

PERSONAL WORSHIP

VOLUME FIVE

Intimacy With God

Don DeWelt

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Volume Five

Matthew 26:30-28:20

Mark 14:26-16:20

Luke 22:39-24:53

John 14:8-21:25

Acts 1:1-5:39

Don DeWelt

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HOW TO MAINTAIN PERSONAL WORSHIP WITHOUT RELAPSES

Mary had read my material on Personal Worship and attended one of my seminars on the subject. She felt this met the largest need in her life. She committed herself without reservation to meet her Lord in the closet of prayer. For several weeks — yes *more* than twenty-one days she found joyful fulfillment in worship. She was sorely tempted at times to let other things interfere and take control — but she resisted — gradually such distractions seemed to disappear.

Then one morning she awoke in an unaccountably miserable mood, she had treated her children in a most unchristian manner, but she had forgotten that fact. She simply turned over — shut off the alarm clock and went back to sleep. She, right there and then, broke a promise and a flawless record of personal worship!

Guiltily, she thought about what she had done. She hesitated and then sank deep into despair and continued to sleep in. “Oh, I will never be able to be the person I want to be, anyway,” the evil one whispered in her ear. “I might as well enjoy myself,” she said — not willing to admit her highest joy was in those days of intimacy with her Lord.

Relapses are our biggest enemy — Mary had done this before and she was about ready to “throw in the towel” forever! *Wait, wait* — there *is* a reason — please, please give me a little of your time. 80% of those who begin Personal Worship have some type of relapse within 90 days. This is true, according to psychologists, with any life-style change. It makes but little difference what the change is: smoking, drinking, gambling, overeating, compulsive shopping or overworking. (See the October issue of *Reader's Digest*, p. 165.) We, the “children of light” have much to learn from other people. Here are the facts — let's let these facts get a hold of our hearts:

It is NOT your inability to have personal worship. You have overcome the physical and psychological desires to sleep in or just drop the thought of self-denial. But a surprising number of people like Mary backslide when the worst seems to be over — *Why? Why?* Just when you seem to be reaping the benefits of privately worshiping the Lord you drop out — *Why are we threatened on the threshold of success?*

It is because of your anger — your anxiety — your depression — it is when you are bored you become an easy prey for the evil one. When you feel lonely you are a real pawn for the devil.

We have told you over and over again that “*a habit is an involuntary action*” — it is “automatic behavior

that provides pleasure and comfort” (*ibid*, p. 166). “A bad habit has long-term negative consequences, but it still gives immediate comfort, and under stress the automatic tendency is to revert to it.” I refer to the “*laid-back*” — “*relaxed*” lifestyle that simply does not include personal worship. It has always been easier not to have a time and a place to worship our Lord than to have one.

To permanently rid yourself of this habit of not disciplining yourself for your quiet time you *must* “simultaneously unlearn certain behaviors and replace them with new ones that also provide gratification” (*ibid*, p. 166). This is not easy, but who said it was easy? Denial of self for a better self has never been easy. It takes practice and persistence.

Suppose you were trained as a spy for our government on an essential, crucial mission, and you were given an entirely new identity. You had a *new* name — a *new* address — a *new* family — a *new* purpose. At first it seemed almost impossible to be able to remember you were no longer your old self. Instinctively you would revert back to your old identity. But in time — and under the desire to fulfill your vital job you did become your new self. However — in an emergency you were all too likely to lapse back to your old self. We are indeed strangers and pilgrims in this land. As the song writer so beautifully said: “I am a stranger here within a foreign land — my home is far away upon a golden strand — Ambassador to be from a land across the sea — I'm here on business for my King.” Yet in spite of all the stress and difficulties some people *do* overcome — they *are* the victors not the victims — how do they do it? The steps taken by those who overcome drinking, drugs, smoking, overeating, etc., are just the same — there is no magic, it is not mysterious. Here are the essential steps we can all take in being the overcomer.

1. *Plan ahead.* It is a foregone conclusion: we will be sorely tempted to slack off — to drop the ball — to “quit the whole thing.” I know — I know — I have been there many times. Such times come unpredictably and seem overwhelming. However since we know they are coming we can be prepared for them. We are not ignorant of our enemy's devices. *The urge to quit never lasts longer than ten minutes.* We can put up with it — we can resist it that long! Plan ahead what you are going to do when the temptation comes. Here are some things I have done — and do right now:

(1) *I sing a song.* *Day by Day* is one beautiful song to use to chase the devil away. Just look at these words!

Better yet, *sing it right now:*

*Day by day and with each passing moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure
Gives unto each day what He deems best—
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.*

The second verse reads:

*Every day the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
He whose name is Counsellor and Power.
The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,"
This the pledge to me He made.*

(2) Go for a walk in an area where God can speak to you from his other book called "creation." I have purchased some books on trees, birds, shells and butterflies. I read them so I can think God's thoughts as I contemplate what he made. Others have done this — this is what they said:

My faith is all a doubtful thing,
Wove on a doubtful loom,
Until there comes, such showery spring,
A cherry tree in bloom;

And Christ, who died upon a tree
That death had stricken bare,
Comes beautifully back to me,
In blossoms everywhere.
—David Morton

The kindest thing God ever made,
His hand of very healing laid
Upon a fevered world, is shade.
His glorious company of trees
Throw out their mantles, and on these
The dust-stained wanderer finds ease.
Green temples, closed against the beat
Of noontime's blinding glare and heat,
Open to any pilgrim's feet.

The white road blisters in the sun;
Now half the weary journey done,
Enter and rest, O weary one!
And feel the dew of dawn still wet
Beneath my feet, and so forget
The burning highway's ache and fret.

This is God's hospitality,
And whoso rests beneath a tree
Hath cause to thank Him gratefully.
—Theodosia Garrison

(3) Talk with someone who shares your desire to overcome. In doing this you will not only help yourself but the person with whom you share your concern. Be open and honest with your friend. There is something wonderfully therapeutic in lifting someone else up — you find yourself flying. As Paul said to Timothy: "Give yourself to this for in doing so you will save yourself and those that hear you." Just

a ten minute call on the phone can mean the difference between continuing and stopping.

2. Reinforce your habit of personal worship. You must get an emotional response in and from this tryst with your Lord. Read this verse from II Timothy just as if you had never read it before:

No soldier on service entangles himself in the affairs of this life so he may please him who enrolled him as a soldier (II Tim.2:4).

Mark it down as a fact: *our Lord is emotionally involved — he is pleased with our choice to enlist in his army.* He is happy over our willingness to actively oppose our enemy. We fail in personal worship because we forget *we are in a war* — the enemy is all about us! This is a battle of life and death. Jesus *hears* us — Jesus *sees* us — Jesus is *personally responsive* to our every choice — our every effort. *Can we be less?*

If it would help you to set a vacant chair in the area where you worship and imagine Jesus sitting in that chair, *do it!* Let it be his throne. Your emotional needs must be met — yea, they will be met! Let Jesus satisfy your heart!

Please review often the specific heart-needs this time with your Lord meets in your life — such as:

- Peace* — a tranquility of spirit you cannot have and do not have in any other way.
- Confidence in your Lord* — when Jesus is so *real* — so *alive* — so *near* — so *powerful* confidence in him comes easy!
- Confidence in your acceptance by him.* "Blessed assurance, *Jesus is mine* — oh, what a foretaste of glory divine." If ever this song takes on reality it is in the closet of prayer!

It is easy for me to write these words because I have felt them so many times (like this morning). You can, too — but you must act out of deep desire and consistent practice. You *can* do it. He will *help* you!

3. Enlist your friends in personal worship. It is one thing to talk with them about your need — it is quite something else to recruit them as fellow-worshippers with yourself. I am not suggesting a daily group prayer — this would not be *personal* worship — but I am suggesting you need to commit others to private prayer. AND to keep track of their progress. A group meeting once a week for the first six weeks could be wonderfully beneficial to all involved.

The most effective method to prevent relapse is to seek to support others in their commitment. This is the principle upon which *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Weight Watchers* are built! It works, it works! Let's use it!

Right now — list 3 of your friends you can enlist for Personal Worship — ask them to join you once a week for a time of questions — encouragement and prayer.

Please be open with your loved ones — your commitment to personal worship has not all been positive. There have been times when you were much less than you wanted to be — or expected to be. Be honest and

candid with others about this.

When you meet your friends talk about your victories — testify about how precious the Lord is to you. It is what you emphasize that will be remembered longest.

4. *You must avoid high-risk situations.* You most likely will need to break your habit of just drifting into the routine of the day without a thought of spending an hour with your Lord. You know ahead of time that this attitude will put you into the routine of your day without personal worship! Avoid it — reject it — resist it!

Do not — I repeat *DO NOT* talk with people who are not committed to personal worship and actually are opposed to it. Evil companions will (not “*might*”) corrupt your resolve to meet our Lord. There are a multitude of people who just do not understand or care — avoid them! It is tension and frustration that could defeat you — avoid situations where you know such tension will be present!

5. Set goals within your goal — your one glorious goal is to spend at least an hour in intimacy with your Lord. But small steps to this goal will help *so much*! Such as:

(1) “*One day at a time, dear Jesus,*” is so very very much to the point. How will you do in personal worship for tomorrow? Surely you can plan your schedule to get this done — and what about the day after tomorrow?

(2) Reread what you have written about personal worship or your words spoken to the Lord, if you write your worship. Have you anything in hand from yesterday that relates to your goal? Read it! Can you remember the day when you committed yourself? Review that day and decision in your heart!

(3) The Bible seems to have a preference for certain numbers — such as *three* — *seven* — and *forty* — commit *three* days at a time — *seven* days at a time. When you have reached one or more of these lesser goals reward yourself. There are some precious rewards that will lift our spirits and move us into a deeper commitment. Here are a few I have used:

a. Listen to praise music on a good cassette player. This truly transports you into a new realm.

b. I have a VCR of the Gospel of Luke — I watch a segment of my Lord’s life — and hear the inspired words of Dr. Luke.

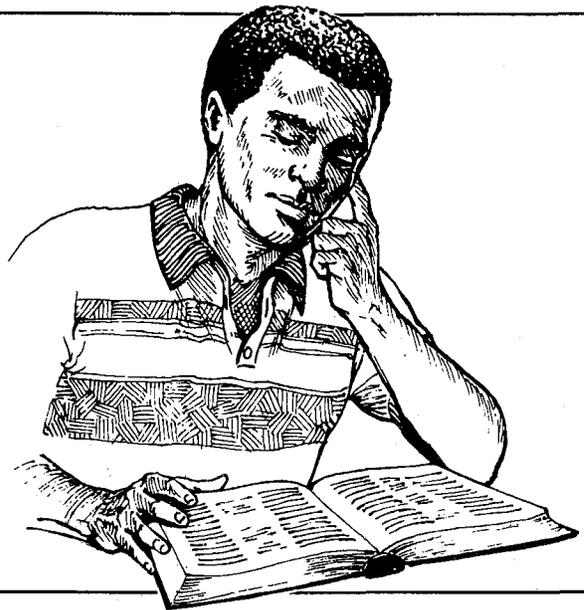
c. There are times when a nap is a real reward. I need to say that if you reward yourself with something that does not relate to the cultivation of your relationship with your Lord it is self-defeating. It is no reward, it is a postponement. It is like rewarding yourself with a drink if you are an alcoholic.

6. *Be totally honest with yourself!* Accidents do not “happen” — they are planned — i.e. subconsciously or on purpose. In a very subtle way we “make provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof.” We can deceive ourselves *so easily!* — and so effectively.

WEEK ONE

—Sunday—

You are even now guarding and delivering — it is a joy to worship you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Let those who love the Lord hate evil, for he guards the lives of the faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name” (Psa. 97:10-12). Dear Lord there always seems to be a new and different way to say praise to your name! If I love you I will HATE EVIL — not dislike it — or ignore it — but HATE IT! I want to develop a deep resentment — a holy antipathy for all that is contrary to your way. How much evil I have escaped because of your goodness and mercy only heaven will reveal. Your guard has kept me from many a scar and hurt from the evil one — and I am glad!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

How I do want to come under the blood and righteousness of my Lord that I may lift my heart in praise and joy. It would be easy to be depressed each day — I do not make it in the battle with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes or the pride of life. But when I remember the uprightness is inside of you I am full of joy. Imputed righteousness — forgiveness and acceptableness by grace through faith is the only way I have to lift up my heart in praise and declare my holiness — I have NONE of my own it is *all* of you. But once I accept such goodness there does arise with the psalmist the claims of protection and deliverance from my foes. Bless your wonderful name!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God?

CONFESSION OF SIN

The old axiom that man is not good enough or smart enough to be saved by anything but grace is so eternally true! Forgive me for being so easily deceived and discouraged by Satan. I must remember to

develop my hatred of evil — to *abhor* that which is evil! “. . . whatever is *true* (i.e. equal with reality as you define it) whatever is *noble* (i.e. that which lifts up and elevates the human spirit) whatever is *right* (i.e. that which fulfills the truth in life) whatever is *pure* (i.e. whole and lasting or eternal in value) whatever is *lovely* (*ah, what a word!* — holds out beauty in itself — a thing of beauty is a joy forever) whatever is *admirable* (i.e. we can talk about with good thoughts and describe your own qualities about it), if anything is *excellent* (i.e. holds the highest qualities of development in itself) or *praiseworthy*” — how good, good, good it is to speak of the good about others and yourself.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

True-hearted, whole-hearted, Savior all-glorious!
Take Thy great power and reign there alone,
Over our wills and affections victorious,
Freely surrendered and wholly Thine own.
Peal out the watchword! silence it never!
Song of our spirits, rejoicing and free;
Peal out the watchword! loyal forever,
King of our lives, by Thy grace we will be.

HIS WORD

⁸Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us,”

⁹Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ¹²I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these,

because I am going to the Father. ¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." —*John 14:8-14, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

We intentionally overlap a few verses here to help us better receive the full impact of this blessed passage! In what wonderful sense could Jesus say that he was "in the Father"? He was saying that if God came to walk among men he would do and say just as our blessed Lord did! His life — his teaching — his miracles were but the outward expression of the Father in him. He did not do these things of himself, it was God in him doing it. Then to reverse the expression: the Father came in the presence of the Son as the Son came in the person of the Father. This is almost too much for our finite minds to assimilate! Jesus referred to the words he spoke as "the work of the Father" — doubtless referring to the source of the words. A careful examination of the miracles of Jesus would indicate the real divine source of his words and works.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Jesus intended for his work to be carried out after he left and went back to the Father. Wonder of wonders! He intended for his apostles and we his disciples to complete and complement what he did! The one requisite for doing his works was that "we have faith in him." It does seem easy for us to "have faith in him." Our faith must be a living union with him — not just a mental assent but a whole hearted confidence in his presence and person in us and with us in the person of the Holy Spirit. I do so truly believe the "greater works" are those of raising the dead in trespasses and sins — healing the sick of heart and mind — the release from Satan's bondage of those who are presently bound. Bless your wonderful name — give me a few more days to do this!

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the sufficiency of seeing yourself in your Son. (2) Thank you that the self-revelation of Jesus was gradual for his disciples — as it is for me. (3) Thank you that I can believe that in him dwelt all the fullness of the godhead bodily (Col. 1:19). (4) Thank you that all the fullness of the Son dwelt in the Father. (5) Thank you that the Father dwelling in me is such an example of just how it is possible for two spirit beings to be present at the same time in the same place. (6) Thank you for the wonderful evidence of the miracles of Jesus. (7) Thank you for the "greater works" you can and do perform in the world today through your servants.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so the Son may bring glory to the Father." The intertwining of the three parties mentioned here are all a part of

this promise. How could the answer of the prayer of the disciples enable the Son to bring glory to the Father? The three are so inseparable to have one is to have the other. What a wonderful example of trinity — of the disciples of the Son and of the Father. We are sure the Holy Spirit is not at all separate from this promise. There was going to be a need in the next 40 or 50 years for special powers to be manifest to lend confirmation to the momentous promises of our Lord. The unqualified promise of 14:14 has always intrigued me: "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What a passage for requests: (1) I have been a long time in the task of intercessory prayer — I have only begun to enter its doorway — "lead me higher up and further in." (2) Jesus walked and talked constantly conscious of the Father in him and he in the Father — how I would like to understand far more of what this means. (3) The work of the Father was in the form of speaking words — how eternally important are your words — may I learn them in my heart! (4) Jesus said the Father was *living* in Jesus — Jesus can and does live in me. Keep me as aware of this as was my Lord. (5) People can see evidence of his living in us — it is *your words* that give this evidence — dear Lord, increase them! (6) Oh for the "greater works" to be done in my life — lead me into such works. (7) It is a solid comfort to talk to you as alive with the living Father — praise your name!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in these verses: (1) ". . . at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves." (2) "Your task is to bring glory to the Son." (3) "Whatever glory goes to you apart from the Son is worthless."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Finland — Point for prayer: *Praise God for the awakenings and revivals over the past 200 years with a strong emphasis on prayer, repentance and confession.* The last revival occurred during the 1960s. Present interest in spiritual things could lead to revival again. May expectancy result in it happening — for the blessing of the world! There is a steady but slow increase in the number of active Christians.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,
A wonderful Savior to me;
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
Where rivers of pleasure I see.
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;
He hideth my life in the depths of His love,
And covers me there with His hand,
And covers me there with His hand.

WEEK ONE

—Monday—

If you were not in control of this earth all would be lost — I want you to control my life.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

The 97th Psalm seems neglected in the various expressions by men of praise and worship. This is not as it should be. There are numerous areas for praise: (1) *“The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; the distant shores rejoice.”* (2) *“ . . . righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.”* (3) *“His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.”* (4) *“The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.”* (5) *“For you, O Lord, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.”* (Psalm 97:1,2b,4,6,9) Surely there is much — very much for which to praise you in these verses!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

As for me there are at least four ways or reasons for praising you. (1) It is a good thing a beneficent God rules this world, there would be nothing but chaos and confusion in this world if some other being were in charge of this universe. (2) Righteousness and justice are your ideal — and to man in your mercy they are imputed — without them there would be no world. (3) The lightning that streaks across the sky in a thunder storm is but the physical evidence of your ability to instantly strike at any place at any time that needs your judgment — no wonder men tremble. (4) One day there will be a declaration for all to see of your vindication — all your acts were righteous and all peoples above and beneath shall see your true character.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How very often is your reign reiterated in the Psalms. The government of a theocracy is behind all these

figures of speech. We who live in a democracy have a most difficult time relating with real personal meaning to such a rule. However it is not difficult to identify with my King of Glory — my living reigning Lord. I want in my heart of hearts to rejoice at his rule in and through me! Job discovered the incongruity of arguing with you. Who has been your counselor? Surely not myself! Forgive me for ever entertaining such a thought. I am glad to acknowledge that the light of your word lights up the meaning and purpose to life and gives meaning to all the dark places of this world — if not here, hereafter!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter;
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me
After Thy will,
While I am waiting,
Yielded and still.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹⁵“If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will realize that I am in the Father and you are in me, and I am in you.” — *John 15:14-20, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Ah, dear Lord, you do speak so plainly and eloquently to me. I do love you — how is it then I am all hesitant in obeying what you command? Break down all resistance to your will in my life, in my mind, in my will, in my emotions. May I give myself wholly to you! Could I under a separate list itemize all you have commanded me? The first request of Jesus upon his return to heaven was to send “another Counselor” — he being the first great Counselor. He was with them for such a short time. What wonderful encouragement it must have been to hear him say of the coming Counselor that he would be with them forever.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

The other Counselor has another name. He is to be called — and is called “*the Spirit of truth*” the very breath of reality is the Holy Spirit! He is the source of all reality. The more we know him the more we know reality. “The world” is all that is contrary to and opposite from reality — it is but illusion. We can see and know the truth — the Other Counselor because he has come in the person of his Son. Of course the Holy Spirit himself was present — but was observable in the Person of Jesus. He (i.e. Jesus) lived with them and after Pentecost would live in them in the person of the Holy Spirit. How lonesome they would feel when he left them — take heart! “I will not leave you as orphans: I will in the person of the Holy Spirit come to you.”

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you I can over and over again treasure these precious words to my heart and obey every nuance I can find in each one. (2) The world never has seen him — when they do it will be eternally too late — thank you that each day I can open your word and see you all over again. (3) Thank you for the promise of the resurrection — and of the coming of the Spirit. (4) Because he lives I shall never die — I shall *always* live! (6) God is a Spirit — at his resurrection the disciples would know he was indeed Spirit — and therefore a part of the very nature of the Father himself. (7) Thank you, oh thank you, for the promise that we are in you (as we think your thoughts and do your will) and you are in us in the person of the Holy Spirit — Praise your wonderful name!

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... *you are in me, and I am in you.*” Our Lord was thinking in particular of the day of Pentecost and onward. On that day a wonderful realization will occur — in a new, and as yet at that time, unrealized sense they would know that Jesus was in union with the Father — we in union with our Lord — and wonder of wonders — *he is in us!* We are not discussing some ecstatic sensation — these are always a consequence

and not a cause. In a very wonderful sense we can accept but not explain *he lives in us!* Since we are spirit beings this is a very real relationship. The human spirit communicates through the five senses hence we must expect the same means of communication through the Holy Spirit. When I think his thoughts — will (or obey) his will — I can inevitably expect to feel his emotions.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How I do want to express just as many meaningful expressions as at all possible in the little time and space here allotted. (1) Dear, dear Lord, there is NOTHING I want more than to hear your commands and obey them. (2) How utterly wonderful to have the promise of the other Counselor forever! (3) It is beyond human words to know we have the original source of *truth* — even the spirit of truth! (4) Ah, that more and more of the world would learn of him! I want to be a little source of such communication. (5) Blessed Lord, I do not feel like an orphan! You are my Lord, God is my Father — thousands of Christians are my brothers and sisters — heaven is my home. (6) Oh, thank you, thank you for this terse promise of eternal life with you. (7) Enlarge my realization of your presence in me.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in a most meaningful manner through these verses: (1) “To the extent you see me and know me you accept me.” (Read this carefully.) (2) “Isn’t it wonderful to be a joint-heir with your Lord?” (3) “There is no need to talk or pray or sing about my presence with you unless you obey.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

France — Point for prayer: *France is a mission field.* This is the opinion both of Catholics and Evangelicals alike — though this suggestion would horrify most French. One of the world’s most cultured and sophisticated nations is reaping the barren fruits of 200 years of eularization. Barriers to the gospel are many — intellectualism, rationalism, widespread involvement in the occult, individualism and a nodding acquaintance with institutional Catholicism. These must be broken down by fervent prayer. France is not only needy, but also hardened to the gospel.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name!

Let angels prostrate fall!

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all;

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all.

WEEK ONE

—Tuesday—

Light and joy are mine from your presence. I gladly enter into worship!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name” (Psa. 97:11,12). What a dear expression of praise and joy! How easy it is to make it mine! Light is shed upon the righteous — light and more light is shed upon me as I walk in the light as he is in the light — indeed as he *is* the light — the *only* light — the whole light of my world! When I hold back nothing — when I hide nothing then there is within me a deep wonderful joy I am glad to attribute to you! Your commandments are all surely not grievous — your will is the fulfillment of all that is lovely and beautiful!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

This is the one solitary pursuit of my life — it has not always been so — but you have led me down a path that has opened into such a place. To make your attributes the *summum bonum* of life is such a noble fulfilling goal. To rejoice in anyone — or anything — is to be able to carefully consider all the qualities of that person or thing and to do so with a positive response. Such indeed is my estimate of yourself — as seen in the face of your dear Son! To even now know that in this moment I am: (1) Just as if I had never sinned; (2) I have been set aside to belong exclusively to you; (3) I have been bought with a price far above all the wealth of all the world; (4) I have been taken as a miserable misshapen child of hell and adopted and transformed into your likeness — is more than I can at all express in words of joy!

CONFESSION OF SIN

Since there is such light that I shall never, never exhaust it nor properly appreciate it how is it I am so often content to live in the semidarkness of my own selfish desires — dear Lord — it seems almost more

than you could forgive. There is no way — no way at all I can claim a righteousness by obedience to your laws — I do not even know them well enough to define what motives I should use in obedience. My heart is NOT upright — it is turned away — and bowed down — and away from you! Lord, Lord, forgive me for my joy which is so often related to what is of this earth, earthly — of this life, temporal — of this flesh, fleshly. Forgive me — there is no joy in it.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Under His wings, what a refuge in sorrow!
How the heart yearningly turns to His rest!
Often when earth has no balm for my healing,
There I find comfort, and there I am blest.
Under His wings, under His wings,
Who from His love can sever?
Under His wings my soul shall abide,
Safely abide forever.

HIS WORD

²¹“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

²²Then Judas (not Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

²³Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.” —John 14:21-24, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It shall not be at all difficult to decide who loves my dear Lord. “Whoever has my commandments and obeys them, *he it is* (or ‘*he is the one*’) who loves me.” I have developed a real love relationship with

you — but it is not always based upon this principle! I am the loser — I purpose to change this! Behind this statement is this tremendous promise:

“He . . . will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” It is possible to make every positive or negative assertion of yourself a command and obey it — at least this is my present desire. I want to know experientially that you both love me and in some special way will show yourself to me! Such shall be my pursuit!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I have mixed the objective with the subjective in what I want for myself. I have also projected what you want for all men. I want to affirm again and again that I love you. I want to obey every command I can read from your lips. I claim the inexpressible blessing of being loved of your Father and my Father. In some special sense beyond your usual love for me you will love me. I know not how — or why — except I want to give myself to you. In just what wonderful or humble, observable or unobservable way will you show yourself to me? I know you kept this promise in the incredible resurrection appearance to your apostles. But this is a promise I claim for myself and look day by day for its repeated fulfillment — blessed be your name!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Oh thank you that your commands are ours to have and to keep. (2) Thank you that you would not ask us to keep your commandments if we could not do it. (3) Thank you your greatness, your beauty, your authority, your love all become such powerful incentives for obeying you. (4) That I can be assured by your very Son that you love me, i.e. *personally love me* is a source of thanks I cannot express. (5) Your love for me has given me life — indeed has given all the reason there is to life! Thank you. (6) Thank you that I can expect to look for the ways and places you will show yourself to me today. (7) Thank you for the much more meaningful thoughts you have given me in the study of this text.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“ . . . and I too will love him and show myself to him.” What a glorious promise! The book of Acts is a running commentary on the fulfillment of this promise. Peter and John were thrown in prison. On the day following before the Sanhedrin Council the rulers were amazed and marvelled at their boldness and wisdom. Jesus had kept his promise. He loved them and did indeed manifest himself to them and through them in the person of the Holy Spirit. The twelve were beaten but departed from the presence of the council rejoicing that they were accounted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of our Lord. He once

again kept his promise. We could cite many other examples in Acts. But we are writing the twenty-ninth chapter in the promise fulfilled in our own lives. There are so very many wonderful ways he manifests his presence with us today. I want to look for them and praise him for each one!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

It will be a positive joy to make requests from these verses: (1) In the small areas of life give me wisdom in relating your word. (2) I want to love not only in word, but in deed and truth — help me! (3) The love of yourself has preceded and succeeded my love — what a wonder — keep my heart sensitive that I might love you more. (4) How good it is to know that even now my living Lord looks on me with love. (5) You have said love is doing so if you love me you will be — and are — doing something in me, with me, for me! Praise your name. (6) Thank you for the thousand ways you have already shown yourself to me — in the problem before me — show yourself to me! (7) Forgive me for all my selfish presumption — I deserve nothing.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in these four precious verses: (1) “My commands are in my teachings — learn them and teach them to others.” (2) “The indwelling of both myself and my Son results from an intimate acceptance of my teaching.” (3) “Your body can be and should be my home.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

France — Point for prayer: The unreached minorities:
a) *The large Portuguese, Spanish and Italian communities* are more receptive than in their native lands. They have generally not adapted well to French society, but few believers evangelize them in their own language. b) *Jews.* France has the largest Jewish community in Europe with 400,000 in Paris alone. There are a few small groups of believers. c) *The North Africans* number 2,200,000. They often congregate in urban ghettos. The vast majority are Muslims. Few have been evangelized, and many are antagonized by the racism of “Christians.”

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.
I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

WEEK ONE

—Wednesday—

We enter the King's palace and presence! How glad we are to praise you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn — shout for joy before the Lord, the King” (Psa. 98:4-6). How appropriate are these words when we have for many days and months reviewed his greatness and goodness! How totally meaningless they are when we have been long at the shrines of this world! It will be so wonderfully good to one glad day enter fully into the praise of the angelic beings and give our whole heart and voice to praise before you. If four and twenty elders and an unnumbered multitude can fall down before you in adoration why should we do less?

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

It would seem I of all men am most fortunate! I can set aside time to burst into jubilant song with music! I can but push a button or turn a switch and the whole atmosphere is filled with words and music unto your holy name! As in a coronation of a conquering king so do our hearts fairly burst with joy and praise. Dear Lord, in my own life I have so much for which to shout for joy! I do wonder just what the occasion was that promoted such an expression of happiness from the psalmist. There is no heading to indicate. It could well be “. . . a sort of coronation hymn, officially proclaiming the conquering Messiah as Monarch. . . .” This fits well with my thoughts of yourself!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God?

CONFESSION OF SIN

How many times have I been in the totally opposite frame of mind? There have been loud exclamations of disappointment and disagreement. There has been the

music of Ashdod and Baal. Instruments of music have been used and heard for the stupidity and meaninglessness of this passing scene. Dear God, forgive! How I trust and purpose that all such trivia and sin are in the past — at least forgiven and forgotten by yourself. How I do want to make the words of the song writer mine: “Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne. Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee. And hail Him as thy matchless King thro’ all eternity.”

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Crown Him the Lord of heav’n,
One with the Father known,
And the blest Spirit, thro’ Him giv’n
From yonder glorious throne!
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²⁵“All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” —John 14:25-27, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It would seem our dear Lord was very loath to leave his disciples. He knows it is in his last hours — but he says “good bye” several times. This is one of them. How very much he had spoken while with them! How

much could they remember? So very little! And what they did remember was out of sequence and with the wrong emphasis. But there was an answer to this very large need! Both our Lord and the Father would jointly send the Counselor, the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33). When he (not "it") came he would be an inward teacher they would not be able to ignore. The Holy Spirit would add to the knowledge they had received from our Lord and would bring back to their remembrance in the right order with the right emphasis all our Lord had taught them. What a wonderful provision!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It is with the "peace" Jesus promises I can relate. There are several aspects of his peace I want to treasure in my heart. He is my peace with yourself. In him I am reconciled and there is a deep settled tranquility of spirit that guards my thoughts. He has given me a peaceful outlook on all things. When I am under your control and in your hands there is no need for anxiety of any kind. He rules over all and all is right with the world! I.e. my world. I can be a peacemaker with others. There is nothing I do that will help more in human relations than to see a reconciliation to those of my dear ones whose hearts are sometimes so very troubled. The world has no real peace to give. It is worse than useless to seek peace from anyone but the great Prince of Peace!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that we have the very words you spoke through the writers who were eyewitnesses of your majesty. (2) Thank you for the personal love and heartbeat I feel in these words: "while still with you." (3) Thank you for the confident complete provision my Lord made in the sending of the Holy Spirit. (4) Thank you the Holy Spirit came with all the authority of the Lord himself. (5) Thank you that the Holy Spirit was the graduate course teacher. (6) Even if they kill the body — torture the mind — they cannot kill the indestructible eternal Spirit! Praise your name! (7) Thank you for the rest under his yoke!

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." It seems to me of real interest to notice the same word for "afraid" used here in the negative sense is used many times in a positive sense when related to yourself. My Lord is saying that the awe or overwhelming fear we have toward you should never be related to man or circumstance. This does not say something about the proper attitude we should have toward yourself. What heartening words these are when they come from the One who has all power —

all authority. Jesus sees behind and ahead of all the terrible persecution about to come upon his "little flock." We can trust him — believe him — love him. Do not be afraid!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

These are verses I do not want to leave — I want to stay and pause in prayer for much longer than the time I have: (1) I am delighted beyond words to have the words your dear Son spoke to us. (2) How difficult it was for Jesus to say "good bye" to those he loved so well — but he promised to see them again — and so he has — praise his wonderful presence! (3) Thank you, thank you for "the Counselor": one who stands beside to encourage and help. I claim his presence and help even now. (4) What a meaning there is in his name "Holy" — i.e. perfect — absolute perfection — enlarge my understanding and appreciation. (5) The term "Spirit" refers to the essential nature of reality. You are Spirit — we are created in your image or spirit. Keep me more and more aware of this truth. (6) How glad I am that the Holy Spirit fulfilled his purpose and taught the apostles in the very words I am presently reading. Give me a deep hunger to digest these words.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me once again through these blessed verses: (1) "If you are upset by circumstances you have not understood my peace." (2) "Why do you expect peace in or of this world? Peace is in your heart from me." (3) "Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

France — Point for prayer: The influential Roman Catholic Church is in turmoil with many tensions among the conservative traditionalists, liberals, modernists, radicals, and the charismatic movement. The latter has opened the hearts of many to the truths of God's Word and the acceptance of the need to be born-again. Pray that many may be won to the Lord.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O spread the tidings 'round wherever man is found,
Wherever human hearts and human woes abound;
Let every Christian tongue proclaim the joyful sound:
The Comforter has come!
The Comforter has come, the Comforter has come!
The Holy Ghost from Heaven,
the Father's promise given;
O spread the tidings 'round wherever man is found—
The Comforter has come!

WEEK ONE

—Thursday—

All the created world is called upon to worship you — our worship is easily spontaneous!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Let the sea resound, and all that is in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity” (Psa. 98:7-9). More than three hundred years ago C.H. Spurgeon wrote such a beautiful description of these verses we cannot but make his words ours. “The sea is his, let it praise its Maker. Within and upon its bosom it bears a wealth of goodness, why should it be denied a place in the orchestra of nature? Its deep bass will excellently suit the mystery of the divine glory. The land should be in harmony with the ocean. Its mountains and plains, cities and villages, should prolong the voice of jubilee which welcomes the Lord of all.” (*THE TREASURY OF DAVID* Vol IV — pp. 374, 375.)

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

The quotation above continues with these words — most precious for the needs of my heart: “Still music such as made the stars twinkle with their soft kind eyes suited his first coming at Bethlehem, but his second advent calls for trumpets, for he is a judge; and for all earth’s acclamations, for he has put on his royal splendour. The rule of Christ is the joy of nature. All things bless his throne, yea, and the very coming of it. As the dawn sets the earth weeping for joy at the rising of the sun, till the dew drops stand in her eyes, so should the approach of Jesus’ (coming) make all nations glad. . . . Our souls faint with delight at the sound of thine approaching chariots, and can only cry, ‘Come quickly, Even so come quickly Lord Jesus!’ ” (*Ibid.*)

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is a jolt to come down to earth after such an exalted flight into the rare atmosphere of spiritual ecstasy! If he judges me with the righteous conduct I see exemplified by your Son I have no hope at all. If he gives me my “fair dues” I shall burn forever in hell! He will indeed judge “the world” in righteousness, and “the peoples” — i.e. “the nations with equity” but his children will be judged for their works not their sins. We have already passed out of death and judgment into life and grace — oh, the exceeding wonder of redeeming grace! This gives me incentive to holiness not indulgence — dear Lord keep my heart tender!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them His very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary,
And suffered and died alone.
How marvelous! how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! how wonderful
Is my Savior’s love for me!

HIS WORD

²⁸“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. ³⁰I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, ³¹but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. “Come now; let us leave.” —*John 14:28-31, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

If they were listening they would have heard him say several times he was looking forward to a return to his Father. How much did they understand about his return to them in the person of the Holy Spirit? Even after he had repeatedly made such a promise it was so vague and meaningless to them. From our own perspective it is such a wonderful promise! Or is it? Do we believe our dear Lord has returned in the presence of the Holy Spirit who even this moment resides in our bodies? Jesus surely conditioned many things on "love." "If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father. . . ." He refers to his release from the confinement and limitations of this world — in this sense only was the Father greater than the Son.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

These dear sad bitter-sweet words of my Lord fall like a melody from heaven upon my heart. It has happened and *I do believe!* Judas had done his work and was now leading the Roman soldiers, temple police and members of the Sanhedrin — the prince of this world — or Satan — was really the leader of the whole group. What elaborate preparations these men made to capture just one humble non-violent man. They came with swords and sticks, with lanterns, torches and weapons. How deceived and blind they all were! Satan had no claim on Jesus — as the NIV text states "has no hold on me." But Jesus is going to willingly give himself to these men that the world might know what real love and obedience are — not that the world would admit if they did see it.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the total self-realization of just who he was and what was happening as seen in my Lord. (2) Thank you that we are today the dwelling place of yourself and your Son in the Spirit. (3) Thank you for the clear definition of the self-humiliation of the One who existed in the form of God — yet humbled himself that we might be exalted. (4) How much longer was it my Lord spoke to his followers? Ten minutes? Fifteen minutes? Long enough to give the content of chapters 15, 16 and 17? Thank you for whatever time was spent — we have some of his precious words. (5) Thank you Jesus was free from sin as a perfect sin offering for me.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

" . . . but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me." Jesus was himself the best demonstration of what real love meant. He said over and over again: "If you love me you will keep my commandments." He is here to live out before his disciples and the world just what this involved. The Father had given commandment that he must lay down his life as a ransom for the world. It was not easy — it was not appreciated — it was not understood — but it must be done. Even those for whom it was done knew

neither what he did nor what they did. The world has learned since, at least to some extent, just how much he loved. Oh, how we should enter more fully into such love!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Read again these words of commitment and bow in prayer: (1) We know so much more all that was involved in your promise to leave and come again — turn me again to my first love. (2) Paul said "to die is gain" — he was glad about going to the Father — I want this to be a living reality with me. (3) How much greater will be the eternal world with the Father — keep me eager to go there. (4) The fulfillment of prophecy in the life of my Lord is such convincing evidence of his deity — keep this ever in the front of my mind. (5) I am delighted that you can and do speak to us while this life and this world shall last — I want to really listen. (6) Deliver me today from overbearing temptations. (7) If Satan has no claim or hold on me he cannot touch me — only in and through yourself can this be possible.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Continue to speak to me in these blessed words: (1) "Satan has no more hold on you than you permit him to." (2) "I have returned in the Person of the Holy Spirit and now live in my temple — even your body." (3) "Follow my example of obedient love — there is no other kind."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

French Guiana — Point for prayer: *This long-neglected land, with its diverse peoples, has only been partially evangelized by evangelicals.* Among the many challenges are these peoples: a) *The Amerindian tribes* — never has any work been established among the inland tribes, but Christians of these tribes in Suriname and Brazil have made evangelistic forays. Pray for the Arawak 250, Emerillon 100, Oyapi 100, Palikur 120, and Wayana 250. b) The nominally Catholic *Caribs* 1,400. c) The inland settlements of largely animistic *Bush Negroes* 2,000. d) The *Chinese*. A small outreach by Suriname Chinese Christians has begun.

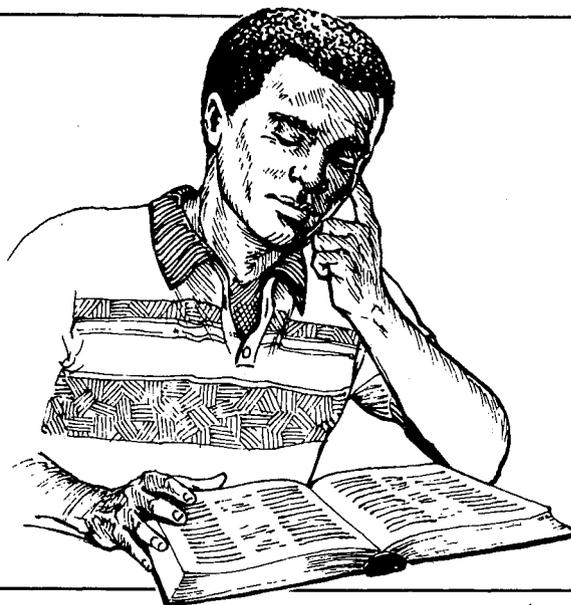
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I've found a friend, O such a friend!
He loved me ere I knew Him;
He drew me with the cords of love,
And thus he bound me to Him.
And 'round my heart still closely twine
Those ties which naught can sever,
For I am His, and He is mine,
Forever and forever.

WEEK ONE

—Friday—

The happiest — the most important time of any day is the time of giving you exclusive “single-eye” attention!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. Great is the Lord in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. Let them praise your great and awesome name — he is holy” (Psa. 99:1-3). This is a statement of truth — here is the glimpse behind the veil. If the nations of the earth could but see beyond, behind the physical and into the spirit world they would indeed tremble! One day — the day when time shall be no more — they will faint with fear and call for the mountains to fall upon them. Just now the saints (made holy by his blood) can also tremble with wonder and joy! Great is our Lord who even now rules over present day Zion his church!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I get such a thrill of happiness from worshipping you I wonder that I do not spend most of my time doing it! I do not have any conception of the appearance of the cherubim — but I know those inspired craftsmen who made the ark of the covenant did. For me he yet sits enthroned in the Shekinah glory between the wings of the cherubim over the mercy seat. He reigns there through the blood of the eternal covenant. He reigns not only as my king, but my priest and prophet — blessed be his name! Like the three score elders who assemble to cry “holy, holy, holy” so I want to praise your great and awesome name.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How sad it is that we spend so much of our interest and energy raking muck! Or so it might seem to us after such an expression of praise and worship. But I want to remember my Lord was born in a stable, and

spent years and years and years in a carpenter’s shop. When he did begin his “spiritual” life he had to live from the gifts of others. What he says to me is that a stinking stable is holy because of who is there. A carpenter’s shop is a cathedral when he works there. All of life is holy because he is in it. Or not holy because he is not in it. Forgive my stupid separation of the sacred and the secular!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

In garments glorious He will come,
To open wide the door;
And I shall enter my heavenly home,
To dwell forevermore.
Out of the ivory palaces,
Into a world of woe,
Only His great eternal love
Made my Savior go.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

15 *“I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he trims clean so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”* —John 15:1-4, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How slowly and carefully I want to see and see again each word in this text! We believe Jesus is yet in the upper room and the fruit of the vine is still on the Passover table. They have just heard him identify his

blood with the content of the cup. He now identifies himself as the vine — the real vine, the only genuine vine. There is no other way to receive the care of the Father or bear fruit in life unless you are a part of the vine. Jesus is here honoring the Father by his constant reference to him. There are just two kinds of branches in the vine. Those who bear fruit and those who do not. If salvation is being baptized into Christ it is most difficult for me to understand how one could be “in Christ” or “in the vine” and not be saved.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

There are no fruitless branches that remain in the vine. If they do not bear fruit they are cut off. “He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit.” The other branches all bear fruit — more fruit and much fruit. The fruit of the indwelling Christ is the fruit of the indwelling Spirit— “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Gal. 5:22). We are also reminded that the fruit of a grape vine is more grapes. The fruit in the life of a Christian is the harvest of more Christians. Jesus came “to seek and save the lost” — the early Christians increased in number daily. How can we excuse our fruitlessness in either area? We can’t! The apostles had been trimmed — or cleansed — we do so sorely need to respond just now!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the evaluation of how the apostles would receive his word — “you are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you” — or perhaps we should say our Lord’s confidence in how the Holy Spirit would give life to the letter. (2) Thank you that it is possible to remain in you and your word to remain in us. (3) Thank you for the shocking fact that if we do not remain in you, you will not remain in us. (4) Thank you that I am learning more each day as to just what is involved in “remaining in you.” (5) Thank you that I do feel more and more at home in you in this world.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” “Remaining” in your Son is not accomplished by saying it, or by assuming it is so in some mystical automatic manner. As we are to soon learn from his own lips it relates directly to just how much his words “remain” in us. It is possible to hear certain words and never forget them, or to hear millions of words and forget them all. The attitude of the listener makes the difference. There is really only *one* attitude involved. *Just how important are these words to you?* If it is a matter of life or death we listen and learn and remember — *it is just that important.*

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How many many requests fairly leap from these verses to our lips before your throne of grace: (1) Since you are the One and only source of life and fruitfulness I do want to learn more and more of how to remain in you. (2) Thank you for such a wonderful gardener — may I be ready to be pruned. (3) Awaken me, shock me into the reality of the possibility of being cut off. (4) If my love, joy or peace are not evident — and increasing — I should be concerned — yea, more than concerned. (5) Trim me clean so that I might bear more fruit. (6) Speak your word into my inner ear that I might remain clean. (7) Deliver me from assuming the role of fruit production — it is your work — not mine.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As you spoke to the twelve in these verses so speak to me: (1) “To the extent you remain in me I will remain in you.” (2) “The branch is and is not responsible for fruit.” (3) “There is no fruit at all apart from the vine — not some — but none!”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

French Polynesia — Points for prayer: (1) *Tahiti is a paradise gone tragically wrong.* Once a Christian nation, sending missionaries all over the Pacific, society is now collapsing through promiscuity, alcoholism, drug abuse and the breakdown of family life. Young people are frustrated and seeking answers in their confusion, but where are the fervent messengers of the gospel? No longer do Tahitian missionaries leave for other lands. (2) *Those with a vital personal faith are rare.* As a result, there is a reversion to the bondage of pagan occultism and a multiplication of syncretic and foreign sects — especially Mormons. Pray for a spiritual revolution to take place among the many nominal Catholic and Protestant Christians.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

“I am the vine and ye are the branches.”

Bear precious fruit for Jesus today;
Branches in Him no fruit ever bearing,
Jesus hath said, “He taketh away.”

“I am the vine and ye are the branches;

I am the vine, be faithful and true;

Ask what ye will, your prayer shall be granted,

The Father loved Me, so I have loved you.”

WEEK ONE

—Saturday—

I am full of eagerness as I see so many qualities of yourself that call out my worship!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The king is mighty, he loves justice — you have established equity; in Jacob you have done what is just and right. Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy” (Psa. 99:4,5). It is truly amazing how many qualities of yourself appear in almost every verse. In these two verses you are: (1) king; (2) mighty; (3) loving; (4) just; (5) fair; (6) right; (7) exalted; (8) sovereign; (9) holy. Where could we go to find a more blessed source of praise? Oh that all men would acknowledge you as the mighty king — the loving and just Father, as the wholly fair and righteous judge, as the exalted holy sovereign Lord. One day all men will so recognize you. I want to do so right here and right now.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Words do sometimes fail to express just what we want to say in praise to yourself. The song writer well said, “Oh worship the King all glorious above, and gratefully sing his wonderful love.” Indeed, “A mighty fortress is our God” — “Love divine, all loves excelling — joy of heaven to earth come down.” You are the very essence of justice and equity. In each of these attributes I want to find a personal application to my own needs — but most of all a real participation with the angelic beings who continually raise praises to your name!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is not difficult to turn the coin over and see how very far short of reality are these characteristics of yourself in my own relationship. (1) Forgive me for asking you to abdicate your throne for some selfish expression of my own. (2) If you are almighty how is

it that I have any of my own? I do not — but I have believed the devil’s lie. (3) Forgive me for arguing about just how you do or do not express your love. (4) How often have I been tempted to say: “it is not fair” or “there is no equity in this”? Dear Lord forgive. (5) You are always right — your correctness is not dependent upon my understanding. Forgive me.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Just when I need Him, Jesus is near,
Just when I falter, just when I fear;
Ready to help me, ready to cheer,
Just when I need Him most.
Just when I need Him most,
Just when I need Him most;
Jesus is near to comfort and cheer,
Just when I need Him most.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” —John 15:5-8, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Why did Jesus repeat himself? Because his disciples did not hear him the first or second, or even the third time. Our Lord wanted these men to know beyond all doubt he was not talking in theory but in fact. He did

include others, even ourselves, but first of all he meant them: "you are the branches." We have discussed and thought and prayed over the meaning of abiding in him. But what will happen if we do not? Five things will happen: (1) The branch is thrown away — by the gardener. (2) The branch withers. (3) They are picked up — we could say "bundled up." (4) They are thrown into the fire. (5) They are burned. What an awesome prospect for fruitless branches, or non-productive church members!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Your word has never been sharper than it has in these past few days — I thank you for it! Now we are told plainly: "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." This is almost more than we are ready to receive! Of course the principle behind such a prayer-claim is obvious: if his word has become a veritable part of our minds we will not ask amiss — but always according to his will. At the same time the practical outworking of this principle requires the wisdom that comes down from above (James 1:5; 3:17). I am eager to make use of this blessed promise. Help me dear Lord!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the reminder here that only in the vine is there life. (2) Thank you that all of us can find unity with each other as we abide together in the vine. (3) Thank you for the promise not only of fruit, but *much* fruit! (4) Thank you that Jesus spelled out so clearly the end of fruitless branches. (5) Thank you that no one needs to wither or be fruitless. (6) Thank you for your words which I do indeed want to remain in me. (7) Thank you for the opportunity to bring glory to the Father in our own lives.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." There are two wonderful thoughts in this verse: (1) Our fruit bearing reflects the character of yourself in us. The term "glory" refers to the essential nature of anything or anyone. In this case your very Self! The fruit evidently refers first of all to those qualities of character we find in you — such as: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness" — such virtues should develop in larger measure in us day by day. (2) Such a production of fruit will show we have really been learning from him. Dear Lord, I want to so learn and produce.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How these words of my Lord move me to pray: (1) I claim your promise — help my unbelief — I want to remain in you and bear an increasing likeness to yourself. (2) Since Jesus said it more than once I want to believe in my heart that apart from him I can do NOTHING. (3) It is your word that must be in me for me to remain in you and you in me — if not I will wither — deliver me! (4) I want to teach others who are very much in danger of withering — help me! (5) Make me more aware than ever that there is a fire of everlasting punishment awaiting many. (6) Just for today I want to frame a prayer in your will, i.e. in agreement with your word, and claim the answer!

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in the depths of my spirit through these words: (1) "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." (2) "If you do not remain in me you will be withered and burned." (3) "This is only to my Father's glory — not yours."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Gabon — Points for prayer: (1) *Praise God for present freedom for the gospel*, but pray that the many years of neglect by evangelical missions may be made good. The great majority of the population has never been exposed to the life-changing gospel. (2) *Islam is the fastest growing religious group in the country*. The conversion of the president to Islam in 1973 initiated this growth. Many new mosques are now being built. Pray that the concern of believers at this development may stimulate vital and effective evangelism among Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

No one understands like Jesus,
He's a friend beyond compare;
Meet Him at the throne of mercy,
He is waiting for you there.

No one understands like Jesus,
When the days are dark and grim;
No one is so near, so dear as Jesus—
Cast your every care on Him.

WEEK TWO

—Sunday—

We are kings and priests! Gladly we claim your grace and gifts. We enter your courts with wonder and praise.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name; they called on the Lord and he answered them. He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; thy kept his statutes and decrees he gave them. O Lord our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds” (Psa. 99:6-8). Your qualities are seen here in relation to the men you used in your service. Moses like Melchizedek was a priest not of the line of his brother Aaron. We too are priests — but not of the law. You heard and honored them — you have promised the same for us. You are speaking to us today through your Son — how we need to heed him!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

The basic attribute of a speaking and hearing God is the point of this text. How I do want to relate to you in these qualities! These three men related themselves and all they did to your “name” or authority. They were not perfect — each had his flaws — but each was a committed man. Each of these men could testify to your answer to their prayers. No doubt many heard from them what you did. They accepted the strange and wonderful way you chose to speak to them. You have chosen the most and final means of speaking to us today — even your Son! *May I hear him!* Thank you for this wonderful statement: “You were to Israel a forgiving God.”

