

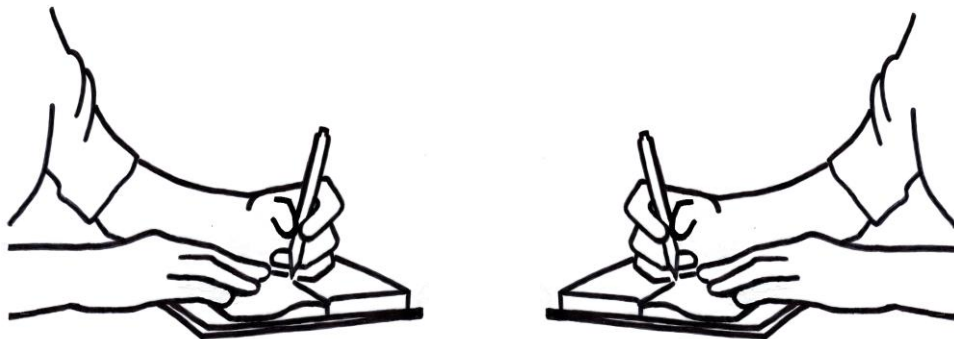
Striking Similarities

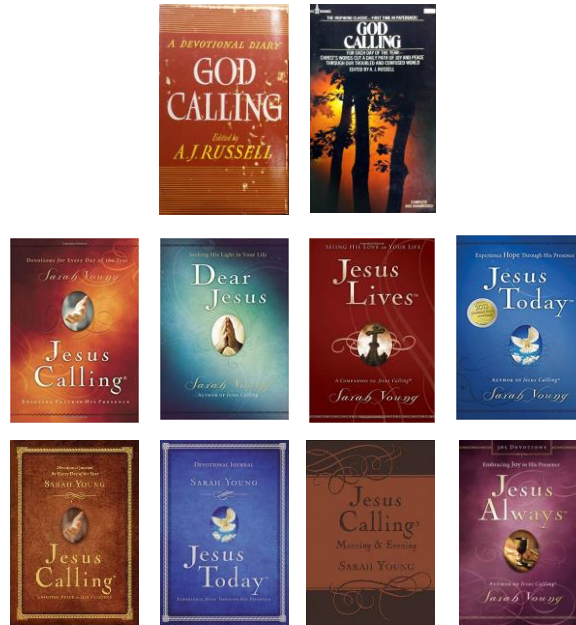
Between

God Calling

and the

Jesus Calling Series





Abbreviations for the Devotionals Used in this Comparison

A. J. Russell, editor:

<i>God Calling</i> (original)		1935
<i>God Calling</i> (Spire paperback edition)	GC	1972

Sarah Young, author of 8 books referred to in this document as:

The *Jesus Calling* Series

<i>Jesus Calling</i>	JC	2004
<i>Dear Jesus</i>	DJ	2007
<i>Jesus Lives</i>	JL	2009
<i>Jesus Today</i>	JT	2012
<i>Jesus Calling Devotional Journal</i>	JCDJ	2013
<i>Jesus Today Devotional Journal</i>	JTDJ	2014
<i>Jesus Calling Morning & Evening</i>	JCME	2015
<i>Jesus Always</i>	JA	2016

Striking Similarities Between *God Calling* and the *Jesus Calling* Series

“We felt all unworthy and overwhelmed by the wonder of it, and could hardly realize that we were being taught, trained and encouraged day by day by HIM personally, when millions of souls, far worthier, had to be content with guidance from the Bible . . . ”¹

— One of the “Two Listeners,” *God Calling* intro

*“I knew that God communicated with me through the Bible,
but I yearned for more.”²*

— Sarah Young, *Jesus Calling* original intro

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¹ A. J. Russell, ed., “The Voice Divine,” *God Calling* (Old Tappan, NJ: Spire Books, Fleming H. Revell Company, 1976), p. 12.

² Sarah Young, *Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2004), p. XII, (12 13 14 15 RRD 48 47 46 45 44).

Introduction

Sarah Young's best-selling 2004 book *Jesus Calling* and its sequels appear to be sound, biblical devotionals because of their familiar Christian language, occasional orthodox statements, and abundant scripture references. However, a detailed study reveals remarkable parallels with the best-selling 1935 devotional *God Calling*, a book "replete with denials of biblical teaching."³

A few similarities are apparent at first glance: the text is written as if "Jesus" is speaking directly to the reader, the narrative voice is soothing and reassuring, and the messages are sprinkled with scripture fragments. But beyond the structural parallels, there are considerable overlaps in content—the books share distinctive word choice, phrasing, and ideas throughout.

To establish how closely *God Calling* and the *Jesus Calling* series are linked, a detailed comparison is presented here. This booklet is a collection of 270 quotations from eight of Young's devotionals compared with quotations from *God Calling*. The quantity and detail of the similarities suggest that *God Calling* substantially influenced the writing of the *Jesus Calling* series.

In fact, the original introduction to *Jesus Calling* explicitly acknowledged an inspirational influence from *God Calling*. While this acknowledgment was redacted in later editions,⁴ the influence remains. The original introduction is presented along with the revised version in Appendix A.

How Is *God Calling* Problematic?

Listed below are a few *God Calling* passages that conflict with the Bible, together with opposing scriptures:

"I am actually at the centre of every man's being" (GC Mar 16)

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (1 John 4:15 ESV)

"I, who could command a universe—I await the commands of My children."
(GC Apr 03)

You are my friends if you do what I command you. (John 15:14 ESV)

"I need you more than you need Me." (GC Mar 29)

If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.
(Psalm 50:12 ESV)

"Know no theology. Know Me." (GC Nov 20)

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching
(2 Timothy 4:3 ESV)

"Trust in the Spirit Forces of the Unseen, not in those you see." (GC Oct 23)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God (1 John 4:1 ESV)

"Have you ever thought what it means to be able to summon at will the **God of the World?**" (GC Jun 25)

*In their case the **god of this world** has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.* (2 Cor. 4:4 ESV)

As a particularly obvious example, *God Calling* promotes the forbidden practice of communicating with the dead. Even though Deuteronomy 18:12 describes necromancers as "an abomination to the LORD," *God Calling* encourages the reader to turn to deceased loved ones for help:

Your loved ones are very safe in My Keeping. Learning and loving and working, theirs is a life of happiness and progress. They live to serve, and serve they truly do. They serve Me and those they love. Ceaselessly they serve. . . . How often mortals rush to earthly friends who can serve them in so limited a way, when **the friends who are freed from the limitations of humanity can serve them so much better, understand better, protect better, plan better, and even plead better their cause with Me.** You do well to remember your friends in the Unseen. Companying with them the more you live in this Unseen World the gentler will be your passing when it comes. (GC Sep 06)

More exposition can be found in references on p. 41, but these examples and many more show that *God Calling* presents a contrary message to that found in Scripture. Through the lens of the less nuanced *God Calling* devotional, the underlying message of Young's devotionals becomes more evident.

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In the following pages and in Appendix B, excerpts from *God Calling* are paired with excerpts from the *Jesus Calling* series. Quotation marks and initial ellipses are omitted for readability.

