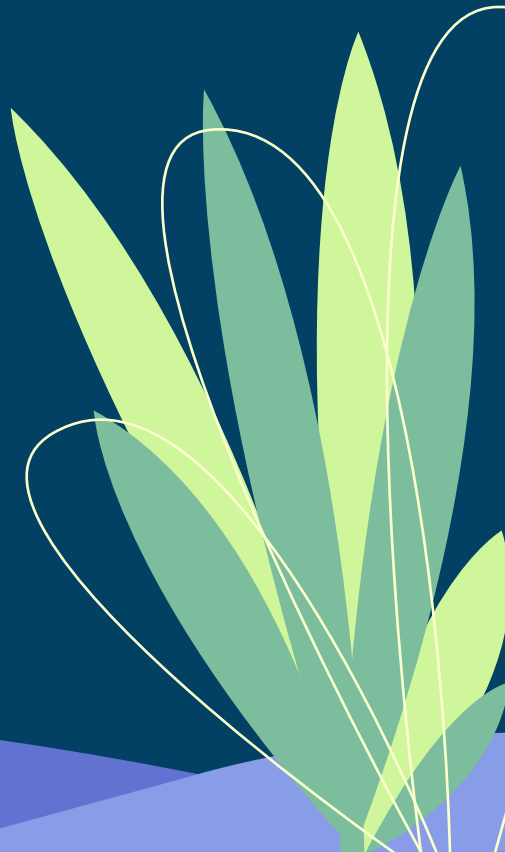
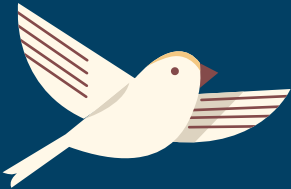



# *Everything I Need*

*Holly Paine Magnuson*





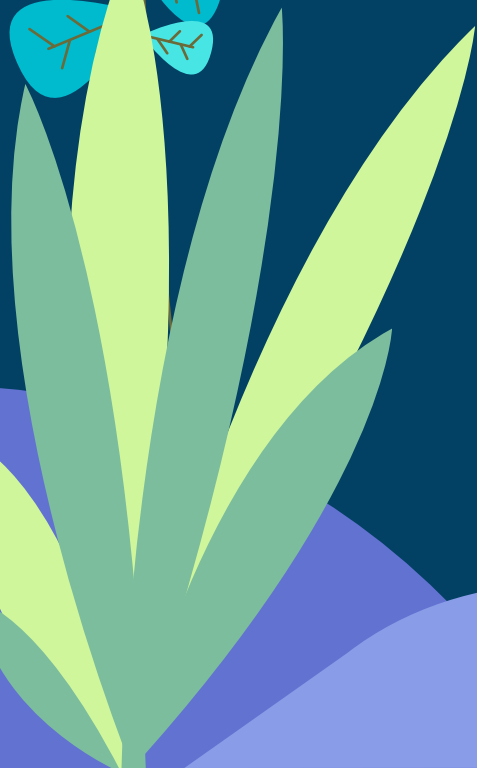
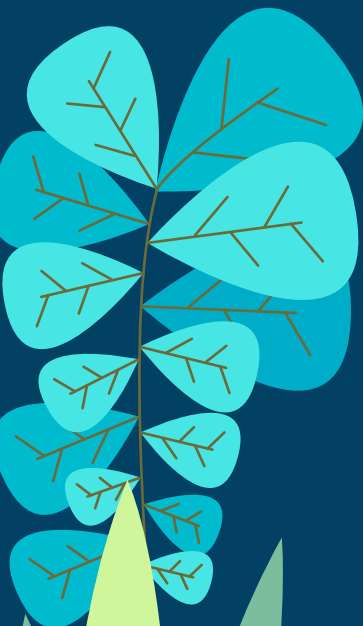
God has gone before us and protects us from behind. He has our battles already handled. He has the blindside covered. He isn't surprised by curveballs. This focused 3-day devotional will leave you encouraged in the truth that God is the provider of the exact portion, the exact measure, for your life.

