

# SOUND MIND BIBLE STUDY.com

## HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAHS SESSIONS

### Wrestling With Darkness: "Faith In The Fire"

With Content Creator & Founder: Misty Craig



"FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG"

#### KEY THEME

***"Faith is refined through trials,  
and God is present even in the darkest moments of life."***

#### DISCLAIMERS

Acknowledging the difficulty of trials is essential. Hardship and pain are real, and it is natural to struggle with them. Faith does not eliminate struggles but offers strength and the assurance of God's presence through them.

#### DIRECTION

Faith, like gold, is refined through fire. Trials are not meant to destroy, but to build perseverance, reliance on God, and spiritual maturity.

**Embrace perseverance, trusting in God's refining work and His presence in all circumstances.**

- **James 1:2-4:** Trials are a means to develop perseverance, leading to maturity and completeness in faith.
- **Isaiah 43:2:** God's promise of His presence during challenges ensures that no matter how overwhelming the situation, it will not overcome those who trust in Him.

## WELCOME

**A heartfelt thank you to Yolanda for graciously allowing us to use your shop for our Bible study tonight. Your generosity has created a welcoming and peaceful space for us to gather, reflect, and grow in faith together. We are truly blessed by your kindness and support. Thank you for being a part of this special evening!**

The inspiration for this Bible study, *Hard Fought Hallelujahs*, came from Brandon Lake's powerful song. The song captures the raw, emotional journey of wrestling with pain and hardship while still choosing to praise God in the midst of it all. The lyrics speak to the deep struggles many of us face, where faith is tested, and hallelujahs don't come easily—they are fought for, refined, and ultimately become more precious because of the fire.

Hearing this song reminded me of the times in my own life when praising God felt less like a natural response and more like a battle. Those moments when life felt heavy and dark, yet choosing to turn to God brought peace, strength, and hope. It made me reflect on how God uses our trials not to harm us, but to refine us, just like gold is refined in fire.

That realization sparked the idea for tonight's study. I wanted to create a space where we could come together, share our own hard-fought hallelujahs, and explore how faith grows stronger when tested. The lyrics "I've wrestled with the darkness, but I'm tryin' to reach for the light" beautifully encapsulate the heart of our study—acknowledging our struggles while seeking God's truth and light.

Brandon Lake's song not only inspired the name of this study but also its purpose: to honor the beauty of faith refined through fire and the strength we gain when we choose to lift up a hallelujah, no matter how hard-fought it may be.

## OPENING PRAYER

## EXPLANATION OF OPEN BIBLE STUDY

Before we begin, I want to take a moment to explain an important aspect of tonight's gathering. **This Bible study is an *open Bible study*, which means that everything shared here—our reflections, testimonies, and insights—can be freely spoken about outside of these doors.**

This openness is intentional. Our goal is to not only grow together in faith but also to encourage others with what we learn and experience here tonight. Your words, your stories, and your hallelujahs can inspire someone else who may be facing their own trials. Sharing how God is working in your life could be the light someone needs in their darkness.

While we are mindful to be respectful and thoughtful, we are also committed to ensuring that this space fosters a spirit of trust, honesty, and connection. By keeping this an open study, we invite God to use our words far beyond this room to impact lives and glorify Him.

So, as we dive into tonight's study, know that your voice matters—not just to those of us here tonight, but to anyone who might benefit from the truths we uncover and the testimonies we share. Let's be bold in sharing our stories and our faith, knowing they have the potential to shine God's light into the lives of others.

## HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAHS JOURNAL

This journal isn't just for tonight—it's meant to travel with us as we continue hosting more *Hard Fought Hallelujah* Bible studies. Each time we gather, the journal will be passed around, allowing new people to add their praises, testimonies, and reflections. As it travels, the journal will grow into a powerful collection of stories, showing how God has worked in the lives of many. It's a reminder that while we all go through our own fires, God is with us, carrying us through and refining us along the way. By sharing your experiences tonight, you're contributing to something that will inspire and encourage others who may read it in the future. Each entry will become part of a living testimony—a tangible way to show that God's love and faithfulness extend across time, places, and people.

So, as this journal moves forward, know that your words are part of a journey of faith, hope, and praise that will continue to grow and glorify God in the days to come.

## GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

- What's your name, and what brought you here tonight?
- What's something you're passionate about or enjoy doing in your free time?

## ABOUT SOUND MIND BIBLE STUDY

The one thing God has deeply impressed upon my heart is the importance of having a *sound mind in the spirit of fear*. Last spring, I felt led to start the *Sound Mind Bible Study* as a way to share this truth and teach others what God has taught me. With my father-in-law's blessing, I had the opportunity to travel back to Van Buren, Arkansas, where I grew up, to host several sessions of study. It was a powerful experience to return home and pour into others the lessons God has instilled in my heart.

I've lived in many places since my time in Arkansas, including North Carolina, where my son was born; El Paso and Killeen, Texas; Alabama; and Savannah, Georgia, where my daughters were born.

