, and no longer in touch with how times have changed. This is exactly how my life went until one day I found myself in a place where I knew I was out of my depth. I needed advice from someone who was wise, experienced, and cared about me and my future. Unfortunately, my mom had passed away when I was 25 years old and she had been my rock. After a few years on my own, I began to feel alone and insecure. I had gotten caught up in trying to be in with the in-crowd and since my rock, my foundation had been snatched out from under me, I was easy prey for that sly old adversary who the bible says "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." (1Peter 5:8)

I was being enticed to hang out with some people who indulged in drugs and since this was the norm for the "in crowd," I was expected to comply. A party was set for that evening and I did not want to go, but I was insecure and afraid that if I didn't, I would no longer be accepted in the group. As I prepared to go to the event, I came across my Mom's bible. I sat down in my bedroom and reflected on what my Mom would think about this crowd and my hanging out with them. I began to ponder not going and thinking, "if my Mom was here I wouldn't need these people. I thought, "Lord, why did my mother have to go". She was my best friend and I loved hanging out with her if none of my peers were around. It was as if she held my hand through every problem and concern, great or small. Once she was gone, I relied on the Lord to get me through. I literally felt like I had taken God by the hand so He could lead me from then on. Sitting there and thinking about that, I believed I heard the Lord in my spirit saying, "When you took my hand, I took yours too, and I never let go". Needless to say, I didn't go to the event that evening and rarely saw that group again. Praise God, I know that I serve a God who is my Jehovah Shamah. The Lord who is always near, for He Himself said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5b (NAS) I am reassured that, no matter what I'm going through, no matter

what decisions I am faced with, He will be there to guide me to safe pasture, away from any hurt, harm or danger. He has promised that, “when my mother and father forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me.” (Psalms 27:10) My mother and father had not forsaken me, but none-the-less they were gone, and I felt secure because I knew I could rely on my heavenly Father. I am assured that He’s got my heart and “He Won’t Let Go.”

Day Four - Joy Comes In The Morning

For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning. - Psalms 30:5

There have been times when things were going so badly for me that I thought, “is God mad with me?” I’m sure many others have felt the same way. We indulge in something we know we shouldn’t, and when things start to go wrong afterwards we think the Lord is angry with us or disappointed in us and punishing us. We beat ourselves up for a while, make all kinds of wild promises of how we’ll do better and how we surely won’t ever repeat that offense again. Or we make supplications to the Lord begging His pardon and claiming we’ve just had a moment of weakness and that the offense is not one we normally do, as if He doesn’t already know our penchant for it. Like little children caught with our hands in the cookie jar, we hope to shorten, if not quickly end, what we perceive as punishment for being naughty. And when it doesn’t stop immediately, we imagine He is still angry and still punishing us. We gather this all because we imagine the Lord thinks like we do, or like our parents do. But the Word says, He does not.

God loves us more than our parents ever could. He loves us with an undying, unchanging, unconditional love. He loves us enough to have sent His only begotten Son to die for us. God doesn’t want to punish us. We’re too good at punishing ourselves and harming ourselves and everything He created to bless us. God knows that the things He calls sin are harmful to us, that’s why He forbids us to do them. Sin grieves Him because of His love for us. So, even if we do something for which God determines punishment is warranted, His Word says, “His anger only lasts for a moment. His favor is for life; but joy comes in the morning. (Psalms 30:5) In other words, the Lord is quick to forgive us our sins, and begin blessing us again. The Lord, like any good parent, chastises those He loves. Proverbs 3:12 says: For whom the Lord loves He corrects.

Rather than experiencing fear during hard times, we need to remember the promises of our heavenly Father; that He is our Jehovah Shamah, the Lord who is always there. He goes before us, to clear and show us the way. He walks beside us to protect us from those who claim to be friends but are not, and to keep us from straying from the straight and narrow, safe and optimum path. He is our rear guard to protect us from sneak attacks. He covers us to protect us from attacks from spiritual forces in high places. He carries us when we are injured or weary and can’t make it on our own. When we are attacked, it is only because we somehow, either knowingly or unknowingly, have stepped off the straight and narrow and allowed ourselves to become vulnerable to the enemy’s attacks. If you remember and walk in all of that, it is certain, that joy will come in the morning!

Day Five - Only You Can Do

I have often been asked in interviews, what are you afraid of or what are your greatest fears. I have been afraid in my life many times. Most people have something they are afraid of. We are sometimes afraid of not having enough money to pay our bills. We are afraid of measuring up to someone we admire or look up to, or even someone we know looks up to us. We might be faced with the end of a marriage due to the death of a spouse and that might send us into a tailspin. The end a long term relationship, not knowing where to turn is also disconcerting. We are afraid of growing old, or being alone in the world. We are afraid of our bosses, of being fired, or laid off from our job, not being able to meet the mortgage or car payment, of getting some disease. There are countless things people find themselves afraid of. So often, there is no real foundation for our fears, but our enemy, Satan, has a way of bringing things to mind, setting up scenarios that cause worry and apprehension, panic and fear. He has prime subjects, I'm sure, people that become concerned about every little thing. I've never been that bad, but I did have my share of concerns and fears, some of which are mentioned above.

Any such situations and circumstances can dredge up uncertainty and fear. But, I have learned that not only is God our Father, but He is our comforter (John 14:16 KJV). He is our guide (Psalms 25:9). He is our provider (supplier) (Philippians 4:19) In reading and meditating on (Psalms 27) and 1Chronicles 29:11-12, I've learned I have no one and nothing to fear. God, my Father is omnipotent (Revelation 19:6), Omniscient (Hebrews 4:13), Omnipresent (Psalms 139:7-10), owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalms 50:10), Now, when faced with any such potentially fearful situation or circumstance, it takes me seconds to look the enemy right in the face and say..."You must not know who my Daddy is! But guess what? I do! And if you know what's good for you, you'd better go and find someone else to fool with, cause my Daddy does not play! (Isaiah 59:19b NAS) So my question to you is...who's your Daddy?

(1 Chronicles 29:11-12) Yours, O Lord is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty: for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In your hand it to make great and to give strength to all.

Day Six - Singin' Over Me

I love singing. It's my go to thing to do to lift my spirit, to celebrate good things happening to me or someone I care about, to express whatever happens to be on my mind at any given moment. It's my outlet that helps me to make it through the toughest of times and to commemorate all of the notable times in my life. Music has always been a mainstay in my family and in my life. Happy songs, sad songs, funny songs, romantic songs have all punctuated my life. I suspect I'm not alone in that. When I read in the Word how we're admonished to sing to the Lord (1Chronicles 16:9; 20:21; 29:30 and numerous times in the Psalms) about angels singing before the Lord, I recognize how important singing is to the Lord. I have observed that a baby loves the sound of his mother singing whether her voice is pleasant to anyone else or not. In the same way, I believe our voices singing praise and worship to the Lord is pleasant to him, no matter how others feel about our voices.

The Word encourages us to enter His gates with thanksgiving and to enter His courts with praise (Psalms 100:4). The easiest and most pleasant way to do that is with singing the hundreds, maybe thousands of songs written for just that purpose. We are encouraged to do this because He deserves all our praise and thanksgiving. God doesn't need our praise or thanks giving, but when we give it to Him, it reminds us who our Father is, how powerful our Father is, How merciful He is. We remember how gracious He is, how giving He is, how patient He is, how loving He is. It should make us feel safe, secure, at peace and incredibly loved and blessed. Rejoicing should come ever so easy. When we count our blessings, just having God as our heavenly Father, our comfort, guide, guard and governor makes us richer than we could ever have imagined or than money or things could ever make us. When I think of all this I realize that I am truly blessed beyond measure. Joy lives in my hearts and I have only to tap into it whenever I want to, especially when I remember His "Singing Over Me."

Day Seven - Talkin' 'Bout Jesus

He Himself (Jesus) took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.

- Matthew 8:17

My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 4:19

My producer and I wrote most of the songs for my Gospel album, "Testimony." The first song we wrote for the album is called, "Talkin' 'Bout Jesus". As we were working on the lyric, thinking of subject matter, I began to think through what the Lord has come to mean to me over the years and what I would say to someone if I was talking about Jesus. What would I say to someone who wanted to become acquainted with the Lord, or someone who asked me why I came to trust and believe in Him.