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Day 1



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Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heav'n and home;  
When Jesus is my portion, My constant Friend is He.  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.  
I sing because I'm happy, and I sing because I'm free.  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He cares for me.  
– *Civilla D. Martin*, 1905

I don't know about you, but the word portion has forever been ruined for me by the variety of Weight Watcher commercials that have cycled throughout the decades.

Portion = food. Portion = diet. Portion points me to a life of tiny bites, of deprivation. It means restriction, denying myself the enjoyment of that blessed bowl of moose tracks ice cream, or having to stop prematurely after indulging in one bite of insanely good, ooey-gooey chocolate lava cake. Portion means having a much smaller amount of something I desire. It means that I have to stop short of what I really want, and ultimately that I won't be satisfied.

If I say "portion", you say... *Control!*

I wonder if that's how Civilla Martin thought about the word *portion* when she penned those beautiful song lyrics about a Christian couple whom, while both riddled with life limiting bodily afflictions, lived happy lives overflowing with faith? (Look up the song story for some interesting background!) I'm pretty sure she wasn't thinking about restriction, like we think about restricting sugar or carbs nowadays. The fad diets and portion control mindset is really only a fairly recent trend in our culture of excess and indulgence.

At the turn of the twentieth century, Cheetos and Cinnabon weren't around. Food wasn't fast, and cooking an apple pie was significantly more laborious than the ease in which I rip open a box of Pillsbury pie crust, roll out the premade crust, and cut cute little shapes in the perfectly flattened and round crust to delicately place on top. In my mind's eye, a homemade apple pie made in 1905 was certainly much more of a valued prize that was savored with family and friends in community together at a table than how we think about eating an

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apple pie today. After all, we can just run down to the local grocery store chain and pick one up in less than 30 minutes!

The word portion does indeed mean a measure. A perfect measure, not a lacking measure. A measure that is uniquely ours... and not anyone else's. It is the exact amount of something that we need. A common definition of portion (as a noun) is "an individual's part or share of something: such as a share received by a *gift* or *inheritance*."

A *gift*, an *inheritance* - something that we couldn't earn, but an honor we receive just by being adopted into the family of God as a son and daughter. Jesus is our portion. Our share of good. Our family inheritance with all the privileges and titles of a son or daughter.

Psalm 16:5 [AMP] says, "The Lord is my chosen and assigned portion, my cup; You hold and maintain my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; yes, I have a good heritage." We have a good heritage because God is good. We have a portion, a perfect measure assigned to us that keeps us safe, that upholds us, that enables us to fly above the storm and fight battles on His consistent faithfulness and strength. His portion and measure for us is a perfect gift that we need so desperately in this life.

*The word portion does indeed mean a measure. A perfect measure, not a lacking measure. A measure that is uniquely ours... and not anyone else's.*



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## God's Word

### Psalm 73:26

My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the rock and strength of my heart and my portion forever.

### Psalm 16:5-9

The Lord is the portion of my inheritance, my cup [He is all I need];  
The [boundary] lines [of the land] have fallen for me in pleasant places; Indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.

I will bless the Lord who has counseled me;  
Indeed, my heart (mind) instructs me in the night.

I have set the Lord continually before me;  
Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad and my glory [my innermost self] rejoices;  
My body too will dwell [confidently] in safety

### John 10:10-11

The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].