I. Similar Narrator Names

I am your Guide .	(GC Jan 24)
I am your Guide . . .	(JC Aug 04)
Christ is the Great Burden-bearer .	(GC Jan 04)
I am your burden-bearer .	(JC Jan 03)
To Me, your intimate Friend , all Power is given.	(GC Mar 22)
I am your intimate Friend , but I am also . . . infinitely great . . . !	(JL p. 248)
I AM your Friend. The Companion of the dreary ways of life.	(GC Jun 25)
I am a true Friend and Companion to you.	(JCDJ Dec 23)
the . . . Power of your Divine Brother . . .	(GC Oct 17)
You have an all-powerful Big Brother . . .	(JA May 11)
You are followers of the World's Greatest Giver .	(GC Aug 30)
Remember that I, the Giver , am infinitely greater than any gift . . .	(JC Mar 27)
My Love . . . is also the Love of a Lover . . .	(GC May 14)
I view you through the eyes of a passionate Lover .	(JL p. 134)
Live to bring others to Me, the only Source of Happiness . . .	(GC Dec 30)
I am the boundless, overflowing Source of delight in your life.	(JA Apr 17)
In each of these . . . you must see the God. The God-Friend . . .	(GC Jun 06)
I want you to rely confidently on Me . . . as the God-Friend . . .	(JA Apr 15)
Remember that you are in the hands of a Master- Gardener .	(GC Feb 10)
I am the Gardener , and I am working to rid your heart of . . . weeds.	(JC Apr 02)
Your Father is the God and Controller of a mighty Universe .	(GC Sep 21)
I am the Creator and Controller of the universe .	(JC Apr 16)
Each stone . . . the perfect pattern, designed by the Master Artist .	(GC Nov 11)
Concentrate on staying close to Me, the divine Artist .	(JC Jul 02)

II. Similar Phrases

1. *Jesus Calling* (2004)

The Light of My Presence is flung across the year to come . . .	(GC Jan 01)
The Light of My Presence is shining upon you.	(JC Jul 23)
The secret of success then is Life with Me.	(GC Sep 09)
That is the secret of success . . . your primary awareness is of Me.	(JC Oct 18)
Never heed the voices of the world —only the tender Divine Voice.	(GC Jun 05)
The voices of the world . . . Don't listen . . . listen to My voice.	(JC Mar 15)
Listen to a bird. Take the song as a message from My Father.	(GC Mar 11)
As you listen to birds calling . . . hear also My Love-call to you.	(JC Jul 25)
strain your ear to catch Heaven's music.	(GC May 09)
Heaven's bells . . . strain to hear those glorious bells . . .	(JC Oct 30)
Be channels both of you. My Spirit shall flow through . . .	(GC Jan 03)
be a channel of My loving Presence.	(JC Mar 31)
My Spirit flowing through you as a channel.	(GC Nov 07)
My Spirit flowing through you.	(JC Nov 18)
every detail of your lives is planned by Me . . .	(GC Dec 13)
Every detail of your life is under My control.	(JC Dec 12)
I can make My Home in the humblest heart.	(GC Apr 10)
I choose to make My humble home in your heart.	(JC Sep 21)
A comrade infinitely tender . . . with you.	(GC Aug 25)
I am infinitely tender with you.	(JC Jan 08)
I mean more than that to those who know Me intimately.	(GC Jun 12)
My ways are mysterious, even to those who know Me intimately.	(JC Jun 28)

Love takes the sting out of the wind of adversity .	(GC Nov 21)
Thankfulness takes the sting out of adversity .	(JC Nov 24)
ripples . . . joy-making . . . in ever-widening circles . . .	(GC Mar 10)
ripples of good tidings in ever-widening circles .	(JC Oct 14)
Life . . . cleanses, heals, restores, renews youth . . .	(GC Aug 04)
Light . . . cleansing, healing, refreshing, and renewing you.	(JC Mar 17)
irradiating all your lives with the warm sun of My Presence .	(GC Apr 06)
Enjoy the warmth of My Presence shining upon you.	(JC Sep 07)
that is the hardest, the restraint of the Divine Impatience . . .	(GC Sep 27)
Imagine the divine restraint this requires . . .	(JC Jun 08)
I am your Leader and your goal .	(GC Jun 09)
I am the goal of all your searching.	(JC Jan 19)
My Hand is laid upon your arm, a gentle Touch to point the way.	(GC Sep 29)
My Spirit . . . Yield to His gentle touch . . . His prompting.	(JC Mar 18)
Man's ecstasy is God's touch . . . Joy—Joy—Joy .	(GC Mar 14)
your Joy . . . meets My Joy . . . fireworks of heavenly ecstasy .	(JC Jul 08)
a thrill of Joy at the sense of the nearness of My Presence . . .	(GC May 30)
an awakened soul that thrills to the Joy of My Presence!	(JC Dec 06)
Seek to do less and to accomplish more , to achieve more.	(GC Aug 04)
I enable you to do less but accomplish more .	(JC Aug 29)
Man . . . can carry the weight of twenty-four hours —no more.	(GC May 29)
twenty-four-hour segments. . . . you can bear the weight of . . .	(JC Apr 11)
You must learn to take the calm with you . . .	(GC Feb 16)
you gradually learn to carry the stillness with you . . .	(JC Oct 30)
Learn My tender understanding and pardon of human frailty .	(GC Oct 18)
I understand human frailty . . .	(JC Apr 11)

2. *Dear Jesus* (2007)

- Work **for Me, with Me, through Me.** (GC Mar 06)
do it **for Me—with Me, through Me**, in Me. (DJ p. 71)
- release **the** imprisoned God-**Power within you** (GC Oct 16)
make use of **the** massive **Power** source **within you** . . . (DJ p. 227)
- soothe** tired **nerves** and speak **peace** . . . (GC Jul 04)
soothe your frazzled **nerves**. Let the **peacefulness** . . . (DJ p. 148)
- Looking at **Me you will grow like Me** . . . (GC Oct 17)
focusing on **Me, you will grow** . . . **like Me**. (DJ p. 221)
- the beginning of a New Life **consecrated to My Service.** (GC Aug 28)
Consecrating yourself . . . **to My service** . . . (DJ p. 234)

3. *Jesus Lives* (2009)

- What use . . . if it remained **earthbound, weighed down** . . . (GC Aug 20)
Most of the time . . . you feel **earthbound** and **weighed down**. (JL p. 14)
- I have prepared a **table of delights**, a feast of all good things . . . (GC Jun 28)
a feast of encouragement . . . come to the **table of My delights** . . . (JL p. 152)
- the **robber** who breaks in upon, and destroys, your **peace**. (GC Jul 23)
this **robber of Peace** . . . continues to claw at your heart . . . (JL p. 344)
- Truly the Christian **Life**—Life with Me—**is a Lovestory.** (GC Apr 19)
Your new **life is** not only an adventure but also **a Love-story.** (JL p. 202)
- In speaking to Me, **you find soul-rest.** (GC Apr 13)
you can **find soul-rest** in My company. (JL p. 205)
- Live much **outside**. My medicines are **sun and air** . . . (GC Aug 17)
people . . . ill . . . treated . . . **outdoors** in **sunlight and fresh air** . . . (JL p. 206)

4. *Jesus Today* (2012)

union with Me is the one great overwhelming necessity. (GC Apr 23)
union with Me makes every moment of your life meaningful. (JT p. 66)

Use My Name . . . "Jesus." (GC Sep 13)
Use My Name, "Jesus," to reconnect with Me. (JT p. 122)

Walk with Me in the way of Peace. (GC Dec 23)
walk with Me along the way of Peace. (JT p. 276)

Treat Me . . . with the **tender intimacy** of One much beloved. (GC Mar 01)
A **tender intimacy** with Me can develop . . . (JT p. 272)

What of the **souls** that are **undernourished**? (GC Dec 07)
your **soul** will become **malnourished**. (JT p. 282)

entered now upon a **mountain climb**. **Steep** steps lead upward . . . (GC Jun 13)
The higher up the **mountain** you **climb**, the **steeper** . . . (JT p. 274)

5. *Jesus Calling Devotional Journal* (2013)

You are very privileged both of you. (GC May 15)
You are privileged! (JCDJ Aug 09)

Marvels beyond all your imaginings are **unfolding**. (GC Jul 19)
I am **unfolding miracles** all around you. (JCDJ Dec 21)

Learn **to know Me more and more** . . . (GC Nov 20)
I want you **to know Me more and more**. (JCDJ Nov 29)

I have been **showing you the way**. (GC Aug 15)
I am right beside you, **showing you the way**. (JCDJ Apr 28)

Draw near in spirit to Me. **Shut out** the distractions of **the world**. (GC Mar 16)
Shut out the world and invite Me in. (JCDJ Sep 19)

6. *Jesus Today Devotional Journal* (2014)

- Does one **worrying thought** enter your mind. . . ? Fight it at once. (GC Jan 17)
Anticipate some of the **worry-thoughts** . . . fend them off . . . (JTDJ p. 08)
- I cannot, and **I will not fail you**. (GC Mar 19)
I will not fail you. (JTDJ p. 166)
- I am** telling you **truths**, revealing them . . . (GC Mar 16)
I am whispering My **truths** to your heart. (JTDJ p. 330)
- I have not forgotten you**. Your help is coming. (GC Feb 08)
Affirm those things now, for **I have not forgotten you**. (JTDJ p. 314)
- Claim **big**, really **big** things **now**. Remember nothing is too **big**. (GC Mar 18)
Offer up the **biggest** prayers you can think of right **now** . . . (JTDJ p. 302)

7. *Jesus Calling Morning & Evening* (2015)

- Just** breathe **My Name**. (GC Aug 29)
Just whisper **My Name**. (JCME Feb 07)
- retreat into** the quiet place with Me. (GC Jan 30)
Retreat into My loving Presence . . . (JCME Jan 02)
- I will teach you**. Listen to Me and I will speak. (GC Feb 05)
I will teach you more and more about Me. (JCME Sep 30)
- Dwell with **Me as the centre of your** lives.⁵ (GC Apr 14)
Place **Me at the center of your** existence. (JCME Sep 11)
- so few retire into that inner place . . . **to commune with Me**. (GC Mar 16)
Relish the privilege you have **to commune with Me**. (JCME Nov 12)
- regularly **practise** this getting **back into My Presence** . . . (GC Apr 21)
Don't neglect the **practice of My Presence**. Keep coming **back** . . . (JCME Mar 06)

8. *Jesus Always* (2016)

The sunlight of My Presence is on your paths.	(GC Aug 26)
the sunlight of My Presence nourishes you . . .	(JA Feb 18)
My Life flows through you.	(GC Sep 11)
My Life flows through you.	(JA May 28)
joining Me on My quest . . . tracking down souls.	(GC Apr 28)
Join Me in this quest so that people . . . can find Me . . .	(JA Apr 02)
You must wait until I show the way.	(GC Feb 08)
you must wait until I show you when I want you to go . . .	(JA Jan 11)
Tell Me that you trust Me in this.	(GC Aug 27)
it is always the right time to tell Me that you trust Me.	(JA Oct 31)
Spend more time alone with Me.	(GC Feb 28)
I long for you to spend time alone with Me.	(JA Oct 13)
express your Love for Me.	(GC Sep 26)
You may want to express your love for Me . . .	(JA Aug 24)
Feel My tender nearness . . .	(GC Dec 19)
Be blessed by . . . My tender nearness . . .	(JA Dec 18)
gain an intimate knowledge of Me . . .	(GC Mar 24)
give you intimate knowledge of Me.	(JA Jun 21)
the miracle of your intimacy with Me . . .	(GC Dec 02)
So nourish well your intimacy with Me , beloved.	(JA May 28)
Rest in Me when you need perfect understanding . . .	(GC Jun 16)
I have complete, perfect understanding of you . . .	(JA Oct 25)
Just to come before Me and stay for a while in My Presence . . .	(GC Jun 21)
Talk with Me openly, and rest for a while in My Presence.	(JA Apr 09)

Joy is infectious. (GC Jul 09)
Joy becomes contagious, "**infecting**" those around you . . . (JA Jan 05)

Then you who have the **Faith-Vision** will see all . . . in Me. (GC Oct 17)
Faith is a type of **vision** that connects you to Me. (JA Jan 13)

So that if it is only a **glance of faith** . . . all . . . are secured. (GC May 31)
So a simple **glance** at Me—made **in faith**—is enough . . . (JA Mar 24)

There will be no **limit to what you** can **accomplish**. (GC May 25)
don't set **limits on what you** expect to **accomplish**. (JA Jan 24)

the harmony of **the real you, that is** hid with Me . . . (GC Jul 23)
the essence of . . . **the "real you" that is** being transformed . . . (JA Jul 10)

Do all you can and leave to Me the rest. (GC Feb 02)
Do what you can, and leave the rest to Me. (JA Jun 05)

Withdraw into the calm of **communion with Me.** (GC Mar 17)
will draw you irresistibly **into communion with Me.** (JA Feb 20)

Feel **My Hand** of Love press **yours** . . . (GC Dec 04)
Close **your** right hand, as if you are grasping onto **My hand.** (JA Mar 16)

no soul can be overwhelmed who is **linked to Me** by it. (GC Feb 10)
Thankfulness keeps you **linked to Me** . . . (JA Mar 11)

Never **doubt My Love** and Power. (GC Mar 25)
So don't give in to the temptation to **doubt My Love** . . . (JA Dec 07)

My Love will never leave you . . . (GC Sep 01)
My Love will never let you go! (JA Feb 08)

All is for **the very best for you. Trust me** for all. (GC Jan 29)
Trust Me to make conditions . . . **the very best for you.** (JA Nov 01)

nearest earthly **friend cannot be with you** on the instant.⁵ (GC Jun 25)
Even the most committed . . . **friend cannot be with you** always . . . (JA May 11)

III. Similar Metaphors

Gymnast vs. Ballerina

To be a perfect **gymnast** you **must learn balance**. It is balance and poise, perfect balance and poise, I am teaching you now. . . . **Fix your whole being . . . with Me as its centre.** That gives you the true balance . . . (GC Apr 14)

Just as a spinning **ballerina must** keep returning her eyes to a given point to **maintain her balance**, so you must keep returning your focus to Me. . . . The only way to keep your balance is to **fix your eyes on Me** . . . (JC Apr 25)

Bank vs. Treasury

To praise and thank and steadily fulfil your promises (vows) to Me are then, as it were, the placing of **coin in My Bank**, upon which, **in your time of need, you can draw with confidence and certainty.** (GC Jun 10)

Every time you affirm your trust in Me, you put a **coin into My treasury**. Thus you build up equity in preparation for days of trouble. . . . Then **when storms come, your trust balance will be sufficient to see you through.** (JC Jan 10)

Storehouse vs. Treasure House

Think your thought-way into the very heart of My Kingdom. **See there the abundance of delights in my storehouse, and lay eager hands on them.** (GC Dec 18)

It is as if scales fall off your eyes, enabling you to **see more and more of My glorious riches**. With your eyes thus opened, you can **help yourself to whatever you need from My treasure house.** (JC Nov 27)

Storehouses vs. Reservoir

The storehouses of God are full to overflowing, but you must see this in your mind. (GC Oct 15)

So you can begin each day confidently, knowing that **My vast reservoir of blessings is full to the brim**. (JA Jul 30)

Privileged Visitor vs. Dignitaries

Have you ever realized the wonder of the friendship you can have with Me? Have you ever thought what it means to be able to summon at will the God of the World? **Even with a privileged visitor to an earthly king there is the palace antechamber, and the time must be at the pleasure of the king**. But to My subjects I have given the right to enter My Presence when you will, nay more they can summon Me to bedside, to workshop—and **I am there**. (GC Jun 25)

Marvel at the wonder of communing with the Creator of the universe while sitting in the comfort of your home. Kings who reign on earth tend to make themselves inaccessible; ordinary people almost never gain an audience with them. **Even dignitaries must plow through red tape and protocol in order to speak with royalty**. Though I am King of the universe, I am totally accessible to you. **I am** with you **wherever you are**. (JC Sep 26)

Mosaic vs. Massively Big Picture

Looking back you will see that every step was planned. Leave all to Me. Each **stone in the mosaic** fits into the perfect pattern, designed by the Master Artist. (GC Nov 11)

You are looking at only a **very small piece of a massively big picture**. . . . from My limitless, big-picture perspective, I am indeed leading you along straight paths. (JT p. 50)

Soiled Work vs. Crumpled Flower

... **as a mother takes the soiled, imperfect work of her child and invests it with perfection** because of the sweet love, so I take your poor faithfulness and crown it with perfection. (GC Apr 12)

Although you can do this only imperfectly, I nonetheless delight in your love—**as a mother delights in a crumpled flower brought lovingly by her child**. (JL p. 230)

Mother & Daughter vs. Man & Woman

Try and see **a Mother** preparing birthday or Christmas delights for her child—the while her Mother-heart sings: “Will she not love that? How she will love this!” and **anticipates the rapture of her child**, her own heart full of the tenderest joy. Where did the Mother learn all this preparation-joy? From Me—a faint echo this of My preparation-joy. (GC Jan 19)

When **a man and a woman** are deeply in love, they take great delight in pleasing one another. They may spend hours pondering ways to surprise their beloved with unexpected pleasures. Simply **anticipating the loved one’s happiness** is exciting to such a lover. Actually, I Myself am such a Lover. I delight in increasing your Joy: making it complete. (DJ pp. 150-151)

Obstacle Race vs. Dotted Path

Your discipleship is an **obstacle race**. . . . Obtain not only your hearts’ desires, but obtain Me . . . What would you think of the runner who threw himself on the ground in despondency at his first hurdle? (GC Jun 09)

When the **path** before you is **dotted with difficulties**, beware of measuring your strength against those challenges. . . . Without Me, you wouldn't make it past the first hurdle! (JC Jun 04)

Noiseless Footfall vs. Tiptoe

With noiseless footfall I draw near to you.

(GC Aug 05)

I “tiptoe” closer to you. (DJ p. 227)

Earth-Treasure vs. Copper Coin

Unclasp your hands . . . So often man, crying out for some blessing, has yet such **tight hold on some earth-treasure** that he has no hand to receive Mine, **as I hold it out** in Love.

(GC Apr 06)

That is like **wrapping your fingers tightly around a small copper coin, while I am offering** you unlimited supplies of pure gold. To receive My proffered gift, you must first open your hands . . . (DJ p. 127)

Venturing Out vs. Crawling Out

Hidden in a sure place . . . Make it your home. . . . Over that home shall My Shadow rest. . . . When fears assail you, and cares trouble you, then it is because you have **ventured out of that protecting Shadow. . . . the only thing to do is to creep back into shelter again.** (GC Sep 18)

So come close to Me and hover under the umbrella of My shielding Presence. You sometimes feel unprotected and exposed to dangers. This happens when you **crawl out from under My protective Presence . . . the remedy is simple: Take refuge in Me.** (JT p. 216)

Dry Land vs. Desert

My Peace that flows as some calm river **through the dry land of life.** That causes the trees and **flowers** of life to **spring forth** and to yield abundantly. (GC Sep 16)

Through the aridity of those desert marches, I have drawn you closer and closer to Myself. You have discovered **flowers** of Peace blossoming in the most desolate places. (JC Nov 29)

IV. Similar Scripture Adaptations

1. Hidden Treasure

God Calling and Jesus Calling add “joy” to the context of Proverbs 2:4, replacing “wisdom,” “understanding,” and “insight.”

God Calling, Sep 19

Jesus Calling, Oct 22

Search for the **Joy** in life.
Hunt for **it** as for hidden treasure.

Yet **Joy** is still attainable.
Search for **it** as for hidden treasure.

(Proverbs 2:4 NIV cited)

Jesus Calling cites Proverbs 2:4 (NIV) out of context:

*And if you look for **it** as for silver and search for **it** as for hidden treasure.*

Compare with Proverbs 2:4 in context:

*My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to **wisdom** and applying your heart to **understanding**—indeed, if you call out for **insight** and cry aloud for **understanding**, and if you look for **it** as for silver and search for **it** as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. (Proverbs 2:1-5 NIV)*

2. Pearls of Great Price

In God Calling, Jesus Calling, and Jesus Always, the singular "pearl of great price" of Matthew 13:46 has multiple new meanings: "truth," "secret," "Peace," and "Love."

God Calling, Jan 10

You must ponder on these **truths** I give you. They are not surface facts, but the **secrets** of My Kingdom, the hidden pearls of rare price.

Jesus Calling, Jan 24

My Peace is the treasure of treasures: the pearl of great price.

(Matthew 13:46 NKJV cited)

Jesus Always, Jul 15

Consider the parable of the merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he sold everything he had and bought it. **My Love** is like that pearl . . .

(Matthew 13:45-46 NIV cited)

Jesus Calling cites Matthew 13:46 (NKJV) out of context:

Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Compare with Matthew 13:46 in context:

*Again, the **kingdom of heaven** is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the **kingdom of heaven** is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. (Matthew 13:44-46 NKJV)*

3. “Jesus” is Calling Your Name

*God Calling and Jesus Always add the same new conclusion to the empty tomb account of John 20: “Jesus” is calling **your name**.*

God Calling, Apr 07

Mary left home and kindred, friends, all, that Easter morning in her search for Me, and not until the “Mary” had been followed by the glad triumphant rapture of her “Rabboni” was her search over. So with each of you. Man speaks to you too of a buried Christ. Search until you meet Me face to face, and **My tender uttering of your name** awakes your glad “Rabboni.”

Jesus Always, Jan 19

After My resurrection, when Mary Magdalene mistook Me for the gardener, I spoke one word: “Mary.” Hearing Me say her name, she recognized Me and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). Beloved, **I also speak your name** in the depths of your spirit.

(John 20:16 NIV cited)

Compare with John 20:

Mary stood outside the tomb crying. . . . she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her. (John 20:11-18 NIV)

4. Flowing Sap and Life

God Calling and Jesus Always revise the familiar vine and branches passage of John 15 by adding new vocabulary and omitting the warnings. The words "sap," "life," "flow," and "channel" transform the stay-attached-or-else metaphor into a let-Me-flow-through-you metaphor.

God Calling

It is the work of the Vine, that sends its life-giving **sap through those branches**. I am the Vine and ye are the branches. (GC Nov 06)

The work of the branch is to provide a **channel** for the **life-flow**.⁵ (GC Apr 23)

Life it was of which I spoke when I said "I am the Vine and ye are the branches."

The **life flow** of the Vine is in the branches. . . . All that is in My Nature must therefore pass into yours . . . I am Love and Joy and Peace and Strength and Power . . . Then these, too, you must have as **My Life flows through you**. (GC Sep 11)

Jesus Always

I am the Vine; you are one of the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears abundant fruit. Apart from Me . . . you can do nothing.

Ponder this glorious truth: I am alive within you! Just as **sap flows** from a vine **through its branches**, so **My Life flows through you**.

(JA May 28)

(John 15:5 AMP cited)

I am the Vine; you are one of My branches. As you stay connected to Me, **My Life flows through you**, enabling you to bear much fruit.

(JA Jun 09)

(John 15:5 NASB cited)

Compare with John 15:5 in context:

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away . . . I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. (John 15:1-6 NASB)

5. A Light for My Path

God Calling and Jesus Calling add “the Voice” and “My Presence” to the meaning of “Your word” in Psalm 119:105, opening the door to extrabiblical guidance.

God Calling, Oct 31

My Word, the Scriptures. Read them, study them; store them in your hearts, use them as you use a lamp to guide your footsteps. But remember, My children, My Word is **more even than that. It is the Voice** that speaks to your hearts, that inner consciousness that tells of Me. It is **the Voice** that speaks to you intimately, personally, in this sacred evening time. It is even more than that. It is I your Lord and Friend. . . . Truly a lamp to your feet, and a light to your path.

(Psalm 119:105 KJV cited)

Jesus Calling, Aug 10

As you walk close to Me, saturating your mind with Scripture, I will show you how to spend your time and energy. My Word is a lamp to your feet; My Presence is a Light for your path.

(Psalm 119:105 NIV cited)

Compare with Psalm 119:105:

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*¹ (NIV)

¹ From the 1984 version of the NIV cited by Young.

6. Face to Face

God Calling, Jesus Calling, and Dear Jesus depict the future "face to face" experience of 1 Corinthians 13:12 as happening both "then" and "now."

