

EXCERPT



Enough for Today
Forty Reflections for Surviving the Wilderness

December 9, 2025 | \$17.99, 176 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1254-3

Donna Barber offers forty reflections on how God provides in unexpected and life-sustaining ways, drawing parallels to the manna that sustained the Israelites during their own wilderness journey. This devotional is designed for those whose spirits are weary, for justice seekers trying to rediscover hope, and for anyone longing for spiritual sustenance amid the challenges of the world. These devotions are an invitation to acknowledge our fear and anger and still lean into what is true and righteous as we make our way through the wilderness.

God's Office in the Wilderness

HERO CAPES AND CAMOUFLAGE

*While we were still helpless
[powerless to provide for our salvation],
at the right time Christ died [as a substitute]
for the ungodly.
ROMANS 5:6*

Why do you need to be in control? he asked. I did not answer.
Because you're afraid, he went on. *What are you afraid of?*
"Failing," I whispered.
Not being loved. Not being accepted. Not being as good as you think or as people think you are, he said.

I remember when I was a child in elementary school, our classroom door would sometimes open, and an aide would enter and approach the teacher's desk with a note from the office. If the paper was white, the message was generally informational and held no concern for us as students. But if the note was not white, all activity would cease and the room would go silent as the entire class held its collective breath.

If the note was yellow, someone was being called down to the principal's office. If the note was pink, someone was being suspended! In either case, you did not want to hear your name called once the teacher got the colored note.

It was one of those mornings, one of those days when the activity in my devotional classroom had ceased because the note delivered from the Spirit had my name on it. Thankfully, pink slips are rare in God's schoolhouse. Our Lord is patient and suffers long with his children. But from time to time, God calls us up to his office for a chat, and this was one of those days. When God is in the posture of correction, I feel every bit the size of my seven- or eight-year-old powerless self, and I bow my head and lower my eyes in reverence, but also in conviction, knowing I will again be seen and known, fully and completely in all my human frailty.

God has an office in the wilderness where degrees and titles offer no protection, where there are no fig leaves of busyness or flashy distractions of talent or personality to hide behind. In this barren landscape I can easily see what God has chosen to reveal—the truth of my fear. Through childhood experiences we learn how to be in the world, how to navigate, how to survive. As a child, I wasn't afraid of being seen. I was afraid of being rejected. So I learned two effective methods for avoiding that pain—invisibility and perfection. Be unseen or be the hero.

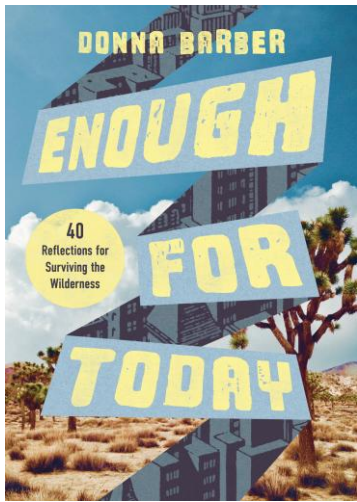


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I learned to enter a room and quickly disappear into the safety and obscurity of the margins of the space, to listen intently, observe carefully, and to speak only when I had something substantial to say. In work it was dot every i, cross every t, and avoid making mistakes.

In the kingdom, neither of these mechanisms is useful or required. I am justified by faith. I have peace with God through Christ. I have access to a grace that allows me to stand in hope. I have been reconciled—brought into agreement with the One who has given me this salvation. I do not need to hide or exhaust myself in the pursuit of perfection. The miseducation of the world teaches me I must earn love and acceptance. Racism and classism tell me I need to work twice as long and twice as hard to get half as much and, as a Black woman who grew up poor, that what I get I don't deserve. Religion implies that I must keep the rules to gain God's love and avoid damnation. However, grace is not transactional. God proved his unconditional love by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. And since we have now been declared free of the guilt of sin by his blood, we will be saved from the wrath of God through him.

I don't have to be the best and brightest student, the parent, spouse, or partner who is continually in control, or the leader afraid of being discovered as less than perfect. I have a God. I don't need to be one.

In God's office in the wilderness I am met with a love that dispels my fear, and I remember that I can have joy even in the arid conditions of this everyday life. Challenge produces patience and through patience I gain experience and through experience I have a hope that will not disappoint. Stripped of the hero cape and camouflage, I have room in the mercy and grace of God to risk and to fail and to try again. I am loved. I am accepted and forever reconciled to the God who made and chose me.

I am likely not as good as I am thought to be. But in him, I am enough.

—taken from chapter thirty-seven, “Hero Capes and Camouflage”



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Donna Barber (MS, Georgia State) is a Jesus-follower and contemplative who expresses her faith through writing, preaching, program creation, and the development of leaders both in and outside the church. As cofounder and executive director of The Voices Project, Donna uses her voice to mentor, train, and promote leaders of color. She is the author of Bread for the Resistance: Forty Devotions for Justice People and a passionate educator advising teachers, administrators, and nonprofits in order to transform education systems to eliminate harm. Donna lives in Atlanta with her husband, lifelong friend, and ministry partner, Leroy Barber.

Finding a Way Forward

What motivated you to write *Enough for Today*?

Donna Barber: A sense that people are struggling with the current state of the world and the church, so much so that they are beginning to question their faith. This has caused many to step away from community and into a barren, middle space between where they were and where they are going—a wilderness. I wanted to speak a word to help them navigate that space.

What is the central thesis of your book?

Donna: If we can remember the God of our first love and the place that we met him, we can find a way forward in hope and faith.

What are five main things you want readers to take away from your book?

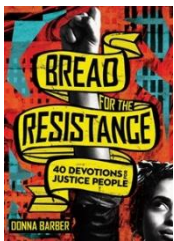
Donna:

- God has not changed. He is the same God we fell in love with.
- There is a mission he is inviting us into.
- We can acknowledge our fear and anger and still lean into what is true and righteous.
- We can make our way through the darkness of now.
- We can reimagine church and move forward into something good.

Is there anything else you want us to know about the book?

Donna: It highlights some of the beauty of the Black church in particular which, from inception, has navigated the painful hypocrisy of American Christianity and still found a hope in Christ.

Also by Donna Barber:



Bread for the Resistance: Forty Devotions for Justice People
September 17, 2019 | \$19.99, 168 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-4396-1

In these daily devotions, Donna Barber offers life-giving words of renewal and hope for those engaged in the resistance to injustice. When you face adversity, you can take courage. When you grapple with discouragement, you can find hope. When your legs are tired from marching and your knees are bruised from kneeling, you can experience rest and healing.



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