The first thing that came to mind was how I felt when I had had surgery on my spine after falling on stage during a show, years ago. I had awakened the next morning paralyzed from the waist down, and was taken to the hospital in an ambulance. They began to give me all kinds of tests and treatments trying to relieve my pain and diagnose the cause of my condition in an effort to find some permanent relief. I was, of course worried and fearful. Would I walk again, would I be physically normal. One day, one of the hospital workers came in with a tray full of books for patients to choose from. I chose a Bible. While reading it, I came across the scripture Matthew 8:17... He Himself took our sicknesses and bore our infirmities, and by His stripes ye are healed. I continued to read and meditate on that scripture. My faith began to grow and I began to understand and believe that although Christ was completely innocent He had lived and died to bare our sins, my sins, and that His baring those stripes had made provision for me to be healed. This meant to me that He would be there for me and for anyone who trusts in Him, to heal us of whatever ailments or injuries we might suffer. The more I pondered and meditated on this scripture, the more my faith grew. The Lord would heal me! If He chose to use the doctors as a vehicle, that was fine with me.

As the surgery healed and treatments worked, the stronger my faith became. As I approached the end of my hospital stay , I was been told that after my release from the hospital, I would be in a thick plastic back brace from under my arm pits down to my hips for support and to keep me from bending my spine for at least 3 months. One day, during a session of physical therapy, I was asked where I wanted to walk to. I said, the window down the hall. I had completely forgotten about the outside world. When I looked out at the busy street and normal life activities, once again concern crept in and fear tried to grip me.

I knew I couldn't go back to work until, God only knew when, and I was my only source of income. I'd had to give up my apartment. I had a hard time finding a place to put my belongings,

and most of all now, where would I go. My mom had passed away, my siblings were all married and had kids and more responsibility than they could handle already. I had a boyfriend, but I grew up in a time when “shacking up” as we called “living together out of wedlock,” was a big “no no.” It was hard not to feel down and out, approaching despair. But praise God, I had become familiar with another scripture...And my God shall supply all of your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19) So when I began to meditate on that scripture, I began to realize, recognize and rely on the belief that because of my faith in Christ Jesus, my God would supply all of my needs. I would not only be healed, but because of my faith, my God would lead, guide, guard, govern, comfort me, and calm my fears and supply all of my needs. And praise God, He did it all!

Jesus is there for anyone who dares to believe in His unconditional love. I've come to understand that He is not just a historical figure or a distant God figure, He is the second person of the God-head, which means He is more powerful than any devil in Hell or on earth. He did not die for me to allow me to be overcome by anything or anyone that I am not willing or careless to allow to overcome me. He is there for me, for us, 24/7, to fulfill every promise He has made to us. All we need to do is to ask and believe. I'm talking about love, talkin' about freedom, talkin' about the one you can depend on when you need'em, I'm talking mercy, grace and forgiveness, talkin' about, Hmph, good God Almighty, you need to hear this!!!

Day Eight - Precious Lord

Whenever someone close to us passes away, we are naturally saddened. When someone we know experiences the death of a loved one, we feel badly for them. We send them our condolences and if we're close enough to them, we visit and spend time trying to console them. Many of us Christians purpose to celebrate the life of our loved ones instead of mourning their death. When we do mourn the death of someone, we are more sorry for ourselves than the deceased. We are sorry that we will no longer have the pleasure of their presence in our lives. This is especially true of someone who is close to us, family or close friends, and even more so, if the deceased is a Christian. We believe that the deceased in the Lord are with the Lord, and consequently no longer suffering the cares and woes of life. If their lives were great, we still believe that being in the presence of the Lord is beyond any pleasure that we could ever have experienced on earth. We believe that if we lived a good Christian life and have done all we know how to identify and accomplish the purpose that God had for our lives, we will spend eternity in peace, and joy of His presence. This is indeed cause for celebration and reason to be relieved of any fear of death.

Death is not the cessation of life, it is only the cessation of earth life as we know it. We will all live forever. It is a simple matter of address. I imagine that when saints believe they are coming close to the end of earthly life, they begin to examine their lives to make sure they have done or are doing all they can according to God's will for their lives. When the clock starts winding down and time seems short, we become tired and begin to feel our vulnerability more than in our youth. We need and ask God for a bit more help to make it through our latter days. This is something we should do throughout our lives, not just when we feel we're running out of time. The truth is we can never live this life as God would have us to on our own. (John 15:5) We always need the guidance of the Lord to help us reach our highest levels of productivity and potential. We need to periodically assess our activities and the things we spend our time on to make sure we are not wasting time, because once we've wasted it, we can never get it back. If we want to fulfill God's will and purposes for our lives, He will make sure we have everything we need to accomplish just that. When we have learned to love, trust, obey and reverence His will, Word and ways, we have His joy as our strength. (Nehemiah. 8:10) We have the assurance that He will never leave us or forsake us. (Hebrews. 13:5) He is indeed our "Precious Lord."