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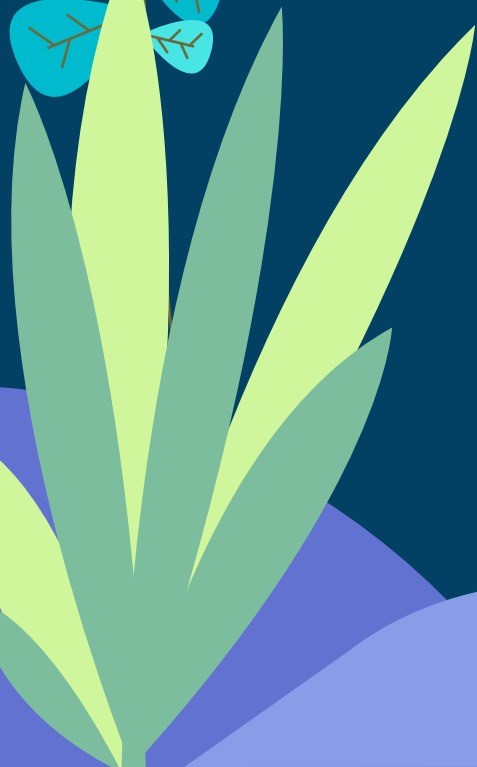
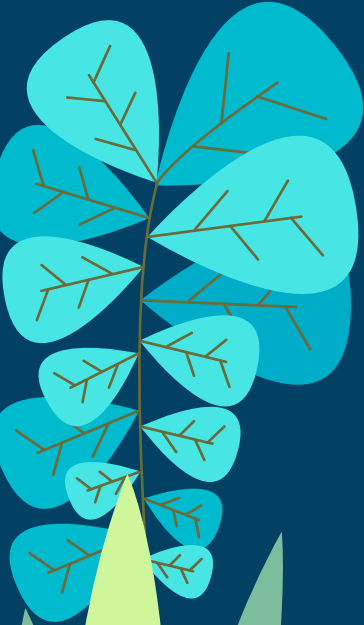
 DAY 3

### Reflection:

- When you think of the word portion, do you think of having enough of something, or having a lack of something? Do you feel full right now? Why or why not? (You know that I'm not talking about food at this point!)
- Have you ever asked God what your unique and measured portion is at this moment? If not, take a few moments to ask Him. Ask Him to reveal anything that is getting in the way of that portion. Be encouraged. God is faithful!



Day 2





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Because God has gone before us and protects us from behind, He has our battles already handled. He has the blind side covered. He isn't surprised by curveballs. The more that we attempt to wield the battle sword and lead the charge without Him, the more we will grow weary and struggle.

He *went ahead* of us and secured for us the exact measure of salvation that we need. The exact portion that was designed for us.

There is literally nothing better than the portion He secured for your life, because your God-ordained portion is for you and you alone. Your portion will provide wholeness and abundance for you, but not necessarily for your neighbor. Likewise, your neighbor's portion is not necessarily the same make and model that you need. It is in God's measured and perfect portion for you that you become fully awake and fully alive.

God wants to give you His portion for your life. He's not in the business of withholding good gifts, He's in the business of perfecting them. If you ask Him for bread, He will not give you a stone... so ask! He can't wait for you to enjoy the portion, the measure, that is wonderfully and uniquely yours.

Just don't go into the asking with a preconceived notion of what that portion is.

It's when we go ahead of God and develop our own dreams and goals without aligning to God's purpose that we find ourselves mightily disappointed.

Remember today that He is YOUR portion, that He has a carefully measured gift that has been painstakingly purchased for you. Jesus Christ worked for you. He labored for you. He endured for you. He bled for you.

He died for you. But most importantly, He didn't just take all of your battles on His shoulders for you, He defeated each and every thing that threatened you so that you can live fully alive.

*God is everything you need.  
Yesterday, today, and forever.*

And all of this talk about portion is making me hungry. I'm off to get a cookie.



*Everything I Need*



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## God's Word

### Psalm 5:11-12

But let all who take refuge *and* put their trust in You rejoice, Let them ever sing for joy; Because You cover *and* shelter them, Let those who love Your name be joyful *and* exult in You. For You, O Lord, bless the righteous man [the one who is in right standing with You]; You surround him with favor as with a shield.

### Matthew 6:25-34

Therefore, I tell you, stop being worried *or* anxious (perpetually uneasy, distracted) about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, as to what you will wear. Is life not more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow [seed] nor reap [the harvest] nor gather [the crops] into barns, and yet your heavenly Father keeps feeding them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by worrying can add one hour to [the length of] his life? And why are you worried about clothes?

See how the lilies *and* wildflowers of the field grow; they do not labor nor do they spin [wool to make clothing], yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory *and* splendor dressed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive *and* green today and tomorrow is [cut and] thrown [as fuel] into the furnace, *will* He not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith!

Therefore, do not worry *or* be anxious (perpetually uneasy, distracted), saying, 'What are we going to eat?' or 'What are we going to drink?' or 'What are we going to wear?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; [but do not worry,] for your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

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But first *and* most importantly seek (aim at, strive after) His kingdom and His righteousness [His way of doing and being right—the attitude and character of God], and all these things will be given to you also. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

### **Psalm 27:4-6**

One thing I have asked of the Lord, and that I will seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life,

To gaze upon the beauty [the delightful loveliness and majestic grandeur] of the Lord and to meditate in His temple.

For in the day of trouble He will hide me in His shelter;  
In the secret place of His tent, He will hide me;  
He will lift me up on a rock.

And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me,  
In His tent I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.



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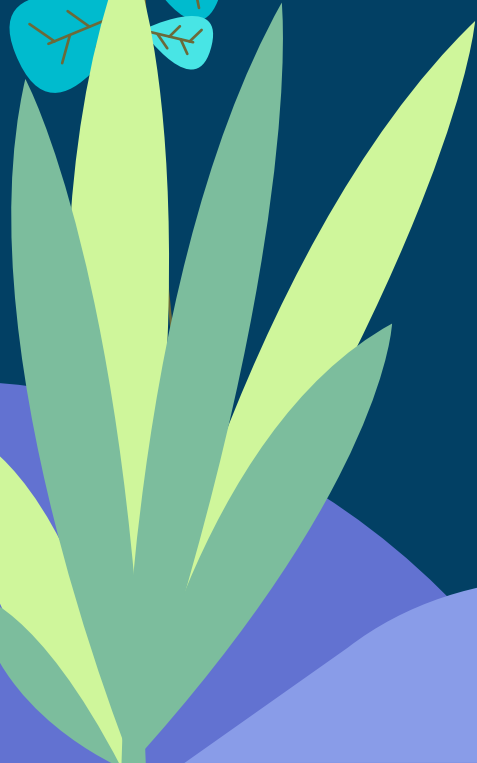
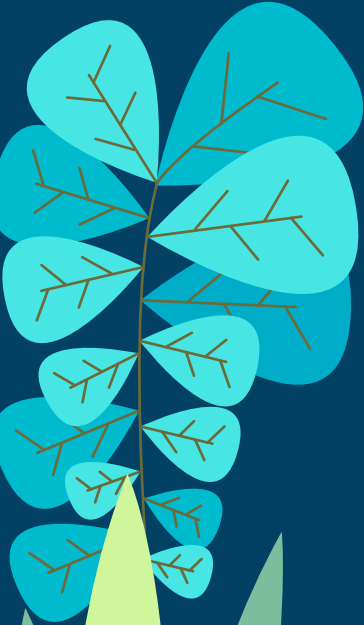
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### Reflection:

- What is the difference between wanting something and needing something? I think of it like a chocolate cake. I want it all the time, but I truly may never need it. Do you believe the portion God has for you is based more on want or need? Go back to Matthew 6 and take another look at verses 26-33. What is God telling you through His words here in these verses?
- Often knowing God's portion requires us to come near to Him, to read His Word and pursue His presence. How are you doing that today?



Day 3



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Very often, when I think that I desperately want or need something new in my life, what I'm really craving is God's presence, God's voice, and God's Word. In His presence, fear flees faster than the tiny lizards that line my path on a South Florida sidewalk, peace falls like a warm blanket on a snowy day, and dreams leap and dance with newfound delight.

Dreams that we didn't even know existed in our hearts.

In His presence, we dream in new ways. We align with His heart because He abides in ours and transforms us from the inside out. We find purpose through the Truth of His Word. In His presence, anything we ever needed simply overflows in every aspect of our lives. Out of that abundance we create with the Master Creator, and the Master Creator creates through us.

He is always and forever crafting new things out of the old and dried up areas in your life. God doesn't simply change your circumstances and battles, but writes NEW stories, NEW memories, and NEW adventures.

God's presence makes broken things whole. Not because of anything we have done, but because He is whole. He is unbroken; He is undamaged. He is not divided or disjointed; He isn't injured or impaired. He isn't wounded; He is complete. He isn't hurt. He is sound.

And through Jesus Christ, we are also whole. We are made new in His presence.

There is nothing like pressing into His presence in pursuit of our portion through Him. There is nothing like pursuing the Provider.

*Pursue your Provider with praise & thankfulness,  
with worship, and with the truth of His Word.*

And don't always try to pursue by yourself, even when it is awkward or embarrassing. Fight through the desire to retreat to the comfort

*Everything I Need*



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of solitude on your couch (or with the empty company of Netflix). Where there are two or more gathered in His name, God has promised to be there. I've seen amazingly powerful miracles done in the hearts and bodies of those who seek God together... I've had them happen in my own life. Get in community and stay in community. It's how we were made to grow.

Proclaim that God is the God over every good and bad season, both the dry and the fruitful seasons, and the busy and the restful seasons. He wants to hear us proclaim this truth, because His truth is good and strong. When we speak His truth, we find joy and we become grateful. He desires our thankfulness, our praise, and our worship because He knows it will remind us that He is on the throne and has already gone ahead of anything we may be facing today.

My heart beats for you, the reader of these words. More than anything, I want you to know Him, and just how good He is. He doesn't leave us on our own, He doesn't sit back and watch us fend for ourselves when we ask for His help.

He has promised us that when we seek Him, we will find Him. Regardless of where we are, and how we got there, God has a perfect portion waiting for us.



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## God's Word

### Psalms 139:1-18

O Lord, you have searched me [thoroughly] and have known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up [my entire life, everything I do]; You understand my thought from afar.

You scrutinize my path and my lying down,  
And You are intimately acquainted with all my ways.

Even before there is a word on my tongue [still unspoken],  
Behold, O Lord, You know it all.

You have enclosed me behind and before,  
And [You have] placed Your hand upon me.

Such [infinite] knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
It is too high [above me], I cannot reach it.

Where can I go from Your Spirit?  
Or where can I flee from Your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, You are there;  
If I make my bed in Sheol (the nether world, the place of the dead),  
behold, You are there.

If I take the wings of the dawn,  
If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

Even there Your hand will lead me,  
And Your right hand will take hold of me.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,  
And the night will be the only light around me,"

Even the darkness is not dark to You *and* conceals nothing from You,  
But the night shines as bright as the day;  
Darkness and light are alike to You.

For You formed my innermost parts;  
You knit me [together] in my mother's womb.



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I will give thanks *and* praise to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
Wonderful are Your works,  
And my soul knows it very well.

My frame was not hidden from You,  
When I was being formed in secret,  
And intricately *and* skillfully formed [as if embroidered with many colors] in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;  
And in Your book were all written  
The days that were appointed *for me*,  
When as yet there was not one of them [even taking shape].

How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
If I could count them, they would outnumber the sand.  
When I awake, I am still with You

### **Psalm 100:4-5**

Enter His gates with a song of thanksgiving  
And His courts with praise.  
Be thankful to Him, bless *and* praise His name.

For the Lord is good;  
His mercy *and* lovingkindness are everlasting,  
His faithfulness [endures] to all generations.

### **Matthew 18:19-20**

Again I say to you, that if two believers on earth agree [that is, are of one mind, in harmony] about anything that they ask [within the will of God], it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name [meeting together as My followers], I am there among them."



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## Closing Reflection and Prayer

God, every good and perfect gift comes from You, and we can't even fathom what You have in store for us in the future... but we do know that You have already secured it, already paid for it, already laid out a path for us to get it.

God, we want to be where You are. We want to see Your face, to hear Your voice, to be in the very presence of perfect Love. Love undefiled. Love as pure as the cry of a newly born babe.

Come meet the person reading this right where they are at this moment, for You know them completely. You know the struggles, the battles, the failures, and the mountains they are fighting against. You know what is needed to win, and You already have it secured. More than the good gifts You bring to us all, bring Your presence to them right now.

In the tension, in the darkness, in the battle, in the wilderness, we will not stop praising You, worshipping You, crying out for You, trusting You, humbling ourselves to You, and remembering how You have faithfully brought us here.

*We wait expectantly for You, O Lord. You are our perfect portion. You are everything we need.*



# *Everything I Need*

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