God Calling

The Jesus Calling Series

----- *In The Future* -----

Learn to know Me more and more, and in that Knowledge you will have all the answers you need here, and **when you see Me Face to Face**, in that purely Spiritual world, you will find no need to ask. (GC Nov 20)

Now you see as if you are looking in a mirror . . . **then you will see** in reality—face to Face! (DJ p. 181)

(1 Corinthians 13:12 NKJV cited)

Now you see through a glass, darkly, but someday you will see Me face to Face. (JC Feb 24)

(1 Corinthians 13:12 KJV cited)

----- *In The Present* -----

Search until you meet Me face to face . . . (GC Apr 07)

This opened the way for you to meet Me face to Face⁶ . . . (JC Sep 26)

you are face to Face⁶ with Me, your Peace. (JC Jan 15)

As you commune with Me face to Face . . . (DJ p. 238)

Compare with 1 Corinthians 13:12:

*For **now** we see through a glass, darkly; but **then** face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. (KJV)*

7. The Last Enemy

God Calling and Jesus Always move an end-time event into the past by changing the verb tense of 1 Corinthians 15:26.

God Calling, Apr 09

Remember that death **was** the last enemy I **destroyed**. So with death My Victory was complete. You have nothing then to fear.

Jesus Always, Feb 28

The last enemy you will face is death, but My crucifixion and resurrection **have decimated** that foe! So trust Me to guide you through your life, and afterward take you into Glory.

Compare with 1 Corinthians 15:22-26:

*For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy **to be destroyed** is death. (ESV)*

V. Similar But “Improved” Text

The Jesus Calling series text below appears to be God Calling text that has been modified to be more acceptable to the Evangelical ear.

Every Man vs. You

I am actually at the centre of every man's being . . . (GC Mar 16)

I am at the center of your entire being . . . (JT p. 82)

God-inspired vs. Listening Mode

Looking to Me all your thoughts are God-inspired. **Act** on them and you will be led on. They are not your own impulses but the movement **of My Spirit** . . . (GC Jun 13)

You **look to Me** in a listening mode; then you **act** with the help **of My Spirit.** (JT p. 332)

Divinity vs. Intimate Relationship

Bow low before Me . . . **Bow low** in worship . . . when I took upon Me your humanity it was with the desire of raising that humanity to My Divinity. (GC Aug 19)

The **lower you bow down before Me,** the higher I lift you up into intimate relationship with Me. (JC May 03)

Absorb the Divine vs. Absorb My Radiance

. . . **absorb** the Divine, and absorbing gain **strength** to conquer. (GC Nov 30)

Sometimes you may get no message. Meet thus all the same. You will **absorb** an **atmosphere.** (GC Jan 07)

Take time to be still in My Presence, with your face upturned to **absorb** My radiance. The longer you stay in this Light-drenched **atmosphere,** the more I can bless and **strengthen** you. (JA Jul 21)

No Theology vs. Insufficient Theology

Know no **theology**. **Know Me**.

(GC Nov 20)

During times of severe testing, even the best **theology** can fail you if it isn't accompanied by experiential **knowledge of Me**. (JC Dec 01)

Claim vs. Ask

Claim **big things**. Claim **great things**.

(GC May 04)

Exert your faith to ask for **big things** . . .

(JA Jan 13)

So dare to ask **great things** of Me . . .

(JT p. 10)

Medium vs. Channel

Wait before Me, gently **breathing in My Spirit**. That **Spirit** which, if given a free **entrance**, and not barred out by self, will enable you to do the same works as I did, which being interpreted is, will **enable Me** to do the same works, and even greater than I did when on earth—**through you**. Spiritualism is wrong. No man should ever be a medium for any **spirit**, other than **Mine**.

(GC Mar 13)

Sit quietly in My Presence, **breathing in My** Peace . . . (JA Jun 11)

Softly I announce My Presence. Shimmering hues of radiance tap gently at your consciousness, seeking **entrance**. (JC Jan 08)

Being yoked . . . **enables Me** to live more fully in you, accomplishing My purposes **through you**. (DJ pp. 124-125)

I am training you to . . . be a channel of My loving Presence. (JC Mar 31)

Ask the **Spirit** to think and speak **through you**. (JL p. 232)

making room for **My Spirit** to take full possession. (JC Nov 07)

VI. Similar Prayer/Affirmation Practices

God Calling and the Jesus Calling series instruct the reader to think, say, and pray short, repetitive prayers and affirmations.

God Calling

"My Hand is not shortened that it cannot save." Know that, **repeat it**, rely on it, welcome the knowledge, delight in it. Such a truth is as a hope flung to a drowning man. Every **repetition** of it is one pull nearer shore and safety. Let that illustration teach you a great truth. Lay hold of the truth, pray it, **affirm it**, hold on to the rope.
(GC May 19)

Ever let My words ring out. "Be ye perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect." (GC Aug 13)

The Jesus Calling Series

When you look in the mirror, say to yourself, "I am my Beloved's." **Repeat these four words** throughout the day and just before you fall asleep. (JA Aug 17)

Sometimes the way of escape I provide is through your own words, such as: "I trust You, Jesus; my hope is in You." This sort of **affirmation** helps you hold on to your hope . . . (JT p. 310)

Reinforce your confidence in Me by saying **frequently**: "I trust You, Jesus." Uttering those **four words** can brighten your day immediately. (JA Mar 13)

I live in you! This **four-word** truth changes everything . . . (JA Aug 25)

I am with you. These **four words** are like a safety net . . . (JC Feb 18)

I am your Joy! These **four words** can light up your life. . . . Try saying, "Jesus, You are my Joy." (JA Jan 02)

let these **ten short words cascade through your mind**: I will fear no evil, for You are with me. (JL p. 314)

All power is Mine. Say that to yourself
often and steadily. (GC Mar 23)

I'm in control. Let these words wash
over you **repeatedly**, like soothing
waves on a beautiful beach, assuring
you of My endless Love. (JA Jan 26)

I want you to learn a **new habit**. Try
saying, "I trust You, Jesus" in response
to whatever happens to you. (JC Jan 04)

Let Me suggest a **technique** that can
help: When you face an event that
unnerves you, take time to **affirm** your
trust in Me—**repeatedly**, if need be.
(DJ p. 183)

affirm your trust in Me . . . This
affirmation protects you . . . (JL p. 164)

As you exhale, **affirm** your trust in Me.
The longer you do this . . . (JA Jun 28)

whisper as **often as needed**: "Jesus,
You are my Hope." This **affirmation**
strengthens you . . . (JL p. 226)

praying "I love You, Lord" can quickly
direct your focus to Me. If you have to
repeat this process many times,
don't be discouraged. (JA Jan 21)

Write down those words and then
repeat them out loud. (JCDJ Jun 11)

repeat this unconditional promise:
"Nothing can separate me from Your
Love, Jesus." (JC Aug 01)

Practice daily, **many times a day**, saying "All is well." Say it until you believe it, know it. (GC Aug 07)

"All is well." Say **always**, "All is well." (GC Mar 21)

Say "All is well" **to everything**. All is well. (GC Mar 25)

Semantic satiation
A peculiar sense of loss of meaning that occurs when a word is recited slowly 15 or 20 times in succession.⁷
(Dictionary of Psychology)

Say "God is good. God is good." . . . God is good. . . . God is good. . . (GC Sep 20)

Practice verbalizing your trust in Me—in every situation. (JCDJ Jan 10)

Change the subject from problems to My Presence **many times daily** by whispering, "But Jesus . . ." (JT p. 206)

pray, "Jesus, I choose to seek You in the midst of my problems." . . . even if you have to say this **hundreds of times daily**. (JT p. 232)

say "Help me, Jesus!" . . . If you have to say that **thousands of times daily**, don't be discouraged. (JC Feb 08)

Draw near Me by praying, "I choose You, Jesus. I choose to see You—to find You—in this moment." **Practice doing this until it becomes a habit**: a delightful **habit** . . . (JT p. 242)

say: "I can still rejoice in You, Jesus." . . . As you **practice doing this more and more**, your Joy will increase. (JA Feb 05)

When little things don't go as you had hoped . . . say, "Oh, well." This simple **discipline** can protect you . . . If you **practice this diligently** . . . (JC Sep 20)

Make it a **practice** to **affirm** your faith in Me **frequently** . . . (JA Apr 12)

Tell yourself **frequently**: "Jesus is with me, taking good care of me." (JA Aug 28)

Let the **day be full of little prayers**
to Me, little turnings towards Me.
(GC May 02)

*And when you
pray, do not
**heap up empty
phrases** as the
Gentiles do. For
they think that
they will be
heard for their
many words.
(Matthew 6:7 ESV)*

Short prayers such as these—**voiced almost continuously**—will help you live transcendentally . . . (JT p. 72)

short pithy prayers are extremely effective:
“Help me, Jesus!” “Show me Your way.”
“Your will be done.” (JL p. 110)

seek My help with **short prayers** . . .
You may breathe these **brief prayers**
as often as needed. (JL p. 48)

Create a collection of **brief prayers** . . .
practice saying them to Me . . . (JT p. 24)

“Jesus, keep me aware of You.” This
prayer is so **short** and **simple** that you
can use it **as often as needed.** (JT p. 78)

The **simple prayer** “Jesus, keep me
aware of your Presence” can be like soft
background music in your mind—playing
continuously underneath your other
mental activities. (JA Aug 15)

One of the **shortest** but most effective
prayers is: “Help me, Holy Spirit.” Use this
prayer **as often as you need** . . . (JA Sep 24)

Compare with Matthew 6:7 in several versions:

*Don't **recite the same prayer over and over** as the heathen do . . . (TLB)*

*But when ye pray, use not **vain repetitions**, as the heathen do . . . (KJV)*

*And when you pray, do not **keep on babbling** like pagans . . . (NIV)*

*And when you pray, do not use **vain repetitions** as the heathen do . . . (NKJV)*

*And when you are praying, do not use **meaningless repetition** . . . (NASB)*

VII. Similar Origin Stories

God Calling Intro⁸ pp. 11-12

Jesus Calling Original Intro⁹ pp. XI-XII

The authors read books about listening to God.

In the Autumn of 1932, I was sitting in the lounge of an hotel when a visitor, quite unknown, crossed over and, **handing me a copy of *For Sinners Only***,¹⁰ asked if I had read it. . . . I was curiously affected by the book . . . A few months later I read it again.

During that same year **I began reading *God Calling***, a devotional book written by two anonymous "listeners." These women practiced waiting quietly in God's Presence, pencils and paper in hand, recording the messages they received from Him.

They wondered if they could get messages directly from God.

It was then that there came a **persistent desire to try to see whether I could get guidance** such as A.J. Russell reported, through sharing a quiet time with the friend with whom I was then living.

I began to **wonder if I, too, could receive messages** during my times of communing with God. . . . I knew that God communicated with me through the Bible, but I yearned for more.

They set aside time to listen and write.

I was rather sceptical, but, as she agreed, we sat down, **pencils and paper in hand** and waited.

I decided to listen to God with **pen in hand**, writing down whatever I believed He was saying.

They got messages.

. . . with my friend a very wonderful thing happened. From the first, **beautiful messages were given to her by our Lord Himself, and every day from then these messages have never failed us.**

I felt awkward the first time I tried this, but **I received a message**. . . . **Soon, messages began to flow more freely**, and I bought a special notebook to record these words.

Appendix A: A Comparison of the Old and New Introductions of *Jesus Calling*

deleted text: **abc**

added text: *abc*

Jesus Calling, Original Intro,¹¹ p. XI

. . . I realized that experiences of God's Presence were not only for my benefit but were also preparation for helping others.

~~During that same year I began reading *God Calling*, a devotional book written by two anonymous "listeners." These women practiced waiting quietly in God's Presence, pencils and paper in hand, recording the messages they received from Him. The messages are written in first person, with "I" designating God. While I was living in Japan, someone had mailed this book to me from the U.S. I had not read it at that time, but I had held onto the book through two international moves. Six or seven years later, this little paperback became a treasure to me. It dovetailed remarkably well with my longing to live in Jesus' Presence.~~

Jesus Calling, Revised Intro,¹² p. XII

. . . I realized that experiences of God's Presence were not only for my benefit but were also preparation for helping others.

The following year,
I began to wonder if I, ~~too~~, could
~~receive messages during my
times of communing with God.~~

I had been writing in prayer
journals for years, but ~~that~~
was one-way communication:
I did all the talking.

~~I knew that God communicated
with me through the Bible, but
I yearned for more.~~

Increasingly, I wanted to hear
what God ~~had to say~~
to me ~~personally~~ on a given
day. I decided to listen ~~to God~~
with pen in hand, writing down
whatever I ~~believed He was~~
~~saying. I felt awkward the first~~
~~time I tried this, but I received~~
~~a message. It was short,~~
~~biblical, and appropriate.~~
~~It addressed topics that were~~
~~current in my life: trust, fear,~~
~~and closeness to God. I~~
~~responded by writing in my~~
~~prayer journal.~~

My journaling ~~had~~ changed
from monologue to dialogue.
~~Soon, messages began to flow~~
~~more freely, and I bought a special~~
~~notebook to record these words.~~

The following year,
I began to wonder if I could
*change my prayer times from
monologue to dialogue.*
I had been writing in prayer
journals for *many* years, but *this*
was one-way communication:
I did all the talking.

Increasingly, I wanted to hear
what God *might want to*
communicate to me on a given
day. I decided to “listen”
with pen in hand, writing down
whatever I “*heard*” *in my mind*. As
*J. I. Packer wrote in his book Your
Father Loves You: “God . . . guides
our minds as we think things out
in his presence.” This is how I was
listening to Him—by focusing on
Jesus and His Word, while asking
Him to guide my thoughts. I was
not listening for an audible voice;
I was spending time seeking God’s
Face (Psalm 27:8 NKJV).*

My journaling *thus* changed
from monologue to dialogue.

This new way of communicating with God became the high point of my day. I knew ~~these~~ writings were not inspired as Scripture is, but they were helping me grow closer to God.

~~**I have continued to receive personal messages from God as I meditate on Him. The more difficult my life circumstances, the more I need these encouraging directives from my Creator.**~~

...

This practice of ~~listening to God~~ has increased my intimacy with Him more than any other spiritual discipline, so I want to share some of the ~~messages I have received.~~

...

~~**These messages**~~ are meant to be read slowly, preferably in a quiet place. ~~**I invite you to keep a journal to record any thoughts or impressions you receive as you wait in His Presence.**~~

Remember that Jesus is **Emmanuel**, God with us. May ~~**He bless you with**~~ His Presence and Peace in ever-increasing measure.

This new way of communicating with God became the high point of my day. *Of course*, I knew *my* writings were not inspired—as *only* Scripture is—but they were helping me grow closer to God. *This became a delightful way to encourage myself in the Lord (1 Samuel 30:6 NKJV).*

...

This practice of *being still in God's Presence* has increased my intimacy with Him more than any other spiritual discipline, so I want to share some of the *writings I have gleaned from these quiet moments.*

...

The devotions in this book are meant to be read slowly, preferably in a quiet place—*with your Bible open.*

Remember that Jesus is *Immanuel*, God with us. May *you enjoy* His Presence and *His* Peace in ever-increasing measure.

Appendix B: More Similar Phrases

Rest in Me.	(GC Jan 09)
Rest in Me.	(JCDJ Feb 06)
Listen to Me at all times.	(GC Dec 19)
Listen to Me continually.	(JC Apr 22)
Speak to Me. Long for Me.	(GC Sep 03)
Speak to Me in love-tones . . .	(JC Apr 08)
You are Mine.	(GC Mar 17)
You are Mine!	(JA Jul 31)
So rely on Me.	(GC May 09)
So rely on Me in all you do . . .	(JA Apr 13)
Use My Name often.	(GC Sep 13)
Use My Name liberally . . .	(JC Feb 22)
I speak to you, My loved ones, to-day.	(GC Aug 21)
I speak to you in love-tones, lifting you up.	(JC Mar 19)
Depend on Me.	(GC Aug 08)
Depend on Me more and more . . .	(JC Oct 24)
Not one of your cries is unheard.	(GC Feb 19)
Not one of your thoughts escapes My notice.	(JC Sep 29)
I want you to feel the thrill of protection and safety Now.	(GC May 12)
I want you to feel Me surrounding you . . .	(JCDJ Nov 10)
Look to Me for all . . .	(GC Sep 04)
Look to Me for all that you need, and watch to see what I will do.	(JC Nov 11)
Listen to My Voice.	(GC Jun 05)
Listen to My voice.	(JA Mar 12)

I always hear your cry.	(GC Mar 01)
I always hear your prayers . . .	(JT p. 296)
The wonder of being led by Me!	(GC Jun 15)
enjoy the wonder of walking through your life as My follower . . .	(JA Apr 18)
Do not fear changes.	(GC Apr 21)
Do not fear change . . .	(JC Feb 17)
Come to Me, talk to Me . . .	(GC Aug 09)
come to Me and talk it out.	(JC Oct 09)
I am here beside you.	(GC Mar 16)
I am here beside you , nearer than you dare believe.	(DJ p. 175)
I am working for you . . .	(GC Dec 29)
I am working on your behalf.	(JC Dec 11)
Expect not one miracle but many.	(GC Jul 10)
expect to see miracles —and you will.	(JC Dec 21)
Sense My Presence , and the fever . . . melts into nothingness . . .	(GC Feb 27)
you sense My Presence and feel yourself drawing closer to Me.	(JL p. 34)
There is no room for fear in the heart in which I dwell.	(GC Mar 05)
leaving no room for fear .	(JC Mar 04)
I have much to teach you both.	(GC Jul 17)
I have much to tell you .	(JC Aug 21)
Delight in My Love.	(GC May 04)
As you delight in My Love -Light . . .	(JA Mar 29)
I am with you all the time . . .	(GC Jul 05)
I am with you all the time . . .	(JA Dec 04)
Believe that I am with you , and controlling all.	(GC Jan 21)
Believe that I am with you . . . and that I am working . . .	(JT p. 296)

Go very quietly, very gently .	(GC Jan 29)
Go gently through this day, keeping your eyes on Me.	(JC Oct 18)
Your path is difficult , difficult for you both.	(GC Feb 11)
Though the path is difficult . . . there are sparkling surprises . . .	(JC Jul 14)
Cling to Me until the life from Me . . . flows into your being . . .	(GC Jun 23)
Cling to Me as your Lifeline .	(JL p. 230)
Do not dwell upon the past .	(GC Oct 14)
Do not dwell on the past .	(JA Jan 01)
As you love to plan surprises . . . so with Me.	(GC Mar 07)
I am a God of surprises , so look for Me . . .	(JA Sep 12)
The beauty of a guided life!	(GC Jun 15)
Marvel at the beauty of a life intertwined with My Presence.	(JC Dec 30)
I know better than you what you need.	(GC Jan 29)
I know better than you what is on the path before you . . .	(JT p. 220)
I am revealing so much to you .	(GC Jan 12)
I am revealing to you the path of Life . . .	(JC Feb 29)
Absorb Beauty .	(GC Mar 11)
trying to absorb its vast beauty . . .	(JL p. 208)
At the end of your present path lie all these blessings.	(GC Oct 10)
At the end of your life- path is an entrance to heaven.	(JC Apr 14)
Remember that I am by your side , spurring you on to victory.	(GC Feb 13)
know that I am by your side , eager to help.	(JA Nov 14)
See Me as I really am . . .	(GC Oct 04)
learn more of Me: who I really am .	(JL p. 32)
you long for perfection and see your bitter failures.	(GC Apr 12)
you long for both your perfection in holiness and your . . .	(JL p. 46)

to hear Me speak is to find Life, and healing and strength. (GC Mar 01)
He enables you **to hear Me “speak”** directly to you. (JC Dec 04)

Train your sight . . . **to see** more and more . . . (GC Nov 19)
Train the eyes of your heart **to “see”** these blessings . . . (JT p. 146)

When you **look to Me for guidance** . . . (GC Sep 29)
Look to Me for guidance. (JCDJ Aug 29)

Only in very **close contact with Me** is the keeping Power realized. (GC Oct 24)
As you live in **close contact with Me** . . . (JC Jan 23)

I hold the year **in My Hands**—in trust for you. (GC Jan 01)
I hold your future safely **in My hands.** (DJ p. 224)

leave it to **Me and go on your way** loving and laughing. (GC May 09)
leave them with **Me. Go on your way** lightheartedly. (JC Jul 07)

I share My plans and secrets **with you** . . . My Purposes . . . (GC May 15)
I will share My mind **with you** . . . My perspective. (JC Aug 26)

be thankful . . . **that there is One who** knows. (GC May 24)
Be thankful that there is One who sees . . . (JA Feb 09)

to arise **from earth-bands** . . . (GC Apr 09)
to shake you free **from earth-shackles.** (JC May 23)

Joy that I am **with you. I came to earth** . . . (GC Feb 14)
I came to earth to be **with you** . . . (JCDJ Dec 22)

Take more **time to be alone with Me.** (GC Feb 27)
Setting aside **time to be alone with Me** . . . (JA Mar 14)

I am leading you. Step with a firm **step** of confidence . . . (GC Oct 10)
I am leading you, step by **step**, through your life. (JC Feb 26)

If you **realize your** high **privilege**, you have only to think . . . (GC Jan 20)
I want you to . . . **realize your privileged** position in My kingdom. (JC Aug 09)

One with the Lord of the whole Universe! I—the Lord of the universe —am always available to help you.	(GC Jan 20) (JL p. 186)
Live in the Joy of My constant Presence. I offer you hope in My constant Presence.	(GC Dec 26) (JCDJ Jul 27)
Seek this evening time just to be with Me. Take time just to be with Me . . .	(GC Apr 05) (JT p. 298)
Trust Me absolutely. Your assignment is to trust Me absolutely . . .	(GC Jan 29) (JC Sep 08)
Feel conscious of My Presence. Strive to remain conscious of My Presence . . .	(GC Apr 05) (JC Oct 25)
Remember . . . not what you do, but what you are . . . Remember . . . not what you do but what I have already done . . .	(GC Apr 02) (JL p. 254f)
Never too lonely with such companionship. recognize My Presence . . . never feel lonely again.	(GC Aug 25) (JL p. 256)
I made a way through the Red Sea for them. I made a dry path through the Red Sea for the Israelites . . .	(GC Oct 01) (DJ p. 160)
never fail to keep this time apart with Me. the more you need this time apart with Me.	(GC Feb 14) (JC Dec 27)
A comrade infinitely tender, infinitely strong . . . I am perfectly good and infinitely strong.	(GC Aug 25) (JL p. 114)
Open child-trusting eyes to all I am doing for you. Ask Me to open your eyes . . . to all that I am accomplishing . . .	(GC Feb 07) (JC Dec 18)
Never limit My power. It is limitless. I gladly give you Glory-strength; it is limitless . . .	(GC Feb 04) (JL p. 288)
see . . . further and further, until distant peaks seem familiar. In the distance you see snow-covered peaks glistening . . .	(GC Nov 19) (JC Jan 18)

the way will unfold **step by step**. (GC Jan 04)
the way before you **will** open up **step by step**. (JC Jan 25)

hush the **heart** . . . be **attuned to receive** Heaven's music . . . (GC Mar 10)
quiet your mind . . . **Tune your heart to receive** these messages . . . (JC Sep 21)

The way of uncertain future and **faltering steps**. It is My Way . . . (GC Sep 17)
Faltering steps of dependence are . . . links to My Presence. (JC Apr 27)

before **you** . . . **speak** to anyone, to **ask Me** to act as interpreter . . . (GC Apr 13)
Ask My Spirit to help you whenever **you speak**. . . with people . . . (JC Aug 03)

You must live a **life of communion** . . . (GC Aug 31)
I am calling you to a **life of** constant **communion** with Me. (JC Apr 01)

Do not want to see the **road ahead**. (GC Jan 24)
Don't worry about what is on the **road up ahead**. (JC Jun 30)

It will surprise you, all that **I have planned for you**. (GC Feb 24)
discover the adventures **I have planned for you**. (JL p. 16)

I am here. No distance separates Me. (GC Aug 18)
You will **not** find Me off in the **distance. I am here** . . . (DJ p. 175)

Look up into My Face—a look of **Love** . . . (GC May 30)
Look into My Face and feel the warmth of My **Love-Light** . . . (JC Sep 23)

Take **each day** now **as a** joyous sunrise **gift from Me**. (GC Dec 11)
Try to accept **each day as a** precious **gift from Me** . . . (DJ p. 39)

My Name . . . "Jesus." . . . it is an appeal **I never fail to** answer. (GC Sep 13)
when a child of Mine calls out to Me, **I never fail to** respond. (DJ p. 146)

not **depend** on man but on Me, **on Me, your Strength** . . . (GC Feb 08)
I am training you to **depend on Me—your Strength**. (JL p. 18)

not an easy lesson, to learn . . . to give **Me the moments**. (GC Aug 03)
Bring your **moments to Me** . . . (JC Sep 11)

living really in the Unseen —that is the Real Life .	(GC Sep 03)
living in . . . the visible world and unseen , eternal reality .	(JC Sep 05)
soul- balance and poise, in a vacillating , changing world .	(GC Jan 15)
world seems to be shaking . . . leaving you off balance . . .	(JL p. 70)
followers . . . who bear their cross bravely . . . Thank Me . . .	(GC Nov 17)
Bearing your circumstances bravely —even thanking Me . . .	(JC Oct 14)
Seek not to know the future . Mercifully I veil it from you .	(GC Mar 24)
I . . . deposit it in the future , where it is veiled from your eyes.	(JC May 11)
lives that seek to live without My sustaining Power .	(GC Dec 30)
your very existence . . . depends on My sustaining Power .	(JA Apr 13)
Draw nigh, shoes off thy feet, in silent awe and adoration .	(GC Dec 02)
Gaze at Me in silent adoration .	(JC Dec 22)
bring others to Me, the only Source of . . . Heart- Peace .	(GC Dec 30)
I am the Lord of Peace, the only source of genuine Peace .	(JL p. 340)
more conscious . . . of his stumbling feet than of the view . . .	(GC Mar 31)
your perspective from your weary feet to the glorious view . . .	(JC Jul 27)
Thank Me indeed for dangers unknown —unseen—but averted.	(GC Jun 05)
I am constantly protecting you from . . . unknown dangers .	(JT p. 192)
From now a new Life is opening out before you .	(GC Aug 26)
view the vast expanse of Life that is spread out before you . . .	(JL p. 12)
your climb! . . . think of each step as leading to the summit . . .	(GC Aug 23)
climbs that take you . . . closer and closer to the summit .	(JT p. 180)
I would draw you closer and closer to Me by bonds of Love .	(GC Oct 09)
Love shine upon you . . . lifting you closer and closer to Me .	(DJ p. 133)
surrender to My Will in the small, as in the big things of life .	(GC Aug 18)
rely on Me in your small . . . as in the big events of your life .	(DJ p. 72)

And when things do not fall out . . . **smile at Me indulgently** . . . (GC Dec 21)
going through tough times, **look up to Me with a wry smile** . . . (JL p. 76)

rise above the earth-life and seek to **soar higher** . . . (GC Jun 27)
break free from these worldly weights . . . **soar in the heights** . . . (JL p. 96)

Divine Nearness . . . A nearness that brings **sweetness** into life . . . (GC Sep 23)
Whisper My Name . . . in **sweet** remembrance of **My nearness**. (JA Aug 09)

For straying . . . there is no cure except to **keep so close to Me** . . . (GC Aug 10)
Stay ever **so close to Me**, and you will not deviate from the path . . . (JC Dec 06)

You live with Me . . . **My Life** accomplishes the **miracle-change**. (GC Sep 11)
My Life within you that is **changing** you . . . mysterious **miracle!** (JC Nov 14)

So **do not** vainly, foolishly, **expect from others understanding**. (GC May 14)
Do not expect anyone to understand fully My ways with you . . . (JC Feb 29)

permitting the little frets and **cares** and **burdens** to **accumulate**. (GC May 23)
burdened with an **accumulation** of petty **cares** and frustrations. (JC Sep 20)

As you persist in this . . . **I will reveal My will to you**. (GC Feb 05)
As you grow . . . more intimate with Me, **I reveal My will to you** . . . (JC Aug 20)

Journey through this world simply seeking . . . My Will and work. (GC Dec 26)
work together to shield you as you **journey through this world**. (JT p. 334)

go forward . . . along the **the path** of duty **I have set before you**. (GC Jun 24)
This is **the path I have set before you**. (JC Sep 24)

You can truly live a life not of earth—a heaven-**life here and now**. (GC Mar 08)
This is eternal **life here and now**: a tiny foretaste of what awaits . . . (JC Jul 08)

in every single happening, event, plan, you are **conscious of Me**. (GC Feb 12)
stay **conscious of Me in each situation** you encounter. (JC Dec 05)

“Come unto Me” . . . for all you need—**physical, mental, spiritual**. (GC Nov 13)
Come to Me with all . . . **physical, emotional, and spiritual**. (JC Feb 15)

Further Reading

These sources, listed chronologically, highlight various problems with *God Calling* and trace the historical path from Rev. Frank Buchman to the Oxford Group to A. J. Russell to *God Calling* and on to *Jesus Calling*.

“Buchmanism, or the Oxford Group Movement,” *Heresies Exposed*, 12th edition by William C. Irvine, 1942 https://missiology.org.uk/pdf/e-books/irvine_william-c/heresies-exposed_irvine.pdf

“Book Review: *God Calling*”, *Christian Research Journal*, 1988
<https://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/crj/crj-jrnl/web/crj0021a.html>

“*Jesus Calling* By Sarah Young: WUI (Writing Under the Influence)”
by Marcia Montenegro, September 2013
http://christiananswersforthenewage.org/Articles_JesusCalling.html

“*God Calling: Ten Concerns*,” Part One of “*Another Jesus*” *Calling*
by Warren B. Smith, Lighthouse Trails Publishing, November 2013

"The Strange Saga of 'Jesus Calling' The Evangelical Bestseller You've Never Heard Of" by Ruth Graham, *The Daily Beast*, February 2014
<https://www.thedailybeast.com/the-strange-saga-of-jesus-calling-the-evangelical-bestseller-youve-never-heard-of>

Changing Jesus Calling: Damage Control for a False Christ, by Warren B. Smith, November 2014 <https://www.lighthouse Trails.com/home/494-booklet-changing-jesus-calling.html>

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- Young, Sarah. *Jesus Today: Experience Hope Through His Presence*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2012.

Endnotes

³ John Ankerberg & John Weldon, *Encyclopedia of New Age Beliefs* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1996), p. 103.

⁴ Warren B. Smith, *Changing Jesus Calling: Damage Control for a False Christ* (Eureka, MT: Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 2014). Newer printings of *Jesus Calling* no longer mention “*God Calling*” or “messages” in the introduction.

⁵ Not found in some editions of *God Calling*, such as Barbour 1989.

⁶ Rendered “face-to-face” in newer printings of *Jesus Calling*.

⁷ A. M. Colman, *A Dictionary of Psychology*, (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2015), p. 682.

⁸ A. J. Russell, ed., “The Voice Divine,” *God Calling*, op. cit., pp. 11-12.

⁹ Sarah Young, *Jesus Calling*, op. cit., pp. XI-XII, (12 13 14 15 RRD 48 47 46 45 44).

¹⁰ A. J. Russell, *For Sinners Only: The Book of the Oxford Group* (New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1932). Promoted the practices of the Oxford Group Movement.

¹¹ Sarah Young, *Jesus Calling*, op. cit., pp. XI-XIV, (12 13 14 15 RRD 48 47 46 45 44).

¹² Sarah Young, *Jesus Calling*, op. cit., pp. XII-XIV, (18 19 20 21 22 DSC 105 104 103 102).

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