



Behold the

# Lilies

DAILY MEDITATIONS FOR  
CHRISTIAN WOMEN

Verna Mast &  
Susan Schwartz



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# Preface

Verna Mast had a dream to write a women's devotional book. We both were interested in writing, so we often discussed this topic. When she could no longer write due to her illness, I became concerned. Did someone know her plans for the manuscript? She had invested a lot of work in this project, and I didn't want it to go to waste. But no one felt able to broach the subject because Verna thought she would get better again. By the time she finally realized that death was inevitable, she wasn't able to talk about the book.

After her death, I was asked to finish the work. I accepted and began where Verna had stopped. However, something was missing. Then one day I received a packet on the mail that contained all the correspondence between her and the editor. Eagerly I read the pages of writing that answered my questions. It was second best to having Verna here as I finished the book.

I have placed one of Verna's last writings on November 7, the day of her death. The Lord called her away before He returned, just as she had written.

Verna is gone. Her voice is silent in death. Her gravestone in our church cemetery does not tell her life story nor express her dedication to her Lord. It tells nothing of all the hours she invested in this book. But though Verna is no longer with us, she left a lasting legacy for us who read these pages.

—Susan Schwartz

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- \* Our families for helping us with our other work and for being patient with us in our busy schedule to complete the book.

—Moses & Susan Schwartz

January 1

Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field.

—Song of Solomon 7:11

A new year is dawning. As you stand at the threshold of this new year, you may wonder what the future holds. View this year as a vast field. Visualize a summertime meadow with hills that prevent your seeing the other side. Flowers bloom, birds chirp, and a refreshing brook ripples by.

Our Creator has placed you in this “field,” and He will lead you along. He is the One in control of your surroundings. He is the One who created the roses with thorns, rainbows following showers, joy after sorrow, peace in the midst of pain.

As you stroll through this field, are you going to collect a lovely bouquet of flowers, or will you get tangled in the thorns and thistles and fail to see the beauties all around you? The flowers in your field should so enthrall you that the prickly nettles and thistles do not hinder you from collecting a fragrant bouquet.

Just as the daylily has fresh blossoms opening each day, these devotionals are intended to give you fresh courage each day. May these truths from God’s Word sweeten your day and fill it with a warm glow of hope and cheer. When you gather a bouquet of lilies, you will likely be dusted with some of the bright yellow pollen, evidence that you have been collecting lilies. Allow the inspiration from these devotionals to cling to you like lily pollen, and you will bless others whom your life touches.

Your path may not always take you by the cool, refreshing stream. You may have to bear the heat of the day, which will cause you to feel faint. Rest awhile, and behold the lilies. God’s promises are always fresh. He can make something good from difficult situations if you allow Him to do so. He will lead you to your desired haven as you place your hand in His and follow all the way. 

January 2

And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

—1 John 1:4

**G**od created people because He wanted someone to commune with Him, someone to worship and serve Him. When we do what He has created us for, we can experience fullness of joy. When our relationship with God is severed, joy ceases.

There is some joy in earthly things, but it is as fleeting as the thing or the event from which it springs. If you find fulfillment in Jesus, things and events will pass but your joy will remain, and you can look forward to eternal joy. Martyrs went singing to their deaths because of this.

Many people believe possessions will bring fulfillment. Solomon said, “And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them” (Ecclesiastes 2:10). But in the next verse he mourns, “Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit.” Possessing few of this world’s goods is no reason to be joyless. On the contrary, having few possessions can make us more joyful because there is less to distract us from the real purpose of life.

Many people believe marriage offers fulfillment, but Paul said of one who is unmarried, “She is happier if she so abide” (1 Corinthians 7:40).

Many believe they will find happiness in position. Haman had a prestigious position, but he was jealous and unhappy. There is joy and blessing in any position if the Lord places us there. Following his statement of joy in John 3:29, John the Baptist said, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). A demoted position did not dampen his joy.

God wants us to experience fullness of joy, and He knows how to maintain a relationship with us. It is up to us to listen to His promptings and abide in His presence. 🙏

January 3

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

—Matthew 5:14

“I always watch for your light,” my neighbor told me. Perhaps she finds comfort in seeing my light and in knowing that I am at home and she is not alone in the darkness.

My light tells her much about me. It tells her whether I am an early or a late riser or retiree. It tells her whether I am at home a lot or gone much. If my windows show darkness instead of light for a long time, she can guess that I have gone on a trip or that something has befallen me. I am the person responsible for switching on the light, and she notices if I fail to do it.

Someone is watching for your light too. It may be a young person seeking stability. It may be someone seeking for the truth or trying to fight a battle while battered by the storms of adversity. It may be someone in a position of responsibility who takes courage because your light is always there. Whoever it is, be assured, someone is silently watching you. Your light tells the seeker that you have found the truth and that its oil keeps your light burning. It tells the discouraged that there is purpose in life. It tells the afflicted that tribulation grows patience. They see your light shining and are comforted to know they are not alone in a dark world.

You are responsible to keep your light shining. If you do not, those who depend on your light will wonder what is wrong. They will miss your helping hand, your warm smile, your words of encouragement. They will feel alone in the darkness. But if you gaze continually on the light of the Word, others will not be let down because you will consistently reflect His light and glory. 

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