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

There are areas in these verses where I very much need forgiveness: (1) I am a priest but I have sorely neglected my intercessory work — the very reason you called me into the priesthood — forgive me! (2) You have often appeared to me in an ordinary bush on fire

— but I have so often forgotten. (3) I have been pressured by people to make several golden calves — dear Lord, you know — forgive me. (4) It took you three attempts to get Samuel’s attention — it has been 3 times 30 for me — oh, forgive! (5) I have much more reason to keep the statutes and decrees that appear before me in black words on a white page — but I do not. (6) May I learn from the much deserved chastisement you are giving me (this verb is a continuing action verb).

*What personal sins do you want to confess?
We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.*

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Jesus! the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest.

But what to those who find? Ah! this
Nor tongue nor pen can show,
The love of Jesus, what it is
None but His loved ones know.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

“As the father has loved me, so I have loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit

— fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.” —*John 15:9-17, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What an all-inclusive statement is contained in verse nine. Just how had the Father loved the Son? We agree with William Hendriksen that the Father’s love was: (1) pure; (2) whole hearted; (3) deep; (4) personal; (5) intelligent; (6) enduring; and we might add: (7) saving. In at least these seven ways our Lord loved his disciples. It would be most profitable to trace all seven of these qualities throughout the relationship our Lord had with his disciples that we might find the true pattern for our love for each other. Once again we are reminded that obedience is the best evidence of love. Love is not being. Being comes out of doing.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How can we reconcile the word “joy” with the context of these verses? The “joy” promised and given by our Lord to his disciples was based on their acceptance of his total Lordship. He had everything under control — they could implicitly trust him and *therefore* should be filled with his joy. Evidently some of his apostles were tuned in to this concept — but now they can cast their whole selves on his authority and their joy will be complete! Is love a command? Can we respond to such a motivation? Indeed we can when our Lord gives it! Most especially when he demonstrated such love in his own relationship with his disciples. What a wonderful word is the name “friends”! How I want to live it out!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that Jesus confides in us as friends — I want to respect and honor this relationship. (2) Thank you for the divine intimacy that prevailed between the Father and the Son — the same nearness we can use as a pattern for our interpersonal relationships. (3) Thank you that you are even now through the preaching of the good news choosing men and women for yourself. (4) Thank you for this clear statement of *why* you have chosen us — to go and bear fruit. (5) Thank you I can seek and knock and ask to be enabled to bear fruit that will remain. (6) Thank you for once again promising an unqualified answer to our prayers if we “go and bear fruit — fruit that will last.”

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*This is my commandment: Love each other.*” We can decide to love — or not to love. Indeed such a choice is always made. It will be good to hear again just what love is: “Love is patient and kind; it is not

jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. Love is eternal.” (*Today’s English Version*) It would be an easy task to take every one of the qualities and see it lived out before us in the life of our Lord — praise his dear name! I want to keep your commandment — beginning with my wife.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

There is more than enough material here for prayer: (1) Give me very practical ways for today of remaining in your love. (2) I am glad there will be places today where I can obey your commandments — calm me down so I will see them. (3) Jesus set such an example of steadfast obedience — help me to walk in his steps. (4) There is nothing I want more than your joy in me! The happiness of obedience to your Lordship is really what I want. (5) I cannot love in all ways my Lord did — but I can sacrifice my interests to help others. (6) It is such an assurance to know you have chosen us — but for a purpose — fulfill it in me.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Renew my faith as I hear your words: (1) “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.” (2) “My commandment is this: love each other as I have loved you.” (3) “I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Gambia — Points for prayer: (1) *Islam is dominant*, yet the land remains open for the gospel. Pray for both freedom to proclaim the gospel and openness of heart for Muslims to receive it. Little effort was ever directed by the older churches at reaching the Muslim majority; the key people being the Mandingo, a people made famous by Alex Haley’s book *Roots*. There is only a handful of believers among them. (2) *The churches are largely nominal* and little credit to the gospel. Committed evangelical believers are very few indeed. Pray for a strong church to be raised up in the Gambia.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior hide,
'Til the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last!

WEEK TWO

—Monday—

If all the earth has reason to shout for joy why are we downcast, oh, my brothers and sisters?



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his (and not we ourselves); we are his people, the sheep of his pasture” (Psa. 100:1-3). Since all the earth has benefited from his creative hand it is only right that all the earth should with loud praise shout for joy. How totally removed is this attitude from what we hear from the peoples of this earth! We serve a happy God — we worship a cheerful Lord. Gladness and delight are altogether fitting expressions of our service. In all our service to him there should be an optimism and gladness.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

It is a privilege to enter the portals of praise through the words of this Psalm. How songs and hymns of joy lift our hearts. You are saying here that considering what you have done for us and your own nature such songs are very appropriate! Praise your name! We are neither divine nor the source of creation. What does this do with the assertion of being a “self-made man”? This is blasphemy of the very worst kind. Natural selection and creation have utterly nothing in common. I am glad to be the result of your thought and love. I am delighted to own you as my King and Father. I want to gather around your feet as one sheep among the flock to look up to you for direction and sustenance.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

There have been many times when the shouts heard from my lips were not those of joy. How loudly do we sometimes complain. What a terrible sin! At least

in this land of plenty it is — forgive me. I have been glad many times — but there are too many times when I acted as my own god and forgot your love. How often I have (sometimes secretly) congratulated myself on some accomplishment of mine. What a serious sin this is! I am trying to learn — teach me! Forgive me. One day you will return to claim your property. What a price you paid for us! We are yours. Sheep are stupid — so am I if I am not ready to be led and fed of yourself. Help me.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹⁸“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. ²¹They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. ²²If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. ²³He who hates me hates my Father as well.” —John 15:18-23, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Jesus in this section wants to relate his disciples to the world in which they lived. There are three basic relationships in this whole chapter: (1) to our Lord, 1-11;

(2) to each other, 12-17; (3) to the world, 18-27. How shall we live before "this world"? We are thinking of all persons and powers contrary to our Lord's teaching. They will not be neutral! The world will communicate animosity! If such has not happened to us we might have serious cause to wonder if it is because we belong to the world! There is a long list of references to show the examples of hatred to our Lord, i.e. in the gospels. There is an equally long list in Acts to show the fulfillment of his promise in the lives of his servants.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I really do become concerned that it is quite possible that little by little we have adopted the attitude of the world in which we live. Instead of being taken out of the world it has become a part of us. "Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (II Tim. 3:12). Has our world changed so much since Paul's words to Timothy that we now live in a Christian environment? We do not believe it has. Have we withdrawn into our own society so we have no contact with the world? Leaven cannot work unless it is in the lump. Do the people of America have excuse for their sin? *The ONE factor to determine our standing is teaching and preaching the word — we can have neither persecution nor converts without it!*

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for this revelation that dislike and hatred from some people is not a strange thing. (2) Thank you that I have the record to read of just how hatred was expressed toward our Lord. (3) Thank you that you have called me both a friend and a servant — I want to be both! (4) Thank you that teaching must be obeyed to be effective — may I be my own best convert to your teaching. (5) Thank you for the remarkable statement that Jesus spoke to the Jews through their prophets — revelation equals responsibility. (6) Thank you for the fact that some men will believe and some men disbelieve — I need not be surprised when it happens now.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"He who hates me hates my Father as well." "Hatred and love" — not anything in between — was the definition of my Lord's relationship with me and my relationship with him. The Pharisees thought they could claim God for their Father and yet consider Jesus as demon-possessed. This was impossible! These words are a tacit admission of our Lord's equality with the Father. There is no way you can separate the Father and the Son — if you love one you love the other, if you hate one you hate the other. There is no

way we can reduce Jesus to a lower position than incarnate deity!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In our Lord's use of his fan in separating the wheat from the chaff I want him to fan my own heart: (1) What is our Lord's definition of "the world" — I want to learn more and more of what he meant. (2) In just what way or manner has my Lord "chosen me" out of the world? Open my understanding. (3) Persecution comes because of a rejection of your authority as seen in my life — why are people so neutral with me? (4) In all places in the world surely men in America have had opportunity to hear your Son — what shall I tell them about such an opportunity? (5) What excuses do men use today for their sin? Give me your wisdom to see through them.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Jesus was speaking these words just a few hours before his suffering and death — how important it was to hear them! (1) "Rejection by men is a compliment — i.e. when they also reject me." (2) "In no relationship in this world is my servant greater than his Master." (3) "There will be some who will obey your word."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

East Germany — Points for prayer: (1) *Since 1978 there has been much more freedom for Christians than in any other East European state. However, ceaseless and often subtle anti-religious propaganda has had an impact, and there has been a steady decline in membership of nearly all churches.* (2) *East Germany is the only "Protestant" country in Eastern Europe.* Praise the Lord that the state authorities have been forced to come to terms with the strength of the Protestant presence — even to the extent of publicly celebrating the 500-year commemoration of the birth of Luther! Yet the traumatic effects of the Church coming to terms with the new political realities have also brought a cleansing and healthy re-examination of structures. Pray for revival.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.
How marvelous! how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! how wonderful
Is my Savior's love for me!

WEEK TWO

—Tuesday—

*You are essential goodness —
everlasting faithfulness — total love.
How easy it is to worship you!*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations” (Psa. 100:5). The words of Charles Spurgeon are so much like and yet better than what I want to say that I will share them with our readers: *“‘For the Lord is good.’* This sums up his character and contains a mass of reasons for praise. He is good, gracious, kind, bountiful, loving: yea God is love. He who does not praise the good is not good himself. The kind of praise inculcated in this Psalm, i.e. that of joy and gladness, is most fitly urged upon us by an argument from the goodness of God. *‘His love endures forever.’* . . . towards his own people love is still more conspicuously displayed; it has been theirs from all eternity, and shall be theirs world without end.” (*The Treasury of David*, Vol. IV, p. 399)

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I need to express my praise as these qualities of yourself relate particularly to me. In only a few words the psalmist has said of yourself: (1) *You are good;* (2) *you are everlasting love;* (3) *you are total faithfulness through all generations.* Just here I want to expand on your faithfulness. In another work I was delighted to spend several months separating from your word one thousand promises you made and kept. I have, then, good reason to agree that down through five millenia and for innumerable generations you have been faithful. Should you not send your Son back for another five thousand years there will not be one generation who could cast one doubt upon one word of your covenant with us. Praise your name!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

In introspection of my heart there is almost a complete antithesis: (1) I am not *good* — to say I am is to

die and deceive myself. (2) My love endures about as long as it does not make me uncomfortable in some area of human relationship. Dear Lord, you know — forgive me and perfect what you have begun in me. (3) My faithfulness in some areas of life is about like my love — when I am not called upon to discipline myself I can be faithful — what a contradiction of terms — dear Lord, forgive! Most of us have at least two generations to whom we can show our faith by our works. Dear Lord, I purpose to do so! Help me.

*What personal sins do you want to confess?
We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.*

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father!
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not:
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

HIS WORD

²⁴“If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. ²⁵But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’ ²⁶“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me; ²⁷but you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.” —John 15:24-27, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Why would anyone hate our Lord because of his miracles? “The world” was most clearly seen in the lives of the Jewish nation — and in particular the religious leaders who refused to accept the obvious

evidence of his deity in his "mighty works." It has always moved me to read that people became violent or excited when they met and knew our Lord. He upset folk! They hated him or they loved him. The hatred toward our Lord was a fulfillment of prophecy. Since the Jews knew the context of Psalm 35:19 and 69:4 they would easily be able to see how baseless was their hatred and rejection.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

The book of Acts is an historical fulfillment of the promises made in these verses. Both as related to the persecution and the coming "Counselor." The Holy Spirit spoke through the apostles and others as recorded in Luke's second treatise. He came to operate through the words of those men to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:7,8). It is such a comfort to know that the Holy Spirit has not left; he is here yet to do his work of conviction as we preach his word to the world. The Holy Spirit's work was to return to the minds of the apostles all that Jesus had taught them — even from the beginning of their work with him.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the tremendous evidential nature of the miracles of my Lord. (2) Thank you for this new definition of sin: *rejecting the evidence of truth*. (3) Thank you that we have the priceless privilege of seeing again and again through the four gospels the miracles of our Lord that we might believe. (4) Thank you that there never will be a reason why we should do anything but love him with all our hearts. (5) Thank you for the wonderful present Counselor who lives in our hearts. (6) Thank you for the meaning of every name given to the Holy Spirit — in particular, "the Spirit of truth." (7) Thank you for the wonder of being able to testify on behalf of my Lord.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... but you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning." Many of us have been with Jesus much longer than the three and a half years the apostles were with him. If this was a good reason for testifying then we are without excuse for not doing so. Of course these twelve men were to have the incredible help of the Holy Spirit in returning to their minds all our Lord had taught them. We have the Holy Spirit resident in our bodies as his temple and all the words necessary to furnish us unto every good work. Why then do so many of us fail to testify of him as seen in the Acts account. The answer is obvious: we do not have a close enough relationship with him.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I am truly moved to prayer in what I have just expressed in meditation before you: (1) Deliver me from the greatest sin: disbelief! (2) Clear my mind in your Son's definition of hatred, i.e., as related to belief. (3) Show me each of your miracles all over again. (4) May I label as from the devil all thought of resistance of your will in my life. (5) Help me to accumulate reason after reason for believing. (6) Thank you for the blessed "Counselor" who was sent by yourself and your Son — I am glad to read his testimony — increase my appetite.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in the hushed tones of your last hours through these words: (1) "I am still doing among men what no one else could ever do." (2) "Satan's biggest business is doubt." (3) "My word is the light to dispel the darkness of doubt."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

East Germany — Points for prayer: (1) *Pastors are subjected to many pressures by the state*. Compromise is easy, but many have come to a personal commitment to the Lord. Many younger pastors seek to go to West Germany, and the government encourages the exodus. Pray for the pastors who remain that they may be stable and faithful to the Lord and their flocks. (2) *The Church has gained the legal right to exist, evangelize and administer its wide range of institutions after years of intense pressures*. Pray that this hard-won battle may not be lost again through compromise with the state.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I will sing of my Redeemer
And His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered
From the curse to set me free.
Sing, O sing of my Redeemer,
With His blood He purchased me;
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt and made me free.

WEEK TWO

—Wednesday—

It is mind-expanding to lift up qualities of your hatred of sin and worship your whole Person!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Men of perverse heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with evil. Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure” (Psa. 101:4,5). This is the resolute Psalm of David as he pledges himself to you, perhaps in the beginning of his reign. No wonder he is called “a man after your own heart.” The qualities David looked for in those who would help him in his court are those found in yourself. We shall look at the antitheses of the negative qualities here and come up with those qualities in yourself you want to see in us — and for which we can truly lift our hearts in praise.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

(1) *Sincerity and truth* are the opposites of deceit and perverseness. (2) *Goodness and light* are the opposites of greed and evil. (3) *Honest open praise* of our neighbor (or all those who deserve it) is the opposite of slandering in secret. (4) *Humble demonstration* of your goodness and mercy is the other side of haughtiness and pride. In all these qualities I see lived out in your Son that I know also are in you I praise and adore you. Never can you vary from meaning all you say and saying all you mean. Your intervention in my life is always and ever an expression of your goodness to me and an attempt to open my eyes to your light. You have been so generous in your praise of our value to you — can we do less for our neighbors? Dear Lord, you do humble me by your mercy toward me!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Lord I am not worthy to serve in your court. As King David shut out those who are here described so must I confess to the following sins: (1) I have been

perverse toward those who love me — and therefore to yourself. (2) I have allowed pride to cloud the truth and left less or more than the truth in the minds of those who heard me — but you heard it first. (3) I have repeated bad news about not only my neighbors but my brothers and sisters in your family. (4) I have looked down upon those caught in some sin of which I am not guilty. In all these areas and others like them I am blood guilty. Forgive, forgive me! I am glad all confessed sin is in the past and with you is forgotten.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
I want Thee forever to live in my soul.
Break down every idol, cast out every foe—
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow—
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

16 “All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. ²They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think that he is offering a service to God. ³They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you. ⁵“Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief.” —John 16:1-6, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The tenor of our Lord’s thought changes in this chapter from *admonition* as in chapter fifteen to *prediction*. He wants to prepare his disciples for what

will happen after he leaves. Persecution of social and religious rejection is just now appearing on the horizon. Jesus is specific: *“They will put you out of the synagogue.”* What happened to the man born blind (John 9:22,23) will happen to many of you. The words of Paul in Acts 26:9 immediately come to mind: *“I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth.”* He was convinced for religious reasons and felt he was indeed performing a service to you. How tenderly thoughtful was our Lord in these words of warning.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

By hearing and heeding your word we could be well prepared for not only every good work but forearmed to face opposition. It is a little hard for me to relate to the kind of excommunication here described when our lives have been surrounded by acceptance not rejection. My Lord was hurt because his followers were more concerned with what was going to happen to them than what he had said about himself. How typical this is of each of us. How is the body of Christ progressing should be our *first* concern and then what happens to us as individuals. As in our Lord's case the questions the apostles asked related to their own interests. Dear Lord, forgive our selfishness!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that always and ever my Lord's interest was in the welfare of someone else — what an example! (2) Thank you the gospel related to social relationships — indeed all of life. (3) Thank you for the deep meaning in the word “know” as related to you and your Son. (4) Thank you your Son is now with us even to the end of this age. (5) Thank you for the tender feelings of my Lord — which could be hurt, even as our own. (6) Thank you that Jesus even now sees and reads the thoughts and intents of our hearts. (7) Thank you for my Lord's continual ministry of intercession for me at your right hand.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Because I said these things you are all filled with grief.” Jesus was upset (is that the right word?) that the apostles were so preoccupied with what was going to happen to them that they forgot what he said would happen to himself. This surely is typical of our overriding attitude. But he will not criticize them for their lack of understanding. He was so in love with the desire to communicate the will of his Father and so in love with these men who would share this will with the world that all else became secondary — any personal affront was eclipsed in his love.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these six verses there are requests that I can make my own: (1) Dear Lord, keep my heart in focus so my heart may not be led astray. (2) Somehow prepare my heart to receive whatever persecution you have for me. (3) Keep me aware of the ease and comfort of our life compared to the lives of these men. (4) Open my heart that I might pray with my Lord, “forgive them, they know not what they do.” (5) Thank you for your personal presence in the person of the Holy Spirit. (6) How I want the same overpowering interest in heaven that filled the life of my Lord.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me, Lord, thy servant heareth: (1) “You need never, never be led astray once you love me and my word.” (2) “I have said that persecution is a blessing — and I mean it.” (3) “Guard carefully what causes your grief or joy — in these your values of life are seen.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

West Germany — Points for prayer: (1) *Germany's spiritual restoration* — trust God for it! Humanism and destructive criticism of the Bible in the 19th century enfeebled the churches; compromise by many Christians during Hitler's Nazi tyranny and post-war paternalism and permissiveness has further eroded the witness of the Church in society. (2) *The spiritual poverty* is highlighted by massive defections from organized Christianity (withdrawals from Protestant churches average about 113 annually). The only major growth in church attendances is in national and foreign sects. Especially poor in evangelical witness is predominantly Protestant north Germany and Berlin, and the urban areas.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Take the name of Jesus with you,
Child of sorrow and of woe.
It will joy and comfort give you,
Take it then where'er you go.
Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heaven,
Precious name, O how sweet—
Hope of earth and joy of heaven.

WEEK TWO

—Thursday—

My confidence in you exceeds my understanding. How glad I am to trust your integrity!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry for help come to you. Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly” (Psa. 102:1,2). In this expression of praise I want to lift up those attributes of yourself suggested in these verses: (1) Your ear is *always* and *ever* open to my prayer. How gloriously comforting this is to me. To hear with understanding is one thing — but to hear with sympathetic interest to help is quite something else! (2) An acknowledgement of your Lordship is essential to any prayer with meaning. (3) When I pray for help I pray to the One who knows the kind of help I need. I do not know — *you* do. (4) There have been many times when indifference and deafness seem to be your response to my prayers. Such has been my response to a spoiled child or when silence would say much more than words.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

My distress is your distress — no hurt is mine that is not also shared by you. It is such a real comfort to know this and affirm it real often. I envision yourself like a very wise and kind physician leaning over my bed looking into my eyes and saying in tones so full of sympathy and understanding: “It is all right — I know, I understand — be not afraid.” The anxious call of the psalmist need not have been given — your ear is open — all my words are heard. As to whether there will be a quick answer is based on a one-sided argument. I have what seems to me an urgency — “answer me quickly.” Sometimes it is true and the answer comes — but full many a time it is only a stress which we need. It is better that we wait.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Surely there would be no problem in confessing our own failures to pray to you when we should or in call-

ing on you when such is but a cry of selfishness. Forgive me. I could help myself when too many times I have called on you. I am glad to say there have been very few times I felt removed from you — your face has not been hidden — I have not always read aright your expression but you have not been hidden. I take great comfort in a knowledge that you know my distress and are doing all possible to help me. Your ear is ever open — you are not distracted with others who clamor for your attention at the same time. Forgive me for doubting in any way your total interest!

*What personal sins do you want to confess?
We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.*

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Earthly pleasures vainly call me;
I would be like Jesus;
Nothing worldly shall enthrall me;
I would be like Jesus.
Be like Jesus, this my song,
In the home and in the throng;
Be like Jesus, all day long!
I would be like Jesus.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁵“Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶Because I have said these things you are filled with grief. ⁷But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment; ⁹in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; ¹⁰in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.” —John 16:5-11, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It was the very best thing that could ever happen to the disciples for our Lord to depart this planet since his going was contingent upon the coming of the "Counselor." Jesus in cooperation with the Father would and did send the Holy Spirit. His work was to "convict the world." Conviction in this instance is a matter of producing a sense of guilt. Their guilt would become apparent to them through him in three areas: (1) sin; (2) righteousness; (3) judgment. Then reasons are given for producing guilt in each of these areas: (1) Men who are not Christians when they hear the gospel as they did on Pentecost (which is a classic example of the fulfillment of this promise) are held guilty for not accepting Jesus as their Messiah.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I do want to enter personally into this transaction: (2) "In regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer." The connection between going to the Father and not seeing him any more is not immediately apparent. When he was alive on this earth men could see the perfect example of righteousness and he could and did forgive men and declare them righteous. But now he is in heaven and has left only one way to be righteous and that is to accept and obey the gospel as they did on Pentecost. "They then that received his word were baptized" and we might add "were declared righteous." (3) The prince of this world has been put on trial and has been found guilty and condemned. We can stand in our Lord at judgment under no condemnation — such is surely not true of this world!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that the Great Counselor has come and I need not be afraid again. (2) Praise your name for the constant promise of the convicting work of the Holy Spirit every time the good news is preached. (3) Thank you for the promise you will help me to — nay you will convict the world of the awful sin of not accepting your Son for whom he truly was. (4) Thank you there is only *one way* to be righteous with you — through our living Lord as our advocate! (5) Thank you I need not fear the judgment — it is past and settled at Calvary! (6) Thank you that the prince of this world need have no hold on me at all — the Son has made me free indeed!

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

" . . . the prince of this world now stands condemned." Praise the Lord! How above human words of praise is this glorious FACT! The prince of this world has already come before the bar of justice

and been condemned! There is NOTHING he can hold against me since my Lord has taken my place as "sin for me" — he his own self carried my sins in his own body on the tree. The Holy Spirit through his spokesmen can tell this to the whole world and offer freedom and release! What awful condemnation falls upon the man outside the acceptance of the glad tidings! Daily, hourly, even momentarily I want to claim my position of "no condemnation in Christ Jesus."

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these verses there are enough requests to keep us in prayer before you all day long: (1) Thank you for the beautiful check and balance in you going and the coming of the Other Comforter. (2) Thank you for *always* thinking of us and putting our needs "up front" in your concerns. (3) Thank you that there is *no doubt* whatsoever that the Holy Spirit will and does perform his office work. (4) Thank you that guilt can become a very spiritual helpful entity. (5) Thank you for the definition of the greatest of sin: "disbelief." (6) Thank you that only in your Son can I find righteousness — a righteousness which he pleads at your right hand right now for me! (7) Thank you I can spit in the face of Satan which even now I do!

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me ever so personally in these verses: (1) "The Great Counselor has come — you will be the most stupid of all men not to listen to him." (2) "You are as righteous as my Son because you share his righteousness." (3) "You have utterly NOTHING to fear in the prince of this world — he has been and is condemned."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Greece — Point for prayer: Europe's first country to be evangelized (Acts 16:10), yet today it has the smallest evangelical community in the continent after Albania and Malta. Some reckon that there are only 10,000 Greek Evangelicals. A large minority of Evangelicals are expatriates in US forces, etc. The Macedonian call is just as valid today.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son;
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

WEEK TWO

—Friday—

I worship you as my eternal King — my everlasting Father — praise is surely due your name.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“For my days vanish like smoke; . . . But you, O Lord, sit enthroned forever; . . . My heart is blighted and withered like grass; . . . your renown endures through all generations. . . . I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins. . . . For her (Zion’s) stones are dear to your servants, her very dust moves them to pity” (Psa. 102:3a,12a,4a,12b,6,14). In these poignant contrasts we can see your eternal omnipotence and man’s frail temporariness: (1) I appear like smoke in the atmosphere — it is not noticed since it has been seen before so often — and all know that it will soon be gone — there might be an unusual formation or fragrance to this puff or that but it is only smoke and will soon be gone and forgotten to appear no more. (2) You in absolute contrast are permanent — enthroned — not floating but established — not moving but stationary — not a part of the environment but in control of it.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

My literal heart — that blood pump in my chest has become blighted and withered and non-functional — as temporary as the grass of the field. What is true in the physical sense is also true in the emotional and mental sense — i.e. if I live long enough. What little contribution I have made to this generation is not known by most of it and soon forgotten by the rest. No matter — no matter — that is NOT the point or purpose of man’s existence. We are to bring glory to *your* name not ours. It is *your* renown for which I am exceedingly jealous! I do so want more than one generation to know of your greatness — I shall do all I can to make it so!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

In what way could I be compared to a “desert owl” — like “an owl among the ruins”? An owl is a nighttime bird — one who is carnivorous and lives by the

death of others. He is a lonely creature. Already I see myself in several qualities. Far too much of my life is lived in the shadow. It is in secret I plan and think and sometimes watch and scheme to take advantage of the opportune moment — and not always to your advantage. Dear Lord forgive! It is in building the eternal city of Zion from the living stones of men and women you have an interest. Yea, every particle of dust is of great concern to you. Dear Lord, I know you can transform this owl into a dove and make me a sacrifice upon the altar of your service. Do it Lord!

What personal sins do you want to confess?

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold,
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,
Points to the Refuge, the Mighty Cross.
Grace, grace, God’s grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God’s grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

HIS WORD

¹²“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. ¹⁵All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

¹⁶“In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

¹⁷Some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father?’” ¹⁸They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.” — *John*

16:12-18, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Ah, what a promise beyond all promises! "He will guide you into all truth." All that Jesus did not have time or occasion to tell his apostles the Spirit of truth would accomplish. These men had assimilated about all they could of what Jesus had to teach them. Even the Holy Counselor would not give them all the information at one time — it would be as they needed it and were willing to assimilate it. The Holy Spirit was never, never obtrusive — i.e. calling attention to himself. There is utterly *no doubt* as to the *Person* here involved. Our Lord was not discussing some interpersonal force but a very real Divine intelligent Spirit Being. Even when the noun "Spirit" is in the neuter gender the pronoun "he" and "him" is used throughout. The Holy Spirit is to: *speak; hear; tell; predict; make known.*

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Evidently the memories of these men was to be given a supernatural instantaneous recall via the Counselor. What a charming promise are these words: "In a little while you will see me no more (when he was taken and crucified and buried), and then after a little while (only a little less than three days) and you will see me again"! How sad to say the very thing they should have treasured the most they did not understand. I have no way of knowing how large or small was my Lord's disappointment in their lack of understanding. But being a poor disciple of the Teacher I can sense he must have marvelled at their lack of perception.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the total truth into which these men were led by the Holy Spirit — we are even now reading such truth! (2) Thank you that we are given clear instruction NOT to bring honor to the Holy Spirit. (3) Thank you that we can bring glory or honor to your Son through what the Holy Spirit has given to us. (4) Thank you that we are jointly owned by yourself and your Son. (5) Thank you that we know what was involved in the wonderful promise of "a little while and you will see me." (6) Thank you that what was then promise when made by our Lord has now become history.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not understand what he is saying." There were two senses in which this little phrase could be taken. It could refer to "the little while" he would be in the grave and they would see him in his several post-resurrection appearances. Or it could refer to his coming in the Person of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. In a much more glorious way they would see him again. How sad that the apostles really never appreciated either appearance until after it happened. For all the

courage and bravado of each and any of these men they so little grasped all he meant when he spoke. Men have been struggling with some of his sayings ever since he left to go back to the Father — so perhaps we should be much more charitable in our criticisms.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD IN PETITIONS OF THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that the Holy Spirit did speak all our Lord did not have the occasion to speak while he was here. (2) It is wonderful to have in permanent form "all the truth" into which our Lord wanted to guide these men. (3) Thank you for fisherman John, one of those who were so led. (4) John could surely testify that the Counselor kept his promise of revealing "what is yet to come" as he gave him the revelation on the isle of Patmos — thank you. (5) Thank you for the wonderfully enlarged character study we have of our Lord through the work of the Holy Spirit — as found in the four gospels. (6) For my living Lord at your right hand I am eternally grateful!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Pause before him and his word and he will speak to your heart: (1) "To bring honor to anyone but myself is frustrating the work of the Holy Spirit." (2) "In a little while (as compared with eternity) you will see me." (3) "Focusing your heart's eyes on this world shuts out all view of myself."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Greece — Point for prayer: The last decade has brought increasing liberty to preach the gospel, and a decline in the hold of traditional Orthodoxy over the people, but in 1984 several evangelical leaders were sentenced to a period of imprisonment for "proselytization."

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

"Man of Sorrows!" what a name
For the Son of God who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim! . . .
Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood,
Sealed my pardon with His blood; . . .
Guilty, vile and helpless we,
Spotless Lamb of God was He;
Full atonement! Can it be? . . .
Lifted up was He to die,
"It is finished," was His cry;
Now in heaven exalted high, . . .
When He comes, our glorious King,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we'll sing,
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

WEEK TWO

—Saturday—

I love you because you are always the same — full of love and concern for me. Not because I deserve you, but because I need you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

‘My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass. . . . He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea. Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord: the Lord looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death’ (Psa. 102:11, 17-20). How easy it will be to praise. In praise to your person I stand out in stark contrast! All my days — however many — are like the few hours — the brief hours of the twilight before dark. In the early days of a week the grass is green and flourishing, but come by to look at the same field at the end of the week and it is withered and lifeless. But you are not so!

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

You respond to my despondent (selfish?) cry — you will not consider our well-deserved temporary withered condition. How appropriate it would be to look with disdain upon such calls for help. But this is not your nature. The psalmist is so full of praise for your mercy that he wants all generations — even those yet to be created — to know you look with pity upon us — you with sympathetic tenderness view the plight of man. You hear and heed the groans of the prisoners and release those who are condemned to death. There is indeed a prison far more confining than those made with iron bars. There is a death far more fearsome than that facing all who live upon this earth. Praise your name!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How often have I been tempted to sink down into the morass or bog of the depressed whose days are like the evening shadow and life seems to be withering away like the spring grass. What is the matter with me? Is my memory so short? Are my eyes so dim? He

has responded so often to my prayer — he even now responds far beyond anything that I can ask or think! Blessed be his holy name — forgive my weak willingness to do your will and my natural (made so by practice) penchant to listen to the great liar! When our Lord opened the scroll handed to him in the synagogue in Nazareth he might have well turned to this beautiful psalm of captives released and the dead made alive! Praise your wonderful power!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

HIS WORD

¹⁹Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? ²⁰I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. ²¹A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. ²²So it is with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. ²³In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” —John 16:19-24, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Jesus was always ahead of his disciples in their thinking and in their need for him. He was at the same time always challenging them to think for themselves. It would have been a simple thing to tell them plainly he was speaking of his death and resurrection. But then he would have thrust himself into a maelstrom of opposition from his enemies and impulsive actions on the part of some overzealous disciples. The world would soon rejoice that they had at last rid themselves of this disturber of the death-like stupor. It was Friday and the world rejoiced — but Sunday is coming! The resurrection is just on the other side of the cross! His resurrection, he said, was much like the birth of a new life into the world — a little pain and a great joy for the new life!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

“You will see me again and no one will take your joy away from you!” Dear Lord — how I treasure these words to my heart! *No one — no man — no demon — not Satan himself* can take this joy from me! Praise your name! The disciples must have been as full of questions as we are. But in that period after his resurrection and after the Holy Spirit came they would intuitively have the answers. If they were confused on any point they but need lift their hearts by or in the powerful name of Jesus and receive an answer. Ah, how sad, sad to live in the shadows when we can live in the bright sunlight of confident knowledge of *his will!* “Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the very human quality of grief my Lord expected to find in his disciples even after he had told them of his coming resurrection. (2) Thank you for the definition of real “joy” — a joy eternal because the cause and purpose was everlasting. (3) Thank you for the wonderful new child born again from the dead who is with us in this world until this world shall be no more! (4) May I be as expectant as the disciples just after his resurrection — i.e. that they might see him any time — any place. (5) How I do “ask in your name” or “by your authority” for several requests I believe are right in the center of your will. (6) Thank you that you promised “joy” as a result of believing prayer.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” I do wonder what the first request was made by these disciples in the name of our Lord. It undoubtedly related to the events just after his resurrection and perhaps before his ascension. Jesus by this time had secured their acceptance of his Lordship. Jesus imagined his Father as a Great Grand Benefactor who was only more than anxious to give whatever it was that would bless and benefit the lives of his

followers. The completeness of joy would be in the fulfillment of the eternal purposes of their Messiah. The Holy Spirit would bring to their remembrance what he had taught them and they could ask and receive and their joy would be full. How utterly far removed all this is from what the world offers as joy today.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these blessed words are requests for my life today: (1) I am so glad that these words, “in a little while you will see me,” can so beautifully relate to all of us. (2) Thank you for the promise that one day all grief will be turned to joy. (3) How I long to understand more fully these powerful words of my Lord — there really is little more to life than knowing what he said and telling it to others. (4) No one — utterly *no one* can take our joy — your joy from us. Thank you! (5) I ask in your name that your word in the most effective means possible will spread to all men of all the world in their own language. (6) It has been no time at all since he left — there is no time in his dimension — so we all shall see him just as if John had just laid down his pen.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As he spoke from his heart in the last few hours of his life speak to me as if each of us had but a few hours to life: (1) “There is *nothing*, utterly *nothing* in life that has meaning apart from me.” (2) “There is a land where all pain is forgotten in joy.” (3) “Your task today is to bring my joy to those who sorrow.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Greenland — Points for prayer: (1) *The Danish community* is largely Lutheran, but few know the Savior in a personal way, and their lives are no witness to the Greenland majority. (2) *Greenlanders* are nominally Christian, but the breakdown of their traditional culture has had devastating effects. Immorality, alcoholism, apathy, mental illness and poverty are the result. Pray that they may experience the work of the Life-giving Spirit. The archaic Greenlandic Bible is being revised.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o’er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.
Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

WEEK THREE

—Sunday—

Eternal life is mine! Because I believe in all you are in your Son I shall never die! How joyously do I worship you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“In the course of my life he broke my strength; he cut short my days. So I said: ‘Do not take me away, O my God, in the midst of my days; your years go on through all generations. In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end’ ” (Psa. 102:23-27). The purpose of this expression is to praise you for yourself! How many men and women of twenty — thirty — forty years have for one cause or another died in the strength of their years? From the lips of all who knew them arose the words “why?” If you are God there is no need to ask. If you are not God there is no answer needed.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

It will do me a great deal of good to separate the qualities of yourself from these verses: (1) The strength of man as well as the length of his life is in your hands. (2) You need not reveal your reasons for acting — you are sovereign. (3) You do listen and are touched with the requests of your children — since we have only the generation of which we are a part we ask that we might make as full use of it as possible — you consider and weigh such a request. (4) A beautiful statement is made by the psalmist as to your creative power — to which I gladly assent — (nothing else makes any sense at all!) (5) Even this world is wearing out — getting old — will be changed and discarded for a new heaven and a new earth. (6) Forever are you the same wonderful Person I see in the face of Jesus!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is easy for me to be frustrated by interruptions — even *your* interruptions. It is also easy to imagine I have much more strength than I really have — or attribute my strength to myself instead of the true source which is your own dear self. How do I know how many days have been allotted to me? The plain fact is I do not! How easy or natural it is to plead for mercy when we so obviously deserve justice. I do not deserve any of the days I have already received. I lack only seven of the threescore and ten granted to man. If you choose to give a few more, fine — if not, it will be “very far better.” If the world itself is to wear out why should I worry about this body? Forgive me for doing so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

HIS WORD

²⁵“Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father.

²⁶In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. ²⁷No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

²⁹Then Jesus’ disciples said, “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. ³⁰Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”

³¹“You believe at last!” Jesus answered. ³²“But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

³³“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” —*John 16:25-33, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How plainly he did speak through the lips of his apostles in the fifth book of the New Covenant! How we do need to read and reread Luke’s account of our Lord. In the day of which our Lord here speaks they will be able to communicate directly to you through your ascended Son who at that time will act as an intercessor at your right hand. How I long for and reach out to be loved of yourself. I can here claim on the words of your Son such love. Can I dare say that you love me because I first loved your Son. This love is of such a personal nature as not to be compared with the love you already have for all men — it is a family love — a Father’s heart for his child — oh, praise your wonderful name!

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I must again and again remind myself that it is an act of the will to believe you (i.e. Jesus) came from yourself. He came in such a beguiling manner that it was easy and is even now easy to miss who he is. For such a short, short time was he here! For even a shorter time did he seem to want us to know who he was. But two thousand years of history have all been impregnated with the fact of his coming. The clear record of who he was and what he said is ever before us. And yet there are billions of precious eternal people who never heard — and will never hear — billions more who have died having not one chance to hear. And whose fault is that? It is mine — dear God, it is mine and millions like me! If you will give me ten more years I shall do something to change it.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that you my Lord know all things and need no one to counsel you or ask you questions — how I want an acceptance of that quality of Lordship! (2) Thank you I can say in guarded tones, “I believe at last”! (3) Thank you that if all of us leave you your cause will not fail — you have ways beyond our most creative imagination to accomplish your work with or without us. (4) Thank you that in you and only in you I can have peace — not will have — but now have — PEACE! (5) I expect in this world just what you have promised: “trouble” — and more trouble. (6) Thank you I can always — always — always “be of good cheer” — you have given me a new heart! (7) Thank you my Lord always is the conqueror and never the conquered — I am more than a conqueror through him who loves me!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“But take heart! I have overcome the world.” My blessed Lord is always saying the unexpected. Just when one would imagine a sigh of defeat there is the triumphant shout of victory! “But take heart!” Since

I just had a heart attack and a quadruple bypass heart surgery I can relate to these poor disciples who were about to lose heart. My Lord is on the side of triumph beckoning us to the hills of victory. Blessed be his holy name. It truly, truly is *only* our confidence in our Lord’s total control and rule over all things that can give us the assurance he wants to give us. He has a knowledge of all things and all men and in this sense the world is under his control and not *vice versa*.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these blessed closing verses of chapter sixteen there is much to learn — and much about which we can lift our voices in prayer: (1) The time has come and the veil of ambiguity has dropped off; may I be as ready to receive plainly as you are to speak plainly to me. (2) What a joy to know that the frightful limitations of the flesh do not now at all relate to my Lord. (3) What a reassurance the words of the apostles concerning his omniscience were to Jesus — this is what indicates our total acceptance of him today. I want to give it to him. (4) Give me that deep settled tranquil peace my Lord left for all his disciples.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I am alive today so you can speak to me through these verses — sensitize my hearing. (1) “You believe when you believe I know all things — and only then.” (2) “Peace is found in a person not a circumstance.” (3) “You can always be of good courage when your courage is in my strength.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Guadaloupe and Martinique — Points for prayer: (1) *The evident spiritual need is highlighted* by the breakdown in family life, widespread occultism, secular propaganda in schools and the marked growth of sects. Catholicism is a traditional veneer for most. (2) *The outlying dependencies* are less evangelized.

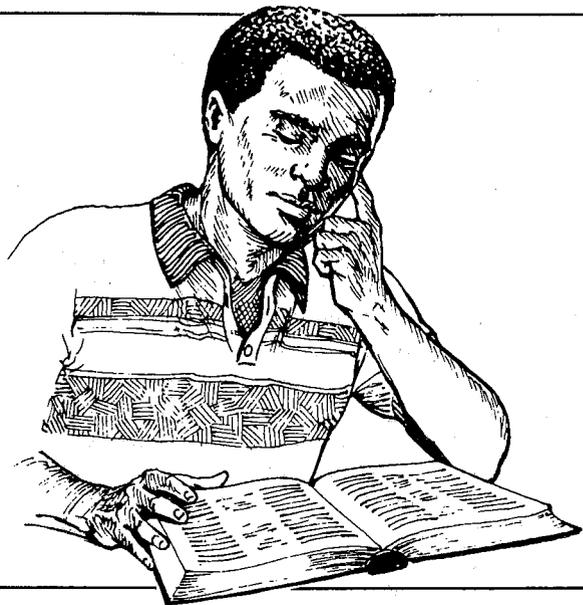
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I gladly take my stand:
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land,
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat
And the burden of the day.

WEEK THREE

—Monday—

*You are the very essence of satisfaction.
What a privilege is mine to worship
you!*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases; he redeems my life from the pit and crowns me with love and compassion. He satisfies my desires with good things, so that my youth is renewed like the eagles” (Psa. 103:1-5). This is such a blessed text it is almost an embarrassment to separate the great from the wonderful. But shall we but list some of his qualities here: (1) He deserves our total concentration — praise from our “inmost being.” (2) His intentions toward us are always good — and we should make a real effort to remember each one. (3) *All my sins and all my imperfections can be and are handled by him.*

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

How I want to give life to the letters of these words! (4) I have been to the “pits” of life more than once. There are inevitable circumstances that throw us into a dark mood or we begin to feel sorry for ourselves. He has already bought my right to be delivered from such pits. Praise his glorious name! (5) He has placed a crown of love and compassion upon my head — it took him a long time to thus “crown” me — the rule we have in life is through love and compassion — we influence others by these two qualities — only when we have fully received from him we can give to others. (6) It is quite remarkable to read of God’s constant interest in his satisfying our desires. He wants me to make the grand discovery that my desires can be satisfied with “good things.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

(1) I shall begin at the last or the seventh quality for which I can expect to praise your dear self: “. . . so that my youth is renewed like the eagles.” This quality of this bird is unique. (How I would like to discuss

it.) Just here I am to say that a certain type of tiredness is from the spirit and not the body. Apathy, boredom and tiredness are by-products of seeking to satisfy ourselves with the rot of this world instead of the “good things” of yourself. Dear Lord, forgive. (2) An abandonment of praise is not easy to give — but it would surely seem anything less than this is less than you deserve. (3) It is easy to buy the line of the world that somehow God has it in for us and is really *not* good. (4) What a temptation it is to hide our sins and diseases — or to ignore them. He wants to forgive and heal! (5) Dear Lord, when I begin to feel depressed help me to remember with how dear a price my joy was bought!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Jesus is all the world to me,
My life, my joy, my all;
He is my strength from day to day—
Without Him I would fall.
When I am sad to Him I go;
No other one can cheer me so;
When I am sad He makes me glad:
He’s my Friend.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

17 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ²For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”

—John 17:1-5, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

To open this chapter is like entering the holy of holies in the relationship of our Lord with his Father. It has been well said: "there is not one conditional sentence in this whole chapter." In these verses our Lord prays for himself. He is going to also pray for his "sent ones" and for the world. Just here we hardly seem prepared to enter fully into the meaning of his words. It is good to read here of the physical expression: "he lifted up his eyes to heaven. . . ." What an encouragement for us to do the same thing! *The hour* had arrived! The hour of not only his death, but his burial, resurrection and coronation at the Father's right hand. This was the glory of the Son — i.e. in the consequence of his obedience unto death.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

All that Jesus accomplished on the cross and in the open tomb would bring honor or glory to his Father. The authority that my Lord had over all flesh, i.e. in this particular connection, was that he died for all men. They were his by right of creation — but now by right of redemption. To be given "everlasting life" is one overwhelming thought. He has given us the life we now enjoy. He has prepared another world and life that will never end. The entrance into and realization of everlasting life is in an intimate knowledge of yourself and your Son. We can know something of that life, even now. The more we know of yourself here and now as manifested in your Son, the better prepared we shall be for the life to come.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that Jesus became on earth "the express image of the Father's substance." (2) Thank you that Jesus could and did say "mission accomplished" as related to his purpose in coming into this world. (Can we say as much?) (3) As Jesus anticipated his return to the full sharing of the nature of the Father so I thank you that we shall one day see him even as he is! (4) Thank you for the preexistence of my Lord as stated in "the glory I had with thee before the world existed." (5) Thank you that Jesus both looked forward to, and at the same time had to "endure" the cross — this helps me in my view of death.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"And this is everlasting life, that they should know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou didst send." We can know something of the wonders and beauties of heaven right here and right now. Heaven will be but an enlargement of the qualities of God in reality — in fact not in faith. The attractiveness of everlasting life — the purpose of this eternal world will be but to know what is only seen by faith. But we *can* read his word and believe it! We *can* become very much involved with him in this

world so as to be prepared for the one to come. The quality here ascribed to God as "the only true God" is very full of meaning. Any other concept of God than the one brought to us by Jesus our Lord is false. The only true God and true revelation of himself are right here in the Word we read.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As my Lord prayed he teaches me to pray: (1) Give me a deeper sense of reverence that I might with real meaning lift my eyes up to you. (2) How I want whatever honor I receive among men to bring honor to you. (3) "*The hour*" of my life was when I found you (you found me) as my Lord. May I discover that hour all over again this day. (4) Release me from the circumscribed limitations men have placed on your Son — he has power over *all men*. (5) Thank you for the incredible gift of eternal life — I want to enjoy it now — and tomorrow. (6) The qualities of your character were seen and shown again and again in my Lord. Keep my eyes open.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these five beautiful verses speak to me again and again: (1) "You have a work to do for me that no one else can accomplish — do it." (2) "I am alive now at the Father's right hand all for the purpose of helping you." (3) "I am not finished with my work in this world until time is no more."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Hong Kong — Points for prayer: (1) *The countdown to 1997 dominates the thinking of Hong Kong citizens.* Non-Christians are being forced to realize that money is not everything and that their idols will not help them. Christians see that time is precious, spiritual preparation vital, and present opportunities for evangelism strategic. Pray for right priorities for Christians and a doubling in church membership by 1997. Pray for close fellowship between denominations; a greater unity is essential in the light of impending changes. (2) *Many Chinese are seeking to emigrate all over the world before 1997.* (NOTE: in the wake of the Tienanmen massacre in Beijing, this number is expected to increase.) This emigration could become a flood. Pray that many may find refuge in Jesus.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Down at the cross where my Savior died,
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried,
There to my heart was the blood applied;
Glory to His name.

WEEK THREE

—Tuesday—

*From eternity to eternity you are God!
How solid — how valuable! It is with
happiness I enter worship.*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children — with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts” (Psa. 103:15-18). The contrast in comparison of man and yourself is frequent in the Psalms. It seems to all who live upon the earth that however long we live before you call us from this scene that it has been like the life of the grass or the flowers — just a little while. After the wind of death has blown over, other men of grass cannot remember where it was or who it was who so short a time before “flourished like a flower.”

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

But we are not forgotten — NOTHING that we are or that we did for you is lost. In the world to come we shall enter fully into life that is life indeed. We shall know clearly all that seemed so cloudy here. Our investment of your word in the lives of men and women is eternal. This is but a part of your everlasting love toward those who worship you. Dear Lord, count me in as one of those who attempts, as you enable me, to keep your covenant and obey your precepts. The quality here for which I wish to lift up my heart is your everlastingness. From eternity to eternity is another way of describing this attribute. There has never been a time when you did not exist and there never will be a time when you diminish in the slightest degree.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

It should be no task to confess freely that too much of my pursuits in life has been in areas as transitory

as grass — as fading as the flower. Forgive me — but keep reminding me of what lasts. Forgive me for attempting to do something that will be remembered among men — i.e. for myself. Unless my life is lost in your life there is nothing to remember. How eternally grateful I am for your love. How strongly do I count on this quality of yourself. Except you forgive and cleanse me I have no righteousness — nor do my children. But I have — and I do confess my sins and such a great need of your grace.

*What personal sins do you want to confess?
There is no one else you have sinned against more
than God. Tell him so!*

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever;
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love to Thee.

HIS WORD

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one. —John 17:6-11, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

In each of these beautiful affirmations I want to agree from my heart. My Lord said he revealed you (your very essential self) to the disciples. What an astounding statement! If I am looking for all the qualities of yourself I need for this life I shall find them by reading the gospel accounts and immersing my total heart in what they say to me of yourself through the Person of your Son. These apostles all came from the common clay of the world. You set them aside as your possession and gave them to Jesus. How was this done? We can read man's perspective of what happened. We can repeat the process today in calling men out of the world to follow you. We can only stand in awe and wonder as to what was (and is) involved in the eternal realm where you live.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How important are "words" as indicated in all four chapters — 14,15,16,17 — of John's good news. Your words were to be obeyed. There was no other medium for communicating your will to them. Their faith or belief came from hearing and obeying your words. In all of this, and more, I want to reemphasize my personal need for reading your words for the fulfillment of your will in my life. Just what requests were made by our Lord for Peter, James, John, Matthew? He knew they would soon all forsake him. And yet he also knew he had no one else to carry out his mission on this earth. What an expression of love are these words of Jesus!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the revelation of yourself in the Person and words of Jesus of Nazareth. (2) Thank you for the separation we can have from the world when we become your disciples. (3) Thank you for the example of these men — if they could obey your word, surely we can. (4) Thank you for my Lord's loving, generous definition of just how these men accepted his word — it gives me hope. (5) Thank you that my Lord yet prays for his followers. He knows our needs better than we do.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one." What an unselfish prayer! Jesus knew of the disagreements his disciples had already had. He knew also of the factions and divisions that were to come. What would it be that would protect them from such a catastrophe? *It was his name!* This is tantamount to saying: *his authority*. To us, all we know about him is found in his word the Bible. Why is it

we are, as his followers, more divided than at any point in history? It would be easy to say that it is because we do not accept his authority. But this is only half of the answer. We do not have the attitude of our Lord and of yourself toward each other.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Read this text and lift your heart with me in prayer: (1) Reveal yourself all over again to me as I read and pray. (2) Keep me out of the world and the world out of me. (3) I want to be truly obedient to your word. (4) Help me in the midst of this humanistic society to know there is a divine source of information — even yourself through your Son. (5) I want to share the burden of my Lord for his body the church — most especially its leaders. (6) May you receive glory or honor through me and other members of your body. (7) How I do want to claim the protection promised through your name!

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Say it all over again to me through this text: (1) "You can know all about me — all there is to know about me through the word you have before you." (2) "I require only two things of you: love and obedience." (3) "I claim your intercessory work on my behalf in my need to be one with all others who believe in you."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

India — Point for prayer: *Praise God for the past 250 years*. The Holy Spirit has used the labors of countless thousands of preachers, both Indian and expatriate, to change India and plant the Church. Although a minority, Christians are numerous and the Church is growing. Praise for: a) *The great freedom to spread the gospel* despite efforts to limit this. b) *Great people movements* among the Harijan "Untouchables" and tribal peoples which continue to this day. c) *The spiritual awakening since independence*, manifest hunger for peace with God and response to literature and radio evangelism. d) *Revivals* in South India and in 1976 in Nagaland. e) *The new missionary burden* based on prayer that is stirring hundreds of churches.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

WEEK THREE

—Wednesday—

How pleasant it is to consider this beautiful world as your dwelling place! Your everlasting power and divinity are clearly seen. I worship you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“ . . . he stretches out the heaven like a sheet and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind. He makes winds (angels) his messengers, flames of fire his servants. He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved” (Psa. 104:2b-5).