I've been married to my high school sweetheart for about 22 years, and together we've built a life shaped by the military. It has been our identity for as long as I can remember, teaching us resilience and adaptability through every season. We are both still alive and haven't killed each other. Plotted, but not killed. :)

Professionally, I spend a lot of time behind a computer. For the past 25 years, I've been designing websites for small businesses and churches. Recently, I stepped out in faith and started my own web design company. I love graphic design and the creative outlet it provides, and it's been a blessing to turn that passion into something meaningful.

On the outside, you might not see or understand the challenges—those arrows—that my family and I have faced, one after another. But it's because of those very struggles that I stand here tonight. I'm choosing to turn those trials into an opportunity to share what God has done for me. His faithfulness and grace have carried me through every fire, and I'm here to glorify Him and encourage others with my story.

# MY THANKFUL JOURNAL

There are several versions of me in this book.

- #4- Nathan's Healing 7.13.11
- #19- Truck Repairs going from \$1500 - \$0 11.24.11
- #19- Getting me through the week 1.8.12
- #24- Making it another week 1.15.12
- #26- Thankful, I don't have cancer 1.15.12
- #121-For keeping me from hitting a semi 11.10.13
- #155- For the lady giving my kids money to ride a carousel 11.17.13
- #160- For Number 3. 12.1.13
- #162- Being healed at the beginning of the pregnancy. 3.2.14

## *Story of My Son Elijah*

Another version of me enters

Pause for 3 months (Anger allowed me to feel Elijah was real, but why God?)

- #173- For Elijah Cole Craig 6.8.14
- #183- Holding me together and not leaving me alone 6.29.14
- #188- Being able to pay our bills. 6.29.14

2 year pause (I stopped seeking. I just existed)

- #199- For giving me courage 8.7.16
- (Just One Post for 7 months)
- #200- For a new chapter 3.26.17

(I tried, but I could only manage to get 5 things I was thankful for up to 4.9.2017.  
I was putting up a wall.)  
6 month pause

#207- 10.6.2019 -Sometimes it is very difficult to be thankful. 2 years have passed since I last wrote a thank you. Although I have many things to be thankful for, I am human and have entered a phase where I am angry with life. I hope to find my way out by looking at what is good. I am currently dealing with losing my dad's mom. I wanted to know her. But wasn't really allowed too. Nathan is at the end of his 5th deployment and it has its problems on its own. Now, I am dealing with the build up of spinal fluid on my brain since April 2019. This is something that is the most difficult thing I have ever dealt with in my life. So here I am trying my best to not allow myself to be bitter or angry about the things I don't feel are fair. Instead, I want to try to find thanks and give up control.

## OPEN FLOOR

I want to take a moment to open the floor for anyone who feels led to share their testimony or a word of praise. Whether it's a small blessing or a life-changing moment, your story could be exactly what someone else needs to hear today.

Don't worry about it being perfect or profound—every testimony is a testament to God's goodness, no matter how simple it may seem. Let's celebrate what He's doing in our lives and encourage one another in faith.

## QUESTIONS TO REFLECT

**Key Theme:** Faith is refined through trials, and God is present even in the darkest moments of life.

- **Reflection:**

*"I've wrestled with the darkness, but I'm tryin' to reach for the light."*

- Have you ever experienced a moment where darkness led you to seek light or truth?
- How does acknowledging personal struggles influence your sense of hope?
- In what ways can moments of darkness strengthen resilience or spiritual growth?

## WRAPPING IT UP

Acknowledging the difficulty of trials is essential. Hardship and pain are real, and it is natural to struggle with them. Faith does not eliminate struggles but offers strength and the assurance of God's presence through them.

## SMBS CLOSING PRAYER

I need God.  
I'm stand on His faithfulness.  
He has given me a sound mind  
for the spirit of fear  
And A sound mind so that I can see clearly

I will listen,  
I will feast on every word  
the Lord speaks to me,  
He is my fortress and my God,  
I will stand in authority

When I speak the name of Jesus  
all this darkness will flee  
He saved, healed, delivered me,  
Jesus' blood washes over me

He commands my soul to awake, arise  
I've asked the Holy Spirit  
to fall on me and to burn like a fire

I've asked God's will be done for His kingdom  
I prayed that the spirit lead me now as one,  
set me free

He is the anchor of my soul  
that keep me from drifting on my own  
He is the light inside my storms  
that keeps pointing me home

The Lord is my hands, my feet, my tears  
I give up all control to Him.  
Control over my body, my mind and my soul.

God knows what I've been through  
I've asked the Lord to help me to never  
let my enemies ever get the best of me  
And to never let fear hold me down

He is my armor and my shelter  
I seek His will, Not my own  
I surrender all my wants to the Lord  
I want to walk His ways  
His kingdom is all I want to seek

He gives me freedom from my chains  
and healing from my pain  
Everything's been changed,  
Because He calls my name

I am always praying that God  
will continue to help me,  
step into a new day,  
so I can rise up  
from the dust and walk away

AGAIN...  
He has given me a sound mind  
for discernment  
and for the spirit of fear  
He has given me a sound mind  
so that I can see clearly

When I am asked, how I did it, I will say, "God  
taught me"

When I am asked, how I'm winning', I will say,  
"God taught me"

When I am asked, why I'm different, I'll say,  
"God taught me"

I am a bold lion and my lungs will always sing  
His praises with gratitude.

Amen

## SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST