

Melinda Means

... Refreshing the Thirsty Soul



Melinda wants women to experience the freedom, joy and peace that IS possible -- even in seemingly endless challenges and trials. She gives loving, godly encouragement, while challenging women to dig deep and allow the Holy Spirit to empower them to push past fear, despair, discouragement and hopelessness.

With warmth, vulnerability and transparency, Melinda shares her own ongoing struggles with fear and defeat. She understands the weariness of facing difficulties that seem to have no end. For nearly two decades, she has battled chronic pain and anxiety. She is mom to a son in the middle of his own fight with cystic fibrosis. And yet, God gives her the ability over and over again to choose joy, cling to His truth and experience freedom.

“The conference was a *real blessing* to all ...
Thank you for sharing your story.
You *inspire us* so much! //
~ **Janet**, Conference Attendee

Melinda has been a Bible study leader for nearly 20 years. She is currently the Women's Director at her church, where she has the incredible privilege of helping women go deeper with Jesus. She is also the founder and leader of Living Hope, her church's support group for caregivers and those struggling with chronic illness.

She is co-author of *Mothering From Scratch: Finding the Best Parenting Style for You and Your Family* (Bethany House, 2015). Her work has also appeared in Focus on the Family *Focus on Your Child* and *Clubhouse* publications, CBN.com, *In Touch* magazine, and *Lifeway's Journey* devotional magazine.

Melinda's priority ministry is to her family, who God uses to stretch and humble her daily! Her husband, a high school teacher and track coach, keeps her laughing after more than 20 years of marriage. She is mom to a strapping teenage son and a beautiful, entertaining college-age daughter.

“I have worked in ministry for over 20 years, including with speakers John Maxwell and Women of Faith, and I can say without reservation that **Melinda is in the Top 1% of speakers available today.**”

What sets Melinda apart is not just her message but her presence; she invites the audience in through deep vulnerability and a caring compassion that says, “I am with you.”

~ **Tracie Robbins**
Program Manager,
International Justice Mission

Popular Speaking Topics

Invisible Wounds:

Choosing Hope & Freedom When You're Trapped in a World of Hurt

So many of us walk around with a smile on our face. We look perfectly fine and normal. But beneath the surface, we have wounds that just won't heal. We're fighting battles that no one else sees or seems to understand. In this talk, Melinda shares openly and honestly about her decades-long battle with chronic illness and how it has challenged her faith and belief in a God who cares and is working for her good. Despite the mental, physical and spiritual wounds, she also shares how she is claiming Truth, hope and freedom moment-by-moment and day-by-day -- and how you can, too.

Cultivating a Courageous Heart

Fear and anxiety can be paralyzing. In our dangerous and uncertain world and lives, how can we keep fear from overwhelming us? In this talk, Melinda discusses some of the root causes of our fear and empowers women with practical tools for deepening our trust in God so we can step out courageously even as we fight off anxiety.

Riding the Roller Coaster: Pursuing Our Dreams

Satan wants to keep our expectations of God very low. Reasonable. Manageable. In fact, He uses people, circumstances, anything he can to kill that big dream that lurks inside of us. Using her own experiences and solid biblical truth, Melinda gives solid ways we can know a dream is from God, how to recognize the enemy's attacks on our purpose and steps to take to move toward the dreams God placed in our hearts.

The Perfect Parent

Our mistakes as moms can haunt us. As time goes on, they seem to become bigger and more permanent in our minds. Guilt and condemnation can easily overwhelm us. In this talk, Melinda explores some of the common lies we believe and how God's perfect nature can help us refute them. She'll give hope and practical tools for mothering with joy and truth, as well as the assurance that through God's power, our mistakes can be redeemed.

\\ Melinda's personal testimony is *very powerful* and her ability to relate that story to every individual's personal struggle is quite effective. When Melinda was finished speaking at our recent Women's Conference, the response to her altar call for prayer was *incredible*. Many lives were touched that day. //

~ **Lauren Anderson**, Church Executive Director

Melinda can speak on additional topics to meet your group's needs. She can speak to small, informal gatherings or deliver a single or keynote address or a half or full day seminar/workshop. **To book Melinda or for more information, please melindameansauthor@gmail.com.**