Day Nine - Man Of Peace

Be careful, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. - 1 Peter 5:8

There are so many scriptures in which God's people are told to "fear not." Even though the enemy of our souls is constantly at work seeking to lead us away from God, to cause us some kind of emotional, mental, spiritual or physical harm, we can rest securely in the protection of the Lord. So, on one hand we are told to be vigilant, but on the other hand we are told to "fear not." There is a huge difference between fear and a healthy respect for inherent danger. We are told to have that respect for the enemy because he is more powerful than we are even though his power does not begin to measure up to the power and protection of our God. We have to be vigilant to walk with the Lord, and not to unwittingly remove ourselves from under His protection and guidance.

We can often become like teenagers, thinking that we have become strong enough, smart enough, or good enough that we no longer need the protection of our father. But the enemy is not only strong, but patient and spends time learning our weaknesses with plans to use them against us when we least expect it and are least capable of warding off an attack. He and his minions work over time to keep us from receiving the blessing sent to us by the Lord. He will entice us to go against God's laws for comfort, convenience and instant gratification disguising the actions as harmless fun or pleasure. He will entice us to be lazy, careless, thoughtless, hateful, and mean, retaliating against people for perceived injustices, even though the Lord says, "vengeance is mine" (Deuteronomy 32:35). The devil will use unwitting people in our lives to give us seemingly good advice. Sometimes that advice is directly opposed to what the Lord would have us do. The enemy will use people in our lives to encourage or incite us to react to all kinds of insignificant words and deeds. Often in a moment of vulnerability, when we are sad, or tired, or not feeling particularly charitable, we find it necessary to react to these things in ways that are less than Christlike. Sometimes, we are tempted to move to fix things we have already asked the Lord to handle for us but we become impatient and the enemy convinces us that God didn't hear us, or He doesn't care. Daniel 10:13 speaks of one of Satans cohorts hindering the Angel Gabriel from getting to Daniel with help from God. Of course Gabriel was able to get past him and do God's bidding for Daniel, but this kind of thing is obviously not uncommon from the enemy of our souls. We need to be aware and constantly in prayer and walking close to God purposing to walk in His will, Word and ways so as to not to become impatient and unwittingly remove ourselves from His protection, guidance, care and provision. We need to pray to the Lord for discernment for weighing advice from anyone. We need to be sure that any advice or council we accept and act on whether personal or professional is from Godly council, because it is true that sometimes Satan comes as a "Man of Peace."

Day Ten - Day One

Ephesians 5:25- 26 Talks about Christ washing the church (members) with the Word.

There are days in all of our lives when we all feel overwhelmed with the cares and woes of our own lives and those of the world around us. With the political climate of our country being in utter turmoil these days and the fact that our country seems to also have lost it's moral compass, we all find ourselves dismayed from time to time. Maybe you're having trouble in your marriage. Perhaps your child seems to be doing poorly in school for no apparent reason, or perhaps you are doing poorly in school and having a hard time with some subject. Maybe you're suffering from some physical problem you nor your doctor can seem to get a handle on. It doesn't matter what the problem or concern is, all we need added to our civic concerns is some personal problems to send us to the Lord begging for help. It causes us to want to revert back to a time when all seemed right with the world because we knew the Lord had forgiven us of our sins, loved us and would rescue us from all hurt, harm and danger.

When the problems we face are more than we can handle on our own, we can still rest assured that the Lord will rescue us. He says He plans a good future for each of us. (Jeremiah 29:11) He says He will never leave you or forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5) He will supply all our needs. (Philippians. 4:19) And when you are dismayed about anything, we are well advised to ask the Lord how to handle it. (James. 1:5) We are right to ask the Lord to take us back to the time in our relationships when we relied fully on Him to do anything and everything we can not handle on our own. He is ready, willing and waiting for us to come to Him as children know to go to their loving fathers for ever present help in time of need. (Psalms 4:1) We need only to trust in Him and He will give us the grace to rest assured that He will respond in love, mercy and provision.