I am not at all adequate in expression of praise as found in these wonderful poetic words. But I will try — because I *want* to praise you! Anyone of us who has rested under a tent and looked up at the ceiling of such a structure can see a very real similarity in lying on a grassy hill and looking up into the heavens above. This would be peculiarly true if there was a grey overcast of clouds in the sky.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

But what is there above the clouds? The majestic expanse of the space above this little planet are: “the beams of his upper chambers.” We must, of course, receive these words as the beautiful poetry they are. As if the water of the clouds were congealed and you were building a lovely palace for your dwelling the waters would be the foundation for the lofty beams of your heavenly house. In your movement from one place to another the clouds are turned into a chariot. The winds produce the thoroughfare — they are the means of transportation for your chariots. There are messengers to aid in your desires — they are angels.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I must indeed confess that all of this description moves me to amazement! In my confession is the admission of my own earth-born interests. How easy it is to be bound to the horizontal level. How I want my

words for you to be like flames of fire. How often have they been non-flammable. None of us believe the earth is flat or founded on some kind of gigantic pillar. But we do act like we do. The accomplishment of setting a spinning ball in such a position that to those upon it it would appear totally stationary is a real divine accomplishment. But it is tragic to realize that many of us deny the reality we know by living as if this earth were all there is or ever will be. Dear Lord, forgive us.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹²“While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.” —John 17:12-16, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is most interesting to use these verses in retrospect as we review the lives of his apostles. Jesus said: “I

protected them and kept them safe by the name (authority) you gave me." As we consider the many mistakes they made we do wonder what could have happened if they did not have the protection our Lord gave them.

I am reading every word in your presence, seeking your wisdom in the understanding of what you are saying. From time to time I am faced with your foreknowledge as given in prophecy and man's free will as seen in the example of Judas. It is not at all easy to harmonize these thoughts. I know there is no contradiction — any confusion comes from my own limitations.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

My Lord here speaks of "the full measure of my joy within them." What a glorious promise! How was it obtained? The total fulfillment could not come until he had risen from the dead. It was then they *knew* he had everything in this life and the life to come under his control. The strong negative and positive response to your word is in sharp contrast to the anemic attitude people have today. The transfer of protection, or at least the emphasis of such protection is here transferred to the Father.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the wonderful security we have in the authority of our Lord. (2) Thank you for the complete harmony existent between your foreknowledge and man's free will — even when I am asked to accept it because you said it. (3) Thank you for the measure of constant joy we can have within ourselves as we trust daily in your authority and love. (4) Thank you that whereas you have left this world you yet know all that happens with every one of your children. (5) Thank you I can claim your protection from the evil one in my life — and for the lives of my loved ones.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"They are not of the world, even as I am not of this world." "This world" is simply anyone who does not know and follow what you have said. Together such persons make up "the world" to which our Lord here refers. The reason the apostles were not of the world is because Jesus produced another world for them. They had been living in his world for the past three years. None of us can escape the tremendous pressure of our environment — but *all* of us can control our world by the choices we make.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Read again these blessed words and come with me to prayer: (1) Keep me safe as I yield to your authority as found in your word. (2) Right now I want to yield to the fact that you talk of the free will of Judas and make him responsible for his actions and yet predict that such an action would happen centuries before it did. Blessed be your omniscience! (3) Give me the full joy of a total trust in your ruling of this world and life. (4) I want to be salty enough that men will taste the flavor of your life in me. (5) Dear Lord, protect me today from the evil one.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Just as if I had never read these blessed words — speak to me: (1) "My authority is ever your protection — claim it!" (2) "I am even now with the Father to help you — ask me." (3) "If you were not of this world this world would hate you."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

India — Point for prayer: *The advances are being contested by the enemy of souls.* a) *Militancy among Hindus is on the increase.* Millions of despised Harijans have turned to Buddhism, Christianity and increasingly to Islam to escape the oppressive caste system. This has sparked violence against religious minorities, persecution of Christians, discriminatory legislation in some states and the forcible conversion of tribal people to Hinduism. b) *Communism* has considerable influence in Tripura, West Bengal and Kerala. c) *Nominalism in the churches.* Mass movements to Christ were often inadequately disciplined. Christians have often become but another caste in a Hindu world.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I hear the Savior say,
 "Thy strength indeed is small!
 Child of weakness watch and pray,
 Find in me thine all in all."
 Jesus paid it all,
 All to Him I owe;
 Sin had left a crimson stain—
 He washed it white as snow.

WEEK THREE

—Thursday—

Your two works: creation and the flood are enough to lead me to wonder and worship in your presence.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“He set the earth on its foundations: it can never be moved. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunders they took to flight; they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them. You set the boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth” (Psa. 104:5-9). We believe these verses discuss the creation of the world and the flood. In such description of these two great events are qualities of yourself for which we can truly praise you.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

When we consider the size of our earth as an infinitesimal speck in the galaxy of the Milky Way we wonder why we are impressed with this earth. It is because you created “the heavens” as well as this earth. You spoke the word for their creation even as you did for the earth upon which we live.

“The new-born earth was wrapt in aqueous swaddling bands. In the first ages, ere man appeared, the proud waters ruled the whole earth, ‘the waters stood above the mountains,’ no dry land was visible, vapour as from a steaming cauldron covered all” (C.H. Spurgeon, *ibid.*, Vol V, pp. 3,4). Surely your greatness is here proclaimed!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

When we stand back and dispassionately read these words we are moved to exclaim: “Do you really believe that?” The answer is that too often, far too often, we allow our own peanut sized brain to circumscribe what we believe. When we cannot conceive of

such incredible actions it becomes to us just that — not a credible report. Dear Lord, forgive such gross form of disbelief! Since I have accepted the evidence for the truthfulness of your word help me to enter fully into an acceptance of all I read. The waters of the deep all obey him implicitly. How can I do anything in the face of your greatness but obey you too. Forgive me and move me to true worship!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

This is my Father’s world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and ’round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—
His hand the wonders wrought.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹⁷“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

²⁰“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe you have sent me.” —John 17:17-21, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Our holiness or sanctification proceeds from your word. It is our total acceptance of your word that sets us apart from the world in which we live. We believe

your Son was addressing his apostles, and just here was praying for them but the principle is just as powerful in our lives as in theirs. Dear Lord, how I want your word to consecrate me to yourself! John said, "as he was in the world so are you" (I John 4:17b). He must have been listening very closely to our Lord. The example of our Lord is always before us. Jesus set himself apart by being in constant touch with his Father — not for his own sake but for those who followed him.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I am the one mentioned in verse 20. Indeed all Christians are embraced in his prayer in this verse. We are in direct descent from those who believed and told others and they believed and told yet others. I cannot accept for one moment the idea that the request of verse 21 will not be answered. Jesus knew of the dissension present in the association he had with his followers. He knows about such division today. Dear Lord, how can I help you in bringing about an answer to this wonderful prayer? The world is waiting. The world is lost because we are not one. If I could only fully grasp the meaning of these words I know I would be much closer: "just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us. . . ."

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for your word which is the truth by which I can be sanctified. (2) Thank you for the real creative meaning of being sanctified. (3) Thank you that my Lord has identified my purpose in this world. (4) Thank you for the wonderful example of sanctification I find in Jesus. (5) Thank you that my Lord believed all believers could be one — therefore they can. (6) Thank you for the oneness in spirit we can have with you and each other. (7) Thank you for this method of winning the world to you.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." This sounds like an imperative for world evangelism. How often do we relate the unity of believers with the salvation of the lost? Once in awhile we do. Our Lord made it an imperishable principle. The nearer we are to you and your Son the nearer we are to each other. This sounds like a cliché but it is only because of the hardness of our hearts. Of course we cannot be one in you or with each other without your word. But neither can we be one only through your word. Such a oneness calls for a loss of self.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As my Lord prayed for his apostles and those who would believe through them I want to add my prayers to his: (1) Sanctify me in your truth. (2) I want to spend much more time in your truth that this might happen. (3) Give me the reality of being the body of your Son in the world in which I live. (4) Help me in my desire to follow the example of Jesus as related to sanctification. (5) How tragically have we divided the believers — forgive me for my part in this sin. (6) What can I do today to answer my Lord's prayer for unity? (7) Open the eyes of my heart that I might connect unity and world evangelism.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In a special way speak to my heart just *now*: (1) "The world is still lost and you are in it as I was." (2) "Without sanctification no one will see me or my Son." (3) "Unity is not an option — it is an imperative."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

India — Points for prayer: (1) *There is a rapid decline in the number of missionaries.* Most now serving have already given years of service to India. Pray for the wisest and most effective deployment of the missionaries remaining. Pray that visas may be issued, against all present trends, to those whom God is calling. They are needed! (2) *The growth of the churches has slowed since 1971.* In fact, between 1971 and 1981, the census recorded an increase of Christians in only Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura; all in the northeast. In most states the Christians are stagnating or even declining in percentage. Few believers ever witness to non-Christians, and in some churches there may be no first generation converts out of Hinduism or Islam.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Savior, Thy dying love
Thou gavest me,
Nothing should I withhold,
Dear Lord, from Thee;
In love my soul would bow,
My heart fulfill its vow,
Some offering bring Thee now,
Something for Thee.

WEEK THREE

—Friday—

The uniformity of your laws is a real source of amazement. I gladly acknowledge your greatness!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The moon marks off the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down. You bring darkness, it becomes night, and all the beasts of the forest prowl. The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God. The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens. Then man goes out to his work, to his labor until evening” (Psa. 104:19-23). In what happens every twenty four hours; in what happens every month we can see many reasons for praise. Ere the day when the psalmist penned these words the moon has been marking off the seasons without one mistake. The uniformity of your laws is a source of amazement.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

The world around us is *not* a machine but rather a work of art. Behind every artistic endeavor is the artist. What shall we say of the One who created the sun, moon and stars? What shall we say of the One who has created the beautiful planet called earth? The psalmist wants to create the definite impression that the moon and sun are obedient to you. He wants us to believe that the animals of the earth look to you for all they are and have. *“The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God.”* This is the impression he wishes to create *because it is true!* The habits of the heavens and earth have not changed from David’s day. There will be no change until he comes who will make all things new!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How easy it is to look up into the heavens and see nothing but a bright sphere in the night — or a blinding light in the day. Forgive me! What presumption

and effrontery it is to watch the animals obey you and then look in the mirror and see one who has the capability of not only pleasing you but bringing pleasure to your heart, and know that he chooses his own way. Essentially I do not choose my own way. The only freedom I have is to choose the one whom I will follow. To refuse you is to accept Satan. It is just that simple. Dear Lord forgive my blindness and stupidity. (I would like to pray this prayer for others — but I can only confess my own sins.)

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Be still, my soul! thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²²“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” —John 17:22-26, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I am almost embarrassed to attempt to express in my words what the great High-priest is saying in his prayer to you. But I must attempt it — for my own spiritual growth. Praise your name you have given us one more insight into the means or method of unity! Our oneness comes from your glory. The word “glory” refers to essential being or character. Our being united with each other is found in being lost in Jesus. When Christ is truly in us we will be united. The word “love” could easily be the theme of this whole chapter. When we truly love you and your Son as you want us to and as we can, unity and evangelism will be the result!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

This is NOT a pious platitude! It is reality itself. Of all the tender personal expressions of my Lord surely verse 24 of this chapter contains one of the most poignant! Jesus wanted the apostles to see the eternal beauty and power he had in your presence. Such a request has now been fulfilled. Jesus knew from experience what an overwhelming experience of wonder and joy it would be to usher these men into that eternal realm from which he had come. The term “know” as used in these verses is of that intimate experiential knowledge found only by commitment. The result is *love*. Love is a by-product of *knowing*. How I do want to absorb this concept. Lord, open my heart!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the revelation of yourself in the person of your Son — how I want to learn from him. (2) Thank you that Jesus can actually live in me by the person of the Holy Spirit. (3) Thank you for the promise or potential of complete unity for believers. (4) Thank you that love will be communicated through the unity. (5) Thank you that for all believers our Lord’s desire that we see his eternal glory will one day be answered for all his followers.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” You have always loved us, you do now love us, but such love can only be in us as we personally respond to it. Such a concept is not too grandiose for fulfillment. Our Lord would never have prayed this prayer if such were the case. Jesus has taken up residence in us via the person of the Holy Spirit. But once again: we *must* respond to such a presence before any reality of such an indwelling can be ours. This is a continual privilege on our part.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these last words of teaching to his apostles we have much cause for prayer: (1) May I share in “the glory” your Son has given. (2) I do want to do my part in the unity of the believers. (3) How can I sense fully the meaning of being indwelt by your Son? (4) Not only can we have unity but “complete unity.” How I do want this. (5) What can I do to let the world know of your love? (6) Keep me sensitive to the beauty and wonder of the world to come. (7) Help me to appreciate fully the revelation of yourself in your Son.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these last words of my Lord I can hear you speaking to me: (1) “The world is still waiting to see the unity for which my Son prayed.” (2) You can’t do everything but you can do something about this unity.” (3) “You can know me and my Son much more intimately than you do at present.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Indonesia — Point for prayer: *Praise God for the thrilling growth of the Church!* One of the most significant movements to Christianity in history has been accelerating over the past 20 years in this land. God has used many means to bring this about: a) *The communist coup* of 1965 and its bloody aftermath in which maybe 500,000 sympathizers perished, and many became Christian. b) *The fierce Muslim reprisals* on the Communists offended many — especially in Java. Many nominal Muslims turned to Christ. c) *The government recognition* of four religions impelled many animists to consider the claims of the gospel.

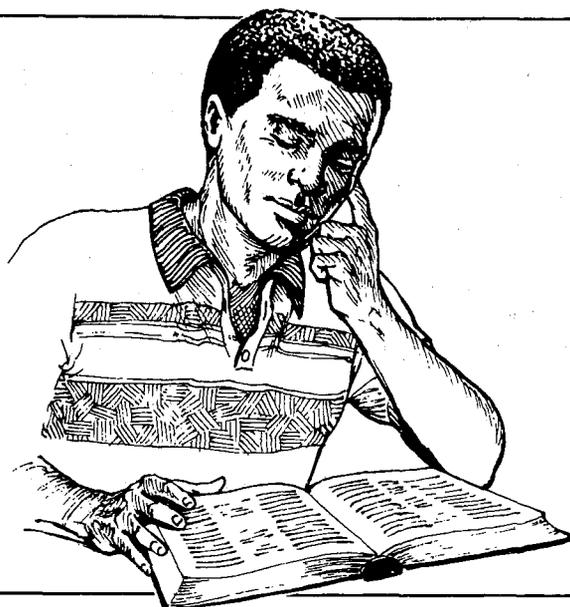
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thy only crown,
How art Thou pale with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish
Which once was bright as morn!

WEEK THREE

—Saturday—

What a wonder it is to be able to write these words in your presence about yourself! Deepen my awe of yourself!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number — living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time” (Psa. 104:24-27). In these beautiful verses are several qualities of yourself for which I want to lift my heart in praise: (1) Your wonderful variety of species.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I want to continue these qualities and relate myself to them in praise: (2) The wisdom shown in all your creation is a true cause for amazement. Just to look at a large shell or butterfly collection is enough to produce speechlessness in the one who stands before what seems like endless beauty and variety. Each creature is created with perfect adaptation to its environment. Oh, praise your name! (3) How many different kinds of insects are there? Each of them different — each of them producing after its kind. Not millions but billions of creatures move upon this earth as a testimony of your wisdom and power.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

There are men today who make the consideration of the sea and its creatures their life work. But you get no credit for what they see. I have been a pawn (at times) to their disbelief. Forgive me. I want to approach all nature with the presupposition that all I see is but an expression of your handiwork. You not only created the creatures of the sea, but more than adequately provided food for each of them. The psalmist

personifies the fish of the sea as if they looked up expectantly to yourself as the source of all they are and all they have. Can I do less? Yes, and I have — forgive me.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings
The Music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world,
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—
His hand the wonders wrought.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²⁶When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

³²They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.”

³⁵Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” —Mark 14:26,32-36, NIV (See also Matt. 26:30,36-46; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1.)

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

We want to know every word of each of these men. If ever I hesitated to write a prayer before you it is now.

I wonder what hymn they sang? Probably an appropriate Psalm. Several suggestions have been made. The garden of Gethsemane was very familiar to both Jesus and the apostles. He probably stationed eight of them at the gate of the garden with two or three swords. He then took the three with a sword in Peter's hand into the garden. At a certain place he gave them the command: "Pray that ye enter not into temptation" (Luke 22:40b). He left them to go only as far as one can throw a stone.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

These biographers are so precise in their description of this incident that we are literally there to see and hear all he said and did. All the apostles were to watch and pray, but we would think he expected Peter, James and John to be especially alert and prayerful. Why did Jesus ask the Father to remove "the cup" of the cross from him? The answer is obvious: he was human — tempted and tried in every way we are. If he had approached this ordeal in any other way he would have been no example for us. We honor him for both his deity and humanity. What a wonderful Savior!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that just before the trying experience of Gethsemane they were able to sing a hymn. (2) Thank you that prayer was so important to our Lord. (3) Thank you for the total sincerity that characterized the life of our Lord. (4) Thank you for the decision made in the garden that carried him through to the cross. (5) Thank you for the victory won for the whole world here in Gethsemane. (6) Thank you for the humanness of Jesus as he resisted Satan. (7) Thank you for the angel that came to minister to my Lord — how often do I need the same comfort.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"'Abba, Father,' he said, 'everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.'" The term "Abba" is a personal endearing word. There is a redundancy here called forth by his earnestness and the appalling prospect of Calvary. It is like saying "papa" or "daddy" and then: "Father." His love for his Father and his relationship with him overcomes and overshadows all other relationships. His total confidence in the omnipotence and omniscience of his Father is exceeded by his submission to his Father's will. Did God have another way? Nothing is impossible with him. Such an attitude is both a tremendous encouragement and an example for all those who want to follow him.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As my Lord poured out his very heart in the garden there are many requests I can find in his words: (1) Keep me ever aware of how important prayer was to my Lord — can it take any lesser place in my life? (2) Jesus wept over the lostness of the world — what do I do about it? (3) While others slept Jesus prayed — what does this say to me? (4) My Lord did not allow the attitude of others toward you to influence his attitude. How I want to learn this capacity. (5) There are special "hours" for each of us — how I want to learn how to face them from the example of my Lord.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As he spoke to the disciples in Gethsemane, speak to me: (1) "Watch and pray that you enter not into a trial you cannot handle." (2) "Through watching and praying there will be no trial you cannot handle." (3) "The spirit is just as willing and the flesh is just as weak today as then."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Indonesia — Points for prayer: (1) *Could Indonesia be on the threshold of an even greater ingathering?* Look at the growth rates of Protestants: 6% per year in 1975 rising to 8% in 1980. So far the greatest gathering of souls into the churches has been confined to certain parts of the country. Pray the complete harvest in! (2) *The influence of Christians is greater than their numbers would indicate.* It must be used wisely. Their high urban population with many well-educated among them means that Christians have a significant impact on the nation's wealth, industry, civil service and military forces. Many recent conversions have been from among the most influential in the country. Pray that the believers may live lives worthy of their Lord.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

'Tis midnight, and on Olive's brow
The star is dimmed that lately shone;
'Tis midnight; in the garden, now
The suffering Savior prays alone.
'Tis midnight, and from all removed,
The Savior wrestles lone with fears;
E'en that disciple whom He loved
Heeds not his Master's grief and tears.

WEEK FOUR

—Sunday—

“Awesome” is indeed a weak word to describe your greatness but it is all I have just now. Receive my worship!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works. He looks at the earth, and it trembles; he touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord” (Psa. 104:31-34). A rare joy is mine every day! I can come before you and think and pray once again. Just now I want to affirm with the psalmist my desire that all men for all time will know of your character as seen in your word, but more particularly in the face of your dear Son. May your glory endure forever.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

How I want you to be able to rejoice in the works in my own experience. The *one* most important question is: can you rejoice (with me) in this work? Your omnipotence is seen in the poetic expression of looking at the earth and it trembles — of touching the mountains and they are set on fire. Such a metaphor is related to this speck called earth in our galaxy; the same could be said of the galaxy itself. Awesome is a weak word to describe your greatness.

Singing and praising you is an obvious response to your greatness and goodness. One life time is not enough to express all you are and all you have done.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

“May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord.” Is it at all possible to rejoice in your presence and at the same time hold meditations in my heart that are not at all pleasing to you? To ask the question is to answer it. Dear Lord, forgive! The mind of man is an incredible computer! We can run

concurrent thoughts that are entirely contradictory with each other. In the triumph of evil — (1) the lust of the eyes; (2) the lust of the flesh; (3) the pride of life — there is the possibility of being tempted on all three fronts while at the same time lifting meditations to you. *However it is not possible to express with words more than one thought at a time. How important it is that much of my time be devoted to a written or audible expression of praise and confession before you.*

What personal sins do you want to confess? There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Face to face with Christ my Savior,
Face to face — what will it be—
When with rapture I behold Him,
Jesus Christ who died for me?
Face to face shall I behold Him,
Far beyond the starry sky;
Face to face in all His glory,
I shall see Him by and by!

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

³⁷Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? ³⁸Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

³⁹Once more he went away and prayed the same thing.

⁴⁰When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

⁴¹Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!” —Mark 14:37-42, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Return again, oh Lord, to me. Speak to me in the experience of these three men! How could these men so miserably fail? They were weary — but so was our Lord. They were tired — but so was Jesus. They were weighed down with grief and disappointment. Did this experience throw Peter, James and John into a depression? Jesus used the name "Simon." It must have been a real flash-back to Peter. He is acting like he once did before he met Jesus. Our Lord *was* unhappy with these men. But he understood — and he kept their motivation for overcoming alive. He let them know he understood their need.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

The answer is in vigilance — i.e. Satan is always ready to trip us up. We *can* discern his moves. We need not be ignorant of the moves of the evil one. At the same time and perhaps concurrent with watching is praying. If they had done this they would not be asleep. The cause for failure is clearly stated: "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." The weakness of the flesh can ONLY be overcome by watching and praying. It is *not* wrong to make the same request — even using the same words — Jesus did it!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the infinite patience and love seen in my Lord's words to these men. (2) Thank you for the clear example here that all who hear him do not understand him — we need as much patience as he had. (3) Thank you for the composite record of the three biographers — it gives such a full beautiful record. (4) Thank you that Jesus gave his disciples — even in this tragic hour — a little while to refresh their bodies. (5) Thank you for the foreknowledge of Jesus — but in it was the awfulness of the cup's content. Oh, how he loved you and me! (6) Thank you that the hour did come and he did die for me! (7) Thank you for the tremendous moral courage of my Lord — heard and seen in these words.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"*Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!*" We shall never read braver words than these. If any of us needs a hero (and all of us do) then here he is! Jesus knew his betrayer and was expecting him. Our Lord's vision was focused on the joy that was set before him, therefore he was now ready to endure the cross and despise the shame. He who knew no sin was now striding toward the sacrifice of being made sin that we might be declared righteous. Here was the just suffering for the unjust that he might bring us to yourself! No wonder we love him!

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these dramatic verses we are driven to our knees in prayer: (1) Shock me into alertness by your words: "Are you asleep?" (2) Dear Lord, I have pledged myself to at least an hour per day with you — not that it makes me any better than anyone else — it is only a testimony of my own need — help me in developing this blessed time of personal worship! (3) Open my mind to know just how I can develop my ability to "watch" as you want me to. (4) Keep my feet from stumbling into temptations I can not handle — I can claim your promise (I Cor. 10:13). (5) Dear Lord, often my eyes (of my heart and body) have been heavy and I do not know what to say. Forgive me.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

These disciples never forgot your words to them — speak to me with the same impact from these verses: (1) "There is a time in the events of life when I must say 'enough!'" (2) "You have had almost twice as much time on this earth as did my Son — what have you done with it?" (3) "My betrayer is yet alive in the world today."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Indonesia — Points for prayer: (1) *The worldwide Islamic "revival"* has had its impact on Indonesia. Great efforts are expended, with some success, to Islamize animistic and nominal Muslims by liberal use of money and construction of mosques in every non-Muslim village and town. Pray for the 64 million uncommitted, nominal Muslims and animists that they might search for the truth and find the Saviour. Pray that the worldwide Islamic awakening may cause Muslims to re-examine their own religion in the light of the Scriptures — this *is* happening! (2) *The Muslim backlash* to the growth of the Church in predominantly Muslim areas has been marked by violence, looting, destruction of churches, and at times, persecution of Christians by some extremist elements.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known:
In seasons of distress and grief
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

WEEK FOUR

—Monday—

Hold your wonders before my dull memory! Awaken to me the reality of your power and Person.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced, O descendants of Abraham his servant, O sons of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth” (Psa. 105:5-7). Charles Spurgeon has become my dearest friend in my worship of yourself through the Psalms. He has said so well: “Memory is never better employed than upon such topics: Alas, we are far more ready to recollect foolish and evil things than to retain in our minds the glorious deeds of Jehovah. If we would keep these remembrances our faith would be stronger, our gratitude warmer, our devotion more fervent, and our love more intense. Shame upon us that we should let slip what it would seem impossible to forget.” Amen! (*Ibid.* Vol. V, p. 43.)

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

The nation of Israel had much to remember. But we today as Christians are “the Israel of God” (Gal. 6:16). Do we have less to remember? Nay, more! Remember the wonder of God in human form dying to save a lost world! Remember over again every event in that blessed life given as an example for our living. Read again *this day* the gospel of Mark. It is not long. You need it for your refreshed memory. Call to mind every one of his miracles — and some of them colored dark with his judgments upon an ungrateful nation.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Can I bring myself to say with real meaning: “He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth”? Unless you can rule all the time you really do not rule at all. Is there such a thing as passive ruler-

ship in the life of one of your subjects? Must I *always* be aware of your rule? My problem is I have ears but do not hear, eyes, but I do not see. Forgive me. I want to open my eyes to see your judgments in all the earth. A judgment in the sense here has to do with a decree — if I will but consider the physical world about me I can see the irrevocable laws of yourself in operation. Do I imagine your decrees are less binding in the realm of the spirit? Forgive me!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

“Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

“Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!”

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord unto me!

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.

³So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

⁴Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”

⁵“Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

⁶“I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) ⁶When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

⁷Again he asked them, “Who is it that you want?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

⁸“I told you that I am he,” Jesus answered. “If you

are looking for me, then let these men go.” ⁹This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.” —*John 18:2-9, NIV*; read also Matt. 26:47; Mark 14:43; Luke 22:47.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Had this man Judas learned nothing from Jesus? Judas was present in Gethsemane for the teaching and praying of our Lord. We agree with Hendriksen: “. . . Judas selected the most sacred night (that of the Passover), the most sacred place (the sanctuary of the Master’s devotions), and the most sacred symbol, a kiss” (*N.T. Commentary — John*, p. 379). There were many more in this group coming to arrest Jesus than we ordinarily imagine. A cohort of soldiers numbered 600 — although the term is probably used loosely here, so that we can translate it: “a detachment.” Nonetheless we could envision more than a hundred in this arresting body.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Imagine these men carrying torches and lanterns to find the light of the world! (*Hendriksen*) Here is a feeble crowd of ruffians set out to capture the King of Kings. The scene is impressive! Jesus steps out from among the grove of trees and presents himself in the open before them all. The episode of kissing described by the Synoptic writers is omitted by John. We are unprepared to say why. We cannot escape the poignancy of our Lord’s question: “Betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss?” Ah, yes, we can and have! When our mind wanders at your table. When we spend *your* money for that which satisfies not. When we are carried away by Satan’s thoughts even in the midst of worship — yes, yes, with a kiss we betray you!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the lesson we never seem to learn: association does *not* mean possession. (2) Thank you for the example of my Lord as One who often went to worship you. (3) Thank you that no force or forces of men can overcome my Lord. (4) Thank you for the preparation my Lord made for this hour. (5) Thank you that Jesus never gave up on Judas until Judas gave up on himself. (6) Thank you for the miraculous power displayed against the soldiers. (7) Thank you that no man took him captive — he gave himself to them!

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“I have not lost one of those you gave me.” We have read this scripture before in an entirely different context. Before (John 6:39; 10:28; 17:12) in reference to

salvation in heaven. Here our Lord applies this same text to physical salvation from the opposition of Rome. How precious and meaningful! Our Lord *is* interested in protecting us here. He *is* interested in saving us from physical harm. We are not at all immunized against hurts here in this life. If, however, there is a purpose he has for our life — as he had for these twelve men, then his purpose will be fulfilled. I believe he has a particular purpose for each one of his followers. Praise his name!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How can I ask of him through these verses? (1) I want to renew my fellowship with you each day of my life. (2) Keep me aware that: “He always leads me in triumph.” (3) Open my heart again to identify the real weapons of my warfare. (4) I want so much the moral courage to be identified as belonging to you with anyone. (5) Twice over the soldiers fell on the ground — why? To teach them and us of the majesty of our Lord — may I learn it well.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Leave an indelible impression on my heart through these verses: (1) “I am still alive as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.” (2) “I as the great high priest plead your case with your Father.” (3) “As THE prophet I know all things — trust me.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Indonesia — Points for prayer: (1) *There is considerable scope for Christian work*; even mass evangelism. Christians need sensitivity to make use of present opportunities to the full. The government has the unenviable task of preserving communal peace in the face of vociferous and potentially explosive Islamic extremist groups. (2) *Revival in Indonesia?* Praise the Lord for the work of the Spirit in the ’60s and ’70s in West Timor and C. and E. Java, and in the great cities in the ’80s. Evangelistic prayer meetings have mushroomed, evangelical groups and churches multiplied. Yet the need in most areas *is* revival. Nominalism, deadness in the churches, internal politics, divisions and carnality are still very evident.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus, keep me near the cross—
There a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream,
Flows from Calvary’s mountain.
In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever,
'Til my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.

WEEK FOUR

—Tuesday—

How important and precious we are to you! How can it be? It is because of your love and mercy! I gladly bow before you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant: ‘To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit.’ When they were but few in number, few indeed, and strangers in it, they wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another. He allowed no one to oppress them; for their sake he rebuked kings: ‘Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm’ ” (Psa. 105:8-15). In these verses there are several qualities of yourself for which I want to praise you.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

(1) It is so good to know you are One who remembers. (2) You want to enter into a covenant agreement with us. (3) We know without question that you will keep your promise — all agreements with you are: “yea, and amen.” (4) A thousand generations would not exhaust your faithfulness. (5) When you promised Abraham to make his descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven he had no child — yet it did indeed come to pass. (6) The land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob came to wonderful fulfillment in David and Solomon. Praise your faithful name! (7) Thank you for the lesson of faithfulness versus bigness — sometimes the two are not at all synonymous.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

It will be real helpful to relate the above seven points in your character to my failures and find forgiveness and strength for this day. (1) The one quality I need

the most (i.e. of remembering your goodness and mercy) I sometimes have the least. (2) I am hesitant to make an agreement with you lest I fail to keep my part of it — how little do I know of your *grace* — forgive me! (3) I have made and broken so many agreements I can not even number them — I am so glad it is your goodness that leads me to repentance. (4) How many generations in my own family will know of your faithfulness through me? (5) I want to believe on hope against hope just like Abraham — I fail here — forgive me. (6) How easy to give in to discouragement and call it “impossible.” Forgive me. I remember *nothing* is impossible with you.

*What personal sins do you want to confess?
We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.*

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” ⁴⁹Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus replied, “Friend, do what you came for.” Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹With that, one of Jesus’ companions

reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁵²“Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

⁵⁵At that time Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. —*Matthew 26:47-56, NIV*; read also Mark 14:44-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:10-12.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I have hesitated long over writing anything on this text. It is most challenging to consider something written to you as an expression of worship. But this is just what I want to do. The greeting of Judas we have studied. The words of Jesus are perhaps as penetrating to the heart of this man as any found in the record. Luke says: “*Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?*” Matthew says: “*Friend, do what you came for.*” The element of surprise was transferred from Jesus to Judas. And yet he would not repent — dear Lord, how strong is Satan!

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Much of the above speaks to my heart — but just here I want to drop all pretense and identify with what I read: my Lord was interrupted in the midst of teaching his disciples to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinners. Jesus used the term “friend” in reference to his betrayer. Jesus will always be full of concern to win men back to himself. My Lord needs no defenders — he can handle every situation. The intention of Peter’s hasty action was more an expression of pride and self than defense of Jesus. The rebuke of our Lord seems to indicate this. How I need to remember defense and vengeance are in his hands — not mine.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that my Lord is never taken by surprise. (2) Thank you that Jesus used all occasions to your advantage. (3) Thank you for the example here of how to react to hatred. (4) Thank you for the wonder of the miracle described here. (5) Thank you for Peter’s courage — no matter how misplaced. (6) Thank you for Jesus’ statement about the limitations of physical force. (7) Thank you for the reference to the angels who stood ready to help Jesus.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?*” Jesus was indeed leading a rebellion against all the forces of hell.

But not a rebellion against the Roman government as the swords and clubs would seem to indicate. A wonderful revolution occurs in the life of everyone and anyone who yields to the Lordship of the Son of Man. Jesus used no physical force or coercion with anyone. We are in our day trying to face up to the destruction of the world by the 50,000 nuclear bombs we have stockpiled against each other. The principle of self-destruction here pronounced by our Lord was never more self-evident than right now.

READ HIS WORD FOR THANKSGIVING REQUESTS IN PRAYER

(1) Thank you for the revelation that Jesus knew the heart of Judas better than Judas knew himself — so does my Lord know me! (2) Thank you that Jesus did not refuse the kiss of the betrayer — but used it to teach a lesson. (3) Thank you for the fullness of the reports of this incident. (4) Thank you for the healing of the servant’s ear — it left Jesus free of any such action as perpetrated by Peter. (5) Thank you for the 72,000 angels at the disposal of Jesus for his protection. (6) Thank you for the constant reference to the fulfillment of prophecy in all the life of Jesus. (7) Thank you for this beautiful example of “laying down his life” for us.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I do want to relate these words to your word for my life — speak to me: (1) “What seems so spontaneous to you is planned by myself.” (2) “I can teach you today as I taught when I was here — if you have ears to hear.” (3) “There are some things I must do alone — but most of my work must be done through men like you.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Indonesia — Point for prayer: *The need for spiritual leaders of maturity for the churches has never been greater.* The pastor is of importance in Indonesian church life because the majority of Christians follow the Reformed and Lutheran tradition inherited from the Netherlands and Germany. The rapid growth of the church has far outstripped the supply of full-time workers. Some reckon 20,000 new leaders will be required before 1993. So pray for: a) *The rapid development of effective lay leadership.* There are only 10,200 trained pastors for 24,000 churches in the country, and most of the other 40,000 recognized leaders have had little training. b) *The widespread use of TEE programs.* Many pastors have had inadequate training and need to be retrained and fired with new zeal.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

King of my life I crown Thee now—
Thine shall the glory be;
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow,
Lead me to Calvary.

WEEK FOUR

—Wednesday—

You are even now — right now at work in my life — how good it is to talk to the ONE who is in command!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“He called down a famine on the land and destroyed all their supplies of food; and he sent a man before them — Joseph, sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the Lord proved him true” (Psa. 105:16-19). The history of Joseph as found in Genesis is familiar to all of us. Here we can look behind the scenes and learn who directed this drama. You are always at work in the affairs of men. The text says very plainly that *you* sent the famine and destroyed all their supplies of food.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

What shall I say of famines in my own experience? I shall say: (1) you sent it; (2) you permitted it; (3) you used it. I do not presume to identify your work in my life. It is enough to know that you are in control of all things. You teach us through suffering. We could say that the best lessons we learn are through suffering. You gain our attention when you touch our bodies or our pocketbooks. A vindication of your own character is the one eternal purpose being worked out in all of life. Praise be to your eternal goodness!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Joseph was a good man, but he was not perfect! No doubt he could tell us much of his own imperfections. Dear Lord, I would venture to say I am so weak and vacillating that “bruised feet” and “iron on the neck” is about the most needed type of lesson for me. I have been but very recently delivered through such an experience. You are nearer and dearer to me than ever before. Like Joseph in prison I had indeed wondered when or where deliverance would come.

You promised me deliverance in as clear a promise as ever given to Joseph through his dreams. Forgive me for forgetting!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Our fathers, chained in prisons dark,
Were still in heart and conscience free:
How sweet would be their children’s fate,
If they, like them, could die for thee!
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹²Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him ¹³and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.

¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.

¹⁹Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

²⁰“I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret.

²¹Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.”

²²When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. “Is that any way to answer the high priest?” he demanded.

²³“If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” —John 18:12-14, 19-23, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

My Lord is arrested and bound — in such a little while it will all be over. It is in the middle of the night; what a ridiculous time to have a trial! The

preliminary trial was before Annas. Here is the head of the hierarchy of the high-priesthood. He had been high priest and five of his sons were high priests plus his son-in-law and his grandson. The people of Israel still considered him the wisest and most influential — hence Jesus is taken first to Annas. We are reminded by John of the words — prophetic words — of Caiaphas: “. . . it would be good if one man died for the people.”

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

As my Lord stood before this prominent man I want to share in the trial. Was it possible that Annas did not know of the teaching of our Lord? It is of course possible, but not very probable. Is it possible that we could be associated such a long time with Jesus and yet really never sit at his feet to listen to his teaching? Ah, it is both possible and probable! Dear Lord, open our ears. It could have been that Jesus knew Annas knew of his teaching and therefore answered him as he did.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the non-resistant attitude of my Lord — indicating he knew what was to follow. (2) Thank you that Jesus really never was captured or bound — he allowed it. (3) Thank you we have this record of those who lived and died so long ago — it helps us to see how very little men have changed. (4) Thank you that even my Lord did not take a slap in the face without saying something. (5) Thank you for the unanswerable logic of what he said.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?”
Why wasn't Jesus passive in this incident as he was later when others struck him? The answer is fairly obvious: he could help here by answering — later he could not. Our Lord was struck on the mouth because he addressed the high priest as a reasoning person and not an all powerful despot. Then in his rejoinder Jesus pushed the high priest and all others to tell him what was the matter with his answer. How wonderfully wise and patient was our Lord!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Read these words again and pray with me: (1) Jesus really can never be bound — except in our place — move me to true worship before you. (2) Annas had known Jesus all the time from our Lord's birth until now — so had his son-in-law, Caiaphas. But such

knowledge had not changed their lives — how is it with me? (3) I want to renew my commitment to being a true disciple of my Lord. (4) Jesus believed that anyone could understand what he taught. Give me this same conviction as I try to teach others what he said. (5) May I be as open and candid as Jesus with those who question me concerning my faith.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Jesus spoke to Annas in a way he should forever remember — speak to me: (1) ‘I want to this day ‘speak openly to the world.’ ’ (2) ‘You are the mouthpiece for my message.’ (3) ‘Truth has no power if it isn't heard.’

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Indonesia — Points for prayer: (1) *The Chinese* are being absorbed into Indonesian society but are often unpopularly wealthy. A large part of the industrial, financial and trading world is controlled by them. The Chinese have been responsive to the gospel over the last 50 years, and now about 13% are Protestant (in Chinese and Indonesian-speaking congregations) and 6% are Catholic. (2) *The Transmigration Scheme* is one of the world's largest peaceful resettlements of people ever organized. Vast areas of virgin territory in Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Irian Jaya have been opened up for migrants from overpopulated Java and Bali. Pray that Christians among the migrants may be lights for the Lord in areas never before evangelized.

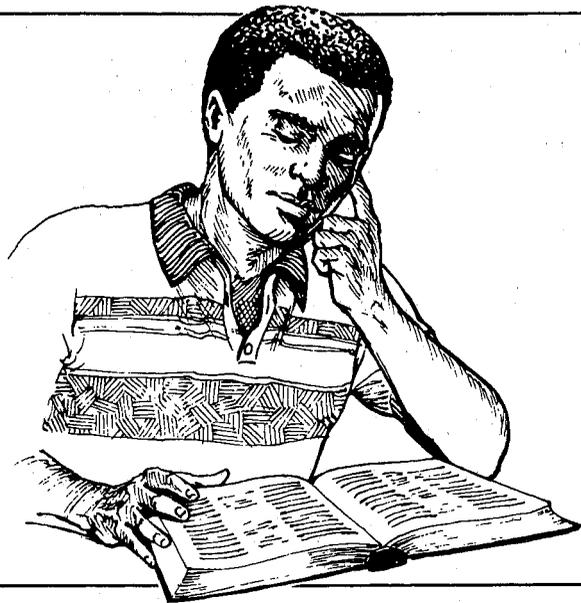
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne:
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee;
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

WEEK FOUR

—Thursday—

I am twice yours — you created me as a spirit being — you bought me with such a high price. I gladly relinquish all myself to you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The Lord made his people very fruitful; he made them too numerous for their foes, whose hearts he turned to hate his people, to conspire against his servants. He sent Moses his servant, and Aaron, whom he had chosen. They performed his miraculous signs among them, his wonders in the land of Ham” (Psa. 105:24-27). What characteristics of yourself do I see in these verses? There are several: (1) You are still the creator of the spirits of all flesh (Num. 16:22). You sent every human spirit into the genetic combination of every mother and father. You indeed begin and end our lives upon this earth. (2) You are aware of our foes. They, in a sense, become also your foes.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I want to continue this list and relate myself more closely. (3) You produce the environment out of which all that happens on this earth proceeds. You are not morally accountable for our hatred — we are — but you are very much a part of all that happens. (4) You have men and women called and chosen and sent by yourself. Since there are billions upon this earth you need millions of servants to call — choose and send. Praise your name! (5) The signs and wonders were of yourself — they belonged to you — not to Moses and Aaron. Through them but of yourself.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I find myself as slow to see and believe as the rulers in Egypt. How easy it is to congratulate ourselves on our “good luck” and blame you for all “bad luck.” You sent both the good and the bad according to your own good pleasure. Deliver me from the terrible plague of humanism! When man becomes the center

and circumference of his own world he is miserable! Lift up my eyes to yourself the source of all I am or have. Deliver me from the tentacles of Satan. Keep me full of faith in your interest in man’s life. *In my life!* I believe you are at work even now!

What personal sins do you want to confess?

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

To Jesus every day I find my heart is closer drawn;
He’s fairer than the glory
of the gold and purple dawn;
He’s all my fancy pictures in its fairest dreams,
and more;
Each day He grows still sweeter
than He was the day before.
The half . . . cannot be fancied
this side . . . the golden shore;
Oh, there . . . He’ll be still sweeter
than He ever was before.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁵³They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together.

⁵⁵The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

⁵⁷Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.’” ⁵⁹Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?”

⁶¹But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”

⁶²"I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶³The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. ⁶⁴"You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophesy!"

And the guards took him away and beat him. — *Mark 14:53, 55-65, NIV*; read also Matt. 26:57, 59-68; Luke 22:54, 63-65; John 18:24.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I want to enter this text just as fully as possible — at what time was it? Early Friday morning on April 7, AD 30 between one and six A.M. The place was the palace of Caiaphas — not far from the temple. Peter and John followed and waited in the courtyard with the soldiers. There really was no trial, just a mock meeting to find some way to condemn our dear Lord to death. An accusation must be established by at least two witnesses. There was no lack of witnesses — they could not agree. Finally two of them did give testimony of something our Lord had said two years earlier — yet even they did not wholly agree.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It is important for me that I carefully read all accounts that I see the whole picture. It was here at last our Lord confessed openly before all "the good confession" — he wanted the whole world to know of his deity — of his Messiahship! When under oath my Lord identified himself as "the Christ" he added something that should make our hearts shudder: "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." When he comes it will be to judge all those who judged him. Can I lift my whole heart in the word: *Maranatha*, i.e. even so come Lord Jesus? Dear Lord cleanse my heart and my conscience!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the very careful complete record of these blessed events. (2) Thank you that they could really say *nothing* against him. (3) Thank you for the wonderful united testimony in his favor. (4) Thank you that the prophecy of the destruction of the temple did indeed take place even as he said — and in three days he raised it up. (5) Thank you for the silence of my Lord before those who were to murder him. (6) Thank you that Jesus was here going to hell for me — i.e. tasting of death for every man. (7) Thank you this same Jesus is alive at your right hand.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, 'Prophesy!' And the guards took him and beat him." "And they said many other insulting things to him." We shall never be able to appreciate what such abuse did, not to the body of our Lord, but to his spirit. He had been up all night without sleep. He knew he was to be crucified — did he know that he would be thus treated before the agony of the crucifixion? Perhaps he did, but such would not lessen his suffering. This was somewhat the usual treatment of those who were already condemned to death. These men did not know Jesus — but Jesus knew them.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Read these words and pray with me: (1) Keep me aware that there are men in high places who do not act at all in a rational manner. (2) I want to remember what a power hatred is. (3) Most of all I want to learn from my Lord how to react to such people. (4) These men lied about what our Lord said about his death and resurrection — but even in such a lie we can learn of your power. (5) As I read again the noble confession of my Lord's deity may I accept in my heart all its meaning for me. (6) May I be ready this day for the coming of the Son of Man!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Jesus speaks eloquently even when he is silent — speak to me: (1) "I am standing on trial still before the tribunal of every human heart." (2) "I suffer more at the hands of those who know me and do not care." (3) "One day all will know me from the least to the greatest — and those who have pierced me."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Indonesia — Point for prayer: *Supportive ministries*: a) *Bible translation and distribution*. The UBS have 34 translation projects in Irian Jaya, and a program to publish common language translations in 12 major languages. *SIL* (that is, Wycliffe Bible Translators) has a growing team involved in 22 language projects, but there are over 300 languages requiring Scripture translation work. b) *Literature*. There is an insatiable appetite for good Christian literature, but too little is widely available at a price people can afford. c) *Christian radio*. *FEBC* broadcasts 108 hours per month in Indonesian and 30 in Javanese. The whole radio ministry could be increased and diversified.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All praise to Him who reigns above
In majesty supreme,
Who gave His Son for man to die,
That He might man redeem!

WEEK FOUR

—Friday—

Nothing was too good for the comfort of your people! Surely nothing is too good in worshiping you! I want to gladly surrender all to you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“He spread out a cloud as a covering, and a fire to give light at night. They asked, and he brought them quail and satisfied them with the bread of heaven. He opened the rock, and water gushed out; like a river it flowed in the desert” (Psa. 105:39-41). The delightful expression of Spurgeon is: “What would not travelers in the desert give now for such a canopy? The sun could not scorch them with its burning rays; their whole camp was screened like a King in his pavilion. Nothing seemed to be too good for God to give his chosen nation, their comfort was studied in every way. While cities were swathed in darkness, their town of tents enjoyed a light which modern art with all its appliances cannot equal” (*Ibid.*, pp. 52,53).

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

It is my single purpose to lift my heart to you in praise for yourself. In answering the request for quail we remember it was out of a complaint for the sameness of the diet of manna. How infinitely good you were to your people. But even as you promised such meat would not satisfy. It became a temptation for self-indulgence. There was nothing lacking in the bread you gave from heaven — and ultimately Israel knew this. We have a thousand times more reason to rejoice in your provisions for our lives. We have always before us the bread and water from heaven.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

There surely is no problem in confessing our sins in association with the incidents before us: (1) We are not satisfied with your provisions so you permit us to have other things — when we have gluttonously indulged ourselves we know as Israel did that we have

poisoned ourselves. Dear Lord, how many times must this happen before we learn? (2) Your daily (even hourly) provision for our needs is consumed with hardly a thought for the giver — how terrible — forgive! (3) Even in our ego centered requests you give us water from the rock. But there is a penalty, Dear Lord, deliver me from presumptuous sin!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,
A wonderful Savior to me,
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
Where rivers of pleasure I see.
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;
He hideth my life in the depths of His love,
And covers me there with His hand,
And covers me there with His hand.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest’s courtyard, ¹⁶but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

¹⁷“Surely you are not another of this man’s disciples?” the girl at the door asked Peter. He replied, “I am not.”

¹⁸It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself. —*John 18:15-18, NIV*; read also Matt. 26:58,69,70; Mark 14:54,66-68; Luke 22:54-57.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

This full account of the first denial of Peter is given by one who was eyewitness to what happened. Just how John became known to Annas or Caiaphas we do not know. He was known also to the portress and Malcus; Peter was admitted to the courtyard because of John's intercession for him. Peter was uneasy and felt out of place — as indeed he was. How could Peter deny our Lord after all he had said about his devotion to our Lord? We had better look closely at this text (as indeed we are) lest we also fall.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Perhaps it was the suddenness of the question. Paul Butler gives us four very possible reasons. I want to read every one of these with my name upon it. (1) Over-confidence in humanness. What we affirm in the morning is often denied before the setting of the sun. Dear Lord, forgive! (2) Disagreeing with God's revealed plan. Peter had said, "It shall never be so with you" (Matt. 16:21,22). Am I ready to receive *all* you say in your word? (3) Ill prepared for the suddenness and subtleness of temptation. I believe it is here I am caught up most often — how I want to prepare myself even now for the next move of Satan. (4) Repulsed at the humbleness of his way. We just cannot and do not stand up to the pressure of the worldly crowd. Dear Lord look again into my heart!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the courage and love that led Peter and John to follow him even in this crisis hour. (2) Thank you for John's influence with the high priest — such an example for me! (3) Thank you for the awkwardness of Peter — so true to his character — it says much to me. (4) Thank you for all the characters that played out this drama in the history of redemption — we can learn from each of them. (5) Thank you for the opportunity to learn from Peter's denial. (6) Thank you for my wonderful suffering Savior. (7) Thank you for the charcoal fire of the soldiers — our Lord is going to build another one for Peter on the shore of Galilee. Would Peter ever forget that fragrance?

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Peter also was standing with them, warming himself." Can we get inside the mind and motives of Peter and know just what he felt as he stood there inside the courtyard of the palace of Caiaphas? Of course we can not, but we can offer conjectures we believe are not far from the facts. Where was John who came in with him? Did John have access to the room where Jesus was being tried? We believe Peter

wanted to appear as inconspicuous as at all possible. He felt entirely out of place. Would someone recognize him as the disciple with the sword who cut off the ear of Malcus? At the same time he wanted desperately to know what would happen with Jesus.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Read these verses once more and lift your heart with me in prayer: (1) May I this day, and every day, follow my Lord even when circumstances are full of contradictions. (2) I am *so glad* Jesus knows what is happening — I do not — but I trust him. (3) I want to influence as many people in places of influence as I can — help me. (4) Keep me as open and candid with my faith as are some people of this world with what interests them. (5) Keep me aware that Jesus knows we have denied him — if we admit it — and if we do not admit it. Forgive me — and open my heart and mouth for him.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Surely Peter never forgot the words of this text — speak to me in it: (1) "I see you and your heart wherever you are — I see and understand." (2) "The devil's fire has no warmth." (3) "Blessed is he who stands not in the way of sinners."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Iran — Points for prayer: (1) *The 1979 Revolution has been a blessing in disguise.* Islam has been shown to be a system worse than that which it replaced. Muslims are seeking answers. May the tragedy, hatred, cruelty, bloodshed and religious fanaticism open hearts to the Prince of Peace and doors for the gospel. (2) *Since 1979 Irani Muslims have shown a greater response to the gospel than ever before.* Disillusionment with Islam is muted, but widespread. In 1979 there were only several hundred believers from a Muslim background. The response has come from Iranis within and outside the country. Pray that these might be the first-fruits of an abundant harvest.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry
His army shall He lead,
'Til every foe is conquered
And Christ is Lord indeed.

WEEK FOUR

—Saturday—

You remember each of us — you know us better than ourselves! How could we fail to love you and worship you?



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people, come to my aid when you save them, that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may share in the joy of your nation and join your inheritance in giving praise” (Psa. 106:4,5). The attributes of yourself are evident in these two beautiful verses: (1) You know us and can identify each of us in your memory. (2) You want good things for your children — you have so arranged their lives that they may live in comfort and prosperity. (3) Our troubles are your troubles — when we hurt you hurt. (4) You do have a chosen nation — i.e. those who have chosen you.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

There is a real solid lasting joy in an acknowledgment of your plan and presence. The joy of the nation of Israel was in the physical prosperity they enjoyed in Canaan. The joy of the new Israel is in the realm of the Spirit. Can we pause long before each of these words and rejoice? (1) Justified; (2) Sanctified; (3) Redeemed; (4) Adopted; (5) Saved; (6) Forgiven; (7) Called; (8) Anointed; (9) Glorified; (10) Indwelt. There are two perspectives for each of these benefits in our relationship with you. We are justified from your perspective — we are justified from our perspective. In each of these words and our dual view of them the one predominant quality we can express is joy! delight!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

This Psalm is full of confession of sin. If the qualities of the beginning verses of this Psalm had prevailed in the nation the remaining verses of sin and repentance

would not have been written. If we remembered him in an obedience to his will in our lives he would not need to remember us in judgment or punishment. In my confession to you I am not thinking of you as One who takes some sadistic delight in my mistakes, but as a wonderful Father who would gladly do anything to help me. You long to show favor and offer prosperity. It is not your will to condemn but to save, Blessed be your name!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring!
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing—
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,
I’m standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I’m standing on the promises of God.
Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
Listening every moment to the Spirit’s call,
Resting in my Savior, as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁵⁸A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.”
“Man, I am not!” Peter replied. —Luke 22:58, NIV;
read also Mark 14:69,70a; Matt. 26:71,72.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

We want to concern ourselves with the three denials of Peter in as many days. This is the second denial. It was a servant girl who toppled Peter the Apostle! It possibly happened as it did because she said it in the

presence of the Roman soldiers — and all others who were there. Peter feared for his life. He was also very much confused in this dark hour. We do not excuse him, but we can understand. What would I have done in a similar situation? Perhaps not even as well. Dear Lord, speak to my heart.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Am I willing to suffer the ridicule and put-down that some people would give me? When physical torture is before me would I seek a way of escape or would I stand up and own his name? I'm not ready to say. I only say I want to develop such an intimate love for you that there would not be a choice to make. I want to decide in Gethsemane before I am asked in the courtyard of Caiaphas. All are such good words —but am I ready for Gethsemane? Considering some of my present day decisions I wonder! Dear Lord I am willing — give me a deeper willingness!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for Peter's willingness to even be at the trial. (2) Thank you for the humanness of this whole record — it is entirely credible. (3) Thank you for the events that followed — I wonder if this servant girl ever became a Christian? (4) Thank you for the tender, reachable heart of Peter — in this I want to be like him. (5) Thank you that I can be "one of them" today.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"*Again he denied it.*" What was Peter thinking about as he warmed himself at the fire? Didn't he know what he did at the gate? Did he dismiss so lightly his words of denial that he would repeat them a short time later? After three years of constant companionship with Jesus how could he do it? Had Peter failed to hear the repeated promise of Jesus that he would rise again on the third day? We can ask all these questions in a rather smug feeling of pity or even condescension until we remember our own denials of him. What happened to our personal relationship with this personal Savior? Dear Lord, forgive *me* — not Peter.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the denials of Peter there are real reasons for prayer: (1) May I be as candid and open about my faith as others are with their lack of it. (2) I do want to belong to *him* (not them). (3) Keep me closer to you than the world in which I live. (4) I am so glad that I can pause in meditation and prayer and know

you are with me *right now!* (5) Deliver me from the particular overbearing temptation which could indeed become a denial of yourself.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In the rejection of Peter speak to my conscience: (1) "Let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." (2) "Peter is not the only one who needs sifting." (3) "Denial is never a necessity."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Iran — Points for prayer: (1) *The minority ethnic Christian groups* have not been singled out for harassment. Churches have continued to function despite fear and uncertainty, though many Christians are emigrating. Armenians and Assyrians are 95% of the Christian community, but most are nominal. Pray for a work of the Spirit in the Eastern, Catholic and small Protestant churches. (2) *The events of the last few years have dynamized many of the Protestant churches.* Low church attendances, personality clashes, lack of vision and witnessing characterized them in the past. Many Protestants have fled, but their numbers have been more than made up by conversions in churches that fearlessly preach the gospel. Christians have been challenged to stand for the Savior and have had remarkable freedom to distribute literature and testify. Pray for the many hundreds of seekers from non-Christian religions.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.
Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go,
Never fear, only trust and obey.

WEEK FIVE

—Sunday—

Will we learn anything from history? We can! You want us to — I am seeing more and more that all history is “His story” i.e. the record of yourself. I bow before this record!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“We have sinned, even as our fathers did; we have done wrong and acted wickedly. When our fathers were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea. Yet he saved them for his name’s sake, to make his mighty power known. He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; he led them through the depths as though a desert. He saved them from the hand of the foe; from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them. The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them survived. Then they believed his promises and sang his praise” (Psa. 106:6-12). Out of this passage I want to lift the expression of your love and power and praise you for them: (1) “They gave no thought to *your miracles*.” (2) “They did not remember *your many kindnesses*.” (3) “Yet *he saved them for his name’s sake*. . .” (4) “. . . to make his mighty power known.” (5) “He led them through the depths. . .” (6) “He saved them from the land of the foe.” (7) “From the hand of the enemy he redeemed them.” (8) “Then they believed his promises and sang his praise.” In these eight areas I want to lift my heart in praise.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I want to give as deep thought to your miracles as is possible for this servant. (1) The most obvious message I get is that you care enough about us to adjust your laws to get our attention. May we hear your voice! (2) How easy it is to forget if we but poorly understand to begin with. Can I list ten of your kindnesses to me? Indeed I can. But will I remember them? (3) If it were not for your own essential character of love none of us would be saved. *You so loved* — only because you loved are we saved. Praise your name! (4) You are making your power known to me — more and more day by day — praise your name!

CONFESSION OF SIN

In all the eight areas above I have sinned against you; and then there are my current sins — dear Lord I do want to open my heart and conscience before you and ask forgiveness. You have surely led me through the depths. I have found out just how deep some depths can be — and just how wonderfully faithful you are in your leading — praise your name! You did not necessarily lead me into the depths — but you surely have delivered me *through* them. But I have not been as sensitive to your presence or your leading — forgive me. There have been foes on my path, that I did not even see — but you did! Forgive me for not remembering that you had anticipated such opposition. How easy it is to forget the terrible price you paid for my redemption — forgive me!

What personal sins do you want to confess?

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

“Whosoever heareth,” shout, shout the sound!
Spread the blessed tidings all the world around;
Tell the joyful news wherever man is found,
“Whosoever will may come.”
“Whosoever will, whosoever will!”
Send the proclamation over vale and hill;
’Tis a loving Father calls the wanderer home:
“Whosoever will may come.”

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁵⁹About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.”
⁶⁰Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” ⁶²And he went outside and wept bitterly. —Luke 22:59-62, NIV; read also Matt. 26:73-75; Mark 14:70b-72; John 18:26,27.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Shall I ever gain the deepest lesson in this denial of our Lord? I think not — but I shall surely try. The reasons for identity with Jesus are interesting: (1) “He is a Galilean.” (2) “Your accent gives you away.” (3) “You were with him in the olive grove.” To be a Galilean was tantamount to saying, “you are one of those hillbillies or hicks.” The intelligencia or sophisticates of Judea held such an opinion of those from Galilee (Acts 5:13). Am I ready to be so classified by some people? Scholarship and learning have been associated with the strangest things. A person’s accent is one of these strange things.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Am I ready to be examined as closely as Peter for my relationship with you? National identity is real important in our world. If someone identified us as “an American” in places this would not be a compliment. We in our country are just as prejudiced in regard to East, Midwest, South, North or West. Dear Lord, deliver us from such stupidity. When will we begin to “look on the heart” and judge the man — not where he was born? The above also applies to the accent. Most of all we are terribly afraid of being classified as “religious” — or “a holy fanatic.” We do not want to be associated with the olive grove of devotion. Dear Lord, open our eyes!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the time element — once more the story becomes credible. (2) Thank you we need not wait till someone challenges our faith before we speak up for our Lord. (3) Thank you for the foreknowledge of our Lord so perfectly matched by fulfillment. (4) Thank you for “the look” of Jesus which broke the heart of Peter. (5) Thank you for your wonderful preacher — “a rooster.” (6) Thank you for the tender heart of Peter — what an example for me!

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“And he went outside and wept bitterly.” Just how bitterly we will never know until he tells us when we meet in the Father’s house. Shall we attempt to identify with this very human disciple and see if we too do not need to shed a few tears of repentance. We need to say that there were two men who wept — Peter and Judas. One in repentance, the other in remorse. The basic distinction is *selfishness*. Peter wanted to please Jesus, Judas wanted to please himself. What did Peter say in his prayer? (1) “He knew all the time what would happen — why didn’t I trust him?” (2) “I am such a weak fool — dear Lord forgive me.”

(3) Will he ever receive me back — I surely do not deserve it.”

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

There is room in this text for our own requests: (1) In “about an hour later” so many things can happen that we could never imagine — guard my heart against these temptations. (2) I want the humility and courage to declare gladly that I “was with him” — indeed, I am with him now! (3) Forgive me when I have been unwilling to acknowledge your name. (4) In the little things of life — like a rooster — there are lessons for me to learn — teach me! (5) Bring to my memory some words from the lips of your Son — speak them into my conscience.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I have reasons enough to weep — keep my conscience tender: (1) “Refusal to identify with me hurts me.” (2) “Denying me hurts you very deeply — repent immediately.” (3) “Self-pity is not repentance.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Iran — Point for prayer: *Unreached peoples*. There are only about 500 Protestants outside the tiny Armenian and Assyrian communities. Forty-five or more peoples have never heard the gospel, in seven there are a few individual believers, but no churches. a) *There are 66,438 villages in Iran*. Only about half-a-dozen have a resident Christian witness. b) *There are 178 towns and cities*, but only approx. 30 organized Protestant churches. c) *Major segments of the population are hardly touched with the gospel* — the strongly Islamized universities, children, women, the densely populated Caspian coastal plain, the seven million semi-nomadic and nomadic tribes, etc. d) *The Kurds, Luri, Bakhtiari* have no more than a few dozen known believers among 7.2 million people. e) *The Turkic peoples* total 9.3 million with very few believers; many of the groups have never been evangelized. f) *The Baha’i followers*. There are no known believers to have come from this religious group that has suffered so much. Little has been done to specifically evangelize the world’s 4.5 million Baha’i. Pray that God may raise up such an outreach. g) *The refugees*. Over 500,000 Afghans in the east. h) *The Baluch and Brahui* of the southeast.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.

See if there be some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from every sin, and set me free.

WEEK FIVE

—Monday—

You have not stopped working with your children. I do want to be more responsive than Israel. I can begin by worshipping you right now!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

In all the negative qualities of Israel there are qualities of yourself reflected: (1) *“They soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his counsel.”* But you are One who offers counsel when we are willing to receive it. (2) *“So he gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease upon them.”* But you were and are always aware of the requests of your children. (3) *“The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan; it buried the company of Abiram.”* Your wrath and punishment are just as real as your love and mercy. (4) *They forgot the God who saved them. . . .* But you are a savior! (5) *Then they despised the pleasant land. They did not believe his promise.* But you did have the beautiful land of Canaan prepared for them and kept your promise. (Psalm 106:13-24)

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

These words were written long ago that they might speak to me today — as indeed they do! (1) I do want your counsel — I have lived long enough to know by sad experience that any other counsel is a lie! (2) I know that I say nothing or think nothing that is not totally known to you. How I do want my desires to be yours — if not I could be devastated by the very thing for which we ask. (3) Somehow I want to be sensitive to your wrath — I need this balance lest I imagine that I can continue in sin that grace might abound. (4) Save me from myself — from my friends — from my routine — save me just for yourself! (5) I do believe your promise of heaven — break my heart that I might enjoy the present pleasant land in which we live.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

All the negatives or sins in this text are mine — and

even more. (1) I live so much by the present that I forget all your wonders and blessings — forgive me. (2) Forgive me for preferring my own “cravings” to your desires for my life — which are always better. (3) Awaken me to the reality of hell and everlasting punishment — forgive my hard heart. (4) May my salvation today be as real as it was on the first day of my salvation. In ways but known to yourself make this true. (5) I could be despising some of your goodness and not even know it — open my heart!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Savior, more than life to me,
I am clinging, clinging close to Thee;
Let Thy precious blood applied
Keep me ever, ever near Thy side.
Every day, every hour,
Let me feel Thy cleansing power;
May Thy tender love to me
Bind me closer, closer, Lord, to Thee.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁶⁶At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. ⁶⁷“If you are the Christ,” they said, “tell us.”

Jesus answered, “If I tell you, you will not believe me, ⁶⁸and if I asked you, you would not answer. ⁶⁹But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.”

⁷⁰They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?”

He replied, “You are right in saying I am.”

⁷¹Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.”

—Luke 22:66-71, NIV; read also Matt. 27:1; Mark 15:1.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Just so I might appreciate this trial from my Lord's perspective I want to list seven "blatant illegalities in the arrest and trial" (these are adapted from Paul Butler's book on Luke). (1) He was arrested without a warrant, by a mob, on a feast day. (2) He was taken before Annas who had no official standing — questioned, abused, and not released when he himself called for evidence of his arrest. (3) Tried at night having never been officially accused, with no witnesses. (4) Witnesses were bribed to bear false testimony. (5) These witnesses did not agree. (6) He was adjured to testify against himself. (7) No evidence was introduced in his favor. (8) He was arrested for one charge and tried and condemned for another. How very poor he did become that we might be rich!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I shall never, never be able to appreciate what happened here. I can only put forward a feeble effort and try. He had had no rest and now the night is past and the whole ordeal of Friday is before him. The one question he wanted answered in the hearts of all men was now put before him: "If you are the Christ," they said, "tell us." Jesus knew he stood before disbelievers — not unbelievers, but those who refused to believe. He did want them to know just who was on trial. He looked beyond the cross and the grave to his ascension and coronation. What a remarkable answer! In their condemnation of him they condemned themselves.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the unquestionable evidence of his Messiahship. (2) Thank you I can acknowledge him even now as my Lord and the Son of God! (3) Thank you for Immanuel — "God in human flesh." (4) Thank you for the multiplied evidence of his Messiahship as found in his ministry. (5) Thank you for the great self-existent One — the "I am that I am." (6) Thank you for the One who appears as the victim but is actually the victor!

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"We have heard it from his own lips." Such a statement is the ultimate test. By a man's words he shall be justified and by his words will he be condemned. If anyone wants to know our Lord and his claims the very least they can do is to read his words. Out of the abundance of his heart he spoke — and we shall see him through his utterances. There are three things we can do with the words of Jesus: (1) We can do what most men do — ignore them. The men of his own generation came to be healed or fed — not taught. (2)

We can sift them through the sieve of our own prejudice and only keep what agrees with us. (3) We can receive them with a good and honest heart.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I am really on trial — therefore I want to pause in prayer before you: (1) May every daybreak find me in worship before you. (2) Give me the humility before you that I need not fear the face of man. (3) May the world hear from my lips a testimony of your deity. (4) May my frame of mind always be such that I can and will believe. (5) When men ask me concerning my faith give me the wisdom to answer. (6) I am glad to acknowledge that I accept Jesus' Lordship and intercession for me at your right hand — how I do need it! (7) Give me a fresh insight to your deity today.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Throughout eternity all those who tried him that day will remember what happened — speak to me: (1) "I stand at every sunrise to be accepted or rejected." (2) "I can only rule one life at a time — I want to be your king." (3) "I can bring every thought into my captivity."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Iraq — Points for prayer: (1) The deep woes through which Iraqis have passed are decisively changing the nation. Praise that it is God in control of this situation. Pray that there might be opportunity for the gospel to be freely preached. The land is completely closed for any form of open evangelism. The few foreign missionaries were expelled in 1969. (2) Islam has almost complete ascendancy, and it is virtually impossible for a Muslim to openly confess Christ and live. Pray that the centuries of prejudice and hatred may be broken down, and that Muslims may come to the Lord. Pray that the long agony of the Gulf War may help to bring a new day for the gospel in Iraq.

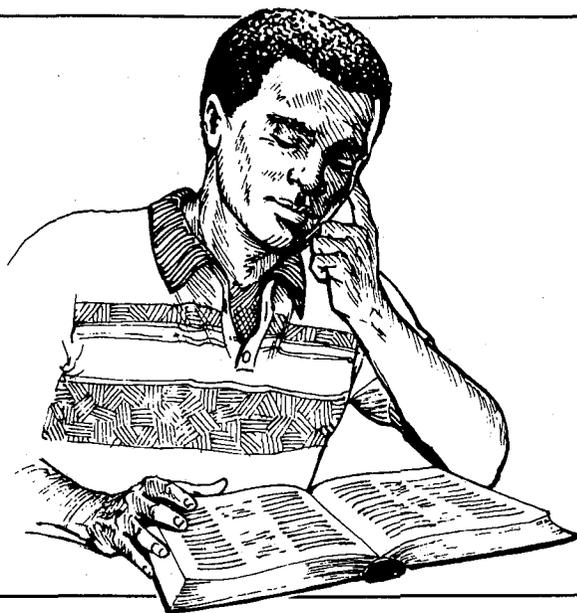
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
 Forgive our foolish ways!
 Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
 In purer lives Thy service find,
 In deeper reverence, praise.
 Breath through the heat of our desire
 Thy coolness and Thy balm;
 Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
 Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
 O still, small voice of calm.

WEEK FIVE

—Tuesday—

Why, oh why are we so tied down to the physical? Speak to me through the examples before me. Exchange praise for grumbling!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Once again I select examples of your interest in your people in spite of their sin: (1) *“They grumbled in their tents and did not obey the Lord.”* (2) *“He swore to them with uplifted hand. . . .”* (3) *“By the waters of Meribah they angered the Lord. . . .”* (4) *“They rebelled against the Spirit of God.”* (5) *“He handed them over to the nations, and their foes ruled over them.”* (Psalm 106:25-41) In each of these incidents we see an attribute of yourself. (1) You have given us something to obey. It is your word! We can grumble or obey — but in either case you are alive and responsive to us. (2) You enforce with your own character what you have said. Obedience to you is no light matter.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

(3) There *is* an end to your patience. We would like to think that as long as we are alive on this earth you will be patient with us — at some point in time we will repent and we will die and go to heaven. Such was NOT the case with Moses — or Joshua — or David or many more whose lives fill the pages of your book. I am glad it is not up to me to decide when your patience is exhausted — but neither do I want to presume on your goodness. (4) How I thank you for the present work of the Holy Spirit. May I be tenderly responsive to his word as I read it before me. I want no rebellion in my heart. (5) I know the option of your rule — I do not want it!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

We do indeed repeat the sins of our fathers and great-grandfathers. I want to look again at these five points and see myself! (1) What grumbling often comes from the tent in which I live! Please forgive! I *know* action and not reaction is what you want. (2) May I take very seriously your word, backed as it is with your

oath — it shall never fail, but surely come to pass — this is both encouraging and sobering. (3) I know that there is an end to your letting me continue in my own willful way. Before I reach the “waters of Meribah” I want to repent. (4) Dear Spirit of my living Lord I do not want to grieve or quench or resist you at all. Forgive me dear Lord. (5) I want my life in your hands not my foes.

What personal sins do you want to confess? There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter;
I am the clay.
Mould me and make me
After Thy will,
While I am waiting,
Yielded and still.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

³When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. *“I have sinned,”* he said, *“for I have betrayed innocent blood.”*

“What is that to us?” they replied. *“That’s your responsibility.”*

⁵So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

⁶The chief priests picked up the coins and said, *“It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.”* ⁷So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners.

⁸That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: *“They took the thirty silver coins,*

the price set on him by the people of Israel, ¹⁰and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me." —*Matthew 27:3-10, NIV*; read also Acts 1:18,19.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

There are good qualities in the character of this tragic man, Judas. When it came time to define the character of our Lord, Judas said Jesus was innocent or "pure." He did want to freely admit his sin, "I have betrayed innocent blood." He wanted to make restitution. He brought the money back. However even in these three points we see his failure. The purity of Jesus did not change the character of Judas. It did not keep him from robbing the treasury. He admitted his sin to the wrong people. It should have been before yourself. He restored the money but not his heart.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

There is so much I can learn from this unfortunate man. The *one* overpowering sin of Judas was avarice or greed. It took the form of money and what it could do. I can learn also that it is possible to so hide our feelings that others will not know it. But I need to remember the power of conscience to inflict merited punishment. Judas, like Peter, wanted to take the situation in his hands and manipulate it to his own desires — but Judas, unlike Peter, had himself at the center of his plans. Peter wanted the Master's good, not his own, and therefore repented toward yourself not himself. Dear Lord may I let you cleanse my heart and make me whole!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the very sobering truth that all who are taught do not learn. (2) Thank you that I can be the deciding factor as to whether I am Judas or Peter. (3) Thank you for your heavenly umpire the human conscience — may I give him the right rules. (4) Thank you for the example of the utter failure of money to satisfy. (5) Thank you for the innocence and purity which was plain even to Judas. (6) Thank you for the tragic example of what can happen even today to one who will not yield to your Lordship. (7) Thank you that I can even now choose to be like this man.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Then he went away and hanged himself." We are immediately repulsed at this thought and say within ourselves: "How could he do such a thing?" And yet, what else was there for him to do? He had played all his cards on himself. He had lost all — this was but the payment of failure. Three years in the company of Jesus put incredible pressure on Judas. He fought against the truth with all the power Satan could give

him. How sad to remember that Judas never knew of the resurrection — (or did he?) When there is no point or purpose in living and escape is all there is, and it cannot be found in this life, there is only one alternative. This was the tragic circumstance of this one-time apostle of our Lord.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Surely there is cause in this text for prayer requests: (1) Deliver me from remorse — lead me into repentance. (2) Keep me always aware that there are many people who do not care — how I need you my Lord. (3) I too have sinned — I have betrayed him in many ways — but I want to change to repent — not to escape. (4) I do want to make restitution with the thought of forgiveness and change. (5) What a disappointment are some religious leaders! There is no disappointment in Jesus. (6) Even when the chief priests knew they had a part in the death of two men they had no repentance — keep me aware of just how calloused the conscience can become.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Tragedy always gets our attention. Speak to me through this record: (1) "Nothing you have done in secret will fail to be known." (2) "I know your heart — let me have it to cleanse and change." (3) "Death is a door — not oblivion."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Ireland — Points for prayer: (1) *The Catholic Church* has a remarkable position in the country. Practising Catholics are numerous though declining in percentage as young people question the traditional conservatism of the past. Widespread availability and use of the Bible is generating a spiritual hunger for reality. (2) *A spiritual awakening is taking place.* Its origins are in the dissemination of the Scriptures, widespread evangelistic activities, and the charismatic renewal within the Catholic Church. The latter is in decline, but from it have emerged hundreds of Christians in Bible study and prayer groups, the nucleus of an indigenous Irish church.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Bruised and broken by the fall;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pardoning love for all.
He is able, He is able,
He is willing, doubt no more;
He is able, He is able,
He is willing, doubt no more.

WEEK FIVE

—Wednesday—

For the right use of our minds and bodies we are deeply grateful. Lead me into expressions of thanksgiving.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say this — those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from the east and west, from the north and south” (Psa. 107:1-3). “It is all we can give him, and the least we can give him; therefore let us diligently render to him our thanksgiving” (Spurgeon, *ibid.*, p. 114). Something of the joy and exaltation we showed and can feel comes through in these words. “Compared with him there is none good, no not one: but he is essentially, perpetually, superlatively, infinitely good. We are the perpetual partakers of his goodness, and therefore ought above all his creatures to magnify his name” (*Ibid.*). Surely your goodness can lead us again and again to alter our thinking to match with reality.*

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Whatever others may think or say I have overwhelming reasons for declaring the goodness of your very Person. The Redeemer is so glorious, the ransom price so immense, and the redemption so complete, that I am under a sevenfold obligation to give you thanks, and to exhort others to do so. I do not only want to *feel* such praise, but *say* it. I want to sing and encourage all others who are redeemed to do likewise. Considering our oppressor and the superior power who snatched us from his hand how can we do less than adore our Liberator. You, and you alone have emancipated these slaves — oh, praise your name. (Adapted from C.H. Spurgeon.)

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How silent some of us have been in the light of our wonderful deliverance. It does seem totally incongruous that such goodness and mercy could be poured out upon us and we would not respond — indeed we

have been damaged almost beyond repair. And yet, your mercy endures forever. Please forgive me for forgetting that my rejoicing is not complete until it is shared with all others who have been called out of all the nations of the world. Together we make up one flock who will praise you throughout eternity.

What personal sins do you want to confess?

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels, in chorus,
Sang as they welcomed His birth,
“Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth.”
Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²⁸Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

³⁰“If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.”

³¹Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

“But we have no right to execute anyone,” the Jews objected. ³²This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.

—John 18:28-32, NIV; read also Matt. 27:2; Mark 15:1; Luke 23:1,2.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It will be important to read Luke 23:1,2 to know of the accusations that prompted Pilate to examine our Lord. Just where was the palace of the governor? We know no more about its location than the palace of Caiaphas from which he was led. We prefer to think it was a part of the Roman garrison headquarters in the tower of Antonia. In this palace Pilate had rooms for the purpose of trials. The sanctimonious members of the Sanhedrin would not enter because of defilement. They could not eat the passover if they followed Jesus inside. They were so busy arresting and condemning Jesus they hadn't even time to eat the passover!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

In answer to Pilate's question, the Jews said: "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king" (Luke 23:2b). The sarcastic addition of the Jews indicates just how terribly prejudiced they were. Pilate knew of the squabbles of the Jews over the fine points of Jewish tradition. He was irritated that they had awakened him and called him at this early hour. "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your own law." The Jews were there for blood. "But we have no right to execute anyone." Dear Lord, what abuse and prejudice! How I want to share your suffering!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the humility of my Lord as he who knew no sin associated with such monstrous sinners. (2) Thank you for the physical and moral courage of my Lord as he endured such gainsaying of these men. (3) Thank you that there never has been a charge against him. (4) Deliver me from the hypocrisy of form without power. (5) Thank you for the wonderful foreknowledge of my Lord. (6) Thank you for the meaning of his death for me and the whole world.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled." There are multiplied examples of the fulfillment of the words of our Lord. These words concerning his death were fulfilled to the letter. Do we then expect all other promises of Jesus to be kept? What about his promise right in these verses that he will be the judge of all men? Are we prepared to stand before him? What of his promise in John 5:24-30 that we can believe in him and have eternal life? We will not be condemned but have already crossed over from death to life? What of the astounding promise of our Lord to empty all the graves?

Some will be raised to eternal condemnation. As he promised his resurrection he has also promised the resurrection of *all* who are in the grave.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As I read again these precious words I do have reasons for prayer: (1) In a certain sense all of us lead Jesus to one place or another — I want to lead him to a take over of the throne of my heart. (2) I want to meet my Lord in the early hours of every morning. (3) Give me wisdom to look past the form to the substance in worship. (4) The charge that he is a king is true — make it true in my relationships for this day. (5) Each of us do what Pilate asked of the Jews — "judge him for yourselves." Dear Lord I find no fault in you — you do all things well.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me again and again in this judgment scene: (1) "Consider how you worship — how much is form and how much is reality." (2) "You are judging me all over again — how do I stand with you?" (3) "The price is paid — freedom is available!"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Ireland — Points for prayer: (1) *Protestants in Southern Ireland* have been in decline for 60 years through emigration and nominalism. They have become almost irrelevant to the evangelization of the Catholic majority. A few small evangelical groups are holding their own numerically. Pray for revival, ability to adapt culturally, a return to a high view of Scripture and a vision for outreach. (2) *Evangelicals are a very small community* and have made little impact on politics (only one Protestant in Parliament), education, the armed forces and public life because of their lack of influence in universities. (3) *Young people* have been responsive.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus is standing in Pilate's hall—
Friendless, forsaken, betrayed by all:
Hearken! what meaneth the sudden call!

What will you do with Jesus?

What will you do with Jesus?

Neutral you cannot be;

Some day your heart will be asking,

"What will He do with me?"

WEEK FIVE

—Thursday—

The description you have given me in Psalm 104:4-7 has truly, truly touched my heart and led me into your presence. I bow before you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle” (Psa. 107:4-7). How these words do describe to perfection our lives! This world has often become a “desert wasteland.” Our life has been torn from its moorings and we have drifted and wandered in a desert. We have become exceeding hungry and thirsty and no man gave to us.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I have felt so often that the last tide is about to go out. All of us (or at least many of us) have stood on the shore of the ocean and watched the ebb and flow of the tide — the imagery here is being on the bosom of the sea and being brought in to the shore by the tide and then carried further and further out to sea by the tide; then there is that time when the tide takes us out and we do not make it back. “They cried out to the Lord in their distress.” Dear Lord, it is my voice raised in a call for help before I drift beyond the pull of the tide. It is my call in the parched dry desert for a way to the city foursquare.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How is it we are so willing to wander? Satan has shown us a mirage and we have bought it. The mirage is thoughtfully prepared to our personal tastes. We see in it all we thought we needed and wanted. Such is available — and it is no fantasy — but it is prepared by Another. When once we leave the abiding place of

our Lord, Satan dissolves the mirage and we are left with reality — a desert wasteland! No security — no satisfaction. Dear Lord this is the scenario of many days of my life — forgive me. Give me your straight way to your city where I can settle down and live in your presence.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Dying with Jesus, by death reckoned mine;
Living with Jesus, a new life divine;
Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine,
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine.
Moment by moment I'm kept in His love;
Moment by moment I've life from above;
Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine;
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

³³Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

³⁴“Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

³⁵“Do you think I am a Jew?” Pilate replied. “It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it that you have done?”

³⁶Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

³⁷“You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

³⁸“What is truth?” Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.” — *John 18:33-38, NIV*; read also Matt. 27:11-14; Mark 15:2-5; Luke 23:3-5.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It wasn't long before Pilate began to wonder just who was on trial. Jesus *did* put Pilate on trial. He wanted to know how the governor personally related to Jesus. When Pilate asked concerning his Messiahship Jesus wanted to know if this was a personal question or one posed by the Jews and placed in the mouth of the governor. Jesus could not give Pilate a straight “yes” or “no” to the question “are you the king of the Jews” because a “yes” would seem to say that he was a king as the Jews interpreted it — i.e. politically. A “no” would seem to say that in no sense was he a king. Jesus wanted to know just how this question was asked.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How do I ask and answer this all-important question? Of course it is easy to glibly say “You are my King” — but too often this means the king is in his palace a long way from me and only visits infrequently to see if he really rules in my life. The fact of the matter is that my body is his palace and my heart his throne. Anything less than this is a denial of his Lordship. Your rule comes from my hearing and heeding your word — the truth. Jesus really impressed Pilate as being innocent — how does he impress me? Surely more than he did Pilate.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for my Lord's constant concern for all men — even Pilate. (2) Thank you that Jesus always looked beneath the surface when answering a question. (3) Thank you that Jesus is a king and does have a kingdom — I am glad to be a citizen. (4) Thank you that there is “another place” — I look forward to going there. (5) Thank you for the truth Jesus came to teach and live.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” Pilate was just not on the side of truth because he would not listen to Jesus. In answer to Pilate's question, “what is truth?” we can answer: truth is that which equals reality. If we say “the sun rises in the west” we would not be speaking the truth. All know the truth about such a subject because we experience the reality with the rising of the sun in the east every morning. In any area of life we can find the teaching of our Lord a perfect match for reality. Jesus gave us a test for

truth: he said, “if anyone wills to do my will he shall know” (John 7:17). He is saying, “try me and see.”

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the trial before Pilate there are many reasons for requests: (1) Open my heart that I might know fresh new ways of allowing your rule in my life, (2) I do want to ask and answer for myself the subject of your Lordship. (3) May there be new conquests for King Jesus in my home and family, (4) Open my ears to your word. (5) Since your word is truth I want to digest every word of it and assimilate its truth into my character.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As you probed the conscience of Pilate search my heart today: (1) “My kingdom is not of this world.” (2) “Physical violence never has accomplished my will in this world.” (3) “Living truth is available for all in the record of my life.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Israel — Points for prayer: (1) *Israeli Jews are sometimes harder to evangelize than those of the Dispersion.* Most have returned to their ancient land in unbelief. Pray for this hardness to be removed (Rom. 11:25), and for the promised harvest (Rom. 11:31). (2) *The idealistic dreams of Zionism have been shattered by the realities of life in modern Israel.* Social and economic stresses, religious and political divisions and the constant state of war-readiness have disturbed the nation. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and Israel, and that Jews might find in their Messiah the peace that the world cannot take away. (3) *The social status of Messianic believers can be difficult.* Pray for the government, and for a relaxation of attitudes that discriminate against Christians.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When my love to Christ grows weak,
When for deeper faith I seek,
Then in thought I go to thee,
Garden of Gethsemane!
When my love for man grows weak,
When for stronger faith I seek,
Hill of Calvary! I go
To thy scenes of fear and woe.

WEEK FIVE

—Friday—

Your goodness has surely followed me every day of my life. Am I genuinely grateful? Lead me into a deeper period of thanksgiving.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailling love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things” (Psa. 107:8,9). Dear Lord, I do indeed lift up my heart in adoration and thanksgiving. I can testify with the psalmist you do satisfy the thirsty and fill the hungry with your manna from heaven.

As I review the record of your unfailling love in my experience I do want to thank you. There have been so many days — weeks — months — years — and you have been in every one. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: all things in every human experience of every child of yours is working together for our good and your glory.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

What I have said for myself I say on behalf of your children. Your unfailling love and wonderful deeds (if we have eyes to see and ears to hear and a heart to understand) satisfy the thirst and fill every desire with good things. Glory to your name! Dear Lord, I do want to enter more fully into the specifics of your love and actions in the hearts of your children. If there is no appetite there can be no satisfaction — I want a much larger appetite for your will in my life — as found in your word and your Son.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Deliver me from a mere idealizing of your will in my life. Break me out of the mold of words into the reality of specifics. In just what particular areas of daily life do I see and identify your unfailling love? (1) In being alive in this world — you decide when we will die and live. (2) My daily bread — i.e. all my sustenance is from your unfailling love. Most especially

when there are so many who have so little food. (3) For the opportunity to serve in a particular area of your kingdom. I have not thought of these (and other) expressions of your love — forgive me! Why, oh, why do I go to the broken cisterns of this world to find satisfaction for my thirst? Forgive me!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven and nature sing.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁶On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. ⁹He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹²That day Herod and Pilate became friends — before this they had been enemies. —Luke 23:6-12, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Pilate was embarrassed with the problem of having one before him who was obviously innocent and yet

was the focus of the hatred of the Jews. Someone mentioned the influence of our Lord in Galilee. This gave Pilate an idea. He would send Jesus to Herod — and Herod was right here in Jerusalem at this time (probably to observe the passover). This is the Herod who beheaded John the Baptist — his conscience bothered him ever since. He wanted the answers to several questions that only Jesus could give: (1) Was he John risen from the dead? (2) Was he a political threat? (3) Would he put on a performance of magic for him?

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Herod is the only person to whom our Lord would not speak. Even though Herod asked him many questions he answered him not at all. It must have been a chaos of confusion what with the loud accusations of the chief priests and the questions of Herod. Why did Jesus refuse to answer this chief of sinners? Was this an example of pearls before swine? Did Jesus believe John the Baptist's message was adequate? Do we find in Herod one upon whom the Lord had given up, i.e. as in Romans 1:24-32? We believe we have in this man such a reprobate. I must not forget that the pure heart of Jesus was hurt perhaps more by the mocking and ridicule than the nails of Calvary.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that my Lord could be presented to the highest in the government of Palestine. (2) Thank you for the wisdom of our Lord in remaining silent. (3) Thank you for the attractiveness of Jesus — people could not ignore him. (4) Thank you for the humble endurance of our Lord as he was mocked and misunderstood by these men. (5) Thank you for the obvious evidence that there was no guilt to be found in him.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“That day Herod and Pilate became friends — before they had been enemies.” This was political jealousy based on ignorance and misinformation. It is indeed strange that these men were brought together by their mutual interest in Jesus. I wonder what they said of our Lord when they met each other. There were 30 years of background to discuss. The whole Herod family had been involved in one way or another in the life and times of Jesus. Pilate could surely offer the Roman point of view. Perhaps these two friends will have all eternity to discuss the horrible mistake they made long ago in Jerusalem.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Even in this incident there are reasons for prayer: (1) How easy it is to be devious in answering problems — I want to be as honest and straightforward as my Lord. (2) Deliver me from the influence of powerful wicked men. (3) I am so glad my interest in my Lord goes beyond curiosity — deepen my interest to true worship. (4) Jesus refused to put on a performance — give me the same attitude. (5) Help me with the wisdom to know those I should not answer.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Even if Jesus did not answer Herod there is much he can say to me out of this record: (1) “Look for ways to please me — not yourself.” (2) “Face into your responsibilities — do not shift them to someone else.” (3) “Some evil men grow worse through contact with me.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Israel — Points for prayer: (1) The dislike of Christianity is a barrier to be overcome in Jewish minds. “Christian” nations are seen to be destroyers of the Jewish nation whether by persecution (as in the Holocaust) or by proselytization. Pray that the gospel may be understood as a fulfillment of their Jewish heritage and that a widespread turning to Christ might come. (2) Protestants are more numerous among the Palestinian Arabs. The largest groups are Anglican, Baptist and Brethren, and most originate from the traditional Christian minority. There is an unprecedented openness among Palestinian Muslims and freedom to share Christ with them, but there are, as yet, only three groups of believers of Muslim origin.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

(Were you there?)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

(Were you there?)

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

WEEK FIVE

—Saturday—

I believe you are even now delivering me. There are so many areas of distress I have not experienced because of your love. Gladly I worship you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness and deepest gloom and broke away their chains” (Psa. 107:13,14). Here is a lovely text full of encouragement: (1) Your ear is open to my cry for help. You are a conscious intelligent Being who through your omniscience and omnipresence knows every need. (2) You can either deliver me *through* the distress or deliver me *out of it* — either way you are my Deliverer. (3) How much needed is this quality: “He brought them out of darkness. . . .” We so often find ourselves in darkness — of one kind or another. Gloom and doom seem always about to envelope us. Praise your name — we need not share such an attitude.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I know from *much* experience that trouble, distress, darkness, gloom, etc. are much more subjective than objective. Our whole attitude toward life is a large source for such conditions. Just to know Someone who is light and life — peace and hope and eternal purpose — is enough to give us deliverance. The completeness and personal suitability of your salvation is a wonderful blessing to me. You have saved me so many times from trouble. I could list one example after another — and many many that I have forgotten. I am so glad to acknowledge you as my Savior! I do not believe there is one chain in Satan’s store that can hold the child of God — praise and adoration to your name!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

This Psalm is a poetic history of the nation of Israel — the troubles and distress spoken of here can be

read as history in Exodus and Numbers. These people repeated time after time the cycle of: (1) sin; (2) sorrow; (3) salvation. God wants to bend this cycle into a straight line of victory and service. Surely such a record was written for our instruction that we should not fall after the same example of disobedience. It took many years to develop such a syndrome and it will take time to break the cycle down into a straight line. But through your help it can be done!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁶Now it was the custom of the Feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested. ⁷A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, ¹⁰knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. —Mark 15:6-10, NIV; read also Matt. 27:15-18; Luke 23:13-19.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Our Lord stands a second time before Pilate, It would be very helpful to review all the events of my Lord’s

trial before Pilate: (1) Second session of the Sanhedrin (Matt. 27:1; Mark 15:1) (2) First application to Pilate (John 18:28-32) (3) Formal accusation before Pilate (Matt. 27:11; Mark 15:1,2) (4) First conversation between Christ and Pilate (John 18:33-38; Mark 15:2) (5) Acquittal; further charges; Christ's silence (Matt. 27:12-14; Mark 15:3-5; Luke 23:4,5) (6) Case sent to Herod (Luke 23:6-12) (7) Before Pilate again; formal acquittal (Luke 23:13-16) (8) Jesus or Barabbas (Matt. 27:15-18; Mark 15:6-10). I want to "be there" in every word of these inspired biographies. Open my heart!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

What a travesty of justice! Here is a man who had already been proven guilty of the very charges of which our Lord is only falsely accused: *treason and murder!* All men knew of the crimes this man Barabbas had committed and yet they preferred him to Jesus! Surely this must be the height of the sordid results of envy and hatred. What strange news this request must have been to the ears of Barabbas. In a real sense he represented all men in the purpose of the death of our Lord. "He took my place" is the story of redemption. But just now I want to say this is the record of *my* forgiveness — *my* salvation — wonder of wonders he died for *me!*

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that long before this world began you planned this incident. (2) Thank you that what seemed all so normal and natural was in reality your eternal purposes working out on the stage of time. (3) Thank you for the startling sordid picture of just how far hatred and malice will go — it becomes a real warning to me. (4) Thank you for this example of political pressure (peer pressure) — it stands as a tragic example to all of us. (5) Thank you for the wonderful composure of our Lord through all the abuse.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them." How many sad decisions have been made for this reason: "to satisfy the crowd." Even when such capitulation is given neither the crowd nor the one who chose is satisfied. Many, many in the crowd ask themselves shortly after the incident just why they made such a choice. Tradition has it that Pilate was soon recalled by Rome and died a disillusioned man in exile. Or that he committed suicide. Satan really has an opportunity in the mob spirit — indeed such a spirit is the essence of the evil one's presence.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Read this text again and see if there is not reason for prayer: (1) "What then shall I do unto Jesus who is called the Christ" — these words of Pilate ring in my conscience — may I not evade him as Pilate tried. (2) May I not misunderstand him as did the religious leaders of his day. (3) May I not be influenced by others to reject him as did the crowds. (4) May I not crucify him afresh with my willful sin. (5) May I love him and worship him and serve him as he so richly deserves.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In this unique action you can speak to my heart: (1) "There is always something to be done with Jesus — he is never a neutral factor." (2) "My Son is crucified afresh every day in someone's life." (3) "Envy is one of the largest powers of the evil one — *you* are not immune."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Italy — Points for prayer: (1) *Persecution of Protestants continued for nearly 800 years.* Today's freedom to preach the gospel is a new experience, but the response has been meager, and indifference to spiritual truths widespread. Pray for decisive breakthroughs for the gospel. (2) *The long-powerful Roman Catholic Church* has lost over nine million members in this generation. The decline in the number of priests and of influence has been dramatic. Pope John Paul and his charisma has returned the Church to a more traditional stance, which is slowing the decline. Although many Italians despise and ignore the Church, its traditions and mind-set still permeate every aspect of national life, and church attendance remains one of the highest in Europe. In their disillusionment many have sought ideological refuge in Marxism and cults, or reverted to witchcraft and spiritism. The bonds of Satan must be broken by prevailing prayer.

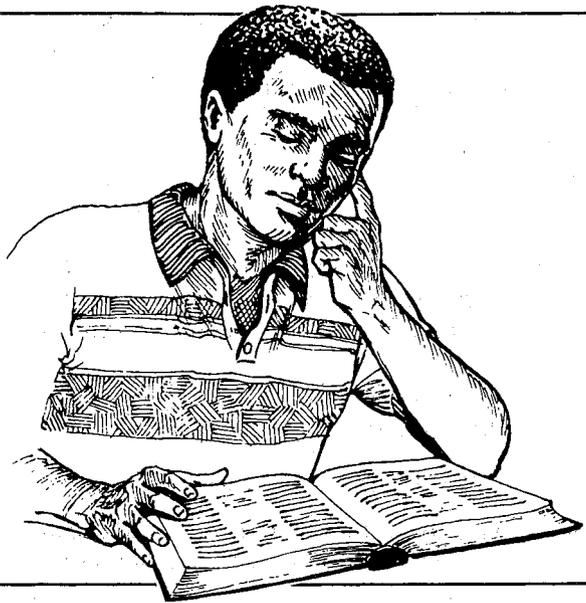
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land,
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noon-tide heat
And the burden of the day.

WEEK SIX

—Sunday—

You have healed us — rescued us — your love is truly unfailing! Gladly do we worship you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.” (Psa. 107:20-22). Your word is indeed *spirit* and *life*! At your word your Son left your presence and emptied himself and became obedient even to the cross that he might give me life! At your word through Jesus thousands were healed of every disease and the whole world had the power of death broken. Do we have occasion for praise? Hallelujah!

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Indeed I shall! He by the WORD has healed me and delivered me from the grave. In just recent days I have been delivered from a “code blue” heart attack and a bypass surgery operation. I lift my heart in joys of adoration and praise for such a deliverance. I claim your promise: “I will give you back your health again and heal your wounds” (Jer. 30:17). What a blessed word from yourself! (I *know* the context of Jer. 30:17 — but I believe he loves me too.) I do want to draw away from the maelstrom of life and pause before your throne in thanksgiving for your unfailing love — to recount once again your wonderful intervention in my life! Bless your holy name! name!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Too often I have not been close enough to you to be able to hear your word — even if or when you spoke it. How can I be so carried away by lesser matters when you are speaking? Forgive me! How easy it is to attribute your goodness to another source. We could thank the doctors (and we should) for the good work they did on our bodies — but without the constant attention of the Great Physician nothing would have

been done. What sacrifice of “thank offerings” have I ever given to you? The element of sacrifice is almost totally minus in my thanksgiving. Dear Lord, I want to repair this deficiency! In the song I am about to sing may it be to tell of your works in my life — with joy!

What personal sins do you want to confess? There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Christ has for sin atonement made,
What a wonderful Savior!
We are redeemed! the price is paid!
What a wonderful Savior!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Jesus!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Lord!

HIS WORD

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe ³and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, O king of the Jews!” And they struck him in the face.

⁴Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” ⁵When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” ⁶As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.” ⁷The Jews insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

⁸When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, ⁹and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰“Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free

you or to crucify you?"

11Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

—*John 19:1-11, NIV*; read also Matt. 27:22-26; Mark 15:12-15; Luke 23:13-25.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Apart from any help from others who have written so well on these verses I want to read them just as if I had never read them before. In the eight words of verse one the whole life of our Lord could have been in the balance. Men died from the flogging Jesus here received. The severity of this beating has been often described. I can only try to imagine and bow my heart in horror! The mockery of the soldiers was so cruel! The assault on his body was such that had he not been a strong man he would have passed into unconsciousness.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It was on my behalf that he endured such torture. Pilate *did* have a conscience and he *wanted* to free the innocent man. He tried again and again to do it. *Farrar* has so beautifully described the scene that I want to make it mine: "Even now, even yet, Pilate wished, hoped, even strove to save Him. He might represent this frightful scourging, not as the preliminary to crucifixion, but as an inquiry by torture, which had failed to elicit any further confession. And as Jesus came forth — as He stood beside Him . . . on the beautiful mosaic of the tribunal — the spots of blood upon His green wreath of torture —" It was for me he stood there — dear Lord, forgive me!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for his sufferings by which all my diseases have been healed. (2) Thank you I can own him as my thorn-crowned king. (3) Thank you he was willing and able to suffer for me! (4) Thank you for the attempts of Pilate — however unsuccessful — to declare him innocent. (5) Thank you for the declaration of manhood made by the governor: "Here is *the man*"! (6) Thank you that my Lord was ready to be declared by all as the Son of God. (7) Thank you for the One who had all power.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above." Such I believe is true in all of life as related to yourself and your Son. Man is free to choose but not free to assume prerogatives that belong to yourself. *Power* belongs to heaven. We live a "given" life. We have not one more minute than those you give to us. We have no abilities than those you have *given*. What we do with our time and

abilities is also *given* to us. How much better to recognize the source and cooperate willingly with the One who has created us for himself. How absurd it is to pit our power against ALL POWER!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As I look again at your Son and my Lord before Pilate I want to appear before your throne for prayer: (1) Somehow may Jesus be crowned Lord in places in my life where he has not yet reigned. (2) Sin shall NOT have dominion over me since I am not under law but under grace. (3) Since they mocked and ridiculed my Lord may I be ready to be treated in the same way. (4) I want to live in such a manner that the qualities of my Lord might be seen in my character. (5) Give me the courage to stand against the pressure of the crowd.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

There is so much you can say to me from this text: (1) "You will never suffer as my Son did." (2) "Only heaven will show you how much he did for you as he suffered in your place." (3) "All power yet remains with me and to those I choose to give it."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Italy — Points for prayer: (1) *Evangelism by Evangelicals has been sporadic*. The response of leftists and religious traditionalists has been indifferent or hostile. The task has been made no easier by the tireless efforts of the Jehovah's witnesses and the 600 Mormon missionaries. (2) *The unreached minorities*: a) *Muslims* have rapidly grown in numbers to around 200,000 through an influx of refugees, migrant labor, and immigrants. Only a few workers are committed to this minority. b) *Albanian* communities in Calabria in central and southern Italy number some 260,000 still speaking four archaic dialects of Albanian. No specific outreach to them has been undertaken. c) *The minorities in the northeast* all have their own distinctive cultures and languages, but little direct effort is being made with them. d) *The Greek and Croation minorities* in the south.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.
How marvelous! how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! how wonderful!
Is my Savior's love for me!

WEEK SIX

—Monday—

*Both your goodness and your severity
lead me to repentance and worship.*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“He turned rivers into a desert, flowing springs into thirsty ground, and fruitful land into a salt waste, because of the wickedness of those who lived there. He turned the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into flowing springs; there he brought the hungry to live, and they founded a city where they could settle” (Psa. 107:33-36). The attributes of yourself are numerous and of great importance as seen in these four verses: (1) The water of the earth is under your control. (2) You are aware of the condition of every inch of land upon this earth. (3) The productivity — or lack of it — is also in your knowledge.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

My sin *does* affect my living conditions. A severe problem arises when I decide just what sin calls for what punishment. When shall the rivers be turned into desert and when shall the desert be turned into pools of water? Dear Lord, you know and I do not. At the same time I do not want to ignore your involvement in the affairs of men and the physical world you have created. (4) You are leading us, even when we do not know it or acknowledge it. Many a rich man lived and died and never knew who prospered him. Many a poor man lived and died and never learned the lessons you had to teach him. I want to be neither.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

In this day it is a sore temptation to buy Job’s friends’ philosophy, i.e. if you are a Christian you will prosper — if you are not prospering there is something wrong with your relationship with God. Dear Lord, these verses do not touch this — but it is

so easy to forget — forgive me. Remove from my heart all attempts to “second guess” your activity in my life. I already know that every good and perfect gift comes from you — and I praise you for it. In other areas of providence I leave it in your hands to do what I know is good and best for me. I do believe — increase my faith.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
Thou my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹²From then on Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

¹³When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judge’s seat at a place known as The Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). ¹⁴It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

¹⁵But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

¹⁶Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. —John 19:12-16, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The last efforts of Pilate to release him. What a sad spectacle! "He who had so often prostituted justice, was now unable to achieve the one act of justice which he desired. He who had so often murdered pity, was now forbidden to taste the sweetness of a pity for which he longed. He who had so often abused authority, was now rendered impotent to exercise it, for once on the side of right" (*Farrar*). There seems to be in all this record an inordinate fear of Caesar — and probably not without reason. It was high noon! Jesus was about to be "turned over" to his enemies to be crucified. Can I look at him with such a casual comment? Dear Lord, break my heart!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I have paused long before this text. Dear Lord, you know I just cannot do an adequate job of applying these words to my heart. I commit it to you! These people were NOT interested in truth. What puppets of the devil! Calm my spirit that I might see myself in them. What authority besides yourself do I fear? Open my memory that I might see myself as you do: there is a high noon in every day! Deliver me from the evil one! To claim him as king is easy on paper — or in prayer — but in every relationship of life?

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Dear Lord I am so thankful I can set you free in my life. (2) Thank you that my friendship with you cuts me off from friendship with this world. (3) Thank you that it becomes increasingly clear that I can never, never serve you and money. (4) Thank you that for each day the choice is open as to just who I will serve. (5) Thank you that I can stand before you and the world to be judged — what a large measure of mercy I need from you!

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"'We have no king but Caesar,' the chief priests answered." What a statement for Jewish priests! Didn't they own God as their king? Weren't they even then looking for God's "Anointed One" — God's king in the person of the Messiah? Of course the connotation they put on the word *king* was political. They had no *political* king but Caesar. They must keep this meaning on the term as related to Rome or they would have no case against Jesus. What awful hypocrites they were! When they have Jesus before them they use the term in a religious sense and ask him about his Messiahship — when before Pilate they switch to the political meaning — what hypocrisy!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In our last view of Pilate we have real cause for prayer: (1) I am so glad that we no longer need to think about setting Jesus free — he can set us free — to be free indeed! (2) Since Jesus is indeed king may he reign in my life. (3) The more Jesus is tried the purer he appears — I want to examine his claims afresh for this day. (4) My Passover has been sacrificed and I have total forgiveness — give me grace to claim what you have promised. (5) As I hear the rejection of Jesus by those who should have known him best I wonder about the easy faith we have in America. (6) I want to hand my heart over to him — as much as I can do so, Lord Jesus!

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these closing hours speak to my conscience: (1) "The words 'Behold your king' are still very appropriate." (2) "I am only king in fact for those who want me to rule their lives." (3) "Obedience is yet the one factor that joins the king and his subjects."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Ivory Coast — Points for prayer: (1) *Praise God for the last 25 years of relative tranquility, economic progress and stability of the country.* This could change. Pray for open doors and hearts in this day of abundant reaping. (2) *The preaching of Prophet Harris from Liberia in 1914-15 bought over 120,000 coastal people out of fetishism and darkness.* The initiative was lost as missionary help arrived "too little and too late." Many syncretic indigenous churches multiplied and grew out of that movement. The Methodists arrived in 1924 and were once the largest Protestant community, but liberal theology and nominalism are widespread among the diverse coastal peoples. Pray for a new wave of evangelism and church planting.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

King of my life I crown Thee now—
Thine shall the glory be;
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow,
Lead me to Calvary.
Lest I forget Gethsemane,
Lest I forget Thine agony,
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary.

WEEK SIX

—Tuesday—

Thank you for creating in all of us such a strong desire for you. Such desire leads us to bow before you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. . . . Give us aid against the enemy, for the help of man is worthless. With God we will gain the victory, and he will trample down our enemies” (Psa. 108:4,12,13). I never tire of reading again of *your love — your faithfulness — your help — your victory*. The greatness of your love cannot truly be measured. I can step outside and look up into the expanse of the blue heavens above — such space seems to stretch out endlessly — so does your love. Your faithfulness is just like your love. *The enemy I fight is spiritual, therefore the help of man is indeed worthless. How fragile is the strength of man. How mighty is the help from above!*

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

How dull at times is my heart toward you. Forgive me — but I thank you that I have no desire to quit — I have no help but your help. I would indeed faint if I did not *know* you are *love — the very essence of love*. You love me! The measureless magnitude of your faithfulness has kept me in the way. I shall never be able to appreciate this quality fully until I awake in your eternal presence. I rest heavily upon the help you give me even when I do not know it. Victory can be given in various ways — and I’m sure you know every one of them. Bless your holy name!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

If your love does not move me to love in return have I really understood your love? Love is not an emotion — love is an act of the will — if I can stand beneath the cross of Jesus and know what is happening there and not decide to love in return I am mad or lost —

or both. If I can look back down the long corridor of your faithfulness to me and not decide that I will be faithful to you then I am blind! If I can review all of the multiplied ways you have helped me in this struggle called life, and not be grateful, I then richly deserve hell! Deepen my repentance.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels, in chorus,
Sang as they welcomed His birth,
“Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth.”

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²⁶As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

²⁸Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰Then ‘they will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’” ³¹For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³²Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified him, along

with the criminals — one on his right, the other on his left. — *Luke 23:26-33, NIV*; read also *Matt. 27:31-34*; *Mark 15:20-23*; *John 19:16,17*.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

We need to read again *Matt. 27:27-30* and *Mark 15:16-19* to know what happened to our Lord just before he was led away to be crucified. After all the hours of abuse this final act must have cut like a knife into his sensibilities. The edict was given by Pilate and Jesus was now to be treated as a common criminal. The mocking was related to his crime. If he claimed to be a king they would mockingly — cruelly treat him that way. Dear Lord, there is no way I can imagine the assault such treatment was to your pure heart.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I want to take each step with him to Calvary. It is not easy. Who was this man Simon of Cyrene? Are we to link him up with the words in *Romans 16:13* and associate Rufus and Alexander as his sons? Cyrene is in northern Africa — some then think of him as a black man. The simple answer is we do not know. How I wish I could have seen his face when they led him to take the cross upon his back. He must have been a strong man if indeed the cross weighed between 200 and 300 pounds. In the midst of incredible suffering Jesus said the most incredible thing: “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and your children.” How I want to understand the depth of meaning in these words.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the good man who carried my Lord’s cross — oh, how can I help him today? (2) Thank you for the unselfish thoughts of Jesus for the daughters of Jerusalem in the midst of his own agony. (3) Thank you for the confirmation in the destruction of Jerusalem since the warning of Jesus carried this event in it. (4) Thank you Jesus represented himself as a “green tree” — one that lived through his persecution and death. (5) Thank you for the emotional and intellectual control my Lord had in spite of all men did to him. (6) Thank you that Jesus moved in regal splendor toward his cross — he wanted no pity — only understanding.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“. . . do not weep for me.” Was Jesus refusing pity? We do not think so. He was saying that there was a circumstance that called for more tears (he shed some of them himself). It was over Jerusalem that he wept. How wonderfully full of understanding was our Lord!

He knew these women out of their own tender hearts wept when they saw his suffering. But at best they did not — they could not understand what was happening to him. Here was one last attempt of Jesus to warn not only these women, but the whole nation of the impending disaster of 70 AD. Even in his last hours of horror he did not think of himself!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Every step of this way of sorrows should call forth a prayer: (1) “Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free?” (2) May I see the meaning of his words: “except a man take up his cross daily and follow me he cannot be my disciple.” (3) I want to weep over those things that my Lord counted as important — open my eyes. (4) The dry, dead tree of the Jewish nation was cut down and burned up — when my tears dry up shock me into reality! (5) The whole world walked with Jesus to Golgotha — I want to relive this for me.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

How amazingly brief are all the accounts of this *once in all eternity* event — speak to me: (1) “Until I can see the ‘newness of life’ I wonder if you have ever died with me.” (2) “On the other hand if I am to expect certain character changes I will always be disappointed because I am perfect.” (3) “I must accept your *sincere desire* — this is all you can give.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Ivory Coast — Points for prayer: (1) *The Catholic Church* has made a deep impact through an extensive educational system. Many Ivoreans are nominally Catholic as a result. Catholics are 50% of the population in Abidjan, a large minority in the south and among the upper and middle classes. The lack is of a personal relationship with the Savior. (2) *Evangelical groups* had a late and slow start. Since 1973 most churches have grown between 10% and 30% per year. Pray for the spiritual health of believers. The major issues: materialism, growth of syncretistic ideas, breakdown in church-mission relationships and lack of concern for cross-cultural evangelism. (3) *Leadership for churches* is the big bottleneck. Pray for the calling out and training of more leaders of high caliber.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

WEEK SIX

—Wednesday—

*Your love fits perfectly my need —
your sovereignty reminds me to yield
my whole self in your presence.*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“But you, O Sovereign Lord, deal well with me for your name’s sake; out of the goodness of your love, deliver me. For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me” (Psa. 109:21,22). It is refreshingly good to return to you each day (and other times during the day) and reiterate the qualities of your very nature. (1) You are *the Sovereign Lord*, there are no questions when you speak (i.e. if we understand what you say). There are no regrets when you decide. There are no problems you cannot solve — if not in this life in the one to come. (2) It is because of your very essential Being that I am emboldened to come to you — i.e. since your name is *Love* I take courage to ask — since your name is *Mercy* I approach your throne with my need.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

What a struggle I do have with what I consider consistent conduct! I must always cast myself finally upon “the goodness of your love” to deliver me! I really have no other recourse. How strangely poor I am when I could be so rich! I shall never cease to be in need of you. So I shall ever be “poor and needy.” As compared with those who do not know you I have everything and abound. My heart is indeed wounded within me. I have deep hurts that only you can heal because only your omniscience can understand. I guess all of us must finally come to the place where we know that only in your Sovereignty can we find peace and rest. How relaxing to make this discovery!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

My response to the attributes of yourself is the absence of worship as well as the real meaning of life. Maintaining the consciousness of your sovereignty — of your goodness, love and mercy — is a real problem! Dear Lord, I have not succeeded — forgive me! The

deep wounds of the heart only you can reach and heal. It has taken one long time to heal the wounds of my physical heart. Patience and fortitude is what I need in one and in the other. Neither one of these qualities are native. They come from you. Forgive my fretting! Cleanse my motivations for genuine humility.

*What personal sins do you want to confess?
We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.*

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

O worship the King, all-glorious above,
And gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

³³When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals — one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.”

³⁶The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

³⁸There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come

into your kingdom.”

⁴³Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” — Luke 23:33-43, NIV; read also Matt. 27:35-44; Mark 15:24-32; John 19:18-27.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I simply refuse to rush into a consideration of these precious words. I do want as much as at all possible to read them in your presence. The first of seven words from the cross is given here. “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” There is a continuing action verb here so what Luke is saying is that Jesus kept asking you — time after time to forgive them. Actually my dear Lord is pleading for time that these Roman soldiers might understand much better than they do as they nail him to the cross.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

The fulfillment of the prophecy in dividing his clothes and casting lots for his garment; the sign that Pilate made to be nailed to his cross; the robbers who were crucified on either side of him; all this and more present an overwhelming scene before my imagination. There were those there on that day who looked on quite passively — but not me! It would appear that both criminals began in derision — but one of them changed his mind. These men could have seen and heard our Lord at some time in his ministry. Evidently they were Jews for one of them spoke of “fearing God.” They represent all men who go to hell — or all men who deserve hell but escape it. In this sense they represent me!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for this just One who here suffered for the unjust that he might bring us to yourself. (2) Thank you that he who knew no sin was willing here to be made sin that I might be made the righteousness of yourself. (3) Thank you that he was wounded for my transgressions — that he was bruised for my iniquities. (4) Thank you that Christ died for my sins according to fulfillment of prophecy. (5) Thank you that he can and did remember me and make me a citizen of his kingdom by his death in my place. (6) Thank you for this One who tasted of death for every man.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” Such comforting words! It is easy to talk about death and heaven — but it is quite something else to come face to face with it. The words of Jesus

are so full of meaning as we look death in the face. Since he never lied when he says “I tell you the truth” we have very good reason to believe him. Oh, how we need to believe him, how we want to believe him. He will survive the cross — he will live beyond death — we too can share this victory — this life with him. We have such a promise on the integrity and death of God incarnate — praise his name!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

If I ever prayed it would seem I could pray much better beneath the cross: (1) Somehow sensitize my heart that it may always be tender and open to receive the dying love of your Son. (2) Forgive me for the stupid willful things I do against you and myself. (3) Keep the eyes of my heart open that I might see the cross as you do. (4) He did indeed “save others” — to do that he could not save himself — oh, wondrous love! (5) Jesus, remember me. Forgive me — receive my adoration and praise.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

This text is full of personal impact — speak to me again: (1) “My death is a triumph of love — it was all for you.” (2) “Because I live you shall live also.” (3) “I died that you might not die — he that liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Jamaica — Points for prayer: (1) *The Caribbean is a paradise gone wrong, and now an ideological war zone.* The potent mix of poverty, overpopulation and limited hopes for future development makes it a breeding ground for revolution for man newly independent, scarcely viable Caribbean states. (2) *The economic and political traumas of the past 15 years have shaken the Caribbean.* The unconverted have become more receptive and Christians more aware of their responsibilities to both evangelize and influence the standards of society. Praise God for this. Violent changes cannot be ruled out. The widening gap between rich and poor in the region could be disastrous.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

There is a fountain filled with blood
 Drawn from Emmanuel's veins;
 And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
 Lose all their guilty stains.
 The dying thief rejoiced to see
 That fountain in his day;
 And there may I, though vile as he,
 Wash all my sins away.

WEEK SIX

—Thursday—

I want to thank the One to whom all thanks belongs. I want to honor the One to whom all honor belongs. I do it just now in worship.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Help me, O Lord my God; save me in accordance with your love. Let them know that it is your hand, that you, O Lord, have done it. They may curse, but you will bless; when they attack they will be put to shame, but your servant will rejoice” (Psa. 109: 26-28). Our help comes not from our worthiness but out of your love. How very often I need to be reminded of this quality of yourself. Somehow it is so easy to allow people to congratulate us and not give credit where it is really due. In this day give me grace to turn all praise to yourself. *All good things come from you — keep me ever aware of this fact.*

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I know I am under constant attack by the evil one. I know also that you always lead me in triumph! I am more than a conqueror with you because I can use the very weaknesses that made me vulnerable as a reason for my total dependence upon you. I *know* I cannot make it without your grace. My weakness drives me into your arms. The overcoming is *not* mine — it is yours or there will be no overcoming! I rejoice — but in a most subdued manner; Satan’s defeat is not of my strength — but of your mercy.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

It would seem terribly monotonous to confess my sins so repeatedly were it not for the fact that I sin so often. The record of the O.T. relating to the nation of Israel is surely typical of our lives right now. The hundreds of years covered in this record says something too. It tells me that if there is going to be an improvement — and there is — it will take a long time. We have ten thousand more reasons all found in

your Son, to live the triumphant life than did any O.T. servant. Most of all we can claim your present total cleansing from our sin. Satan may curse us — and he does — but you will bless — and you do! Thank you.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold,
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes grace untold,
Points to the Refuge, the Mighty Cross.
Grace, grace, God’s grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God’s grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²⁵Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son,” ²⁷and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. —John 19:25-27, NIV; read also Matt. 27:56; Mark 15:40.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, you know I want to stand with these dear women. There were four women and only one man — why was this true? I do not want to make more of it than is present — but it does seem curious that of the twelve apostles only one was here present near the cross in his last hour. I want to designate and appreciate every one of these faithful people: (1) the

mother of Jesus; (2) her sister, who we believe according to Mark was Salome; (3) Mary the mother of Clopas, who we also believe was the mother of James the less and Joses; (4) Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How I want to commend these dear women for their love and courage. I do agree with several other servants of our Lord when they say the use of the term "woman" in place of "mother" was done to hold back a little of the pain of the sword that was already piercing her heart. John knew Jesus perhaps better than any of the other apostles. The one tremendous truth John discovered was that Jesus loved him! This became such a powerful personal fact that John constantly thought of himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." Oh, that your love could be that real to me!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the daring of these disciples to come up near the cross. (2) Thank you for the example the mother of my Lord is to all of us. (3) Thank you for the tender love of a mother — seen here in the lives of several women. (4) Thank you for Mary Magdalene — last at the cross and first at the tomb. (5) Thank you for faithful, tenderhearted John, who stayed with him to the end. (6) Thank you for John's love that issued in the practical help of giving a hand to Mary.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"From that time on, this disciple took her into his house." John evidently had a home in Jerusalem, although persecution was soon to cause many to leave the city. The apostles were the last to leave. A whole story could be written of the events after the resurrection and ascension of our Lord, i.e. as relating to the mother of our Lord. Did Jesus appear to his mother and offer the reassurances her heart no doubt longed to hear? We do not know, but somehow we cannot imagine he did not. Who else was in the home of the apostle John? Was there a family there who would now need to adjust to another family member? What a step of compassion it was for John to take this step. He who had no place to lay his head in this dying hour thought about a home for his mother.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I am anxious to lift my heart in prayer over these three verses: (1) Somehow we always expect our mother to be present whenever we need her — and in many lives this is true — do I think you love me less?

(2) Keep my heart open to the fact that in many ways women offer an example of love and courage unmatched by men. (3) Inscribe on my heart the fact of your love for me — that I might think of myself as "that disciple whom Jesus loved." (4) May I find new ways of honoring my mother. (5) I want the kind of heart that looks on service to others as service for you.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As my Lord from the cross spoke to John, speak to me now. (1) "My mother is still in need — my mother is found in the lives and needs of my disciples." (2) "I am not on the cross but exalted at the right hand of the majesty on high." (3) "There are widows today who need as much care and concern as my mother did."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Japan — Point for prayer: *Japan is a mixture of exciting openness and challenging unresponsiveness.* Warfare in the heavenlies is real. Areas of definite concern and contest: a) *The people* are polite, hard-working and sincere, yet are too absorbed in the things of this life to give heed to the gospel. Most see the value of a religion, 30% have a definite religion, but only 20% believe in the existence of God. b) *The period of post-war openness has passed.* Shintoism is once more a growing influence with a resurgence of Japanese nationalism. Pray for a new openness. c) *The growth of Sokka Gakkai* in the 1950s and '60s, and other new religions, as well as the success of aberrant versions of Christianity such as the Moonies, JW's, Mormons and Unitarian Pentecostals, is a challenge. d) *A network of churches and Christians* through the land, but with minimal impact on their surroundings. Personal contacts are essential to get newcomers to a Christian gathering.

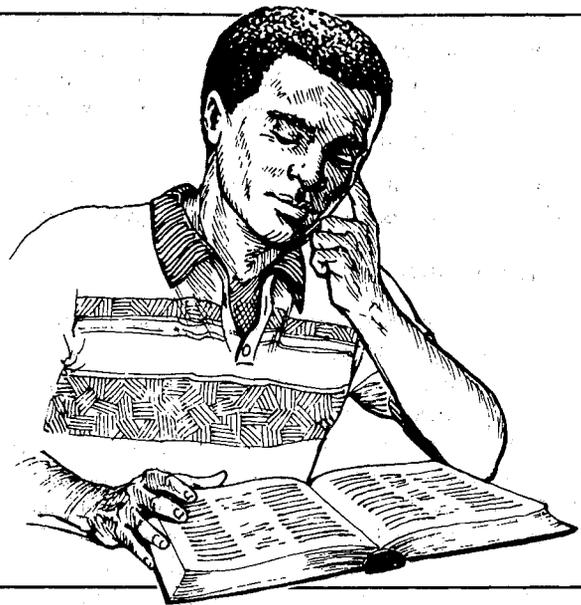
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I gave my life for thee,
My precious blood I shed,
That thou might'st ransomed be,
And quickened from the dead;
I gave, I gave My life for thee:
What hast thou given for Me?
I gave, I gave My life for thee:
What hast thou given for Me?

WEEK SIX

—Friday—

How lovely is this description of yourself! How easy it is to become excited before you and praise you from the heart.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’ Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth” (Psa. 110:1,3). We at once recognize these words as those repeated by our Lord in Matthew 22:43,44 in reference to himself. My purpose is to praise you and worship you in adoration. In these precious verses I can praise you for the co-equal nature of yourself and your Son. In particular for the triumphant rule you have in eternity over this earth. This is an amazing text!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

As I attempt to express this immense quality of yourself I am helped greatly by my friend *Spurgeon*: “Jesus is placed in the seat of power, dominion, and dignity, and is to sit there by divine appointment while Jehovah fights for him, and lays every rebel beneath his feet. . . . The mediatorial kingdom will last until the last enemy shall be destroyed, and then, according to the inspired word, ‘cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father’ ” (*ibid.*, p. 186). These words are such an encouragement to me in the midst of a sometimes dismal outlook on the battle of life — I am delighted to affirm in praise that we are on the winning side.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

We can never raise enough praise before your throne. But what of the troops? We indeed are the troops! In this poignant passage the troops are willing on the day

of battle. They are eager for the fray. Does this characterize our attitude? In speaking of such persons, even ourselves, *Spurgeon* says: “Given to him of old, they are his people, and when his power is revealed, these hasten with cheerfulness to own his sway, appearing at the gospel call as it were spontaneously, even as the dew comes forth in the morning. This metaphor is further enlarged upon, for as the dew has sparkling beauty, so these willing armies of converts have a holy excellence and charm about them; as the dew is the lively emblem of freshness, so are these converts full of vivacity and youthful vigor, and the church is refreshed by them and made to flourish exceedingly” (*ibid.*, 187). How far from the facts of the church in our day are these words — dear Lord, forgive!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount — I’m fixed upon it—
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

³³At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” — which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

³⁵When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

³⁶One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Leave him alone now. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

³⁷With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. —*Mark 15:33-37, NIV*; read also Matt. 27:45-50; Luke 23:44-46; John 19:28-30.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is most important that I read all these accounts so I can as fully as possible appreciate what my Lord did on the cross for me and the whole world. There was no eclipse of the sun that just happened to occur on this day. Direct from your throne such a darkness was commanded. It does seem appropriate since all heaven must have been in mourning. Why did your Son address you as "God"? Wasn't it because he was now the creator addressing the offended Creator? Jesus tasted here of eternal death for all men. As the essence of sin he must be separated from your face. Dear Lord, will I ever be able to appreciate fully what this meant?

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

"In that hour He was alone. Sinking from depth to depth of unfathomable suffering, until, at the close approach of a death — which because He was God, and yet had been made man — was more awful to Him than it could ever be to any of the sons of men, it seemed as if even His divine humanity could endure it no more" (*Farrar, ibid*, p. 706). In that hour he cried out these words: "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani." Those at the foot of the cross only caught the first syllable and thought he was calling for Elijah. How typical of man's inability to understand what heaven is trying to communicate. Dear Lord, may I have ears to hear and a heart to understand.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that Jesus was able to look beyond the darkness to the light of the resurrection morning. (2) Thank you that Jesus was also willing to admit and identify the depth of his isolation on the cross. (3) Thank you my Lord wanted to face his suffering without sedation. (4) Thank you for the amazing control he exercised throughout this ordeal.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit. . . ." It would seem from this text that Jesus knew just when his spirit was to be released from his body, or even had the power to command the release. Was this what he meant when he said, "no man taketh my life"? Was this also what impressed the Roman soldier

that here was a man who could control the moment of his death? Our Lord has now returned to the use of the term "Father." He began and ended on the cross with this word. May this be the closing words of our life: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How shall I pray as I watch him die? (1) Keep me constantly aware that there is *nothing* that can separate us from you. (2) I want to appreciate more fully than ever before the suffering of my Lord in *my place!* (3) Give me the courage to face the results of decisions I have made for you. (4) I want to be able to appreciate more fully than ever before the forgiveness and acceptance my Lord gave me on Calvary. (5) I can see in John the Baptist the Elijah for whom men were looking — I want to be like him.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As my Lord spoke from the cross men listened — I also want to learn: (1) "I thirst today for all who lack the water of life." (2) "I can and do forgive all who will see what I did for them on the cross." (3) "All the provisions for opening the door of heaven are finished."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Japan — Point for prayer: *Specific weaknesses in the churches:* a) *Lack of biblical teaching.* Christians need complete renewal in their minds. The pervasive influence of the spirit world, philosophies and superstitions must be replaced by a vibrant theology, and a head and heart knowledge of the greatness and holiness of God. b) *The minority complex.* Christians are a tiny minority in a society where consensus is important. Too few families have come to faith, and individuals feel exposed. c) *Nonactive membership and backsliding are widespread.* Church attendance is low, with only 33% of Protestants regularly going to services; though in evangelical denominations the percentage is much higher. d) *Formality in worship services.* May more life, more joy, and a Japanese hymnology be infused into them!

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

If you are tired of the load of your sin,
Let Jesus come into your heart;
If you desire a new life to begin,
Let Jesus come into your heart.
Just now, your doubtings give o'er;
Just now, reject Him no more;
Just now, throw open the door;
Let Jesus come into your heart.

WEEK SIX

—Saturday—

When I bow before One who is as glorious as his deeds, who is as majestic as his works, One who is full of compassion and grace, it is easy to worship.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever. He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate” (Psa. 111:2-4). If we can attribute to yourself what the psalmist has attributed to your works (and we are sure we can) then you are: (1) great; (2) glorious; (3) majestic; (4) righteous; (5) gracious; (6) compassionate. I have found you all this and much more! As an artisan is known by his works so we must say as we contemplate the world in which we live, “you are GREAT!” The qualities of precision — balance — purpose — color — are all seen in what you have made — they indeed are *glorious* — and so are you!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Can anyone stand at the base of one of the Sequoia redwood trees and not be impressed with the majesty of such a creation? Is there anyone who can look through the lense of a giant telescope into the Milky Way and not pause in amazement before such a majestic display of your handiwork? Truly you are majestic in all your creation. It is good to know someone who is always right — and there is no resentment in this fact. By you and your word we can measure all else. We could be terribly intimidated if it were not for your grace! We can relax because you know all about us and still are full of compassion toward us. Praise, adoration and joy are mine!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I am indeed faced with a problem: how shall I confess my sin to you? If it were only one time or even ten

times I could do it — how can I express it adequately? I really never can do it like I should — or even as I want to. The failures that intrude themselves in my consciousness I can lift up to you for cleansing — and I do that just now. But there are far more of the subtle kind for which I need a miracle of character change direct from your throne. How can I ever truly appreciate your greatness, glory, majesty, righteousness or your grace and compassion? I shall try, but at best I need your forgiveness!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. ⁵²The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

⁵³They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

⁵⁴When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that happened, they were terrified, and explained, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

⁵⁵Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. ⁵⁶Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary

the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons. — *Matthew 27:51-56, NIV*; read also Mark 15:38-41; Luke 23:45,47-49.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

These are of all verses in this record perhaps the most unusual. At the very moment of his death the gigantic veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom. Dear Lord, I do want to understand this more fully. The Jewish writer Edersheim says this veil was 60 ft. long (six stories high), 30 ft. wide and of the thickness of a span or 4 or 5 inches. It was a composite of 72 equal squares of material and took scores of priests to manipulate (*P.T. Butler*). I want to stand back shocked as the priests of the temple no doubt did when this happened.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Matthew records an astounding event: "the earth shook and the rocks split, the tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who died were raised to life." He mentions this last incident occurred after his resurrection — or were only their appearance in the city held until after his resurrection? Evidently these were persons recently dead who were known by those in Jerusalem. What an amazing scene to contemplate! I accept all the miraculous or none of the miraculous. I am glad to say I enjoy trying to identify with the wonder of these words. I exclaim with the army captain: "Surely he was (and is) the Son of God."

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the vast importance the biographers placed on "the moment" of his death. (2) Thank you for the obvious intimate interest you had in the death of your Son — i.e. as related to the temple veil. (3) Thank you for the way now open into your very presence. (4) Thank you for nature's response as to the importance of what happened on Golgotha. (5) Thank you for the wonder of the resurrection of several people at the time of my Lord's death — I shall never be able to approach its real meaning. (6) Thank you for the honesty of the centurion in his open confession of the deity of Jesus.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'surely he was the Son of God.'" There was something strange and mysterious about the events surrounding his death. The terror of those who were there that day emanated from ignorance and superstition. The wonder and awe that must have filled the hearts of Mary and the other women, not to mention the apostle John, had all the miracles of his ministry behind them. What is the basis for our affirmation of his deity? Are we dependent on some strange physical sign to confirm our faith? Are not his words and his life enough?

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I want to look through the torn veil — i.e. to say his flesh into the holy of holies — or heaven itself: (1) Blessed high priest, even my Lord at your right hand to speak on my behalf — what glorious encouragement — direct and protect our loved ones who travel this day. (2) Keep me aware that Jesus was no less the Son of God before the rocks split and the tombs were opened — and no more so afterward. He is and always was and will always be your Son and our Lord. (3) Give me patience with all who want to love and serve you.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In every circumstance of life help me to hear your voice: (1) "There is nothing I can not do except what I have withheld by my own word." (2) "I like to surprise my children — be prepared." (3) "I am alive at this very moment — I am fully aware of all you say, do or think — and I love you."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Japan — Point for prayer: *Needy people and areas.* a) *Of Japan's eight regions* Kyushu, Chugoku, Chubu and Tohoku have proportionately the fewest churches and most counties with no evangelical congregations. b) *The Burakumin* (3 mill.) are descendants of the former outcasts and still suffer a degree of social ostracism. Many have become followers of Sokka Gakkai. Most live in the central Kinki region. c) *The Ainu*, a non-Mongolian race that first settled in north Japan. They have almost assimilated into Japanese culture, but a resurgence of Ainu culture may mean a specific Christian outreach is required. d) *Koreans* are an unpopular and despised minority that is much discriminated against. Many live in urban slums. They are sharply divided in their allegiance to the two Koreas. There are proportionately fewer Christians than in S. Korea, though more than in the Japanese population as a whole. e) *Chinese in Japan* are predominantly in business in the larger cities. The great majority are still followers of the Chinese traditional religions.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Just as I am! without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Just as I am! Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

WEEK SEVEN

—Sunday—

I shall never be able to express adequately his justice — his faithfulness — his awesomeness, but I am trying! Gladly I try.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness. He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever — holy and awesome is his name” (Psa. 111:7-9). The multiple qualities of yourself are very numerous and evident in these beautiful words: (1) faithful; (2) just; (3) trustworthy; (4) steadfast; (5) eternal; (6) upright; (7) redeemer; (8) holy; (9) awesome. We accept the fact that behind every work is the worker; he shares the same characteristics we see in his works. I simply want to lift each of these attributes in praise before you.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

(1) When we use the word “faithful” in regard to your works we mean all your works are appropriate for their purpose — i.e. they fit or work. So with yourself. You understand perfectly our needs so your words and direction are especially appropriate to our needs. (2) We shall not be in your eternal presence 10 minutes until we are able to understand how totally *just* are all your decisions. (3) You are worth trusting because you keep all your promises! (4) How vacillating are we in our commitment to you and them! Dear Lord, forgive — but how eternally the same you are in all your ways. (5) We cling to this life — to this body as if we could live in it forever — why? Do we not believe only spirit is eternal? “Now to the king, eternal, invisible, the only wise God, be glory, praise and dominion forever!”

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Father — forgive the following sins: (1) I have listened to the doubts of the devil and hesitate in putting feet on my faith — I have not been as faithful as I expected of myself. (2) I can be most generous and

thoughtful with those I know and love — but such treatment has not been given to all — I am unjust — forgive me. (3) I am amazed at how untrustworthy I am in little things — those things that do not get public notice — forgive me. (4) I am sometimes much more “stuckfast” than “steadfast” — my own stubbornness has often hindered me — forgive. (5) I deal in the temporal and illusive — when I know eternal matters deserve my attention. In all these things forgive me.

What personal sins do you want to confess?

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word:
From Heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

HIS WORD

³¹Now it was the time of the Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³²The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,” ³⁷and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.” —John 19:31-37, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The "special Sabbath" was the one of the passover week since the passover was a seven day celebration. How scrupulous were these Jews in some matters — and how unlawful they were in others. In areas of form and ceremony they were careful — in love and compassion they were unscrupulous. Pilate must identify himself with our Lord from the beginning to the end of his judgment. We wonder what the governor felt when the request for breaking the legs was made to him? The breaking of the legs was such an inhuman cruelty. These soldiers who had often seen dead bodies immediately recognized Jesus as dead. Perhaps to test what was obvious one of them pierced his side with his spear. Here was the conclusive evidence of death: "water and blood."

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

What was happening in heaven as the dead body of my Lord hung on the cross? What were the angels saying? What was being said in hell while Jesus hung limp and dead on Calvary? Were angels weeping? Was Satan rejoicing? Most of all what is happening in my own heart as I contemplate the enormity of the transaction that took place here on Calvary? If there is not a radical change in my heart then for me he died and was dead in vain. Dear Lord, I want to present my body as your sacrifice in response to your sacrifice for me.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that I am 2,000 years this side of Calvary and I and all the world can live in its benefits. (2) Thank you that redemption can really have no time factor. (3) Thank you for the certainty of the death of Jesus — such gives much more meaning to his resurrection. (4) Thank you for the water and blood that flowed from his side — the fountain of cleansing for the whole lost world. (5) Thank you for the personal testimony of John as to the truthfulness of this record.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"They will look on the one they have pierced." The whole prophecy of Zechariah 12:10 is most provocative — it reads: "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication; and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced; and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born." What an incredible fulfillment — at least from Mary's point of what happened at Calvary. From our perspective we too can share in such a promise. (Read also Deut. 21:22,23.)

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

If I ever need to pray in petition to you it is now: (1) If anyone needed a Sabbath rest it was the dying lamb on the cross — in your mercy you did give him rest — rest my soul in yourself. (2) How careful we are with some of your laws — and how terribly careless we are with others — dear Lord, forgive. (3) Reaffirm the reality — the amazing reality of the resurrection as I am here assured of the death of your Son. (4) Since "the life is in the blood" I do claim the promise of eternal life through his blood. Increase my confidence. (5) His body was broken — but not his bones — what amazing detailed fulfillment! Give me an even deeper appreciation of this fact.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to my heart from these beautiful verses: (1) "My love and concern has not diminished since Calvary." (2) "I am even now presenting my blood on your behalf in heaven." (3) "Look again upon the one you have pierced."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Japan — Points for prayer: (1) Student witness is a strategic ministry. There are some 950 colleges with two million students. National, foreign and associated staff are hard pressed to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities. Apathy, atheism and Marxist philosophy are widespread, but many students are favorable to Christianity, though commitment to Christ is a step that few are prepared to take. There is need for a witness in secondary schools. (2) Christian literature. A deep impact is being made by an increasing number of indigenous publishers, who are producing a growing range of better quality materials. Christian literature is said to play a part in 70% of conversions. There are over 70 Christian bookstores; there are also 90 publishers and 25 Christian presses. The Bible is the best selling book in Japan.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

My stubborn will at last hath yielded;
I would be Thine and Thine alone;
And this the prayer my lips are bringing,
"Lord, let in me Thy will be done."
Sweet will of God, still fold me closer,
Till I am wholly lost in Thee;
Sweet will of God, still fold me closer,
Till I am wholly lost in Thee.

WEEK SEVEN

—Monday—

Teach me in this time of worship to find delight in your commandments. Open up a new view of yourself.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands. His children will be mighty in the land; each generation of the upright will be blessed” (Psa. 112:1-2). We see the attributes of yourself in the lives of your children. There is something in your own character that calls forth praise. Indeed, indeed! There are ten-thousand qualities in yourself that call forth praise. There is also reason to fall before you in awe and wonder. In the communication you have given us in your word there are qualities that produce delight and happiness — what you have said results in such positive reactions. Praise your name!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

All of us would like to believe our faith can be passed on to our children — at the same time we know such faith must arise within each person (our children included) or it is not there at all. We *can* provide an environment in which it is much easier to believe than not to believe. We relate such a provision and promise to yourself. How mercifully good you are to us. The “*might*” or influence our children have in the land we refer to the spiritual realm — although it need not stop there. Such blessings can continue through many generations. Thank you for these reassuring promises — I need them.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The exhortation to praise you is never given too often. How lax we are in this blessed practice. He always deserves praise — even when we forget to give it. It is good to be stirred up to give it. Dear Lord, I have acted at times as if virtue and praise belonged to

me instead of to yourself — forgive me! What a blessed verse is this: “We are his workmanship — created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10). A healthy fear or reverence for you is the beginning of common sense thinking. Forgive me for being so stupid so often. In speaking of the man who loves you from the heart we could say of him: “holiness is his happiness, devotion is his delight, truth is his treasure.” I am not that man now — but dear Lord, I *want* to be!

What personal sins do you want to confess? There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Take the name of Jesus with you,
Child of sorrow and of woe;
It will joy and comfort give you,
Take it, then, where'er you go.
Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heav'n;
Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heav'n.

HIS WORD

³⁸Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body. ³⁹He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. — *John 19:38-42, NIV*; read also Matt. 27:57-60; Mark 15:42-46; Luke 23:50-54

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

If Joseph and Nicodemus had not stepped forward to claim the body of Jesus, what would have happened to him? We are glad to meet these two unusual men. A good many details are given to us about Joseph: (1) He was rich; (2) he was a member of the Sanhedrin; (3) he was "looking for the righteousness of God" — i.e. expecting the Messianic rule; (4) he was good and righteous; (5) he had not consented or voted in the death of Jesus; (6) he was from the town of Arimathea — about 15 miles east of Joppa. His companion Nicodemus was equally courageous and full of compassion. I do want to know these men before I attempt to understand what they did.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It was a daring and bold decision to go to the governor and ask for the body — i.e. when the one asking was as prominent as he was. How did these two men get the body down from the cross? The amount of myrrh and aloes was enough to embalm the body of a king — 75 pounds of it! No expense or reputation was spared by this good man. How tenderly they must have handled the body of Jesus. The wrapping of the linen strips — the strong fragrance from the spices — the setting of the sun — all this and more must have made this a memorable occasion for these two men. We must not forget that there were also women who observed all that was done. Dear Lord, I want to be there!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the daring courage of a rich man in risking his reputation over the body of one already dead. (2) Thank you for the love behind such a venture. (3) Thank you that after the resurrection there was no longer any reason to be a disciple in secret. (4) Thank you for the thoughtful evaluation Nicodemus must have given to his relationship with Jesus. (5) Thank you for the garden tomb — such a lovely place to be buried. (6) Thank you for the willingness of Joseph to give his tomb to our Lord.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid." We know from Matthew 27:59,60 that this new tomb in the garden belonged to Joseph. It had been carefully prepared at great expense for himself. What love and compassion this man had for our Lord. It is possible that there was room for more than one body in the tomb — such was the practice of that day. There is something beautiful about the garden-tomb setting. We would

like to believe that the garden tomb of Gordon's Calvary is where Jesus was buried and rose again — whether it is or isn't we know he arose and is alive forever more!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Lead me in my requests to pray in the presence of my living Lord: (1) I can learn so much from Joseph of Arimathea — he learned from Jesus in spite of his station in life. (2) Joseph feared men more than he revered yourself — deliver me this day from the intimidation of men. (3) Joseph was anxious to enter your kingdom — i.e. to allow the Messiah to rule his life — I want the same thing. (4) Joseph and Nicodemus must have agreed together in their plan to help Jesus — it was too little and too late for his life on this earth — but it fulfilled prophecy and was more than anyone else did. What can I learn from their example? (5) From these two prominent thoughtful men I learn much — open my eyes and heart.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I am listening — speak to me through these verses: (1) "The fear of men always works a snare." (2) "True love and worship is always costly." (3) "There is no need to doubt either my death or my resurrection."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Jordan — Points for prayer: (1) *Jordan is a haven of stability and comparative religious freedom.* Pray for the government and for the maintenance of that religious freedom in the face of rising extremism among some Muslims. Jordan is a key center for many Christian activities — language learning, literature preparation and distribution, etc. (2) *The Christian community* has been in steady numerical decline for years due to lower birth rates, high rate of emigration, influx of Muslim refugees, etc. Yet Christians are found in all walks of life and often in positions of great influence. Most are Orthodox, Catholic, or traditional Protestant. Most need the touch of God on their lives that the Muslim majority may be blessed through them.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I've wandered far away from God;
Now I'm coming home;
The paths of sin too long I've trod;
Lord, I'm coming home.
Coming home, coming home,
Nevermore to roam;
Open wide Thine arms of love;
Lord, I'm coming home.

WEEK SEVEN

—Tuesday—

There is no light or darkness with you — except in our hearts. I am so deeply impressed to remember that you dwell in light. I bow before you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man. Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice. Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever” (Psa. 112:4-6). What are your responses to the upright? You give him light out of darkness! Such is also true for the gracious for the compassionate and for the righteous. Do we really believe the promise made in these verses? Dear Lord, I do believe. I do want to be that man! You have laid down as an irrevocable principle that if we are generous and lend freely good will come to us — we do not believe this. Forgive us.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Am I ready to enter the world of light and goodness? Am I ready to believe I shall never be shaken and be remembered forever? Such words sound almost absurd, and yet this is the most obvious application of the verses before me. Dear Lord, I am in a struggle of sight and faith. If my experience tells me it will not happen because I have not seen it happen then I have a real struggle in believing it would happen — even if you said it would. Dear Lord, I want to believe. I recognize the context of these verses — but if they were true of Israel in Canaan they are more true of the Christian in your church.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I could easily say, “I have not been upright or gracious or compassionate” — to say nothing of being righteous — no wonder no light has come out of my darkness! Such terms *must* be relative. Were all the

people in Canaan perfectly righteous or gracious or compassionate? Surely I, living in the sunlight of your love, as seen in the life of your Son, can express these qualities as well. Both of us will be saved by grace through our faith — but faith can and does produce works or fruit. Dear Lord, I want to apply these words to the nitty gritty of life. Just for today may I graciously do what is right. Just for today enable me to offer compassion to a needy situation. Break down my inbred selfishness and move me to be generous and lend freely! Forgive my resistance in these areas of life.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Let me like Mary, through the gloom,
Come with a gift to Thee;
Show to me now the empty tomb,
Lead me to Calvary.
Lest I forget Gethsemane;
Lest I forget Thine agony;
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there across from the tomb.

⁶²The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³“Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’

⁶⁴So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”

⁶⁵“Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” ⁶⁶So they went

and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard. —*Matthew 27:61-66, NIV*; read also Mark 15:47; Luke 23:55,56.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How very credible is all the record of the gospel writers. It has always been a real amazement to me that these enemies of my Lord were more interested in his promise of resurrection than his disciples. Did the enemies listen and learn better than his followers? What of the “sign of Jonah”? And the “destroyed temple restored in three days”? These promises were “but dim to a crushed and wavering faith but were read, like fiery letters upon the wall, by the illuminating glare of an uneasy guilt” (*Farrar*). Pilate complied with the requests of the chief priests. All the government and religion could do to keep him in the grave was done. They indeed made the tomb as secure as they knew how.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It was sometime late on Friday that representatives of the Sanhedrin council appeared before Pilate. For Pilate it was “just one thing after another” when he thought of the strange prisoner he had just condemned to death. He just could not get him off his hands — even when he had already washed them. Dear Lord, I can never — will never escape you, nor do I want to. The sun has set — the darkness of the Sabbath is upon the earth. The body of Jesus lies dead in the sepulchre. Men and Satan had done all they can to get rid of him. It is Friday, but Sunday is coming!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the completeness and details of this wonderful story. (2) Thank you that you furnished abundant evidence of his resurrection for all who wanted to believe. (3) Thank you that we live on this side of his death and resurrection. (4) Thank you for the testimony of his enemies that he would rise again. (5) Thank you that the power of death could not hold him. (6) Thank you that the seal of man and power of Satan has been broken.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” All tombs today seem to be very secure — i.e. they keep the inhabitants very secure. One day all who are in the tombs will be liberated even as was our Lord. Our Lord was raised by the Holy Spirit — i.e. so says Paul in these words: “. . . if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you

(Romans 8:11). So our tomb is no more secure than our Lord’s tomb. He is the firstfruit (like the first gathering of a giant harvest) of them that sleep. The only thing that goes into the grave is the body — our spirits go into the presence of yourself to return to the body at the resurrection.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I want to lift up prayer requests in the presence of death and the grave — what more appropriate place is there? (1) Dear Father, I want to remember at least as well as his enemies what my Lord said while he was still alive. (2) Give me enthusiastic patience in tracing every promise he made to rise again. (3) How could these men believe that Jesus was a deceiver? Guard me against the power of personal ambition. (4) Keep me full of appreciation for these disciples who struggled through the dark night of the loss of their Lord. (5) I am glad that when you seal me with the Holy Spirit of promise that no man — nor Satan (without my willingness) can break that seal (Eph. 1:12,13).

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to my heart from these verses: (1) “My body the church is still in this world — how will you treat it?” (2) “Right this very moment I see you and know your thoughts.” (3) “I await your prayers that I might make intercession for you.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Kampuchea (Cambodia) — Points for prayer: (1) The terrible genocide of 1975-79 haunts this tragic nation. The survivors are depleted and demoralized; widows and orphans are numerous. The people fear the return of the Khmer Rouge and see the Vietnamese as the lesser of two evils. Yet there is no freedom for the gospel, and the great majority have never heard of Jesus. (2) For centuries Buddhist Cambodia fiercely resisted the light of the gospel, yet since 1970 there has been an awakening. Between 1970 and 1975 the Church grew from 700 believers to 6,000. Most believers died in 1975-79, but some escaped to the free world. In refugee camps an ingathering of thrilling proportions has taken place. There are now over 200 Cambodian churches outside Kampuchea.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Christ, the Lord, is ris’n today, Hallelujah!
Sons of men and angels say, Hallelujah!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Hallelujah!
Sing, ye heav’ns; thou earth reply, Hallelujah!
Love’s redeeming work is done, Hallelujah!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Hallelujah!
Lo! our sun’s eclipse is o’er, Hallelujah!
Lo! He sets in blood no more, Hallelujah!

WEEK SEVEN

—Wednesday—

Security and steadfastness are promised to us in your presence. We do so need these qualities. I bow to receive them!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes” (Psa. 112:7,8). Once again we discover your attributes by the reactions of your children to your work in their lives. It is a joy to look at these qualities because I need them so badly: (1) You give resources we can use whenever we are disappointed. We need not panic no matter what the news. You have not promised to send us no bad news — but that we need not become depressed because you are at work in every circumstance of life to bring something out of it for our good. Praise your name!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

(2) I can trust in your understanding — *not in my own!* This gives me peace and security. This also gives me a desire to continue in my resting in your interest in me. (3) There will one day be a time when we will look in triumph on our foes. So many of these foes are those I have invited into myself. Can I look in triumph even over these? Dear Lord, I believe it is even as you have said. I am not thinking of the eternal triumph of heaven, but of that which happens here and now.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Is it a contradiction to say that there are times when I fear bad news? I have learned that if I wait and not react at once I shall have your balance in how I relate to the negative. Dear Lord, forgive me for the times when I have immediately rebelled at your chastening. Forgive me for setting myself up as the lawyer, judge and jury in the “bad news” times of life. How I do

need the constant sense of security I can find only in yourself. Deliver me from malice and ill will toward my foes — I want to deliver *all* vengeance to you.

What personal sins do you want to confess? There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

When all my labors and trials are o’er,
And I am safe on that beautiful shore,
Just to be near the dear Lord I adore,
Will through the ages be glory for me.
O that will be glory for me,
Glory for me, glory for me;
When by His grace I shall look on His face,
That will be glory, be glory for me.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. —*Matthew 28:1-4, NIV*; read also Mark 16:1.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

“Mary of Magdala, and Mary the mother of James and John, had seated themselves in the garden to mark well the place of the sepulchre, and other Galilean women had also noticed the spot, and had hurried home to prepare fresh spices and ointments before the Sabbath began, that they might hasten back early on the morning of Sunday, and complete that embalming of the body which Joseph and Nicodemus had only hastily begun. They spent in quiet

that miserable Sabbath, which for broken hearts of all who loved Jesus, was a Sabbath of anguish and despair" (*Farrar*).

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

"Night passed, and before the faint streak of dawn began to silver the darkness of that first resurrection day, the passionate love of those women, who had lingered latest by the cross, made them also the earliest at the tomb" (*Farrar*). Before they arrived, the incidents of Matthew 28:1-4 took place. There were four women: (1) Mary Magdalene; (2) Mary the mother of James and Joses; (3) Salome, mother of James and John; and (4) Joanna. We emphasize: it was *before* they arrived that the earthquake and removal of the stone occurred. How I do want to see this as if it were happening before my eyes (and heart). The earthquake was local and happened simultaneously with the coming of the angel. We can even now watch the angel as he walks over to the large stone and rolls it back and sits upon it.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you so much for the bright beautiful resurrection morning at the open tomb! (2) Thank you for Mary Magdalene the deeply grateful follower of our Lord — what an example! (3) Thank you for Mary the mother of John Mark — she made such an investment in her son to whom we are all indebted. (4) Thank you for the mother of James and John — the close followers of Jesus — but no closer than their mother. (5) Thank you for Joanna the wife of Chusa, Herod's steward. What did it cost her to be there that Sunday morning? (6) Thank you for every unnamed woman from Galilee who was also there that resurrection day. (7) Thank you for the love that drew them there to anoint his body.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men." We wonder many things about the angel: how tall was he? What did he look like, i.e. just like a human? What was the expression on his face? "His appearance was like lightning" i.e. sudden, unexpected, bright, overpowering. The whiteness of his appearance impressed those who saw him and told about it. There was *no* opposition — there were *no* questions. These soldiers, whose very lives depended upon their protecting the tomb, offered no resistance. It was not necessary to remove the stone to allow our Lord to get out of the tomb — he could appear and disappear at will. The stone was removed for the benefit of those who came to the tomb, men needed to see the empty winding sheets.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How can I best pray through these blessed verses? (1) I want to come at least once a week on every early Lord's day morning to the tomb of my Lord and marvel that he is alive right now. (2) Give me the daring devotion of Mary Magdalene. (3) I want the heart of lowliness and service that filled Mary the mother of John Mark. (4) May I live in the light of the supernatural today? (5) I claim the presence of ministering angels even this moment. (6) May the power and purity of this angel make a deep permanent impression on me.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

On this first resurrection morning speak to my heart: (1) "Every Sunday is another reminder of my triumph over death." (2) "Isn't the truthfulness of this story transparent?" (3) "Where is your exuberant joy? How can you be passive in the face of this tremendous fact?"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Kenya — Points for prayer: (1) *Praise God for the great freedom to preach the gospel since independence*, for the receptiveness of the people and for the exciting growth of the Church. Three-quarters of the population claim to be Christian, and Christians are found in every stratum of society. Pray that present opportunities may be used to the full. (2) *The Protestant churches have grown fast*, and the proportion of Evangelicals is high. The East African Revival (1938-1960) made a deep and lasting impression on the Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches. A high proportion of church leaders have their spiritual roots in that movement of the Spirit. Legalism, divisions, materialism, and personality clashes have adversely affected this movement.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Low in the grave He lay — Jesus, my Savior!
 Waiting the coming day — Jesus, my Lord!
 Up from the grave He arose
 Death cannot keep his prey — Jesus, my Savior!
 He tore the bars away — Jesus, my Lord!
 With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
 He arose a victor from the dark domain,
 And He lives forever with His saints to reign:
 He arose! He arose!
 Hallelujah! Christ arose!

WEEK SEVEN

—Thursday—

You not only rule all creation — but all nations. What confidence this gives me as I bow in your presence!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?” (Psa. 113:4-6) You are exalted over all the nations. This is both a fact and a promise. At this very moment you could call a halt to history. When you decide to send your Son and fold up this universe like a garment it will happen. Nations are given a choice and choose to ignore you. This does *not* mean that you have ignored them. You have a total omniscient view of all men in all nations.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I am amazed that we can live so independently of yourself when we are totally dependent upon you. Only to man have you given the freedom of choice — it must be vastly different in the heavens — the angelic beings all have free access to some form of visual contact. They live by sight whereas we live by faith. What a different response to these beings give to your Person! If angels discuss the situation of men on earth I wonder what they say? Since they rejoice over one man who gets his eyes open to reality (called “repentance”) we truly are curious over what they think of billions who live and die in ignorance? Such is your realm and such questions can only be answered by you. It is enough for me to live in the light that falls upon my path.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How sorry am I that I live on a largely horizontal level? My thoughts and attitudes are confined to this earth — and too often are earthly. Am I forever go-

ing to stubbornly refuse the obvious? The invisible qualities of yourself are clearly seen — even your everlasting power and divinity — such are observed in the world about me. Dear Lord, open my eyes — break my heart — sensitize my conscience. The fact is that you *are* exalted above the nations — and will be so exalted, whether I believe it or not. I do *want* to respond to you — forgive my dullness.

What personal sins do you want to confess? There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels, in chorus,
Sang as they welcomed His birth,
“Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth.”

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷“The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.”” ⁸Then they remembered his words. —*Luke 24:1-8, NIV*; read also Mark 16:2-8; John 20:1; Matt. 28:5-8.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Have these words lost their meaning by their familiarity? No, no! Not when they are as true today as when the event occurred. Angels had a large part in the resurrection. No doubt the same heavenly beings are alive right now. How good it would be to be able to "replay" that early morning when "very early in the morning the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb." Perhaps I can engrave them on my memory and make them a permanent part of my heart knowledge — Dear Lord, I want to!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Where is the deep compassion for my Lord, who is alive not dead, that filled the hearts of these women who came to the tomb? More to the point — where is the ecstatic wonder that dominated their whole lives from that moment on? Can I ever forget those words: "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Dear Lord, "He is not here; he is risen!" It was so important to our Lord that his disciples remember his words — this is *just* what I want to do! There is only one thing more important than your written word and that is that the meaning becomes a living part in my own experience.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that there is a first day *every* week to remind us of that one wonderful day. (2) Thank you for the use of fragrances in the record of your dealings with man — they add so much to the beauty of life. (3) Thank you for angels who help us in ways we could never help ourselves. (4) Thank you for the heavenly surprises you are always giving us — if we only had eyes to see them. (5) Thank you that all that is alive and well and strong represents my Lord. (6) Thank you for the specifics of the text — "while he was still with you *in Galilee*." (7) Thank you that I can look up into your face and find intercession through my living Lord.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Then they remembered his words." Only when the application of your word to life becomes apparent is our memory jogged. What a principle to remember! In our teaching we need to use parables as did our Lord — i.e. tell a story that has real life meaning. If those who listen to me cannot see themselves in what I say they do not listen; they do not learn and my teaching has failed. Only when the example perfectly fits the situation does communication happen. The details of his crucifixion were all given — i.e. (1) "must be delivered into the hands of sinful man" (2) "be crucified" (3) "and on the third day be raised

again" and each of these was perfectly completed in fulfillment — so must the parts of our teaching.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I am sorry to have almost completed every verse in the four gospels — it has been such a blessed experience — but I can find so many more areas for prayer than before I began: (1) Is there a better time to meet my living Lord than the early morning? I cannot think of one — may I keep my tryst with him! (2) Roll away the stone from the "dead-ends" in my life — I *know* you can and will. (3) Keep me "wondering" at your goodness and mercy that has followed every day of my life. (4) I am so glad that I can say of my Lord in the face of the grave and death — "He is not here, he is risen!" Keep my faith bright as relating to my own death.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

The message of the angels needs to be heard in a very personal manner: (1) "Why do you look for the living Lord among the dead issues of this life?" (2) "He is not here; he is risen!" (3) "Please apply my words to your life."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Kenya — Point for prayer: *Unreached peoples*. Probably about 12% of the peoples of Kenya belong to peoples little affected by the gospel, though only a few are unoccupied by missions: a) *The Somali in the N.E. and cities*. The five clans of Somalis are all Muslim. There are three small groups and 50 believers. b) *The pastoral tribes of N. Kenya* are predominantly animistic and nomadic. Pray for the Boran 75,000; Samburu 73,600; Gabbra 32,000; Redille 21,800, and for the emergence of truly indigenous churches. c) *The Muslim coastal strip*. The Digo 160,000; Bajun 40,000; Orma 35,000 and Upper Pokomo 23,000 are all Muslim. The 220,000 Giriama are beginning to respond through the work of eight denominations, but the work is in its early stages.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

WEEK SEVEN

—Friday—

It is a positive joy to review your mighty works on behalf of your people. I praise you anew in worship.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The sea looked and fled, the Jordan turned back; the mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs. Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, who turned the rock into a pool, the hard rock into springs of water” (Psa. 114:3,4,7,8). “The Red Sea mirrored the hosts which had come down to its shore, and reflected the cloud which towered high over all, as the symbol of the presence of the Lord: never had such a scene been imagined upon the surface of the Red Sea, or any other sea, before. It could not endure the unusual and astounding sight, and fleeing to the right and to the left, opened a passage for God’s elect people” (Spurgeon).

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Once again I am identifying the attributes of your nature through your works. What happened to Israel at the beginning of their deliverance happened again at the end of their journey. “Things inanimate are represented as imitating the actions of living creatures when the Lord passes by.” It would seem that the poet is almost frustrated at the lack of response from the living intelligent beings — so he will obtain an adequate reaction from the inanimate. At least the sea, river, mountains and hills will give him proper reverence. Dear Lord, I do not want to let the mute mountains and the senseless water take my place. I want to lift up my voice in praise at your majesty and power!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

“From stone and solid rock he brings the spreading lake, the gushing springs.” Indeed he does! And yet

we are somehow strangely silent about it all. Are we so satiated by the fictitious sensationalism of T.V. and the cinema that we can not recognize the real thing? Has the god of this world so blinded our eyes and seared our conscience? Dear Lord, shock me into an awareness I have not had before. A child-like wonder would be the highest of possessions. Futility and depression are the fruit of the constant disappointment we find from the false promises of Satan. Dear Lord, deliver me!

What personal sins do you want to confess? There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

O Lord, my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²So they came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. ⁸Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside.

He saw and believed. ⁹(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes, . . .

—John 20:2-10, NIV; read also Luke 24:9-12.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Mary of Magdala acts impetuously in Luke's account. She sees the stone rolled away — and immediately makes up her mind that someone has violated or robbed the grave. She leaves the other women before the angels can explain to them (and Mary — if she hadn't left). How typical this is of some of my own hasty decisions. Peter and John leave the city on a dead run to check Mary's report. I am sure neither one of them was prepared for what they found. It was the appearance of the strips of linen and the burial cloth that surprised them. These were not thrown around the tomb, as they would have been if someone had stolen his body.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Can I look over the shoulder of John as he looks intently into the tomb? John was the sensitive one who wanted to do all he could to help his Lord. If the body was gone he wanted to know why. When he finally stepped inside the tomb a light went on in his heart. Something wonderfully strange was happening. John did not have the confidence he had later — but there was an excitement in him that had not been there before. Even at this late date these dear men did not understand what Jesus had told them of his resurrection.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you once again for Mary of Magdala — she is so real in her impetuous love for our Lord. (2) Thank you for Peter — his desire to know all he could of the safety even of the body of Jesus is full of thought for me. (3) Thank you for the disciple who knew our Lord loved him — he has taught me much. (4) Thank you for the race to the tomb — oh, how I want everyone to join this run. (5) Thank you for the details of his resurrection which when fully known convince the most skeptical. (6) Thank you for the faith of John — what an example!

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)” We need to look at this text over and over again. It is the scriptures that form the basis of our faith. Of course the persons mentioned in the text must become alive to us. We believe there is a form of bibliolatry in our day (i.e. the worship of the Bible) but far worse is the worship

of subjectivism, i.e. making our feelings the criteria of reality. It was for this very reason the disciples lost heart: they did not *feel* Jesus was going to overcome his death and burial — *they did not know the scriptures* — both those spoken by our Lord and those written by the prophets.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Oh, that I could but express requests commensurate to the tremendous truths of these verses: (1) There are many who have taken away our Lord — guard me from yielding to any one of them. (2) I want the unabashed courage of Peter — he *must* know about his Lord, regardless of the cost. (3) Give me the perceptiveness of John — what a thoughtful man he was! (4) May I be able to stand again in the open door of the tomb and declare “He’s alive!” (5) I do wonder just how the linen cloths or “strips” looked — regardless of the answer they gave evidence to John that no robbers had left them. Dear Lord, I also believe. (6) Send me to your word for all my spiritual understanding.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me from these incidents: (1) “Life is seldom what you see.” (2) “Wait until my time and know the wonderful truth.” (3) “It is my word, first, last and always.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Kiribati — Points for prayer: (1) *The once strong Congregational Church* is losing members and pastors to other Protestant groups and also to RCs, Baha’i, Mormons, etc. The theological college in Tarawa is not evangelical. Pray for a return to biblical preaching and NT Christianity to counteract nominalism and underlying power of the occult. (2) *Evangelicals are in a small minority.* Only on some islands of Kiribati are there evangelical congregations. Pray that every island may have a clear, resident gospel witness. Most needy are the migrant laborers on Nauru, outlying island groups and the little state of Tuvalu.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Lead on, O King Eternal,
The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest
Thy tents shall be our home;
Through days of preparation
Thy grace has made us strong,
And now, O King Eternal,
We lift our battle song.

WEEK SEVEN

—Saturday—

I lift up praise — and more praise to you — I stand back amazed at your creative genius! Receive my worship.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness” (Psa. 115:1). What an eternal competition there is for recognition and honor. Man seems to be an incurable egoist. This is because he is created in your image with the capacity to create and produce. When once we have done something we want everyone to see it and appreciate it. Such is a natural desire (it is your own desire for what you have created) — but back of what we have produced is the One who has created us. Are we ready to say with Peter: “Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we have made this man to walk”? Give glory to God — It is indeed your love and faithfulness that has given us all we have.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Why should I honor you? *Because of your love and faithfulness.* Perhaps these are the two qualities that embrace and include all other characteristics of yourself. Your love is indeed “a many splendored thing.” “The night has a thousand eyes, and the day but one; yet the light of the bright world dies with the setting sun. The mind has a thousand eyes, and the heart but one; yet the light of a whole life dies when love is done.” We could say of yourself that there are a thousand qualities of yourself — but none of them live without your love — and your faithfulness. Blessed be your name — which is LOVE and FAITHFULNESS.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How hidden and subtle are the ways of the wicked one! We can actually offer lip service of praise to you but all the while seek our own praise. Dear Lord, forgive me. In what ways has Satan deceived us? In the very ways we use to praise your name he has used to gain praise for us: (1) Songs of love for the opposite sex have many times only a self-gratification purpose. We love others for what they do to or for

me. Can we sing a song of love to you for just what you are? (2) Words of praise for human accomplishments — when we know that all our time and energy and ability come from you. In this, dear Lord, may I turn the praise in the right direction.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

All praise to Him who reigns above
In majesty supreme,
Who gave His Son for man to die,
That He might man redeem!
Blessed be the name, blessed be the name,
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be the name, blessed be the name,
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

... ¹¹but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹²and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “And I don't know where they have put him.” ¹⁴At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵“Woman,” he said, “why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).

¹⁷Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your

Father, to my God and your God.' ”

¹⁸Mary of Magdala went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her. —*John 20:11-18, NIV*; read also Mark 16:9-11.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Evidently Mary came to the tomb some time after Peter and John did. She must have stayed in Jerusalem a little while after they left. Some feel she even met them on their way back to the city. The facts are we just do not know. She is alone in the garden. Her crying is total — i.e. she is sobbing almost without stopping. She wipes her eyes and looks into the tomb. So overwhelmed is she with the loss of the body of Jesus that she is not shocked or seemingly even surprised to see the two angels in the tomb. Why did she turn around? Did the angels point her to Jesus? Did the angels bow in adoration when they saw Jesus? We wish we knew.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It is enough to know that she did turn — when she did she still did not know to whom she was speaking. This is the second mistake in identification in these verses and the third mistake in evaluating just what was taking place (she didn't stay with the other women long enough to hear the angel's message). We love our Lord more than ever when we know he was patient and kind and full of understanding with this impetuous woman called Mary. She is surely single-minded in her concern for the corpse of our Lord. She is due for the surprise of her lifetime!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the personalness of my Lord's revelation of himself to Mary. (2) Thank you for the several qualities of Mary — her total sincerity. (3) Thank you for Mary's total newness of life. (4) Thank you for the tears of Mary — so easily touched was her heart. (5) Thank you for her single-mindedness as related to Jesus. (6) Thank you for the wonderful meaning of the name Mary gave Jesus, “Rabboni” — (divine) teacher. (7) Thank you that she was so eager to tell what she had seen and heard.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Jesus said, ‘Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father.’ ” This verse is but poorly translated in earlier versions. We are given the almost opposite meaning — i.e. “do not touch me.” Jesus is saying to Mary — “Do not now think that I have returned to stay here on earth — my mission is fulfilled here and I must return to the One who sent me — even my Father and your Father, my God and your

God.” Did Mary understand it all? We should ask “Did Mary understand it at all?” We know she didn't — but we are sure she trusted him completely.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Lead me to your throne of grace to lift up these words for petitions: (1) My eyes are so dry and my heart is so hard — how I do want to emotionally identify with my Lord. (2) Have I seen angels and like Mary did not know it? (3) Surely my Lord has been taken away by many forces of evil — I want to return again to the open tomb that he might speak to me. (4) I know you want to draw me out in a personal knowledge of yourself — I do want to follow your leading. (5) Speak to me by name in telling me you are alive today! (6) I am so glad you have completed the task of redemption — and I can share in your victory.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I do have ears to hear and a heart to understand: (1) “I am speaking personally to you in every verse of these four gospels — but you must be the one to make the application of what I say.” (2) “You can say, ‘I have seen the Lord’ in many more circumstances than Mary.” (3) “Blessed are they who have not seen (personally, i.e. by sight) and yet believe.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

North Korea — Points for prayer: (1) *The leader of North Korea and his son* have been almost deified by adulatory propaganda. Pray that the time may soon come when the Lord Jesus may be openly worshipped rather than a mere man. (2) *Organized Christianity was destroyed by the Communists*. Yet in 1945 there was a large and growing Church with about 400,000 Christians. Nearly all believers were killed or fled to the South. Pray that the land may open again for the gospel. (3) *The Church in North Korea* is one of the most persecuted on earth. There are no known churches or pastors left, though government spokesmen admit to 5,000 Christians in the country. Pray for the secret Church in its long years of suffering. (4) *The gospel can only enter by ingenious means* — floating literature ashore from the sea, balloon packages by air, etc. The most useful is *radio*.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

In loving-kindness Jesus came,
My soul in mercy to reclaim;
And from the depths of sin and shame
Through grace He lifted me.
From sinking sand He lifted me,
With tender hand He lifted me;
From shades of night to plains of light,
O praise His name, He lifted me!

WEEK EIGHT

—Sunday—

In all the ways you help and I know it I thank you! For the many more ways you help me and I do not know I praise you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“You who fear him, trust in the Lord — he is their help and shield. The Lord remembers us and will bless us: He will bless the house of Israel, he will bless the house of Aaron, he will bless those who fear the Lord — small and great alike” (Psa. 115:11-13). It should be mentioned that this Psalm was sung every year at the Passover. It would be a blessing for me to now read over again these 18 short verses and remember all the times and places where these words were repeated by your children in the days that are past. I am sure I have no concept of how difficult it must have been to praise you in the midst of a heathen nation — such as Babylon or Persia. Dear Lord, how is it we are hesitant to praise you in this land of freedom?

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

You are my help — my shield. I have said it before — but I want to say it again that the largest help you give me is probably not even known, i.e. it is in the realm of the Spirit and relates to transactions and decisions I shall never know till I am translated into your world of Spirit. I want to praise you for your aid and protection. Your past mercies prove that we are in your heart — you have not forgotten us. How comforting is this thought! All the good things of life come down from your presence and I am glad. Glad to enjoy what you have sent and glad to acknowledge the Giver!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

“He will have a general blessing for all who fear him, a peculiar blessing for the whole house of Israel, and a double blessing for the sons of Aaron” (Spurgeon).

My sin is ingratitude! It is easy to say I am grateful — it is quite another matter to demonstrate it in life. Your blessings are seen in the ordinary flow of life. So should be my thankfulness. It is in the lives of others — those in need — and those who do not know of it or expect it that my gratitude needs to be seen. Dear Lord, how very far short I fall in these areas. Forgive — but not for continuance in my selfishness!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home:
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied:
Come to God’s own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

¹¹While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹²When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ ¹⁴If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵So the

soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day. —Matthew 28:9-15, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The harmony of the appearances of Jesus has posed a problem for students of the text for many years. We believe this appearance occurred after he appeared to Mary Magdalene. The women had told his disciples what they had seen and heard at the sepulcher and had returned to the tomb. It was while they were back in the garden that Jesus “suddenly” appeared to them. What a remarkable greeting our Lord gave to these women. I wish I knew the tone of his voice and the look on his face. *Amazement* would not be an adequate word for the response of these women. Jesus came to them to make an appointment with his “brothers.” “Tell them to meet me in Galilee,” were his words.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I want to examine the amazing disbelief of the chief priests and elders. The guards had no reason to lie. Why wouldn't these religious men believe? It would cost them too much! They would have to admit to crucifying their own Messiah, of being unable to keep his body in the grave, even with all the authority of Rome behind them. They would have to admit, most of all, that their understanding of the sacred scriptures was wrong. What an absurd scheme: “His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.” If so, who told them? How did the disciples do this without awakening them? Ah, the heart of man is deceitful above all things!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the holy awe that filled the hearts of the women. (2) Thank you for the heavenly joy they felt and expressed. (3) Thank you such awe and joy can be mine today. (4) Thank you that Jesus can greet me every morning — he is alive forever more! (5) Thank you for the honesty of the guards, i.e. with the authorities. (6) Thank you for the futile absurdity of those who tried to “cover up” the resurrection. (7) Thank you for the multiplied assurance found in the record that he is alive!

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.” Matthew was an apostle and was there when it happened. He is writing perhaps 30 years after it happened; this seems like a long time for such a story to survive, but then when people do not

want to accept the truth they have real help in believing a lie. How glad we are that the truth has been widely circulated among men of this whole world even to this very day. It is an incredible miracle that we have the record of his life, death and resurrection. Praise his name!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In each of these appearances there are many potential requests: (1) I want my Lord to be the very first one to greet me each day. (2) Move my heart to fall at your feet in glad adoration. (3) Your death for my sins gives me boldness before you — at the same time I need your wisdom in my requests. (4) You have made an appointment with me to meet you around your table on your day — I even now look forward to that time. (5) The guards at the tomb were in an untenable position! —but no more so than many men in America who will stand before you at judgment — dear Lord I want to help them — help me.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What do you say to me from these verses? (1) “Both reverence and joy are appropriate expressions of worship before me.” (2) “You know a little of the meaning of my resurrection — but there is so much more to learn.” (3) “Friends (?) have stolen my body and have lied about me — I speak of my church.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

South Korea — Points for prayer: (1) Praise God for the spiritual awakening in Korea and the evident work of the Holy Spirit. Here is a selection of the superlatives! a) The first Protestant church was planted in 1884. By the centenary in 1984 there were nearly 30,000! About 4,900 of these are in the capital. b) The largest congregation (Full Gospel Central Church), and the largest Presbyterian and Methodist congregations in the world. c) The largest evangelistic campaign (Billy Graham 1973). d) The largest Christian mobilization (CCC Explo '74, World Evangelization Crusade '80). 2,700,000 attended one meeting. e) The largest baptismal service since Pentecost (in the army, which is now 65% Christian). (2) Praise God for a Church founded on sound indigenous principles, blessed with many seasons of revival and refined by years of suffering. Korean Christians are praying that 50% of their nation may be Christian by the end of the century.

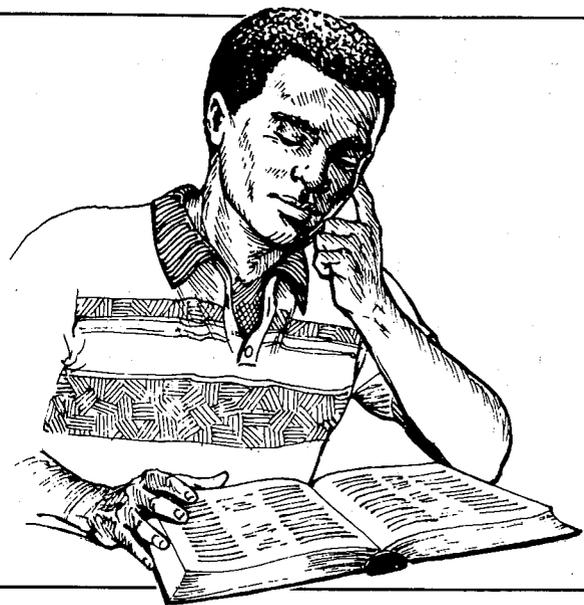
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest.

WEEK EIGHT

—Monday—

In this time with you teach me afresh what it means to worship One who is "full of compassion."



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. The Lord protects the simplehearted; when I was in great need, he saved me. Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to you" (Psa. 116:5-7). What a wealth of good things is found in these three verses: (1) you are gracious; (2) righteous; (3) full of compassion; (4) a protector of the simple hearted; (5) a deliverer and savior of those in need; (6) a constant giver of good to meet our lack. My constant enjoyment of your unearned favor will never cease to amaze me. I want to bask in the sunshine of your love! Since you are absolute righteousness all your actions will express this quality perfectly. Compassion is such a lovely quality — but to know the One who is "full of compassion" is almost more than I can assimilate.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Somehow all these qualities of yourself take on a bright new meaning! If ever there was anyone who qualified as "the simple hearted" it would be myself. This is not necessarily a negative quality. As compared with yourself all of us are indeed "simple hearted" and sorely need your protection. Dear Lord, I come as a child to the Father — guard me from the evil one and my own selfishness. I have lately been very much in need; I am glad to say: "He saved me." I claim your promise that "no good thing will the Lord withhold to those who walk uprightly." My walk is conditioned by your grace or I have no claim on this promise — I rest my soul in your grace.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I live constantly somewhere between my need and your supply: (1) You are gracious but I sometimes assume such a quality is automatic and continue in

my sin. (2) You are righteous — but I set myself up as judge of what is right or wrong — forgive me. (3) You are full of compassion — but I do not believe it and misinterpret your expressions of love. (4) You want to protect the simple hearted — we reject the idea of such a quality — and in such a decision admit our simplemindedness. (5) You stand ready to deliver and save — but at times I won't even admit I need such help. In all these admissions of my sin forgive me and renew my mind.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Thou, my everlasting portion,
More than friend or life to me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Savior, let me walk with Thee.
Close to Thee, close to Thee,
Close to Thee, close to Thee;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Savior, let me walk with Thee.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹³Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one living in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a

prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²²In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." —*Luke 24:13-24, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How very often have I read these blessed words! But just now for this time I want to see them afresh! We do not know Cleopas, but one day we shall see him and ask about the details we have so long wondered about. As example: "Why did you make the journey?" Somehow in the act of walking it is easier to talk — was this the reason for the trip? How good it is to be able to review in our own minds all the things that had happened in the precious closing days of my Lord's ministry. The question of Jesus (the stranger to them) stopped them in their tracks. He has a way of doing such real often.

He has a way of doing such real often.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

What a teacher was my Lord! He drew out of men the expression of their own hearts. Only when the feelings of the heart are framed in words can we know how best to interpret them. Jesus was now to receive their true estimate of himself. I am living in a somewhat similar circumstance: you have most subtle ways of manifesting yourself to me — and I do not at first recognize your presence. I am glad to affirm with your disciples that you are in truth "a prophet, powerful in word and deed before yourself and all the people." You are *my redeemer!*

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that we can today discuss the same wonderful events these men talked about on their journey to Emmaus. (2) Thank you that the wonder and joy of this event has not diminished at all. (3) Thank you for the unobtrusive way my Lord manifested himself — what an example for us! (4) Thank you for the strong emotional response these two men gave to our Lord's answer — it indicates just how much they were involved in what had happened. (5) Thank you my Lord made so many appearances on Sunday — it gives such a new meaning to this day. (6) Thank you for the infinite patience Jesus showed to these two men.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive." How is it that on the day of his resurrection he appeared first to several women before he showed himself alive to these two men? We do not know — but we do like to think about the question. As example: women — not men — were last at the cross — with the exception of John we do not find men at the cross. Women followed him in larger numbers than men — i.e. if the gospel accounts tell of those who followed him — i.e. how many men and how many women. It was women who out of their own substance gave to Jesus and his followers that they might have food on their journeys.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

My heart is moved within me as I consider possible prayer requests from this text: (1) May the thoughts of my heart for this day be on your death and resurrection. (2) I do want to include my Lord in my conversation for today. (3) Help me to think past the obvious as I attempt to draw others out in a conversation about my Lord. (4) I want the power of your words and deeds to be a reality in my life *now!* (5) Awaken my sensibilities to the meaning of your resurrection. (6) May I listen to others as well as I want them to listen to me. (7) Keep me ready to enter your eternal presence.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I am eager to hear what you will say to me from these verses: (1) "I am an unseen companion for every journey — take me with you." (2) "Talking about my death and resurrection will help in every circumstance." (3) "I am yet 'a prophet, powerful in word and deed . . .' hear me!"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Kuwait — Points for prayer: (1) *The shadow of the Gulf War and Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalism has disturbed Kuwaitis.* Pray that the wealthy Kuwaitis may become more receptive to the gospel. Possibly less than 2% have ever handled a Bible or heard the gospel. There may be only one family of Kuwaiti believers. (2) *Kuwaitis travel* as tourists, businessmen and students (2,500 in USA). Pray that they may meet Christians willing to share their faith.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart!

WEEK EIGHT

—Tuesday—

How brief is life — how long is eternity! While it is day lead me to your throne.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of his people” (Psa. 116:12-14). We cannot ignore all the sin and strife about us, but to dwell upon it and be constantly full of complaint and criticism is only self-defeating. How much better it is to turn our hearts up to you and sincerely ask: “How can I repay you for *all your goodness?*” This is a generic word that encompasses *so much* in it. The words: pleasant, satisfying, fulfilling, joy, peace — all these and more are involved. Praise your name!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

What is in the “cup of salvation”? How much more than when the psalmist first said these words! As I look into the cup and then lift it up to you I see in it forgiveness, sanctification, hope, peace, eternal life, redemption, adoption, justification — and much more. No wonder I am grateful! I call upon your name (or authority) to fulfill all you have promised me in the cup of salvation. Out of grace through my faith. What is my response to such goodness? “I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.”

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

If your goodness does not lead me to a constant changing of my mind, i.e. in your direction then I have truly played the hypocrite! My repentance must take the form of the fulfillment of my vows — not just in public — i.e. before an audience; they will serve to confirm what I have decided. Dear Lord, I am deciding, help me in the completion of such a

decision. I do need your grace and forgiveness — it is so easy to take advantage (or so we think) of your goodness — forgive me.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall fearless be.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²⁵He said to them, “How foolish you are, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

²⁶Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.

³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³²They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

³³They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

—Luke 24:25-35, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

This is such an exciting section it is difficult to be objective. Dear Lord, speak to me of my foolishness and slowness. I want to read again all the prophets have spoken. Such as: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Zechariah 11:7-14; 13:1-9; Psalm 110:1-7; II Samuel 7:12; Daniel 9:24-27 and Psalm 96:10. Your Son began with Moses — I want to do the same as he did in Deuteronomy 18:18ff and obtain a new look at the types in Genesis and Exodus, and the deliverance in Numbers. If Jesus explained the scriptures — then the scriptures *need* explanation. How is it that Jesus acted as if he were going further than Emmaus? He was always and ever “the Teacher” — he wanted the disciples to respond to him. How we can all learn from him.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

You are indeed speaking to me in these words: “*How foolish you are . . .*” — only you can know how well these words apply to my needs. I am also “*slow of heart to believe*” — it is not that I do not understand or consent to the truthfulness of what I read, but I am foolish and slow of heart in making direct appropriation of your word to my life. I do so sorely need a revelation of yourself — I need to see you “*in the breaking of the bread*” — or in some other ordinary activity of life. Perhaps my biggest need would be a fresh opening of the scriptures to my heart.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that you can read our hearts while we read the scriptures and can make the two one. (2) Thank you that you know all things — you know my deepest need and you are even now moving to meet it. (3) Thank you for the One (even yourself) who said, “Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (4) Thank you for the possibility of a burning heart — set on fire by yourself. (5) Thank you for the excitement of these men — such a good example for me.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.*” A short book could be written over what our Lord said to Simon and what Simon said to Jesus. Peter must have been full of a confession of his failure in his multiple denials of his Lord. The one thing he sought — and found — was forgiveness. Did Jesus at this time restore him to the place of service? We believe it was later on the shores of Galilee. How very much did Peter need this appearance of Jesus — and he needed it apart from and separate from the other disciples. Jesus was so full of personal thoughtfulness!

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I have already found so much for which I can pray in these verses: (1) I am indeed foolish — I ask for your wisdom. (2) Quicken my heart that I might believe all you tell me in your word. (3) I do want to fill up the sufferings of my Lord (even as Paul prayed for himself). (4) Open my eyes to see at least a little of “the glory” that you now share with my Father in heaven. (5) I never tire of reviewing all the prophets have said concerning my Lord — give me occasion to do so. (6) Welcome, Lord Jesus, to every room in this house of mine. (7) In the “little things” of this day I want to see you.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As you spoke to the two on the way — and set their hearts on fire — so speak to me: (1) “I have a worldwide ministry of intercession — it was indeed expedient for me to leave this earth.” (2) “The Holy Spirit through my body continues my ministry on earth.” (3) “My appearances were as much for your benefit as those to whom I appeared.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Laos — Points for prayer: (1) *Only a few areas and ethnic groups have ever been evangelized.* Laos needs to hear the gospel. Now the land is closed to foreign missionary work. There are some foreign Christian relief workers serving in the country. (2) *Persecution refined the Church.* The early years under Communism were hard. Weak Christians fell away, those that remained had to learn to trust in God and not in Western help. Ideological confrontations and restrictions brought a deeper appreciation of the gospel. About two-thirds of the Christians fled to Thailand, yet after the decline the Church has grown and matured.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Years I spent in vanity and pride,
Caring not my Lord was crucified,
Knowing not it was for me He died
On Calvary.

Mercy there was great, and grace was free;
Pardon there was multiplied to me;
There my burdened soul found liberty,
At Calvary.

WEEK EIGHT

—Wednesday—

Death is but a door to a new life — the chains of fear are removed, I thank you! I enter the prayer closet with joy.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant; you have freed me from my chains. I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord” (Psalm 116:15-17). I take the term “precious” as used here to refer to *value* — i.e. this is to remind us that we have been delivered out of some sore sickness by your mercies because we are important to you. As Spurgeon has said: “They shall not die prematurely; they shall be immortal till their work is done; and when their time shall come to die, then their deaths shall be precious. The Lord watches over their dying beds, smooths their pillows, sustains their hearts, and receives their souls.”

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

It is easy enough to mouth pious platitudes — dear Lord, deliver me far from such a practice! I am your servant when I serve you — of course I am your servant at all times — but only when I fulfill the meaning of my name do I truly fulfill your purpose. I am glad to say with David that “I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.” My dear aged mother is indeed your maidservant. There is no freedom at all except in your service — I have been freed from the bondage of sin to be bound in gratitude to yourself.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

My purpose of thanksgiving has been woefully short in times past — and in the very recent present. I call on the name and authority of almost everyone but yourself. Dear Lord, forgive me. Why is the bondage of Satan so attractive? He has an ally in me, i.e. the

strong desires of the flesh, eyes, and pride. But these are also your allies if I want them to be. I can choose to express the desires of the flesh in your service — I *can* present my body a living sacrifice — I *can* present my members as instruments of righteousness. Things can be given in your service — pride in you not in me can become a praise to your name.

What personal sins do you want to confess? There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

HIS WORD

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵When the other disciples told him that they had seen the Lord, he declared, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.”
—John 20:19-25, NIV; read also Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I want to remember the real importance you placed upon Sunday. (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1,19,26; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10) As the first day approaches I want to have my heart ready to worship corporately, i.e. with your body, your church. The appearance of my Lord was so sudden and unexpected that the disciples were filled with fear. His greeting was intended to quiet their hearts — it didn't — he needed to repeat it. Why did he show them the nail prints and the wound in his side? He wanted them to know with no doubt it was the same Jesus who had walked and talked with them for the past three years.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

“The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.” There is no joy on this earth to compare with this happiness! What comfort there is in his words: “Peace be with you.” Dear Lord, I want this joy; I want this peace! What did Jesus mean in his words to his apostles: “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you”? I believe it was the first “great commission” i.e. the first time he gave the great commission. In this giving he gives also the equipping means. He does not here give them the Holy Spirit — but in this dramatic manner he reinforces his promise of the coming Comforter. In giving the apostles divine wisdom and knowledge through the Holy Spirit they would be able to forgive sins — those who rejected their message did not have their sins forgiven.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for each of the twelve apostles — I see myself in them. (2) Thank you for Thomas — his doubts have all been mine — and his faith. (3) Awaken me each first day of the week as if it were the day he first came out of the grave. (4) Thank you for the insistent, continual joy we can have in you. (5) Thank you for the overwhelming evidence of his resurrection. (6) Thank you for the forgiveness of sins I have received through the words of the apostles. (7) Thank you that my Lord is listening to all our conversation.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” Our Lord was the silent listener to the words of Thomas. His words to Thomas perfectly match his request. He said, “Put your fingers here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side.” Jesus did not always grant such a request. Why? Because he knew there are very

few honest doubters. Most doubt has a moral base — but not with Thomas. Luke says Jesus requested a part of the broiled fish they ate that evening for supper. There was no way to deny his being alive.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I do not want to doubt — I want to believe — increase my faith as I make requests through these words: (1) Just how did my Lord get in the locked room? The important fact is he did — open my heart to a deeper appreciation of his power. (2) Give me your peace — I want it to guard my heart and my thoughts. (3) Show me again — as I read this text — your hands and your side. (4) May the vast importance of the words of the apostles penetrate my dull ears. (5) May the enormity of rejecting their word be with me. (6) Give me the daring honesty of Thomas.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

My ears are open — speak to me through these words: (1) “My peace is always available.” (2) “The Holy Spirit has already given the gospel which is my means of forgiving or retaining sins.” (3) “The eternal fact of my resurrection is established.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Lebanon — Points for prayer: (1) *Hatred and revenge have brought death and tragedy to all.* Deep repentance and a forgiving spirit must come before reconciliation is possible. Yet in the sorrow and tensions responsiveness to the gospel has increased. Both Muslims and nominal Christians are seeking the Savior in different parts of the country. Pray that the centuries-old barriers to the understanding of the Truth may be swept away. (2) *The country has been ravaged for 10 years by foreign and community armies, and is, in effect, ungovernable.* Pray for community leaders of all religions, and pray that a national government may emerge that exalts righteousness and justice.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Shall I crucify my Savior,
When for me He bore such loss?
Shall I put to shame my Savior?
Can I nail Him to the cross?
Shall I crucify my Savior?
Crucify my Lord again?
Once, O once again I crucified Him:
Shall I crucify again?

WEEK EIGHT

—Thursday—

*Great love and everlasting faithfulness
are reason enough to bow in your
presence!*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord” (Psa. 117:1,2). We are full of wonder that in the very center of the book of Psalms we find an invitation to the Gentile nations to praise your name. We expect this in the N.T. but to find it here in the song book of the Jewish nation is indeed a wonder. The nationalistic prejudice we observe in the lives of the religious leaders of our Lord’s day is not here. I never tire as a Gentile in fulfilling this invitation. It is good beyond words to praise and extol your name.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

The whole historical record found in the books of Moses tell me of your love — yea, your *great* love toward us. If we began to review specific expressions of such love we would not leave the first chapter of Genesis. Man has been created with the capacity of thought — and you have created more than enough to think about in the physical world — should we live a thousand years we could not exhaust a consideration of the species of butterflies were they all available to us — or the shells of the seashore. Most of all I want to extol your expressions of love directed toward Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Seth, Noah, Abram, Isaac, Jacob — and so many others. Praise the Lord, O my soul!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

In spite of the obvious reasons for praising you I am at times so strangely silent. My capacity of praise has been directed toward a secondary source. Forgive my sad distraction. If I learn anything it is that my capacities can not be directed in two ways at the same time. I cannot praise myself or other men and yourself at the same time. Your faithfulness endures

forever — oh, that mine would last at least longer than it sometimes does. I am glad for the means of grace you give to me — a commitment to personal worship — preaching — teaching — fellowship with other Christians is such a help.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the Lifegate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. —*John 20:26-31, NIV*; read also I Cor. 15:5.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Once again I am impressed with the time of his appearances — all of them to this point have been on Sunday. We do wonder what the disciples were saying in the seven days that had passed. Of course they must have discussed his resurrection — his death — all the meaning of his life with them. It is interesting that they met together at the same time and the same place one week later. John does not tell us if Jesus simply materialized in their midst — or just how he came. But he was there! The challenge to Thomas is a challenge to us — that is why John wrote it. Dear Lord, I believe!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Since this is written for me — one who has not seen and yet has believed — I do want to read it with as much meaning as possible. I do believe my faith is stronger and much fuller because I can base it on the testimony of credible witnesses. If everyone had to confirm his faith by the five senses we would have utter and total confusion. Suppose all men demanded a sensory perception of George Washington before they would believe he was our first president. We believe because men whom we trust have told us so. The four biographers of my Lord are just such men.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the constant interest my Lord has in all I say and think. (2) Thank you for the supernatural appearances of Jesus — also for the frequency of them. (3) Thank you for the direct challenge of Jesus to Thomas — so like his challenge to me. (4) Thank you that there are only two options — a lie or faith — truth. (5) Thank you that I can look forward to someday asking John to recite more of the signs that are not written in this book. (6) Thank you for the wonderful blessedness of believing!

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“But these are written that you may (continue to) believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” What a wonderful source for our faith! In a meditation over every word written in the four gospels we can arrive at a position of confidence nothing from Satan can assail — i.e. successfully. Our continuing meditation produces a continuing faith. The whole Bible needs to be digested in order to know all we can about our Lord as the Messiah of type and shadow or promise and prophecy. The end result is a confident faith in eternal life for each of us. Praise his name!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these closing words of John’s wonderful gospel I find so much, so many reasons for praying: (1) I am so glad that the locked doors of men mean nothing to you. (2) As you met the particular needs of Thomas I know you will meet mine — I expect your presence with me today! (3) Keep me from the evil one and overbearing temptations for this day. (4) “My Lord and my God!” — indeed you are! May this be a living reality in human relationships. (5) I want the blessing of one who has not seen and yet believes. (6) Open the eyes of my understanding to see the deeper meaning in the signs of Jesus.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these memorable words of Jesus speak to my heart: (1) “Is anything in your life more important than developing and increasing your faith in me?” (2) “Doubts are good when you respond as Thomas.” (3) “My permanent source of faith is what I have said in the Bible — read it and read it again.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Lebanon — Points for prayer: (1) *The hatred and cruelty of Muslim militia on Christian communities has been returned in kind.* The retention of political power, and promotion of denominational interests, have had preeminence over pure Christian living and preaching the gospel. The bewildering variety of Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant bodies is hardly a witness to non-Christians. (2) *The unreached.* The social consequences of personal conversions to Christ are immense, so those coming to Him have been few, but praise God for greater openness now. So pray for: a) *The Druzes.* Well-organized, but close-knit community with a secretive religion. Response to the gospel has been minimal. b) *The Shi’ites* are newly powerful, militant, radical and hostile to any Western influences. Pray that they may discover the emptiness of a religion without Christ. c) *The Kurds:* a despised and ignored but more responsive people. d) *The Palestinians:* a tragic, stateless people. There are Christians among them, some evangelical, but the majority are Muslim and unreached.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide, me O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last!

WEEK EIGHT

—Friday—

Total freedom is mine ONLY in you. You are indeed my helper in a thousand ways. I bow before your throne in thanksgiving.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“In my anguish, I cried to the Lord, and he answered me by setting me free. The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies” (Psa. 118:5-7). It is refreshing to learn of your qualities through your work with man. You are the original source of freedom and liberty. We never truly appreciate our freedom until we are in the anguish of some type of bondage. In our anguish we can cry to you (and where else can we go for help?) in your answer is freedom! In answer to the psalmist’s question, “What can man do to me?” we could point to the terrible inhumanities of man with men — but such is only against the body — and we are not the body.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I have just been through a very severe major operation and I have found that the spirit and the body are almost inseparable — but I say only “almost” — in the deepest anguish I knew I was not the body. Man has not touched my spirit — he has affected it — but not touched it. I am glad to strongly affirm: “The Lord is with me,” was with me and shall be with me. It is in the confidence of this assertion I find strength and peace. My enemies are within. This is to be expected since the real person is within. I want to know much more about the meaning — the application of the little phrase: “the Lord is with me” and “he is my helper.”

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

In my anguish at times I have cried to anyone and everyone but yourself. Forgive me — in my self pity I have cried against you — what a self-defeating attitude! Forgive me. In attempting to decide just how you should act and react I have developed real anguish and cried out stupid accusations — forgive! It

is only in your omniscience and omnipresence I find rest — peace and confidence are only in my rest in your presence. Why must I learn this so repeatedly? You are indeed my helper — help me! I thank you even now for the triumph I know is already on the way.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I need Thy presence every passing hour:
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me!

HIS WORD

21 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³“I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. ⁶He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. ⁷Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. —*John 21:1-8, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It seems significant to me that John used the term "Sea of Tiberias" which was the Roman designation for the Sea of Galilee. John wanted his gospel to be read and appreciated by us Gentiles. We are glad to respond to his wonderful words. It is not my understanding that Peter was backsliding by going fishing. He was here with the other disciples to meet Jesus. Would the Lord come at night? It wasn't too likely. Peter had a family to feed and here was an opportunity to do so. Perhaps this was also true of the other apostles. Fishing all night and catching nothing is a frustrating experience.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Perhaps I can be one of the "two other disciples" in this boat. People are not very talkative when they have been up all night and have suffered disappointment. It becomes even worse when accompanied by others. Did Peter brag to these men that he knew where they could catch the fish? After all it was his idea that they "go fishing." Be that as it may, in the early morning as they pulled toward the shore no one was saying anything. Then the silhouette of a man on the shore. Across the perfect acoustical sounding board of the surface of the lake came the words: "Friends, haven't you any fish?" There was just a one word answer: "No," they answered.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the generous attitude of my Lord as he met the needs of these men. (2) Thank you for John's perception and excitement. Did he recall the somewhat similar instructions in the early days of his association with our Lord? (Luke 5:4) (3) Thank you for the abundant evidence of our Lord's deity found in not a few fish or a good catch — but a number they could not even haul into the boat. (4) Thank you that the fish were not medium size but "large." (5) Thank you for the natural eager response of Peter — how I do want to be like him! (6) Thank you for the breakfast Jesus served them — how awesomely thankful they must have been!

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"None of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord." Is it significant that Jesus had somehow obtained charcoal for the fire? It was at a charcoal fire Peter had denied his Lord (John 18:18). There is something about the olfactory sense that triggers the memory like nothing else. His appearance was so convincing that questions were unnecessary. At the same time we wonder about the fact that they did not come to the fire to serve themselves but waited around it to be served by our Lord. There was something terribly wonderfully awesome about him. This was one breakfast they would never forget.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How can I put into words the petitions that arise in my heart as I read these words? (1) How often have I fished all night and caught nothing? Dear Lord I do want to learn from this experience. (2) It is interesting how many times Jesus appeared before you in the early morning — is this an example? (3) How often have you come to me and I did not realize it was you? (4) Teach me that it is indeed your will to sometimes withhold the fish. (5) Teach me also that at your word I can act in confident faith. (6) I want the constant eagerness to be near you I see in Peter. (7) It is easier to get someone's attention after they have eaten — may I practice this principle.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I am indeed ready to hear your voice through these blessed verses: (1) "I am always standing on the horizon of your day." (2) "I long to show you just where to fish and catch." (3) "I always know you better than you do yourself — come to me for answers."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Lesotho — Points for prayer: (1) *Lesotho's tragic poverty is both physical and spiritual.* The great work of French missionaries of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society is in decline. The daughter church has only 36 pastors and few candidates for the ministry in the theological school. Nearly all the older churches are very nominal. Since 1960, Protestants have declined from 33% to 22% of the population. (2) *The Roman Catholics have invested vast sums of money and manpower in the country.* The entire cabinet, the Prime Minister and also the King, are Catholic, and most of the schools and hospitals are run by RCs. There is considerable intolerance of Protestant work by some chiefs and officials, and Protestants sometimes suffer discrimination in schools and the health services. Pray for many to turn to a biblical faith.

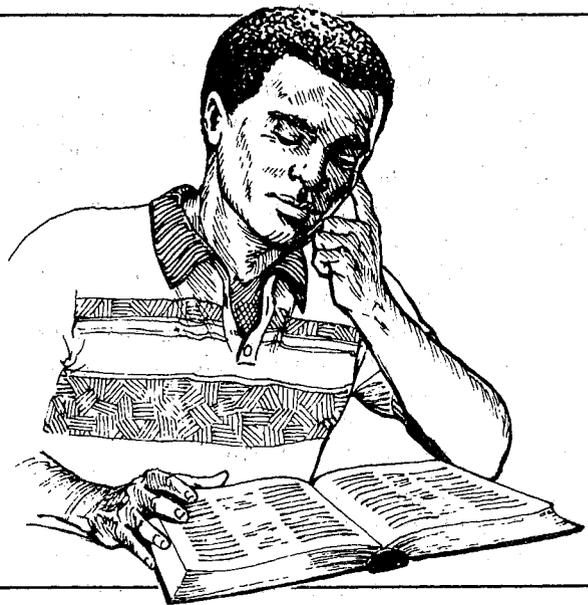
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

One day when heaven was filled with His praises,
 One day when sin was as black as could be,
 Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin,
 Dwelt among men; my example is He!
 One day the grave could conceal Him no longer,
 One day the stone rolled away from the door;
 Then He arose, over death He had conquered;
 Now is ascended, my Lord evermore!
 Living, He loved me; dying, He saved me;
 Buried, He carried my sins far away;
 Rising, He justified freely forever;
 One day He's coming, O glorious day!

WEEK EIGHT

—Saturday—

I enter into your appointment with me in eager anticipation. Comfort my heart!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The Lord’s right hand is lifted high; the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things! I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done. The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death” (Psa. 118:16-18). A reference to your right hand is usually (if not always) associated with triumph or deliverance. I am so glad you are interested in my struggles and defeats. When your right hand is lifted up we are lifted up with it. We can, and should, relate this Psalm to the experience of David — but like David we should exult in your personal interest in our trials.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

David’s very life was in danger — it is quite possible that word of his death had been sent out as a vicious rumor. It is one thing to thank you for our life — quite another to “proclaim what the Lord has done.” I have come within five minutes of death in recent months — it is now evident that “I shall live and not die” — such life has always been your gift — but never has it been more evident to me. For what purpose? That I might proclaim what you have done. Not only in giving me life — I do that — but in so many other areas of life. Dear Lord, may I fulfill your goodness for me.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

There is a certain finality to these words — your right hand *will* be lifted high — deliverance *will* come no matter what man does or does not do. But there is great blessing for those who cooperate and want to share or serve in this victory. I do not want to be a passive participant. Since you have given me my life I

want to use it for you. Forgive me for my unbelievable selfishness. “The devil tormented Job for his own purposes, but in reality the sorrows of the patriarch were chastisements from the Lord. The gardener prunes his best roses with most care.” Dear Lord, I am a long time learning this lesson.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

O to be like Thee! blessed Redeemer:
This is my constant longing and prayer;
Gladly I’ll forfeit all of earth’s treasures,
Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear.
O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee!
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art;
Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness;
Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁹When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.”

¹¹Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. —*John 21:9-14, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Jesus was not asking for fish when he asked the question. He was reinforcing their inability to catch fish

without him. He already had fish ready for their breakfast — along with some bread (could we say toast? Perhaps not.) If each man had two fish it would be sixteen (i.e. counting two also for our Lord) — there would be 15 pieces of bread. What conversation — could we call it “small talk” — went back and forth as our Lord prepared and served the breakfast? It was important that the large catch of fish not be lost — so Jesus asked them to pull them up on the shore.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Simon seems to be the first to respond to our Lord's questions or suggestions. He climbed into the boat and unfastened the net — with real effort he dragged the net ashore. The fish were many and the fish were large. Because John was an eyewitness and no one was in a hurry they counted them — did they report to our Lord, because he was so interested, that there were 153 of them? They could not believe it as they looked at the weight of the fish and the unbroken mesh in the nets — these were men who had pulled thousands of catches to shore.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the invitation of Jesus to breakfast — may I eat each meal with him! (2) Thank you for the united agreement of these seven men that “. . . it was the Lord.” (3) Thank you that Jesus is not only present at every meal but actually the host — i.e. the One who provides all we eat. (4) Thank you for the three blessed convincing appearances of my Lord to those who wanted to learn. (5) Thank you for the priceless privilege of being able to review over and over again each of the evidences of his deity.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“This now was the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.” The word “appeared” or “manifested” is a favorite of John — he used it 18 times. It means specifically his sudden physical supernatural appearance — a reference to his real character as the Son of God. If we count all the appearances or manifestations of our Lord this would be the seventh — but since he is referring to his appearance to his apostles we could indeed count this as the third appearance — the other two being in John 20:19-23 and 20:24-29 (the appearances to the 10 and 11 apostles). It ought to be noted that it is Jesus who initiates the action in each of his twelve appearances over the space of forty days. He is never an apparition or a hallucination but a very real person.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How easy it is to pray in the presence of the resurrected Lord: (1) When I land in heaven I expect just as big a surprise at what my Lord has prepared for each of his disciples — Lord keep me expectant and full of joy. (2) Jesus will no doubt ask us to show him all that was full of meaning to us here — may I be involved in that that will survive death. (3) No doubt we will have far more than we thought — i.e. you will show us the real value of what we have caught while in this sea of life — may I believe that today. (4) Somehow we will there be known and know even as today we are fully known — what a wonder to even now anticipate such an experience — increase my wonder.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

How sensitive should our ears be as we stand before One alive from the dead! (1) “You can know that I am alive — I have given you the eternal written word to confirm your faith.” (2) “I am always way ahead of you in anticipating your needs.” (3) “You can relive each of my twelve appearances — do it.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Liberia — Points for prayer: (1) The first Protestant churches served the needs of the freed slaves who founded Liberia. They were culturally isolated from the inland peoples and had little vision to evangelize them. Nominalism, secularism, immorality and alcoholism have been serious problems in the churches. Pray for revival. (2) The effects of the social upheavals since the 1980 revolution have been far-reaching. People are seeking a national identity and showing a renewed interest in both Islam and the gospel, and the power of the secret societies has begun to lessen. Pray for a decisive breakthrough of the Spirit.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Come, every soul by sin oppressed,
 There's mercy with the Lord,
 And He will surely give you rest
 By trusting in His word.
 Only trust Him, only trust Him,
 Only trust Him now;
 He will save you, He will save you,
 He will save you now.

WEEK NINE

—Sunday—

It is in this time of personal worship your salvation becomes real! I praise you for this privilege!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“O Lord, save us; O Lord, grant us success. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever” (Psa. 118:25,26,28, 29). When I consider this Psalm as a part of the songs sung at the feast of the tabernacles I get a fresh meaning for my heart. Tabernacles was to commemorate your care and protection in the forty years of wandering. There is no better cry in this wilderness journey than “O Lord, save us; O Lord, grant us success.”

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

If there ever was a timely text, this is it! We immediately relate these words to our Lord as he rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. “None can truly cry, ‘Save, I beseech thee,’ as those who have already participated in salvation; and the most prosperous church is that which most imploringly seeks prosperity” (*Spurgeon*). So it is that we who hail you as our King most imploringly ask that we might yield again today to your Lordship. *We are your house* — if any praise or adoration comes from your house it will be from our hearts through our mouths. I want to pause and recount your qualities in this text for which I praise you: (1) salvation; (2) success; (3) a personal God; (4) a generous giver; (5) good; (6) loving; (7) everlasting. Praise your name.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

This shall be a seven-fold confession: (1) Lead me to the brink of hell — or open just a crack in the door of heaven that I might appreciate what it means to be

saved. Forgive my dullness. (2) Forgive my perpetual desire to equate success with *things*. (3) How very, very impersonal you are to me at times — what an admission! Forgive me. (4) My asking over and over again belies my appreciation for what you have already given — forgive me. (5) Do I believe that you are *absolute goodness*? I do — but increase my faith. (6) All that you do or permit to happen is working together as an expression of your love — I want to believe this at night as well as the day. (7) I really cannot grasp the meaning of “everlasting” — help me!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name!
Let angels prostrate fall:
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹⁵When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

¹⁶Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

¹⁷The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸I tell you the truth,

when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”

¹⁹Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!” — *John 21:15-19, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is a homey comment, but it was after breakfast — after the apostles had eaten that Jesus took up the serious subjects in his conversation. When Jesus used the word “love” in verse 15 he spoke of the *agape* love you have for us. He asked Peter if this was the kind of love he had for him above that of any of the other six men present. Peter did not use the same word for love, but said in essence: “You know that I am your good friend.” Jesus is commissioning Peter in the presence of all. “Feed my lambs” i.e. the new Christians. The second time Jesus uses the same exalted word for love — Peter does not use it but repeats his friendship. This time Jesus asks him to feed the mature Christians — or “sheep.”

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I hope I have represented just what happened on that memorable day on the shores of Galilee — I feel as if I can hear him say to me: “do you love me?” My Lord is only asking Peter, and myself to love as he loved. In the long ago a poet penned these words that speak so eloquently to my heart:

I took Love to task: “Behold,” I said,

“How many a weary one
hath only straw to lie upon.”

“There will I lay my head,” said Love,
“’Tis straw I ask.”

I took Love to task: “Behold,” I said,

“How many thorns there be to rend and pierce
with treachery our lives.”

Love bent him down and took the thorns
and made of them a crown!

I took Love to task: “Behold,” I said,

“Yon gibbet with its burden dread.

“Hate reigns.” Love answered me,

“I found a throne like that on Calvary.”

I said to Love, “Thy law is much too hard,
I cannot follow thee.”

Love stretched forth mighty arms and said,
“Come, child, I’ll carry thee.”

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the priority on love given by our Lord. (2) Thank you for Peter’s willingness to declare himself publicly. (3) Thank you for the part we have in the commission to feed the lambs. (4) Thank you for the wonderful admission of Simon that his Lord knew all things.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, ‘Follow me!’ ” We wonder how old Peter was when he heard these words? He was probably about 40 to 45. We do not know when he died — it would seem from the record here that he was dead when John wrote in 90 A.D. Tradition has it that Peter obeyed the great commission and preached in Pontus and Galatia, even Bithynia and Cappadocia. He was crucified head downward in Rome, i.e. according to the same tradition.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Can I look into each verse and find a request for prayer? (1) Protect me from comparisons with others who are not responsible to me but to you. (2) Am I providing your food for your lambs? (3) I want to hear your words to me as did Peter — “do you truly love me?” (4) What real personal care do I give to your sheep? (5) I do want to embrace to my heart the little phrase “Lord, you know all things.” (6) Prepare me for the limitations of old age. (7) You know the kind of death I will die — prepare me for it.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these last words of my Lord I can hear him speak to me: (1) “Your love for me is measured in what you give to the lambs and sheep.” (2) “I may ask you several times in several ways to prove your love.” (3) “I know how and when you will die — don’t worry about it.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Libya — Points for prayer: (1) *No open evangelism is possible.* The last missionary outpost was closed in 1960. There is not one known group of Libyan Christians. No witness to the Berber or southern oasis peoples has ever been attempted. Pray Libya open for the King of Kings. (2) *The Christian Community is large, nominal and foreign.* There are some lively groups of evangelical Christians among the Western oil experts (Union and Anglican Churches), Korean construction workers (Presbyterians) and Pakistani laborers; but few are able to communicate with the indigenous majority. The tense political and security situation also hinders any witness by believers. Pray that the Word of God may have free course among both the expatriate communities and the indigenous peoples.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I have a Savior, He’s pleading in glory,
A dear loving Savior, though earth-friends be few;
And now He is watching in tenderness o’er me,
But O that my Savior were your Savior too!

WEEK NINE

—Monday—

*Calm my heart — give me your grace —
enlighten my understanding. All of this
I expect in this time of worship.*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart” (Psa. 119:1,2). In the past year and this one it shall be my purpose to look deeply into every verse in this longest of all the songs. What a rare blessed experience it is! Spurgeon said something full of meaning that I want to lift up as a meditation of praise before you: “Lovers of God’s holy words (and I surely count myself as one of them) are blessed because they are preserved from defilement (vs. 1), because they are made practically holy (vs.2 and 3), and are led to follow after God sincerely and intensely (vs. 2). It is seen that this holy walking must be desirable because God commands it (vs. 4) therefore pious souls pray for it (vs. 5), and feel that its comfort and courage must depend upon obtaining it (vs. 6)” (*ibid* Vol. VII, p. 11).

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I do lift these words up to you in a real desire to know the depth of meaning you have in them for my heart. I praise you for the blessedness you have promised over and over to the man whose life is the practical transcript of your will. In this first verse we find a benediction for all of life. This is the fundamental principle for every circumstance facing us. Thank you.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I want to look again into these blessed words. (1) It is possible to be “blameless” or you would not so often call me to it — forgive me and lift me. (2) You have a constant interest in my walk — your commandments

are NOT grievous — I *can* walk according to your law — enable me! (3) There is no repetition here — even if at first reading there seems to be — you ask me to: (a) *acknowledge* you in my ways; (b) *walk* according to your law; (c) and *keep* your statutes. Dear Lord, forgive me for my lack of seeking you with my whole heart.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp, and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²⁰Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) ²¹When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

²²Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.”

²³Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

²⁴This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

²⁵Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of

them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. — *John 21:20-25, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Did Jesus leave the seven men when he completed his encounter with Peter? So it would seem. At least in some manner Peter was following him and John followed after Peter. Peter turned to see John and impetuously asked: "Lord, what about him?" Jesus had just foretold Peter's future. He wanted Jesus to do the same for John. It was natural but it was out of order. The answer of Jesus has troubled his disciples ever since he gave it. John in commenting on it 60 years later does not explain it — but only repeats the words. Following my Lord is *the point* of his message to us — as to them.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I am so much — so very much like Peter as related to my fellow servants. How often have I asked: "Lord, what about him?" The reasons for my asking are about as varied as the possible reasons for the question of Peter. John in some sense remained alive until Jesus came. Is it possible we could also in some sense remain alive until he comes again? Of course if we are alive at his second coming we already know what we shall do — but in this other sense how shall we react? Was Jesus referring to his appearance to John on the lonely isle of Patmos? We then should react like John and welcome his presence with us — yea, *in us!*

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that I can turn all my anxiety about my brother over to you. (2) Thank you for the beautiful example of devotion I see in both these men. (3) Thank you for the priority my Lord placed on following him. (4) Show me ways to follow him for today — thank you for the answer. (5) Thank you that I really do not have a choice if I want to obey you — I *must* follow you. (6) Thank you for the use of the term "brothers" — i.e. "the brotherhood." (7) Thank you that we can expect our Lord's return as surely as did "the brothers."

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down." There are multitudes who have testified to the love and grace of our Lord — but we know nothing about them because they did not write it down. How eternally important it is to *write it down*. I do not necessarily enjoy writing — but I do enjoy communicating with generations yet unborn — or at least providing the possibility of doing so. It is

not in my talents in writing but in the message I write that I take pride. I am proud of my Lord! I want everyone to know him.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I want also to lift up my requests before your throne: (1) Deliver me from comparing myself with myself or others. (2) I want to rejoice in the faith and love of others. (3) I want to hear the words of Jesus "what is that to you" as if they were indeed spoken to me. (4) Deliver me from asking questions that have no answers — at least no answers in this life. (5) Keep me committed to written communication.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

The last words of anyone are important — how much more so are these last words of my Lord — speak to me through them: (1) "Curiosity is good when it is directed toward questions that have answers." (2) "There are 'brothers' or a 'brotherhood' today — you are a part of it." (3) "Are you ready if I should come today?"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Libya — Point for prayer: Alternative means for preaching the gospel: a) *Radio*. One of the only ways of directly reaching Libyans. *Trans Word Radio* (Monaco) is the key station for the area. *Radio School of the Bible (North Africa Mission)* is one of the most profitable programs. Follow-up is virtually impossible. Pray for eternal fruit. b) *Literature and cassettes* may enter only by devious means. Pray for the conversion of the censors! Bible Correspondence Courses by mail rarely get through. c) *Libyans overseas*. Refugees from totalitarianism, diplomats, students and businessmen could be introduced to Christ by believers in other lands.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and pow'r.
I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will take me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.

WEEK NINE

—Tuesday—

I need forgiveness — strength for my willingness — grace for my love. This I expect to find!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“They do nothing wrong; they walk in his ways. You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commandments” (Psa. 119:3-6). The ideal is before us — in the sight of men we might do nothing wrong — but how limited is the view man has of us — or we of them. We know in our hearts how far from the mark we fall! In the complete fulfillment of your precepts is the fulness of joy — satisfaction. We know both the precepts and the promise — but the ability to do so is not there.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

This is the prayer of the psalmist — a request for heaven’s ability to carry out heaven’s law. So do I pray: *“Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees.”* Unless you invade my will — my motivations — it shall not be done. But I remember the wonderful promise that if I work out you will work in! In my desire to work out my salvation you are all the while working in to accomplish your good pleasure in me. It is for such a personal interest and involvement I want to praise you today. In this promise “I shall not be put to shame when I consider all your commandments.”

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

In an objective consideration of several men and women I could say of them, “As far as I know ‘they do nothing wrong — they walk in your ways’ ” — but such is not at all their estimate of themselves. I can relate very easily with them. Such is not my estimate of myself! My ways are not steadfast. I need

— so much — your forgiveness! I praise you for the victories you have given — but I must also freely — fully admit that I am terribly ashamed of my willful failure in obeying your commandments. However — it is a sudden joy to know all is washed and cleansed and new — such is your forgiveness! Bless your name!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I hear the Savior say,
 “Thy strength indeed is small,
 Child of weakness, watch and pray,
 Find in Me thine all in all.”
 Jesus paid it all,
 All to Him I owe;
 Sin had left a crimson stain,
 He washed it white as snow.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.” —Matthew 28:16-20, NIV; read also I Cor. 15:6; Mark 16:15-18.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

We agree with many who say in essence: “The meeting attended by so large a number as stated by

Paul was most probably that which Jesus had appointed, and could be held on an appointed mountain without attracting the attention of unbelievers. The commission in Mark may perhaps be reckoned the same as Matthew's." Dear Lord, although unnamed by the gospel writers I want to join that crowd of 500 who saw our Lord after his passion. I will almost involuntarily fall at his feet in worship.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

"... but some doubted." Who were they? We need not look further than the mirror. It isn't that we do not believe he is alive after his suffering — but it is all so new — strange — different. Our Lord confirms such wavering faith with two facts: (1) His universal, unlimited authority — yea, his cosmic authority — not only over all the earth but all authority also in heaven. (2) That there would be signs or miracles to accompany their efforts in spreading the glad tidings. The book of Acts is a historical fulfillment of such a promise.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for everyone of the twelve apostles — so human and yet so faithful. (2) Thank you for the unnamed multitude who also gathered to see him. (3) Thank you for those who obeyed his marching orders. (4) Thank you for the many women who were undoubtedly among the crowd. (5) Thank you for the many appearances of my Lord, all of which make his claims so real. (6) Thank you that I can claim the same faith today that these men had in the first century. (7) Thank you most of all for your very self which makes all this possible.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." The command to go is based squarely on the authority of Jesus. He could have said "Go because you see the terrible need" — or "Go because of the value of the message you have to give" — or even "Go because in going you will be fulfilled." All of these fall short of the motivation behind his authority. If we really believe (as the disciples did) that our Lord does indeed have all authority both in all of heaven and over all of earth then we will obey him — and not before. Having authority and expressing authority are two very different things. His authority is understood and accepted in the preaching of the gospel. How essential then are we disciples!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I want to stand with the eleven on the hill in Galilee and hear him speak to me — I then can better speak to you through him in prayer: (1) May I take as seriously all your commands as the eleven did. (2) I am glad to worship you dear Lord, teach me how better to express my worship. (3) Remove all doubt from my mind through a demonstration of just who you are — I want to read again the whole record of your life. (4) May your will be done on earth even as it is now being done in heaven. (5) How I do want to be your teacher — i.e. teach on your behalf — but you will first need to teach me.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I yield to your authority — gladly do I do so — speak to me: (1) "The nations are yet waiting for someone to teach them." (2) "You have more reason to go today than ever before — there are more people." (3) "... surely I will be with you always to the very end of the age."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Liechtenstein — Points for prayer: (1) *Liechtenstein is one of the last remaining vestiges of the Holy Roman Empire.* Few have ever heard of the necessity of a personal faith in Christ. (2) *There is not a single fully evangelical fellowship functioning in the country.* The three Protestant congregations are liberal or Adventist; there are several committed believers within these. In 1985, the first open evangelistic campaign ever held was organized by an international team of British, Norwegian and Swiss believers. It was an exciting beginning with some seeking the Lord. Pray that groups of committed believers may emerge as a result.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?
 Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
 Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour?
 Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
 Are you washed in the blood,
 In the soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb?
 Are your garments spotless?
 Are they white as snow?
 Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

WEEK NINE

—Wednesday—

What a needy person I am. How very much I long for your peace to guard my heart. I enter worship to find your answer.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me” (Psa. 119:7,8). “From prayer to praise is never a long or a difficult journey. Be sure that he who prays for holiness will one day praise for happiness. . . . He cannot but promise praise while he seeks sanctification. Mark how well he knows upon what head to set the crown. ‘I will praise thee’ ” (Spurgeon, *ibid*, p. 18). My cause of praise is in response to what happens to us as we worship you. Produce through your love and forgiveness operating through your word an “upright heart.” Human dignity has its source in yourself. Praise and adoration is surely due!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

“We must learn to praise, learn that we may praise, and praise that we may learn.” In our learning we will praise and in our praising we will be learning. What a beautiful reciprocal action you have placed in these qualities. However — “Zeal which spends itself in singing, and leaves no practical residuum of holy living, is of little worth” (*ibid*). In the midst of this high resolve is the blunt fact that we so often fail in our commitment. Resolution and dependence are the twin qualities of holy living. It is difficult to understand how some men separate grace and forgiveness from the Old Testament text — we would all be “utterly forsaken” if it were not for your mercy and lovingkindness which endure forever.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Confession comes easy in the presence of your laws or decrees. My heart has not always been upright. Consi-

dered in the light of your absolute standard of what is right it has *never* been upright. I am ever learning and really never coming to a knowledge of the truth. My obedience — or at least my attempts at obedience — are a joke! I.e. if compared to what I find in total obedience. If I did not know you are Love and Mercy and full of compassion I would be utterly forsaken. All you have from or in your children is a sincere desire to do your will. I do praise you that such a desire springs eternal from my heart to yours.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise.
Father, all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁴⁴He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” —Luke 24:44-49, NIV; read also Acts 1:3-8; I Cor. 15:7.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

We do not know the physical circumstances of your Son's appearance. It was probably in Jerusalem — sometime after he appeared to James (I Cor. 15:7). It would be well to project ourselves back to the wonderful short record of Jesus' coming to his own half-brother James. Jesus had three half-brothers — how is it he did not appear to Judas or Simon? Perhaps it is idle to speculate. The epistle James wrote might give us some hint. Here was a man who once convinced would put his whole life into what he believed. He could not imagine faith without works. Dear Lord, I want to be like him.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How much I wish I could have heard my Lord's conversation with Peter or James — but such appearances and conversations are intentionally private. I can know what he said to the eleven during the forty days — and in particular what he said on this special occasion. How detailed must have been the discussion of the references made by Moses, the prophets and the Psalms concerning him. There are only 12 appearances recorded by the gospel writers. Were there others? Did he linger long with these men as he opened their minds that they might understand the Scriptures? We believe he did.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the very evident inspiration of the Scriptures as found in fulfilled prophecy. (2) Thank you that we have in written form the things you told your apostles while with them — how eternally important they are! (3) Thank you that you can and do open our minds today that we too might understand the same texts. (4) Thank you for the suffering of my King in my place. (5) Thank you for the wonder of his resurrection. (6) Thank you for my Lord's present office of intercession. (7) Thank you for repentance and remission or forgiveness of sins.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"I am going to send you what my Father has promised. . . ." By a reference to Luke's second treatise (1:4) we learn that specifically the promise of the Father was the Baptism in the Holy Spirit — or the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Generically there were so many things Jesus could send from the Father — or the Father could send through his Son. Such as: (1) the confident hope of eternal life; (2) a place prepared for us in his house; (3) the Holy Spirit to live in our bodies; (4) forgiveness of all our sins. How expedient then was it that Jesus return to heaven. If he had not died, rose again and ascended

to your presence none of these eternal blessings would be ours. Thank you for what he did!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

It is real joy to pray with these verses as a guide: (1) I want to rejoice in the fulfillment of each promise made concerning our Lord. (2) Grant me time and motivation for reading the books of Moses that I might see him. (3) The prophets say so much to me — grant wisdom as I read their words. (4) I count it a rare privilege to each day read a portion of the Psalms — I often read of you and rejoice. (5) By your presence and your wisdom open my mind in understanding what I read in your book. (6) Enlighten my mind as to the vast importance you have placed on the city of Jerusalem.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As I pause at your feet speak to me from these verses:

(1) "Even my twelve apostles could not serve until they were 'clothed with power from on high' — you too must be equipped to serve." (2) "All things necessary for the salvation of the whole world have been fulfilled — except my commission." (3) "The Scriptures await understanding by most of the world yet today."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Luxembourg — Points for prayer: (1) *The land is Catholic by tradition and culture;* revolutionary changes in the Church elsewhere have passed it by, and few have clearly heard the gospel in their own language. Pray for the spiritual liberation of this land. (2) *Evangelical Christians are a very small minority* within the already small, but nominal, Luxembourg and foreign Protestant community. There are more Jehovah's Witnesses than born-again believers. Pray for the small fellowships of the Free Church, Menonites, Assemblies of God and Baptists, and for the four Reformed Congregations. Pray that there may soon be a strong indigenous body of believers as most are scattered and lack real fellowship. There is a handful of expatriate Christian workers in the country and some who make visits from surrounding countries.

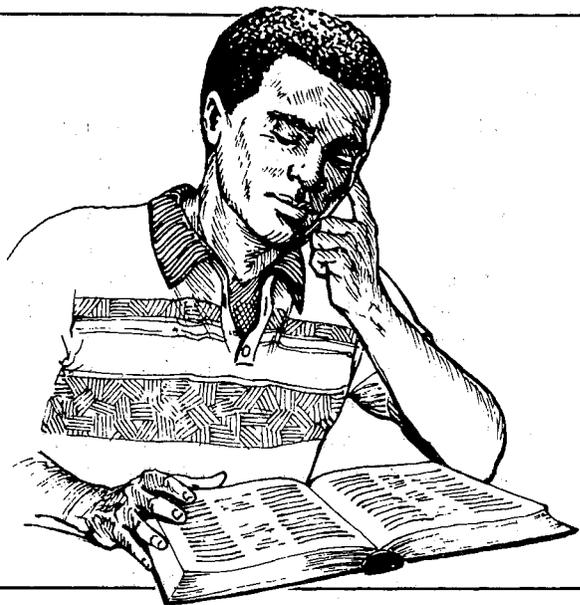
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Speed away, speed away on your mission of light,
To the lands that are lying in darkness and night;
'Tis the Master's command; go ye forth in His name,
The wonderful gospel of Jesus proclaim;
Take your lives in your hand,
to the work while 'tis day,
Speed away, speed away, speed away.

WEEK NINE

—Thursday—

To will is present, but to do that which is good is not. Help me — deliver me. My worship is my strength through you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. . . . Praise be to you, O Lord; teach me your decrees. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth” (Psa. 119:9,12,13). To every young man who has become a Christian (not necessarily every young man who has joined a church) such a question faces him. He wants to keep his way pure — as pure as he can. We see another facet of your wonderful character — you can and do keep us pure. How? “By living according to your word.” But this becomes nothing more than an idle axiom without your presence to help us.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I can say with the psalmist: “Praise be to you, O Lord,” you have indeed taught me. I have been so many times a very reluctant student but you are a persistent teacher. There *must* be a reciprocal action here or nothing is taught or learned. I want to gladly acknowledge that it is your instruction and not my recounting of your laws that causes learning to happen. By your providential arrangement of circumstance you have so often placed me in the environment where I could learn your laws — where I could take heed to your decrees. I have found the promise of pureness so very true!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I had not known sin except by the law. “For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, ‘Do not covet.’ But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire” (Romans 7:7b,8). Every

man, young or old, has experienced this bondage. Who shall deliver us? The answer of Paul is my answer: “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (He shall deliver us). It is not only through forgiveness — but by his indwelling presence in the person of the Holy Spirit — by creating a desire to do your will we come to know by living what your will is in our lives.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

All the way my Savior leads me:
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my Guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, whate’er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well;
For I know, whate’er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁵⁰When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.

⁵¹While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. —Luke 24:50-53, NIV.

¹⁹After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. ²⁰Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. —Mark 16:19,20, NIV; read also Acts 1:9-12.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How exceedingly familiar are these words to me. I have led forty classes of students in as many years through a careful look at every word. At the same time they are new and fresh and alive — they shall never lose their power because they come from your heart to mine. It was “before their very eyes” these momentous events took place. The two men (angels) in white knew the eleven better than they knew themselves. And so it is today. What a glorious promise that he will come back in the same way he left. I look for him even now!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I see him as he lifted up his hands to bless these men — dear living Savior bless me — even now! What great joy filled their hearts — what eager anticipation as they waited for the coming of the Other Comforter. The words of Mark are most significant: “Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by signs that accompanied it” (Mark 16:20). These men did not work by themselves — you were with them — in them — ahead of them — above them. It is such a comfort to know we are workmen together with you and you with us!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the definite geographical location of the place of his ascension. (2) Thank you that I can return in my imagination to that very time and place. (3) Thank you that I have as much reason — or more — to worship you today as they did on the Mount of Olives. (4) Thank you that we can indeed “pray without ceasing” — we surely have reason to do so. (5) Thank you for every day I have been able to worship you in the meditation on the life of my Lord.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*And they stayed continually at the temple praising God.*” This at least included the Jewish hours of prayer — i.e. 9 A.M., 12 noon, and 3 o’ clock in the afternoon. Did they go at other times into the temple just to personally spend time worshipping? We like to believe they did! How often do we today refer to the church building as the Jews did the temple. A constant reference to the meeting place as “the house of God” — even when we know it is not — is a self-defeating attitude on our part. We individually and collectively are the house of God. But this is not the worst problem. We equate attendance at public meetings with faithfulness. We can as the temple of God be continually blessing and worshipping your name.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these last words of the gospel accounts we can surely find reasons for prayer: (1) Dear Lord, bless me in meeting the needs of my heart for today. (2) I am anxious to share the glory you have with your Father — keep my hope bright. (3) Lead me into more meaningful worship in the hours of this day. (4) I want to press on to the new Jerusalem with great joy! (5) How I need a deeper sensitivity toward your coming again. (6) Maranatha — even so come Lord Jesus.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

It has been a long journey from the first reference in the gospels to this present hour — you have said so many precious things to me through these words — what do you say here? (1) “Have you been looking into heaven and all the while forgetting the lost world around you?” (2) “I could come today — perhaps in the next hour.” (3) “Return to the tasks of this day with the great joy of my coming on your heart.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Macao (Portuguese Overseas Province, returning to China in 1999) — Points of prayer: (1) Unreached peoples: a) The nearly 200,000 refugees from the PRC and Vietnam have suffered much and are open to the gospel. b) The 12,000 Burmese refugees still use their home language. There is now one growing church among them. c) the Macanese and Portuguese are staunchly Catholic, but have little personal experience of the gospel. d) Those in the entertainment industry — so full of vice. (2) The Protestant Church is small, introspective and weakened by emigration and high turnover of leadership. What a mission field for Hong Kong Christians! Macao’s first Bible school was opened in 1982 and has 16 students. (3) Macao was the first base for Protestant missions in China. Today it is one of the most needy but open fields for missions in Asia. Witnessing in this idolatrous, sinful territory is not easy.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

It may be at morn, when the day is awaking,
When sunlight thro’ darkness and shadow is breaking,
That Jesus will come in the fullness of glory,
To receive from the world “His own.”

O Lord Jesus, how long, how long
Ere we shout the glad song, Christ returneth!
Hallelujah! hallelujah! Amen,
Hallelujah! Amen.

WEEK NINE

—Friday—

*I so need your power to enable me.
Worshiping before you is the answer to
this need!*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Power: It will not be difficult to praise your wonderful self for your stupendous *power* in the physical world. The ten million galaxies testify to your infinite *power* — the smallest flower — and every molecule of matter has an eloquent voice. Pervasive — omnipotent — wonderful — eternal — reoccurring is your power. Bless your total beautiful person.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Power. For *me!* How I need this quality for myself! According to your everlasting power and divinity — according to the power that worketh in me, both to will and to do! Oh, to know your wonderful presence in and through and above. *Power* to live as well as do — to be all you want me to be.

How do you personally relate to the power of God, and God who is Power? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How easy it is to lie! Dear God, I am guilty — forgive — cleanse — remove! To misrepresent in any way is a lie! To claim more than is really a fact — to mix desire with truth is a lie. Dear, dear God, wonderful Savior. I claim thy cleansing blood! Oh, to always match words and deeds with reality! “Thou desirest truth in the inward parts.” This is where lying begins — forgive and set a guard on my lips.

What personal sins do you want to confess? There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Are you weary, are you heavy-hearted?
Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus;
Are you grieving over joys departed?
Tell it to Jesus alone.

Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus,
He is a friend that's well known;
You've no other such a friend or brother,
Tell it to Jesus alone.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” ⁶So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” —Acts 1:1-8, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I want to praise you for making your appearances so convincing — not only to those present, but for all who would come after them. I gladly read the record of Luke — praise you for such a beautiful treatise. I am convinced you are alive — you do live to love me and plead my case with our Father. Dear Savior, speak to me about your rule in the hearts of men. What would it be to eat with One who was alive from the dead? Wonder of wonders!

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I want to read this text all over again. Here are his words to his apostles about their soon-coming baptism in the Holy Spirit — as they waited in Jerusalem. What a wonder must have filled their hearts. I am not greatly surprised at the question of the apostles — perhaps I would have asked it too. Is our Savior saying the Holy Spirit is the motivation for talking about him? Wasn't it the resurrection that opened their mouths? The Holy Spirit gave them the power of speaking just the words God wanted (our Lord wanted), but his being alive after his suffering gave them (and me) the reason to speak. Dear God, I will witness of my living Lord today.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you: (1) I can be a "Theophilus" or a lover of God. (2) The gospel of Luke and the book of Acts is written to me today. (3) My Lord is alive and sees and hears *right now*. (4) For the wonderfully convincing proofs of his resurrection. (5) That he so thoughtfully made appearances: at night, in the morning, with 500, with one, in many, many varied circumstances. (6) He ate with them — a ghost does not eat. (7) The patience of my Lord with my ignorance and mistakes as with the disciples.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

My Lord chose me and you even as he did the twelve. Jesus spent all night in prayer before he chose the twelve. If we were examining their lives and backgrounds we might be tempted to think his prayer did him no more good than some of ours. But we know we are wrong — we are limited — we are faithless (about his prayer and ours). He looked at the whole person — the twelve men were all available. It wasn't their ability — it was their willingness. Dear Lord, I am willing, and I know you will make me more and more willing as I am willing to be willing. When I am thus yielded, you will work through me — and even in spite of me.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Let him speak to you and tell you what he wants. Pause before him and *ask!* (1) I do want to know everything my Lord did and said. (2) I want to learn all you taught your apostles. (3) I want to accept totally the evidence of your resurrection. (4) Dear God, may your kingdom — your rule — be in me. (5) I want to understand more fully the baptism in the Holy Spirit. (6) I want to be as patient with ignorant misunderstanding people as you were. (7) Dear God, I want to accept your "times and seasons" in my life. (8) I want the power to witness.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Pause with me before his throne of grace. What has he said to you in the last few minutes? (1) "You are 'God's lover' (Theophilus) today." (2) "You are his chosen one — his 'sent one' for today in your world." (3) "You can be and should be convinced of his being alive now."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Madagascar — Point for prayer: *Praise God for increased freedom for Christians* as the country moderates its Marxist rhetoric. Pray for this generation to be fully evangelized and for economic and political conditions that further this.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Come, friends, sing, of the faith that's so dear to me,
Revealed through God's Son, in Galilee;
He brought peace on earth
and good will to the sons of men,
Go tell it to the world, her King reigns again.
I am so happy in Jesus,
Captivity's Captor is He;
Angels rejoice when a soul's saved,
Some day we like Him shall be,
Sorrow and joy have the same Lord,
Valley of shadows shall sing;
Death has its life, its door opens in heaven, eternally,
Christ is King.

WEEK NINE

—Saturday—

*The wisest thing I have done is to enter
your presence with expectancy and joy.
This I do just now.*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Wisdom: How well does this word describe your very person. Wisdom is the best use of knowledge. You have put things together in every realm of life. How appropriate are your ways!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

You have been so very wise with me in all the years — yea, each day of my life. Whereas I cannot understand all the reasons yet it is a great source of comfort and strength to know you are working it out for my best interests. Praise your wonderful self that you are love — love and total WISDOM — what a combination!

How do you personally relate to the wisdom of God, and God who is Wisdom? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I freely and even gladly confess my need of cleansing. As often as my physical being needs soap and water for refreshment so does my spirit need confession and the blood of my Dear Lord to cleanse my conscience from dead works that I might rejoice in the Living God! I hide nothing — I am ashamed — but I am also forgiven. Praise his name! Rebuilding without repeating is the power of deep forgiveness.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

In the secret of His presence
how my soul delights to hide!
Oh, how precious are the lessons
which I learn at Jesus' side!

Earthly cares can never vex me,
neither trials lay me low;
For when Satan comes to tempt me,
to the secret place I go, to the secret place I go.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.
¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” —Acts 1:9-11, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Oh, how beautiful to stand with the eleven and watch your Son be lifted into the air — to try to feel as they felt and see as they saw. I want to enter into every thought and reaction. To *know right now* there are ministering spirits called angels; right in this room they are helping me. I accept their message to the eleven. He (your Son, my Lord) *is* coming back — praise your name!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Am I looking intently into the sky? I can and should — he will return as he went and I want to be found looking for him! O, Maranatha! “Even so *come* Lord Jesus!” I must be about my Lord’s business — but all the while I am asking if perhaps today he will come! Perhaps today! The same Jesus in the same way — praise your name!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Delight, delight thyself in the Lord! Indeed I do. To thank him: (1) for being so visible — tangible — real and leaving no doubt that you were here and that you left. (2) A cloud came to add beauty and perspective. (3) The white clothes of the angels — beautiful purity — so attractive and uplifting. (4) They know my name — who I am — where I am — oh, thank you! (5) He will come suddenly — visibly — bodily — to his own. Wonder of thanksgivings.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Notice how specific and personal all this account is: (1) “Their *very* eyes” — angels, our Lord and our Father are all interested in our very eyes, very ears and very brain — and very hands and your very feet — and mine. (2) They were looking *intently* — the focus of amazement and total interest — how good to give that same kind of interest to my Lord in prayer and the reading of his word. Dear Lord, help me never, never to lose the focus of amazement! (3) “. . . two men dressed in white stood *beside* them” — not just there — nor in heaven — but close to them — because they needed such close attention and proximity. He is “with me” — “beside me” — *right now!* and “in me” — and beneath me — and above me — and ahead of me — and behind me. I am comforted and secure!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What requests arise out of this text? Make these as personal as possible. Such as: (1) May I lift my eyes often to heaven in expectation of his return. (2) I want to look at clouds with a new meaning — he will return on them. (3) May I see him with the eyes of my heart even as he is alive and full of power. (4) May I not hinder your angel’s ministry to me. (5) Help me be busy in what you have given me to do for today. (6) I believe the angel’s message — help my unbelief. (7) Maranatha — come Lord Jesus!

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Allow these words to penetrate your deepest consciousness. He says to me through this text: (1) “I am alive and personally interested in you.” (2) “Do not wait when I have clearly commanded you.” (3) “I could come back today.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Malawi — Points for prayer: (1) *Praise God for relative peace, freedom for the gospel, and receptivity of the people.* Surrounding lands have suffered from wars, famines, and restrictions on the preaching of

the gospel. Pray for future stability. (2) *Malawi is probably the most receptive country in central Africa.* Years of evangelical witness in many areas . . . and a multiplicity of prayer groups and house meetings are part of the reason. The gospel is reaching into every section of society, and in places there is a revival atmosphere. (3) *Full-time workers are too few to reap the harvest* and conserve it in the churches. The relative poverty of most rural congregations means that few can afford to support an adequately trained full-time pastor.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heav’nly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul and sing
Of Him who died for thee;
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

WEEK TEN

—Sunday—

Grace describes your attitude toward me and your strength within me. I gladly enter this time of worship to receive your grace!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Grace: Oh, wonder of wonders! God is full of unearned favor! All the earth and the heaven of the heavens is his handiwork — and they owe him all they have and are. He has freely given us all things — this is his very nature and how I praise him that such is true. We do not deserve it but he is love and that love is expressed in giving — all is undeserved — grace upon grace.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Grace to me! for me — in me — oh, the beauty of it all! How I love him. I can surely confess my own unworthiness. I am the object and example of his nature in eternal goodness undeserved! I want to respond adequately to all he is in this the grandest of his qualities. We are saved by grace — kept by grace and debtors of grace. Bless and worship him forever!

How do you personally relate to the grace of God, and God who is Grace? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Oh, how I need a guard upon my lips. Why, oh, why do I speak when I should be silent? It is because of what is in man — out of my heart comes the words — cleanse my heart — deeply cleanse and purify. “Stealing” — I have not been tempted to take possessions — but taking that which belongs to another of praise or credit — or recognition — Dear Lord, make me pure within!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

'Tis the blessed hour of prayer,
when our hearts lowly bend,
And we gather to Jesus,
our Savior and Friend;
If we come to Him in faith,
His protection to share,
What a balm for the weary!
O how sweet to be there!
Blessed hour of prayer,
Blessed hour of prayer;
What a balm for the weary!
O how sweet to be there!

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. —Acts 1:12, NIV

³⁰Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book, ³¹but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. —John 20:30,31, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Oh, how expectant they were as they returned from Olivet to Jerusalem. Dear God, I want to be just that open to your coming again as I move toward the New Jerusalem. How far is it to the New Jerusalem? Only you know — but I am excited — humbled — full of wonder. Such humble men you used to establish the church — the “called ones” — of your Son. I take courage that you could and can and will use me.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

The marvelous signs Jesus did have convinced me — I

am saved. I have nothing but amazement when I read the whole record of the gospel of John. I do believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of your very self! I claim the new life of heaven he has given me. In the presence of his learners he did all the signs or miracles recorded by John — may I again and again stand with them and behold and wonder and believe and live!

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

It would seem I can never thank you enough — I know such is true: (1) I thank you for Jerusalem and all it has meant and does mean through all these centuries to millions of people. (2) That there is yet a little chain of hills one of which is Olivet where our Lord ascended — there is a real physical, geographical place from which he left for your house. (3) It is really not very far at all to the New Jerusalem when we consider time in the light of eternity. (4) There are hundreds of other miracles I can ask John about when I get to see him in heaven.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Gather around the family circle and answer five questions. We will only give a brief answer — you read the questions: (1) Our Lord asked them to meet him in Galilee. He has asked us to meet him at his table of remembrance. (2) Teach them — baptize them — teach them again — accept by faith his presence. (3) To be baptized or clothed in the Holy Spirit. (4) He ascended into the sky — what a wonder and amazement — even now he is alive praying for us before God. (5) That we might believe and live eternally in heaven.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

We let these requests arise from the text itself! (1) I want to journey to the New Jerusalem with the apostles' eager anticipation. (2) From where I am today I want to move toward you conscious of your presence. (3) Dear Lord, help me to read again the advertisement of your deity. (4) Help me to be a real learner. (5) Do I appreciate what it means to read a book 2,000 years old? I *want* to. (6) I want to make Jesus king in my home and school. (7) Help me to understand "eternal life."

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Out of these two texts he says to me: (1) "Return to your job with joy and hope!" (2) "Reread the gospel of John." (3) "Believing produces life or death. Which will it be?"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Malaysia — Points for prayer: (1) *The Muslim half of the population* has been politically and socially divided through an extremist minority pressing for radical Islamic reforms. This has brought stress to the whole country, an acceleration of Muslim missionary activities among non-Muslims and also discriminatory legislation and actions against non-Muslims. Pray for inter-racial harmony and true freedom of religion. (2) *A creeping erosion of freedom of religion by the Muslim authorities* has limited Christian activities and outreach. Many Chinese, Indian and tribal Christians have been over-intimidated by the turn of events.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Face to face with Christ, my Savior,
Face to face — what will it be?
When with rapture I behold Him,
Jesus Christ who died for me,
Face to face I shall behold Him,
Far beyond the starry sky;
Face to face in all His glory,
I shall see Him by and by!

WEEK TEN

—Monday—

Kindness — expressed in so many little, but important ways! This is my portion from you. Speak to me again as I bow before you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Mercy: Mercy is unearned, unmerited personal kindness — how often has such described your dealing with me? 10,000 times 10,000! Mercy is a quality constant — with all the world and all creatures below it will finally be shown that mercy was given in every case. When all the facts are in for proper evaluation, it will be mercy we see and for which we will praise you throughout an endless eternity — not of constraint but gladly.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Mercy for me, to me, how infallibly true this is. I have been so unworthy of your goodness and love to me — I have earned wrath and received mercy — by thy goodness lead me to a change of mind. To not respond in deep joy would be a sad admission of need — but even there wrath would be mixed with mercy. Dear God, how I love you for this quality. How often we do need mercy!

How do you personally relate to the mercy of God, and God who is Mercy? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gossip: Confession is an attitude as well as an act. In specific, I have a temptation here and sin here. I need forgiveness — and claim it — praise your name for freedom and cleanness. What a wonder and joy through being washed — I can be moved to stop it by a knowledge of how far reaching is the effect of such a sin.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit;
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. —Acts 1:12,13a, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How thoughtful it was for our Lord to appear for forty days after his resurrection. I wish I could have been present in every one of the appearances — and in a sense I can be! I have the clear imperishable record of each appearance. I can look and look at the ascension of my Lord as represented by the artist — and this helps — but only your presence in person in heaven will answer all my questions.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I wonder what the eleven talked about as they walked through the gate of the city? What is John saying to Peter — James to Andrew? They must have shared again and again the wonder and expectation found in the promise of the soon-coming baptism in the Holy Spirit. Up the familiar stairs into the room — was it the same room of the last supper? Is that John Mark and Mary on the porch? Oh, dear Savior, I love you and want to serve you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

It will be easy to read these two verses with thanksgiving: (1) Thank you dear Lord that you kept your word about your death, resurrection and ascension — every word came to pass even as you said. (2) Thank you for the very humanness of this whole account — wonder — doubt — personal exchange — walking — visiting — and yet in the very presence of deity! (3) For the upper room — the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark — the place of the last supper — the place for prayer.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Has the Lord ever appeared to me over a period of forty days: one month and nine or ten days? Why not set an appointment with him every four days during forty days? Review his appearances and write out your expression of worship on each of these days. Let's see what could happen in renewed love and faith. Start on a Lord's day early in the morning — go with the women to the tomb — prepared to anoint his body only to be startled and overjoyed that the tomb is open and empty — there is an angel there! Read Mark 16:9-14; Luke 24:11-31 and John 20:1-11 and 21:4-23 and meet him all over again!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

If my requests come directly from your word and reflect its intent I *know* you will answer. I do want to so ask of you. (1) Help me just for today to walk conscious you are "with me always." (2) Make me aware of my limitations and your provisions. I am so much like the twelve. (3) May I find an "upper room" where I can often go to wait before you. (4) Help me to be like Peter: quick to repent. (5) May I be like John: full of love. (6) I want to be like James: faithful till death. (7) Oh, to be like Andrew and bring someone to Jesus.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

You are speaking to me through these verses: (1) "My word is so detailed and accurate you can accept it for what it says." (2) "You must accept all the limitations of men today as I did with the twelve." (3) "Sometimes waiting is a command."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Malaysia — Points for prayer: (1) Pray that: a) Believers may humbly, lovingly, but firmly stand for their heavenly right to proclaim the gospel. b) Christians may obey God rather than man, even if this may mean discomfort or material loss. c) There may be unity among churches in common matters affecting

the practice and propagation of religion in the multiracial and multireligious Malaysian context. The Christian Federation of Malaysia formed in 1984 may help in this. (2) *Malay is now the only national language*, and all education is in this medium. This has forced non-Malay speaking congregations to adapt, Christian literature to be written in Malay, and the Bible to be translated and printed in modern Malay. Pray that this may help non-Malay Christians to make a greater impact on the unreached Malay people. The transition has been difficult for Christians, but presents great opportunity for the gospel. (3) *Leadership training* is of added importance as the missionary force declines.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Fairest Lord Jesus! Ruler of all nature!
O Thou of God and man the Son!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown!

WEEK TEN

—Tuesday—

What is absolute — total kindness? Ah, it is yourself! It is also such an encouragement. I want to learn in the closet what I express in public!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Kindness: To contemplate yourself as total kindness is such a beautiful thought! Kindness is much like mercy: it is meeting human need wherever you find it. How fully does this describe what you do every day for everyone! Your thoughtful kindness is giving rain — fruitful seasons — the beauty of flowers, birds and insects — the compassion of a mother — the warmth of the sunshine; then when the kindness of God our Savior appeared in the person of your Son we all knew the ultimate of thoughtful mercy.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Kindness to me — such a surprise and delight is your kindness. When I deserve justice you offer me kindness. Praise your glorious name — your goodness is to give me opportunity to recognize the source of all those good gifts and so begin to live soberly, righteously and in the presence of yourself. Dear God, I do so respond. May I be as kind to others as you are to me.

How do you personally relate to the kindness of God, and God who is Kindness? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Of all my sins the sin of unkindness is at the same time both the easiest and the most difficult to confess. It is easy to admit I have been thoughtlessly, selfishly unkind — it is more than difficult to tell why. My life has been cast in the midst of those who love me — in the center of an abundance of good things — why, oh why, should I ever be selfish and mean? Forgive me — but open my eyes to a deeper need: to stay humble-minded.

What personal sins do you want to confess?

We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Abide with me, fast falls the even tide,
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) — *Acts 1:13b-15, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Oh, to look into the faces of these eleven men and to know you were able to use them in spite of all their imperfections (sins). Each of them was precious and important to you. These men gave themselves to prayer, continued steadfastly in prayer — what does this mean? Prayer was such an important part of their life. Dear God, dear God, I want it to be so with me!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

In prayer and worship I come to read these words — ignite them, let them burn into my heart. All of these persons were steadfast in prayer, i.e. with energy and purpose. May I so pray — I do commit myself to so pray! How much Mary had to pray about! How much

our Lord's brothers (whether in the flesh or Spirit) had to pray about! How much I have about which to pray.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

How easy this is to do: (1) For Peter and John — *action and thought*; (2) James and Andrew — *judgment and evangelism*; (3) Philip and Thomas — *sincerity and caution*; (4) Matthew and Bartholomew — *Jewishness and the unknown*; (5) James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot — the *fisherman and the patriot*; (6) Judas the son of James — not all men named Judas were Iscariot. Thank you for blessed Mary, our Lord's brothers, thank you for the unnamed one he added.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers." What an important meeting this was! For what did these men and women pray? It has always been difficult for me to believe they prayed for what Jesus had promised them — i.e. the baptism in the Holy Spirit (1:5). To pray for a promise reflects on the integrity of the One who made the promise and the faith of those to whom the promise was made. All were sure something wonderfully unusual was about to happen and they wanted to be ready for it. I believe we have surely sold *"the women and Mary the mother of Jesus"* short — they prayed — they waited — they followed — they believed — when many others did not.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How I do *want* to make my requests the fulfillment of your desire for me: (1) Make me as bold as Peter. (2) Make me as deeply repentant as Peter. (3) Give me the holy wonder and love for you that filled the heart of John. (4) James, our Lord's brother (not the James of the text), became a believer who worked — who produced — I want to be like him. (5) Andrew, an unselfish, sharing man — oh, to be like him! (6) Philip saw God in Jesus — so may I. (7) All of these men learned from your Son — I am his disciple — teach me Lord!

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Just as if he had pronounced the words, I listen from the text — speak Lord, thy servant heareth: (1) "If these men could believe and give their lives — and

they did! for what are you waiting?" (2) "Accept gladly the service and work of women — your Lord did!" (3) "Learn all you can from Mary the mother of Jesus."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Maldives — Points for prayer: (1) *Are the Maldivians the least evangelized people on earth?* There are no Scriptures available, no Christian radio programs, there have never been any resident missionaries, and there are no known Maldivian Christians on the islands. (2) *There is a deep suspicion of Christianity* which has been enhanced by tactless actions of Christians in the past. Pray for the removal of prejudices, and for the true message of Christ to be heard and understood. (3) *There are a few expatriate Christians residing in the country* as professionals or supervising aid programs. Some have a personal faith; pray that they may earn opportunities to tactfully share it.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Down at the cross where my Savior died,
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried;
There to my heart was the blood applied;
Glory to His name.
Glory to His name, Glory to His name;
There to my heart was the blood applied;
Glory to His name.

WEEK TEN

—Wednesday—

“Patience” — what a beautiful word. How much I need it! Only you can create this capacity in me — I wait and worship in your presence.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Patience or longsuffering. I was in camp yesterday and *my* longsuffering patience was tested as to time and place for devotion. I praise your name I was able to meet with you — not as I wished — but during the day I praised you and indeed, in you I live and move and have my very being. Your patience with me is a wonder to behold. Your longsuffering with all mankind calls forth praise.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Patience for myself and your love to me for all the most poor ways — sinful — selfish ways I have insulted your goodness — indeed — I am saved by your patience. Blessed be your name!

How do you personally relate to the patience of God, and God who is Patience? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

To be truly, honestly, deeply *humble* in spirit — “poor in Spirit” is my goal in life. I do want to open up to you in sincere gut-level admission of my need — to be washed — cleansed — made whiter than snow! To be clean from the *inside*. Blessed be your name. I claim your newness.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Break Thou the bread of life,
Dear Lord to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves
Beside the sea;

Beyond the sacred page
I seek Thee Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee,
O Living Word.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹⁶and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus — ¹⁷he was one of our number and shared in this ministry.” ¹⁸(With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is Field of Blood.)

²⁰“For,” said Peter, “it is written in the book of Psalms,

“ ‘May his place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in it,’
and,

“ ‘May another take his place of leadership.’”

²¹Therefore it was necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.” —Acts 1:16-22, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The Holy Spirit spoke through the Scriptures as David wrote them. I do take great courage and strength from this thought! Judas was described long before he was born. Dear Lord, how could he do it? i.e. betray your Son? He was and is much like all of us. Our Lord called him and taught him and loved him. Judas prepared for his own death and burial. He sold your dear Son so cheaply — but for no less than we have sold him — time and again.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Judas fell headlong and opened up himself for all to see — a tragic, pathetic, unsightly spectacle. When I betray and sell out my Lord I am preparing the same kind of end for myself. What shall they call the record of my life? What shall men remember about me? Much more important, what will you say? Of Judas it was said — “May his place be deserted; let no one dwell in it — may another take his place of leadership” — may it never, never be so said of me.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Ten expressions of thanksgiving from this text: (1) For the wonderful Scriptures; (2) For David; (3) For the Holy Spirit; (4) For our Lord's patience and love with those who betrayed him; (5) For the law of sowing and reaping; (6) For the wonderful detail of fulfilled prophecy; (7) For outstanding sinners who warn us all; (8) That there are others to carry on when others betray and die; (9) For the preparation of every apostle; (10) That the apostles were all eyewitnesses of what they preached.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

The wonderful march of servants who remain faithful in spite of those who desert and leave. Notice: (1) The record from Genesis to Revelation is that God carries on if man does fail. Many have failed but neither the gates of death nor man's failure prevails against his “called out ones;” (2) We can hear and not hear, learn and not be taught, be loved and not return the love; (3) Gain at the expense of truth and suffer a terrible loss; (4) There *are* others who can take your place.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

These requests arise from your word: (1) I want your word to find fulfillment in my life. (2) I want my life to find fulfillment in your scriptures. (3) Dear Lord, deliver me from any form of betraying my Savior. (4) May I receive with joy the portion you have given me in your service. (5) Keep me aware that others will use what I leave when I die — for good or evil. (6) Keep me humble like a child. (7) Make me your witness today.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I open my heart — speak to me through your word: (1) “Another can and will take your place if you are faithless.” (2) “I have infinite patience — but there is

an end.” (3) “I could have changed Judas any time he was willing” — so it is with me!

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mali — Points for prayer: (1) *This land is wide open for the gospel*; missionaries are welcome, but the laborers are so few. For years there were only four Protestant missions. Other missions have entered since 1980, but this is still a needy pioneer field. (2) *The Sahel famine has been a major disaster. Famine relief given by Christians has brought an openness to the gospel and an increasing response.* Yet political change or Muslim pressure could alter this. Pray that present opportunities may not be lost by default. Pray for agencies involved in famine relief, that they may contribute both to the long-term well-being of the people and to the planting of churches.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

So precious is Jesus, my Savior, my King,
His praise all the day long with rapture I sing;
To Him in my weakness for strength I can cling,
For He is so precious to me,
For He is so precious to me,
For He is so precious to me;
'Tis Heaven below
My Redeemer to know,
For He is so precious to me.

WEEK TEN

—Thursday—

You are with me — yea, in me — even when I do not acknowledge it. But I want to sense your presence. My time in worship will help so much!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Presence: What an amazing quality to discuss! How much I want to enter fully into this attribute of yourself and appreciate more than ever before the fact that you are now present with me — in me — above me — before me — behind me — ahead of me — and what is true for me is true for all men. What a startling awesome fact! I want you to permeate all the atmosphere — all my being. As an invisible person you could be present and no one would know it — only those who sense, or are sensitive — are made aware of this reality. Only a few appreciate your presence.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Present for me. Dear God, this is one mind-staggering concept! That you as the almighty God are *here present!* I fall down before you like John of old. That you can see and hear and know totally all about me and be at the same time in me is such information I cannot assimilate. Will you make your presence known? Yes, yes, I could not write these words if you had not already told me you were present. I read it in your book. At the same time I want to practice your presence — I want to ask you to share my thoughts — every minute of the day — it can be done — I have thought that often about other things or people. Oh, present one, I love you!

How do you personally relate to the presence of God, and God who is present? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

One of the sins of all sins! to ignore your presence — to live and talk and think just as if you were not always there. To not include you in my conversation — to not look your way to gain your nod of approval or frown of disapproval. To talk on and on to others

and fail to talk with you or about you. I know, I know you are interested in all I say and do and want to help (in areas I so much need your help) but I fail to ask or seek your face. Dear Lord, forgive me, forgive me! *Deceit* is sin. This sin strikes so close to my heart. Dear God, I want to be open and transparent before men. (I know I am always open and known to you.) I fear men and their frown more than yours — forgive me — penetrate my conscience deeply.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper rev'rence, praise.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²³So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." ²⁶Then they drew lots, and the lot fell to Matthias, so he was added to the eleven apostles.
—Acts 1:23-26, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How I praise you for your interest in "Joseph called Barsabbas" — also known as "Justus." I will one day meet him and talk with him and he with me. How could he be selected from among so many? How could each one yet be just as important? — but they were and are. Dear God, it is a sobering and

penetrating thought that "You know everyone's heart," and yet I know you do!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How I need to pray about the hearts of men today. I commit these to you. I can not and do not know men on the inside. The lot will fall upon someone. The particular job you have for me has fallen from your hold upon me. Dear God, may I as confidently as Matthias take up the tasks you have given for just this day!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

I thank you: (1) For the ability to evaluate and decide; (2) For the friends and loved ones we can and do have in your service; (3) That it is *not* necessary to become jealous of others — your will is good for everyone. If we do not have this job we have a better one; (4) We can and should pray about the one the Lord wants for a job; (5) We can be confident God is at work in every changing circumstance of daily life.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

(1) The apostles felt a need and an opportunity to be continuously in the temple adoring and praising you. I feel the same need and opportunity. (2) Mary and our Lord's brothers — the women were praying — I identify with the brothers — who had doubts and fears about our Lord — but they came to commit their whole lives to him. (3) The words of the Psalm so graphically fulfilled in Judas — how awesome to see detailed, fulfilled prophecy! (4) We are responsible — (both positively and negatively) for the reactions of our decisions. Judas bought the field through the priests.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I have my own personal and family petitions — but these are from your desire for me: (1) May I not look down on Barsabbas because he was not chosen — there are many such men. (2) Help me to pray about all decisions. (3) Open my understanding to your knowledge of all men's hearts. (4) I want to believe your work will always be done — help me! (5) May I believe there are men going to hell every minute! (6) Direct me in my understanding of just how you work in human actions. (7) May I add to my acceptance everyone you add to your church.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

You are saying to me: (1) "There *are* qualifications for service." (2) "I hear prayer and know men." (3) "Men die — but God and his church live!"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mali — Point for prayer: *The unreached peoples of Mali*. Only three peoples are more than 1% Christian — Bobo (8% Protestant), Dogon (3.5%) and Minianka (2.4%). These are the least Muslim of Mali's peoples. Pray for: a) *The Bambara* are key people for the evangelization of the country, yet they are only 0.3% Protestant. There have been breakthroughs for the gospel since 1974, but follow up is an urgent need in the light of the activity of syncretic indigenous cults in the area. b) There have been the beginnings of a response with a few Christians among the *Maninka*, *Songhay* and *Senoufo*. c) Pioneer work among the *Soninke* and *Maure*, *Fulani* and *Senoufo* is being undertaken, often using rural clinics and development help as a means of contact. d) *Peoples not yet occupied by Christian workers* number 12.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I will sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me,
How He left His home in glory
For the cross of Calvary.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me,
Sing it with the saints in glory,
Gathered by the crystal sea.

WEEK TEN

—Friday—

Father is a welcome word to me! You gave me such a dear man for my Father. You ask me to call you Father. "Our Father" I hallow your name!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Father: You are the Father of all mankind. Not one person has ever been born on this earth until first you sent that person (spirit) into the genetic combination of the mother and father. What an awesome thought! All of us share your likeness. Praise your wonderful name — all of us, each of us in your image.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Father — to me! I am so glad to read of your qualities — to accept you and admit and welcome you into my house — i.e. my body. You have arrived in the person of the Holy Spirit! My Father who is not only in heaven but very much on earth and in myself — a father on a level and in qualities I so much need! Oh, bless your name.

How do you personally relate to the fatherliness of God, and God who is Father? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Why do I fail? Why do I so obviously fail? Why do I allow pride and desire to direct my words and actions? Dear God, forgive. Through the wonderful intercessor at your right hand you do forgive. I am so glad to claim your cleansing; to be made whole; to be released. Oh, dear God, accept my praise.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I am Thine, O Lord,
I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;

But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²⁶On the day of firstfruits, when you present to the Lord an offering of new grain during the Feast of Weeks, hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. ²⁷Present a burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram and seven male lambs a year old as an aroma pleasing to the Lord. ²⁸With each bull there is to be a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil; with the ram two-tenths; ²⁹and with each of the seven lambs one-tenth. ³⁰Include one male goat to make atonement for you. —Numbers 28:26-30, NIV. Refer to Leviticus 23:15-22; Acts 2:1-21.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The day of thanksgiving is the day of Pentecost. How very thoughtful it was for you to set aside this day for that purpose. How meaningful are the objects for thanksgiving: harvest, i.e. your blessing and provision for man's physical needs — and the law the provision for man's spiritual needs.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

What a large offering was made — bulls — sheep — rams — goats — grain — fruit — oil — bread. It all belongs to you. This is only a representative expression of our gratitude and a clear recognition of your ownership. How I thank you for the more than adequate provision made for our food — both for the body and the spirit.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Surely this will be easy to do: (1) Thank you for the special days you have set aside to remind us. (2) The tangible items that we can touch and taste to reach our senses with your message. (3) For the fire of sacrifice that shows us the temporary nature of all physical blessings. (4) For the laws of harvest that constantly remind us just who provides for us. (5) For your law telling us just how wonderfully interested you are in every part of our life.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Pentecost means 50 — or “fifty days” — marking the time lapse from the Passover. Tradition has it that it was also fifty days from the exodus from Egypt at the first Passover till the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai. Be that as it may, it was but fifty days from the sacrifice of God’s Lamb to the coming of the Other Comforter. As the first fruit of the harvest was given in gratitude and in an acknowledgment of the source of all the harvest, so the day of Pentecost was and is the first fruit of God’s eternal harvest of the lives of men and women. Also a clear acknowledgment that all who gathered into his eternal garner will be of the same source and kind.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What shall I ask you as you speak to me about the day of Pentecost? (1) May I be willing to give those gifts which cost me much — even as the expensive animals were given. (2) I want to thank you with my substance. (3) Open my eyes to truly recognize all you have given me. (4) I want to be obedient to the law of the Spirit of life. (5) Break my heart that I might want to follow you. (6) Even rams and goats are given to you — I know there is hope for me. (7) Give me deep gratitude for all food as your gift.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What do you say to me in the purpose of Pentecost (i.e. in the Old Testament)? (1) “I want to be thanked for my gifts.” (2) “All you are and have comes from me.” (3) “Your place is to obey — not excuse yourself.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Malta — Points for prayer: (1) *Malta is possibly free Europe’s least evangelized land*, despite being probably the first nation to embrace the gospel — after Paul’s shipwreck on the island. Few have ever heard a clear presentation of the gospel and come to a living faith, although a high degree of religious devotion is shown by so many. (2) *Protestant activity among*

Maltese was illegal before 1964. There is still much opposition to the preaching of the gospel, and any activities of this kind are still undermined.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

A Friend I have, called Jesus,
Whose love is strong and true,
And never fails howe’er ’tis tried,
No matter what I do;
I’ve sinned against this love of His,
But when I knelt to pray,
Confessing all my guilt to Him,
The sin-clouds rolled away.
It’s just like Jesus to roll the clouds away,
It’s just like Jesus to keep me day by day,
It’s just like Jesus, all along the way,
It’s just like His great love.

WEEK TEN

—Saturday—

How temporary are all things on this earth. To know Someone who will always be the same: the great God of Love! Gladly do I worship you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Eternal: You shall never change. There will never be a time when you do not live. This is a source of great strength and encouragement to me. Blessed be your name! There is no way I can truly encompass such a thought.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

For me he ever liveth to make intercession. He is alive as an example of what will happen to me when I slip out of this house of clay. I am so glad to share his nature — “from everlasting to everlasting thou art God.” There will never be a time when I do not live and know and feel and rejoice in him! Wonder of all wonders. “He that believeth in me shall never die.” How I need this reality spelled out real often!

How do you personally relate to the eternity of God, and God who is Eternal? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear God, I am truly sorry I have sinned. I am a sinner — I do harbor rebellion — I do not want to sin, but when I would do good, evil is present. The good (oh, so much of it) that I would, I do not get done — the evil that I would not — and there are so many and various ways that I do evil; some are more evident than others. Dear Lord, cleanse me. Wash me clean and I shall be whiter than snow!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;

I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand.
Bread of Heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Bread of Heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. —Acts 2:1-4, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What an amazing experience! How intently the twelve are listening to “the sound of a violent wind from heaven.” Such a sound is filling the room where they are seated. Dear Lord, you surely act in unusual ways — in most dramatic sensational ways. Tongues of fire! Fire sitting on everyone! Speaking in languages no one has ever learned! Amazing. I too am confounded and bewildered! I, like those who first saw this, am overcome!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I know these apostles are being immersed in the Holy Spirit — I am totally impressed. I have a difficult time understanding all the implications of what is happening — the supernatural equipment needed to establish his “called out ones.” To suddenly be enabled to speak in a language before not known, to see fire, hear a wind, to be overwhelmed with a divine person — this is perplexing!

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Gladly do I do this: (1) The day was promised and the promise was kept. (2) The apostles were prepared through prayer for what happened. (3) The suddenness of all your important acts such as: creation, regeneration, immortalization. (4) The appeal to the senses of man do convince him of your presence and power. (5) That the Holy Spirit can work in and with and through men.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

I want to pause to think deeply upon the wonder of it all! (1) That Jesus would spend all night in prayer for leadership and come up with these twelve men. (2) That they would indeed "leave all" and follow him — no one was working or involved with "other things." (3) The Holy Spirit filled or baptized all, but not all responded in exactly the same way, i.e. Peter spoke with a different word choice than John. (4) That I can respond to the Holy Spirit in me.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Here is the purpose of Pentecost for the Apostles. How glad I am to see a number of requests here for me: (1) I want to accept the fact that you work through groups as well as individuals. (2) Help me to see you sometimes use very unusual approaches to speak to men. (3) You *do* communicate on a sensate level — I believe — help my unbelief. (4) Open my mind as to the real significance of the sound and fire. (5) May I have a real indelible definition of "tongues" as used here. (6) I want to truly know *why* the apostles needed these "tongues." (7) Why does anyone think this experience could or should be repeated?

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

My ears are open to your voice: (1) "I keep my promises to those for whom I made them." (2) "I can unite the diverse group of the twelve by my Spirit." (3) "I want to show my splendor to the unbeliever through men."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Martinique (Overseas Department of France) —
Points for prayer: (1) *The evident spiritual need is highlighted* by the breakdown in family life, widespread occultism, secular propaganda in schools and the marked growth of sects. Catholicism is a traditional veneer for most. There is a small but active independence movement encouraged by Cuba which brings an urgency to the need to evangelize these islands (Guadeloupe as well as Martinique). (2) *There*

were hardly any born-again believers before 1946. Since then, church growth has been significant despite persecution in earlier years.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus is all the world to me,
My life, my joy, my all;
He is my strength from day to day,
Without Him I would fall.
When I am sad, to Him I go,
No other one can cheer me so;
When I am sad He makes me glad,
He's my Friend.

Jesus is all the world to me,
My friend in trials sore;
I go to Him for blessings, and
He gives them o'er and o'er.
He sends the sunshine and the rain,
He sends the harvest's golden grain;
Sunshine and rain, harvest of grain,
He's my Friend.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Sunday—

It is one thing to be eternal — and you are — but unchangeably eternal is solid comfort! When I know who you are I can hardly wait to bow before you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Unchangeable: It is a comfort to know someone, SOMEONE who will never, never deviate in any way relating to character. How impressive to leave a record of yesterday — how complete is the history of your character and what a strength to me — to all men. Your love, kindness and interest are always the same.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Unchangeable for me! I can expect you to be forever what you have ever been. Praise your holy (pure) name — or person. How satisfied I am in you — how full and fulfilled. It is all because I know you love me without change. The cosmos will dissolve but thou abidest the same!

How do you personally relate to the unchangeableness of God, and God who is Unchangeable? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I have a strong tendency to rationalize my sins — to justify my disobedience. In this hour I drop such pretense! Dear God, help me to leave it dropped. I freely admit my wrong, my sin. I name it before thee. I at the same time claim your cleansing. I gladly, eagerly leap into the fountain for sin and uncleanness. Bless your dear person — how good to be clean.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I have a Father; to me He has given
A hope for eternity, blessed and true;

And soon He will call me to meet Him in heaven,
But oh, that He'd let me bring you with me, too!
For you I am praying,
For you I am praying,
For you I am praying,
I'm praying for you.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked, "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?"

⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs — we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹²Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who are in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! —Acts 2:6-15, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How amazing are your actions! Past tracing out are your purposes. You told your apostles to go into all the world and preach, then you brought men from every nation so they would hear what you wanted preached. I now consider the incredible fact that all present heard in their own languages the mighty works of your own self.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I want to read these words — dear Lord, just as if I had never read them before. I have a difficult time assimilating all that is happening here: (1) Twelve Galileans speaking in more than a dozen languages they have never heard before or surely they had never spoken. (2) Some (seemingly) intentionally misunderstand. But then I know many do this today — even myself. Peter is so patient with them — help me to be the same way.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

This is the area where I most keenly enjoy the expression of worship. To thank you for: (1) God-fearing men of all nations of all time that made it possible for me — or anyone else to fear and love you. (2) Jerusalem and all of its tremendous associations — over so long, with so many people and incidents. (3) The tremendous supernatural ability to speak in a language never learned for the purpose of communicating. This is the very antithesis of the tower of Babel. (4) Again and again you do choose the humble to accomplish your work.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Oh, dear God, holy and present Spirit, beautiful Savior. Peter said to listen carefully, and I want to do just that! (1) Can I hear the sound? i.e., of the the mighty, rushing wind? of the blowing of a violent wind from heaven? The *lost* heard the *wind*. It wasn't for the saved that the wind sound came. (2) They were all called together — in Jerusalem and in the Temple in Jerusalem. Is there a pattern here for evangelism? (3) The religious folk were the first to hear and become Christians — they were bewildered — utterly amazed — perplexed. So it is today: we must seek a work in our day to do the same thing — call attention to yourself, not ourselves! (4) We will need someone like Peter to explain, but he needs to be *like Peter*.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What inquiries shall I make from these precious verses? (1) Are there God-fearing people (even one) for every nation in the world? How sad to say “no.” (2) What can I do, what can you do through me — to call a crowd to hear? (3) Has anyone heard his own language spoken by one who did not know it? i.e., since Pentecost? (4) I am asking questions for which I expect an answer. Help me. (5) I want to identify the languages spoken today in the provinces mentioned. (6) I want to know the full meaning of this experience. (7) How does drunkenness and nine in the

morning relate?

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Communication is the point of this text — communicate with me! (1) “I want every man to hear my word in his own language.” (2) “Humble station is no reason for not speaking my word.” (3) “There will always be those who do not understand and will mock.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mauritania — Points for prayer: (1) *There is not one indigenous Mauritanian believer or church in the country.* Everything seems against a change: Islam entrenched for 1,000 years, low literacy level, no Scriptures, no radio broadcasts in Hassaniya Arabic, and laws that forbid any Mauritanian to renounce Islam. The “strong man” must be bound. There will be a redeemed people from this land. (2) *Expatriate Christians* have opportunities for technical and professional employment, but economic, climatic and spiritual conditions are harsh. Pray for all seeking to live for Christ. May they see the planting of a Mauritanian Church. Fellowship opportunities are limited.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood;
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

WEEK ELEVEN

—Monday—

Do we really know the meaning of this blessed word? I.e. SOVEREIGN? I want to enter into his presence to find an answer.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Sovereign: How wonderful to know someone is in control! Praise your eternal, unchangeable, nature!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

It is sobering to realize I have turned the management over to this ONE who is at work directing all things under his sovereign will. To me it is a great source of encouragement. He is *at work* in my life, and I want to open my heart (all of it) to him! I want to cooperate in all ways with him. He *knows all about everything*.

How do you personally relate to the sovereignty of God, and God who is Sovereign? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Lord, dear Lord, forgive my sins that I here now confess to you. Each one hurts you and myself. Cleanse me! forgive me! Remove from your record, clear my record. How eternally good it is to be able to pray this prayer. Oh, to claim, to *know* the removal of guilt! Wonder and joy and standing in grace!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss:
From vict'ry unto vict'ry
His army shall He lead,
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished,
And Christ is Lord indeed.

HIS WORD

¹⁷“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

¹⁹I will show wonders in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’’ —Acts 2:17-21, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

You have said, you are saying and you will always say, “In the last days” — which began on Pentecost and end when Jesus comes — you will pour out your “Spirit upon all flesh” — prophecy — visions and dreams will be given — have been given. I am simply affirming what you said — to stand in wonder and amazement at grace extended to such unworthy people!

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Dear God, I'm so glad you have given *me* your Spirit. In days gone by I have had some visions — not for anyone else, but my little area of work — and the people who work with me — now that I am old I have had some dreams. I have spoken your word to some who have received it for what it was; many who didn't. I have seen and beheld the wonder of heaven above — even your dear Son and your precious self!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you dear, dear Lord for: (1) The last days — we are living in them. Of all the thousands and thousands of years we live in the last days — praise you! (2) That your Spirit, even the Holy Spirit the Other Comforter, has come! Oh, grace upon grace! (3) We have the prophecy of some of those young men like John Mark in his beautiful gospel. (4) There are yet servants and handmaidens with the presence of the Holy Spirit — your teachers all with us today. (5) Maranatha — oh, day of the Lord — even so come *today* Lord Jesus!

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Gather around these three thoughts and let the Lord speak to you: (1) *The sound of a violent wind* filled the house — what fills my house today? Does the sound of his name and his word fill it? (2) *Tongues of fire* — representative of the supernaturalness of the abilities given. Oh, just to add splendor and attract attention. Dear God, you have my attention. (3) They all spoke in other languages. Until we get the mighty words of God known in the languages of the world, the world will remain lost! As you know dear God, I'm trying to do this.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What desires arise from you as I read your word? (1) I want to see my Lord as the most creditable person I know. (2) Let me examine his signs all over again! (3) Let me know your set purpose for me today. (4) Do I appreciate the resurrection as I should? (5) Thank you for every word of King David. (6) Open my mind to understand the prophecies of David. (7) Give me a deep appreciation of my resurrection body.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

**READ HIS WORD AND
WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS**

You want to say something very special to me from this text: (1) "My Son is your Lord — accept him!" (2) "Death has no hold at all on you." (3) "Jesus is alive now!"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mauritius — Points for prayer: (1) *Most older churches are in gradual decline*, and are traditional and nominal. The charismatic movement made a big impact for a while on the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglicans, but most of those converted have now formed their own groups. Few really have a personal faith in Christ. (2) Missionary work is limited. Numbers of workers should be increased, but visa restrictions need to be relaxed. The great need is for church planners, disciplers and Bible teachers to

mobilize Mauritian believers in effective evangelism.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.
My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name,
Hear Him, ye deaf;
His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come;
And leap, ye lame, for joy!

WEEK ELEVEN

—Tuesday—

Gladly — willingly do I accept you as judge. I would want no other. I open my heart before you. This time of worship will be a joy!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Justice-Judge: He will and is judging me! But he is also love and mercy and grace so whereas his judgment will be justice, it will also be kind and patient.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

He will indeed judge the whole world and all men who have ever lived or are now alive. Blessed be his name, and yet I know I stand condemned before him! Only by grace will I ever — am I now saved!

How do you personally relate to the justice-judgement of God, and God who is Justice-Judge? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Confession of my guilt and sin and weakness and selfishness of my misplaced love. How could I so love myself? Dear God, forgive! I accept your forgiveness, but I wonder if you accept my poor repentance? My sin is an embarrassment and a weight and a hindrance and a stake in my flesh — make me whole!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I hear Thy welcome voice,
That calls me, Lord, to Thee
For cleansing in Thy precious blood
That flowed on Calvary.
I am coming, Lord!
Coming now to Thee!
Wash me, cleanse me in the blood
That flowed from Calvary!

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²²“Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵David said about him:

“ ‘I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.

²⁶Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will live in hope,

²⁷because you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

²⁹“Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. ³²God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.” —Acts 2:22-32, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How concise and complete are the words of Dr. Luke, but at the same time the words of yourself. Jesus your dear Son was accredited — among men — as they well knew. What confidence we have in him and in you! “Handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge” — what a mind-staggering thought! What man did was not only foretold but planned by God.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

You raised him from the dead — praise God — one day you will raise me from the dead. It is just as impossible for death to keep me as to keep him. What David said I do want to say — “I saw the Lord always before me!” — how beautifully did the prophecy find fulfillment in my Lord — each detail complete and in place! Jesus, my king, is on David’s throne and reigning for me and interceding for me.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) How glad I am I *can* and do *listen* to what you say. (2) Thank you, thank you for the more than adequate accredited Lord! (3) Thank you that he died for my sins as well as for the sins of the whole world. (4) That my Lord lives today — sees me — reads every one of these words I pray — reads also, every one of the intents and purposes of my heart. (5) For men’s tombs and my Lord’s empty tomb!

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

David as a prophet: (1) Surely a good man, but surely not a perfect man — surely then, God can use you and me. (2) Was glad to be a servant as well as a king — we are all kings and priests unto God (Rev. 1:5,6; 5:10; I Pet. 2:8,9), but our primary purpose is to serve as priests — intercede — and as kings to rule over Satan. (3) David took great courage and comfort in the presence and promises of God — most especially about his Son. How I do want to do the same thing!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What shall I ask as I consider this text? (1) I want all the words Joel spoke that relate to me to be fulfilled. (2) Am I living in the “last days”? I believe we have been since Pentecost. (3) How can I best appreciate the gift of your Spirit? (4) How can I best use the Spirit’s gifts? (5) Open my mind as to how to accept fulfilled prophecy. (6) When will the sun turn to darkness and the moon into blood? (7) If in the next twinkling of an eye he should come, would I welcome him?

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

**READ HIS WORD AND
WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS**

As you spoke through Peter to those on Pentecost, speak to me through the same man: (1) “You have what Joel promised.” (2) “Salvation for all men is available *now!*” (3) “In another sense — every day is a day of the Lord — live it for me!”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mauritius — Points for prayer: (1) *Mauritius has been a forgotten mission field.* The evangelization of the Indian majority has only just begun and is difficult to achieve with limitations on the entry of missionaries. (2) *Strong ethnic and religious loyalties hinder the progress of the gospel.* To the Indians conversion to Christianity is a step loaded with political and ethnic overtones — of “becoming a Creole.” Pray for wise and effective strategies to reach out to the 490,000 Hindus and 160,000 Muslims in both Creole and the Indian languages used by the older people.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
From the curse to set me free.
Sing, oh, sing of my Redeemer,
With His blood He purchased me,
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt, and made me free.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Wednesday—

*I read your trademark all about me!
Perfection is a description of all you
have created! In the closet I want to
deepen my appreciation of yourself.*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Creator: How wonderfully and beautifully you created the world in which we live. To look and consider the smallest of your handiwork is to be full of delight, full of praise for such a one. Blessed be your powerful wise ability! You are yet in the creation business. You have not only created the world, you have created man!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Each day there are a myriad of flowers, plants, chemicals that change and reform and manifest your continuing interest in creation — and man. Oh, the amazing thought. It was all done that I might enjoy it!

How do you personally relate to the creations of God, and God who is Creator? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I do believe the programming of my subconscious mind has much to do with sin. If I program into it a blunt refusal for a period of three weeks it will be then much easier to obey than to disobey. Dear God, help me to so decide; but just now I accept your cleansing forgiveness. How good to know I have no record of wrong!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I must tell Jesus all of my trials;
I cannot bear these burdens alone;
In my distress He kindly will help me;

He ever loves and cares for His own.
I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus!
I cannot bear my burdens alone;
I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus!
Jesus can help me, Jesus alone.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

³³Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“The Lord said to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand

³⁵until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.”

³⁶“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

—Acts 2:33-38, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How could I ever say what it means to you to have your Son? He who was and is and is to come now back in your presence? These are but poor stammering, ignorant, meaningless words. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit! He is exalted at your right hand. You have made him both Lord and Christ. The Savior is now King, or the Anointed One!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

As if I had never read it before — there are words

and thoughts that have escaped my notice — such as “the Father” — only *one* Father — “ascend into heaven” — there is an “up” and a “down” in the expressions of this text. Have I ever been truly “cut to the heart”? The wonder, the enormity of the transactions of Calvary has not yet been fully probed!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you for: (1) My exalted Lord. (2) He is ever active in intercession for me. (3) The promised Holy Spirit — he was seen and heard through men — as he is today! (4) Jesus is indeed “my Lord” — how glad I am to claim him as such. (5) He is my sin bearer — my sin for me — my Lord and King. (6) I am cut to the heart all over again when I see him there dying for me! (7) Dear God, I do repent — I am so glad I was baptized to stop my sin and receive the blessed Holy Spirit.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

If I do what they did I will become what they were. Oh, that I might single out one of the multitude and put myself in his place. I want to hear unlearned, ignorant men from the hills of Galilee speak in my own native dialect. This would be by itself an amazement to me. I want to be convinced by evidence that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed my long promised and looked for Messiah. I want to understand not in a small way but in an overwhelming way that he, Jesus, was God’s lamb slain for my sins and all sins of all men for all time. My mind, my whole being is changed! The wonderful Holy Spirit is present to accompany and accomplish this change. My baptism like theirs made me a Christian — together with all others who share with me I became a member of his church — or part of the “called out ones.”

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How I want to ask that I might receive: (1) Give me a fresh sense of my Lord’s exalted position. (2) May I believe I now have the Holy Spirit. (3) Make your enemies your footstool in my life today. (4) May your Son be both Lord and Christ to me. (5) Cut me to the heart with your love for the lost world. (6) Help me to change my mind about all sin. (7) May I appreciate more than ever my baptism.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me deeply, personally through Peter: (1) “You are a member of the same body as those on

Pentecost.” (2) “The Holy Spirit wants you.” (3) “Acknowledge my Son as Lord and King in your whole life!”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mexico — Points for prayer: (1) *This dynamic, growing nation is searching for an identity* in its Hispanic and Indian roots. This leads to a fierce nationalism and demonstrations of independence from its large northern neighbor, the USA. This is often expressed in anti-Protestant populist propaganda. Pray that Mexicans may find their true identity in a personal faith in Christ. (2) *The deep economic crisis together with the population explosion could precipitate chaos.* Pray for the government as it seeks to grapple with endemic corruption, the debt crisis, unemployment and the unfulfilled expectations of the poor. Pray that these situations may break down prejudices to the message of the gospel.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music to mine ear,
The sweetest name on earth.
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Because He first loved me!

WEEK ELEVEN

—Thursday—

I watch your Son in his ruling men — how did he do it? I know you want me to respond as those who accepted his rule. Speak to me in the quietness of this hour.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Ruler: I want to be ruled by you! I rejoice in your law. I gladly accept your Lordship. You are ruler over all and are in all. Praise your essential Being. To rule is your nature; this is your normal expression. How complete and fulfilling is this quality of your character.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Oh, how I need and want someone to take over the reins of my heart. Take my mind, my will, my emotions and my conscience. Gladly do I turn them over to you. I know my choice and personal commitment are involved in your rulership. But as to choice, I with delight choose you and your dear Son and the present Holy Spirit.

How do you personally relate to the rule of God, and God who is Ruler? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

My inability to rule my own life the way you want me to relates directly to my desire for you to rule! I want to please you. I want you to forgive me. I know, I feel, I accept the fact that you do. It is a beautiful experience to be freely, totally forgiven. I am full of wonder before you. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputes *no* iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is no deceit!* Read verse 5 of Psalm 32. Oh, the joy of forgiveness.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I need Thee every hour,
Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford.
I need Thee, O I need Thee;
Ev'ry hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee!

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

³⁹“The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. —Acts 2:39-42, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

My wonderful Father, how gladly I read these words of your book back to you to tell you how very much I appreciate them. I do claim the promise of salvation and the Holy Spirit! I include myself in those “afar off.” I am a Gentile but I can and do now “save myself” by accepting your Son and his salvation. I want also to escape the corruption that is in this world (generation) through lust. How gladly I count myself among the baptized. Oh, oh, that I might obtain the motivation of devotion. I want to each day meditate on your word — to help others — to remember your Son's death — and most of all to pray.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Dear Lord, I see Peter pointing at me. I hear through his words; it is *your call*. I want to be warned. I give myself in response — I enter into salvation. I accept your message — deepen my willingness to live it out in daily life today. Praise your wonderful grace that there are thousands and thousands of others who share the same salvation with me. Together we can continue our worship as the body of your Son on this earth.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Yes, yes, thank you: (1) Your promise has been kept — salvation is here. (2) You do call men through the gospel today as on Pentecost. (3) That you plead and warn us — this is out of your mercy — we do not deserve such. (4) The joy of others feeds my happiness. (5) There is a way to sustain our joy. (6) For the teachings of the apostles and prophets in the New Testament. (7) For the blessed supper of my Lord.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

There *is*, there *is* something I *must* do to be saved. I can and do save myself. I *must* within my own heart respond to him. I am reluctant, I need someone to plead and warn me. I can respond to the good news but I do not want to until someone like Peter pleads with me and warns me of hell and what being lost really means. Can we see today what we see here on Pentecost? Can 3,000 be won today? Indeed they can and are when we have preachers like Peter. God is ready to call to save through his preachers and his Spirit — through the acceptance of those who hear and believe and repent and are baptized.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Let me request what I know you will give: (1) Help me to enjoy the promised salvation. (2) Make me a messenger to those who have never heard. (3) Break my heart that I might plead with men. (4) I want to be saved from my lost generation. (5) Are there 3,000 somewhere today who would accept your Son? (6) If I do what they did will I not become what they were? (7) Dear Lord, help me to devote myself to all they did.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

**READ HIS WORD AND
WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS**

In a special way speak to me through these beautiful words: (1) “You need the fellowship I have for you with me and other Christians.” (2) “You have not yet

found the depth of meaning there is in my supper.” (3) “You really do not know the joy you could have in prayer.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mexico — Points for prayer: (1) The Roman Catholic Church lost its political and economic power in the 1910 revolution but retains a visible cultural dominance. Most Mexicans are culturally Catholic but still bound by sin, narrow traditionalism and syncretic religious practices. The power of the ancient gods and spirit world has yet to be broken in the Spanish-speaking majority and, more especially, in the Christo-pagan Indian minority groups. (2) The growth of Evangelicals has been dramatic over the last two decades. Most of this growth has been among the lower classes, urban migrants and some Indian tribes in the southeast.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Sing, O Earth, His wonderful love proclaim!
Hail Him! hail Him! highest archangels in glory:
Strength and honor give to His holy name!
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children,
In His arms He carries them all day long:
Praise Him! praise Him!
tell of His excellent greatness;
Praise Him! praise Him! ever in joyful song!

WEEK ELEVEN

—Friday—

It is so good to worship Someone who finishes everything he starts. I want your Spirit to enable me — to strengthen my inner man. I worship you for this purpose.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Complete. How could we better describe your self! There is nothing you lack. You are whole in every sense. It would help me to worship you if I listed just two areas where all men can find you *complete*. (1) *Complete in knowledge.* There is no branch of science in which you do not have absolute and total information. It will be a part of the joy of heaven to investigate your resource of information. (2) *Complete in sympathetic understanding love.* My love and the love of all men is so inadequate — alloyed with our own selfishness. How glorious to worship and praise and know you — to commit myself — and for all men to do likewise. It is no effort — it is a privilege!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

What all men find generally in you I now find personally and intimately. I want to enter into a secret pact. In you I am whole for you are wholeness itself! I can pause anytime of the day and cast myself upon you. *I know* you care for me. (Peter said so.) You love me — forgive me — chasten me — have specific plans for me — bless your wonderful name! I find *no* help — *no* hope — *no* fulfillment in anyone or anything else! You have made my life so full — so meaningful. I want to reaffirm my wholeness in you. I am real eager to enter into the larger part of my life right on the other side of my last heart beat!

How do you personally relate to the completeness of God, and God who is complete? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

If you are so complete for every area of life, how is it I seek fulfillment outside yourself? It could be easy to say with Paul "It is not I who do it, but sin which lives in me" or "so then it is no longer I that do it,

but sin which dwells within me" (Rom. 7:17, RSV). Jesus *can* and *does* deliver me from this bondage of separation. I live by my response to my environment. My largest need then is to so condition my reflexes that I will always (by habit) respond to your sweet will and not that of Satan who is the deceiver. I have lived so long in Satan's world (with all that is in his (the) world) that I am like the Israelites who didn't recognize the Deliverer. Oh, dear God, dear Savior, I do want out! *Bitterness* is a sin. I have been (am I now?) bitter about some things. Have I ever been bitter against my dear wife? Dear Lord, why? I repent — change my mind — I was wrong, wrong, wrong! forgive me. Bless your name, I'm whole!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Jesus, Lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high;
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. — *Acts 2:43-47, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I want to be constantly filled with awe and wonder! There is more than enough all about me to make such a response very possible. Dear Lord, just to consider the beauty of the variety of birds, the color and delicate form of the flowers, to look down at my own hand. When I consider the millions and millions of stars and planets all held in place by your word. Physical healing is a source of wonder and awe and by the hands of your "sent ones" it was done. You are healing today in answer to prayer and I praise you — most of all for the awesome wonder of Calvary and the open tomb!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Dear Lord, I *do*. I want to stand in the Temple court and feel the thrill of the risen Lord! I want to be consumed with the love for those in need. I want to be moved by the example and spirit of my Lord to give what I have to help others. What a possession: *a glad, sincere heart!* The Lord will add to our number today when we have the same total involvement with you. In only thirty years the whole Roman world knew of your dear Son and his salvation (Col. 1:6,23; Rom. 1:8).

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

I always approach this time with exuberant expectation: (1) Thank you that I am not blind — that I can see. (2) Thank you that I can see through the eyes of Jesus — through the eyes of yourself — you have given me an inward eye transplant (the eyes of my heart)! (3) Thank you for the capacity of awe and wonder, and for objects and acts that produce such a reaction. (4) Oh, that all believers — *all* believers were together and had *all* things in common. I thank you for those who do — and for their example to show us we could if we would. (5) Thank you that you have given us favor with many, many people over a *long* period of time.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Let's meditate over three thoughts: (1) Jesus' miracles were his divine credentials. You placed your approval and acceptance upon him and his life and words by these acts of power. (2) God's set purpose was to take away the sin of the world — he did it — you did it! by your Lamb — even our Lord Jesus. He was "the Lamb slain before the world was created." I do not understand it, but I know it is true. (3) The men of his own generation killed Jesus. His death was a violation of their own law. Men now do the same thing in their rejection of him. Praise your name *we can* change.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What are you saying to me? What shall I ask of you? (1) How can I find a deeper reverence? (2) Lord, I believe, help my unbelief! (3) Am I willing to sell what I have to help others? Open my heart! (4) How can I have the joy and unity with others I see in the Jerusalem church? (5) Help me to make every meal an act of worship. (6) Give me an attitude of love for all. (7) How can people be saved every day in my town?

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I hear you say to me: (1) "The Apostles are my voice." (2) "It is more blessed to help others than to be helped." (3) "Every Christian is a member of my church."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mexico — Points for prayer: (1) *Persecution, war and economic depression* all hindered evangelism and church growth until the 1940s. There has been rapid growth of indigenous and mission-related churches since then, with the most marked growth among Pentecostals and SDAs. During the '80s the growth has attracted negative attacks in the press. Evangelicals are portrayed as anti-Mexican spies or destroyers of Mexican culture and unity. Doctrinal shallowness, error and also moral and personal relationship breakdowns have impaired the growth of the Church. (2) *Foreign missionaries'* legal position is both ambiguous and restrictive. Visas have been a battle to obtain. Almost all are US citizens, so they need great sensitivity and tact in their cultural adaptation.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

We praise Thee, O God! for the Son of Thy love,
For Jesus who died, and is now gone above.

Hallelujah! Thine the glory;

Hallelujah! Amen!

Hallelujah! Thine the glory;

Revive us again.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Saturday—

We are all essentially spirit beings. We are created in your likeness and you are Spirit. We have direct access to you. Enlighten my mind as I worship you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Spirit: Indeed you are! Not mysterious but at the same time, who can trace out your ways? You are an all pervading intelligent Person. Invisible but clearly seen in the face of our Savior. Praise his holy, wonderful name!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

You are present in me in the person of the Holy Spirit. But it is also your capability to dwell everywhere at the same time. You are presently aware of all that I say and think and do. What a comforting fact! God as Spirit *desires* me to worship him, is actually “seeking men to worship him” (John 4:23,24). You have surely found one who will!

How do you personally relate to the Spirit of God, and God who is Spirit? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I guess I am more troubled by “why” I sin than that I sin. I should suspect Satan is at work in my subconsciousness. If I can convince my subconscious I am in earnest about bringing every thought into captivity, it would be done! Dear God, please forgive me! Forgive and wash me clean! but help me to stay clean.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treacherous shoal;

Chart and compass came from Thee:
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer — at three in the afternoon. ²Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” —Acts 3:1-6, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How good to talk about persons who are with you now. To discuss the glad day when Peter and John moved to the place of prayer — at the hour of prayer. I am glad you directed Luke to record this. In 2,000 years the record has not been lost. The preciousness of that record is just as real today as when it happened. All of this is a true source of wonder and praise for me. There is someone else in heaven — the unnamed beggar. I know he has a name and you know him. I want to meet him. I do praise and thank you for this beautiful story.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

There are those who carried him. These people took a personal, unselfish interest in the beggar. I want to meet these people too. To have never walked, to see others walking and not be able — I can only try to imagine it. Dear Lord, thank you for the right use of

every member of my body. I want to identify with the day-by-day weariness, the day-by-day limitation — begging from others. To beg even from you hardly seems natural. We ask as a son not as a stranger, but to be a beggar among men! There are yet multitudes of such persons in our world. I have forgotten. Dear Lord, forgive!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

This is a veritable cornucopia of thanksgiving: (1) Thank you for the hours of prayer — how is it I can only find one hour? (2) Thank you for our many public places of worship. (3) Thank you that our bodies are even *now* your Temple indwelt by your Spirit. (4) Thank you for the types of miracles you have chosen — cases with no doubt of their condition — “crippled from birth, carried daily” — more than “40 years old.” (5) That Peter and John had mercy upon him — or were moved by your Spirit to express concern (perhaps they saw him often). (6) That Peter and John were poor men — like most men — but they did have a wonderful gift for the beggar. (7) For the joy and confidence seen in the attitude and actions of all three.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

There are two billion beggars outside God’s Temple gate. If this beggar ever heard of Jesus we do not know it. We can *know* there are two billion people who have never, never heard the name of our Lord. I believe many, many of them would be just as responsive as this man before us. But some of us must see them. Dear God, move me to prayer, but *more*, move me to speak to them, touch them, raise them, heal them! How is it we are so willing to do nothing?

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How I want to pray according to your word: (1) If Peter and John found time for prayer three times a day, why can’t I? (2) Are there beggars at my gate? (3) Open my heart to the poor! (4) Make me kind toward those who disagree with me. (5) Lead me to those with felt needs. (6) Help me to look until I really see. (7) I can only give what I have — is it salvation?

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I open my inner ear: (1) “There are many crippled people among the religious.” (2) “Speak straight to the heart of those in need.” (3) “Your faith can ‘do

greater works.’ ”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Micronesia — Points for prayer: (1) *Although Christianized for a century or more*, many small island communities need spiritual help. The great distances and poor communications hamper all evangelistic, pastoral and literature distribution work. (2) *The Bible Society*, based in Guam, has performed a remarkable service in initiating new translation projects, revising archaic Scripture portions and providing new reader scriptures. Pray for translators, consultants and distributors of God’s Word. At least six other language groups will need NT translations. (3) *Christian Radio, Far East Broadcasting Company* has built a powerful station on Saipan, with eight expatriate workers, for broadcasting to the USSR and E.Asia and to the local Chamorro people.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

The Great Physician now is near,
The sympathizing Jesus;
He speaks the drooping heart to cheer,
Oh, hear the voice of Jesus.
Sweetest note in seraph song.
Sweetest name on mortal tongue;
Sweetest carol ever sung,
Jesus, blessed Jesus.

WEEK TWELVE

—Sunday—

Of all the happy times in life the happiest can be in personal worship. Let it happen.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Joy: You are joy itself, the source of all joy, the reason for all happiness, the ultimate of spontaneity! Brightness — all this and 10,000 things more that all say, “praise and wonder” to me but only express a part of your total person. Joy unspeakable and full of your whole self!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Joy for me — to me — through me. Oh, praise and peace and joy — this is mine! Jesus said, “I have come that your joy may be perfected!” My joy is in him my dear, wonderful Lord. My happiness is full and complete in him. Apart from him there is no life at all.

How do you personally relate to the joy of God, and God who is Joy? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Oh, how I want to admit to sin. I want to tell everyone against whom I have sinned. He alone knows why I do this or that against him — so he can help me — not only with forgiveness but with understanding and inward strength to overcome. Dear Savior, forgive me and illumine my mind as I read your word.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

“There shall be showers of blessing”:
This is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing,

Sent from the Savior above.
Showers of blessing,
Showers of blessing we need:
Mercy-drops round us are falling,
But for the showers we plead.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁷Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong.

⁸He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

¹¹While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade. —Acts 3:7-11, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear God, take me by the right hand and raise me up. I need to be healed! Your word is so precious to me! How I do appreciate the careful detail in this account: “right hand,” “feet and ankles,” “walking,” and “jumping,” and “praising,” “wonder” and “amazement.” Each word carries more and different meaning to the whole beautiful record. “Instant” is another word I like — “all” the people saw him — no question about your miracles! I too am filled with wonder and amazement. Dear God, help me to come running to you and your healing power.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I have read these words several hundred times, but I read them all over again because I *love* your word. I

love the *One* they describe! Dear Lord, I now come with the excitement of the one resurrected from "death in trespasses and sins" to walk and jump and praise before you! I want to share with others — most especially with those who understand *my joy*! The healing was no end in itself, i.e., a primary end, so I am not just saved primarily to enjoy it, but to share it.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

So easy to do: (1) For Peter and John who stopped and touched and raised. (2) For the total supernatural quality of the healing. (3) For the first steps of a new man! what wonder! (4) For the first time in the Temple — he could now see what was on the inside. (5) For all the people in the Temple — one day I shall see them and ask them about what they saw. (6) For the unnamed beggar himself — I want one day to know him and his name. (7) For Paula Nash who spent time and talent to give us a lovely painting to help us see and relate!

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

A meditation on Acts 1:13-15. Two thoughts stand out in this text for meditation: (1) All can and should continue steadfastly in prayer. Our requests, indeed our total praying should be very much like theirs. In light of the momentous event about to take place, what thoughts ascended in prayer? Tender gratitude that our Lord was going to meet their need in sending "The Other Comforter." How could our needs be better met than with the "Other Jesus"? Eager anticipation of an experience they had not before known — but it would all be good and full of meaning and purpose. Is not this possible for me today? As I ask, as I knock, as I seek, he has already promised "good things" for me and you. (2) Business transactions — i.e. the mundane affairs of this life (such as filling the office of Judas) are also a part of serving God. "Whatever you do in word or in deed do all in the name (or with the authority) of the Lord Jesus — giving thanks to God our Father" (Col. 3:17).

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In your word you speak to me — but it also moves me to speak to you: (1) Lead me to someone today I can help. (2) May I see those in need as you do. (3) Help me to remember that joy and delight can express true worship. (4) Does anyone register wonder or amazement at my spiritual healing? (5) Open my mind and will to your joy! (6) What can I use today to attract people to your Son? (7) How close should new converts relate to me?

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

There are some definite messages here for me: (1) "Do something for me and I'll do something for you." (2) "The physical does lead to the eternal." (3) "Misplaced praise is to be expected — but not encouraged."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Monaco — Points for prayer: (1) *No open evangelism is permitted*, and the evangelical presence is very small in the Protestant community. The local residents and wealthy tourists need to hear the gospel. (2) *Trans World Radio's base is here*, and from Monaco 800 programs a week in 34 languages are broadcast on powerful medium and short wave transmitters. The broadcasts to "closed" Muslim and Communist lands are a unique and fruitful means of ministry in evangelism and church planting.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I have found a friend in Jesus,
He's everything to me,
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul;
The Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see
All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.
In sorrow, He's my comfort, in trouble He's my stay,
He tells me every care on Him to roll;
He's the Lily of the Valley,
the Bright and Morning Star,
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.

WEEK TWELVE

—Monday—

There is more to be gained in understanding in prayer than in any other pursuit. I gladly enter in!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Intelligence: Total understanding — what an amazing quality! and yet to think less would be to worship One who was less than God himself. How wonderfully encouraging it is to be the son, yet the slave of a Father who knows *all*.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Intelligence is the one quality of man that separates him from the animals. To be able to reason, to know God knows my needs because he shares them. He totally understands them. This by itself is almost beyond my grasp. How I truly praise him, praise you for yourself!

How do you personally relate to the intelligence of God, and God who is intelligence? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

To consider the awesome fact that God is absolute intelligence could be intimidating, except that he is total love as well as intelligence. So I am actually greatly encouraged. I openly confess because there is no hiding. I totally confess because there is nothing overlooked. But I am just as totally forgiven! Bless his holy, glorious, name! In no way could I adequately express my joy.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Ere you left your room this morning,
Did you think to pray?
In the name of Christ our Savior,
Did you sue for loving favor,

As a shield today?

Oh, how praying rests the weary!
Prayer will change the night to day;
So in sorrow and in gladness,
Don't forget to pray.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹²When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this." —Acts 3:12-15, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How good to see your action in human affairs. You are interested in men walking. But you are much more interested in their purpose for walking. Your power — oh, your power enables each of us to walk. In you we live and move and have our being. Your nature, manifest in your works of healing is such an encouragement to all of us. How we want to accept and appreciate the glory (character or estimate) you give of your holy servant Jesus — even your dear Son. Oh dear God, may I never, never repeat the tragic choice of those who called out for Barabbas.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

There I am in the crowd. I'm listening to Peter preach. I share the privilege of living in the generation when my Savior came to earth. There I am again!

Can it be? It is so! I'm crying for his death. If we had no sin he would not have died. It was my sin that nailed him there. But I stand in the crowd at the cross and apply the words of my dear Lord to my heart. "You do not know what you are doing," Bless the Lord, I'm also in the company who saw him "after his passion" — alive forevermore!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving seems so appropriate: (1) For the superhuman change in Peter — confident and humble. The living Lord did it. (2) John is there too — thoughtful and strong — thank you for the complement he is to Peter and Peter to him. (3) Thank you that this grafted branch can be a part of the heritage of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (4) How could I ever say thank you for "the Servant" of Isaiah — fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth? (5) I cannot — I hesitate — I am full of amazement — but I share the prison cell of Barabbas — my Lord died for me and in my place! "Thank you" is not at all enough.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Let us think deeply on three observations: (1) Peter and John were going to the Temple at the hour of prayer. What a blessed sweet hour of prayer it can be. But sweet or not, we can go to it — we are the better for it. (2) He was lame from birth — so are we — since the birth of sin in our hearts. He was carried daily by his friends — our friends do us a favor by carrying us where they go — i.e., if they are Christians. If not, it is only a beggar's place. He was laid daily at such a place. "Life is so daily" but in the midst of it Jesus comes! (3) They looked intently at him. Oh, may we do the same for those outside God's Temple of worship today. Look at them with deep understanding and compassion.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I want to ask from close contact with your word: (1) How can I point men away from me to you? (2) Help me to appreciate more fully your power. (3) Do I really know of what godliness consists? (4) What particular quality of our Lord is seen in this healing? (5) Please keep me reminded that evil men hate the light. (6) Deepen my appreciation of just how holy and how righteous is my Lord. (7) Make him the author of my life today.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak Lord — thy servant heareth: (1) "There is

nothing as important as telling the good news." (2) "Follow the example of Peter." (3) "Jesus sees you now!"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mongolia — Points for prayer: (1) *After 60 years of atheistic teaching* little but superstitious remnants of the old religion remain. Pray that the spiritual void may be filled by the Lord Jesus Christ. (2) *One of the least evangelized countries in the world.* Pray it open for the gospel. In this century there has been long-term mission work only in Inner Mongolia, which is part of the People's Republic of China. (3) *Pray for a current translation of the Mongolian New Testament* to be made available; some portions are already in print. The script of several older translations is no longer in use and those translations are little understood today.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

The name of Jesus is so sweet,
I love its music to repeat;
It makes my joys full and complete,
The precious name of Jesus.
"Jesus," oh, how sweet the name!
"Jesus," ev'ry day the same;
"Jesus," let all saints proclaim
Its worthy praise forever.

WEEK TWELVE

—Tuesday—

You are already complete — but I am not. I find relaxed peace and energy in your presence.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Lonesome: How encouraging to know that God *wants* me. You have created *me* in your own image and I share your nature. You have put me here to commune with you. You long after me, with an everlasting love. Love that is not expressed is really not love.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I am delighted to be the object of your love. Your love is expressed by all your bounties. It is difficult to separate the two thoughts of your lonesomeness for me and my lonesomeness for you. I love you in return. I *want* you, *need* you, *desire* you, *embrace* you to my heart (mind, emotions, conscience). I am so, so lonesome without you! I worship before you in praise.

How do you personally relate to the lonesomeness of God, and God who is lonesome? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I *am* a sinner. I do now need forgiveness. There is no day, no hour, no minute when I do not need your cleansing blood! But there must be a progress in conduct. How I long to be whole in my in-depth attitude! Oh, dear Savior, I love you and seek your forgiveness!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling;
All Thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

“. . . saying that his Christ would suffer. ¹⁹Repent then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you — even Jesus. ²¹He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. ²²For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. ²³Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.’

²⁴“Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. ²⁵And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ ²⁶When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.” —Acts 3:18b-26, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Oh, dear God! How I want to tell you what your word means to me. By faith the man was healed and made strong — the faith of Peter and John in your interest and involvement in needs of the religious but lost. I know you have the same interest today. The same faith will also fulfill your interest today. To act in ignorance and at the same time in fulfillment of prophecy is an amazement. But so is the wonder of your word and power.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Times of refreshing can and will come — and even now come from your presence. As I turn from my sins and change the outer fringes and the inner center of my mind, I am refreshed. Oh, dear God, I do indeed change my mind.

He must stay in heaven until a certain time. You know the time of his coming. I do not. But I even now cry from my heart ‘Maranatha!’ What is the word in the presence of the angels of light?

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

How open is your word here for this exercise: (1) That our ignorance does not hinder or prevent your word from finding fulfillment. (2) That your goodness is such a strong incentive for repentance. (3) That times of refreshing can and do come from your presence. (4) That you will send my Lord the second time as surely as you sent him the first time. (5) How beautifully like Moses is my Lord! (6) That I can and do hear and hearken to your prophet and my Lord. (7) Thank you for your present blessing.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“For nothing is impossible with God” (Luke 1:37). For no word from God shall be void of power. (1) Thank you, that you have spoken. (2) In written, permanent form. (3) All your words are equal in source and fulfillment. (4) You can and do speak. (5) No emptiness or failure in yourself or your word. (6) Your power through yourself and your word is invincible. (7) The total encouragement I feel from this verse.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How I want my petitions to be your petitions: (1) Did the lame man have any faith? (2) Wasn't it the gift of faith exercised by Peter that healed him? (3) Let Jesus work through me for “greater works” today. (4) How can I act in ignorance and yet be responsible? (5) Help me to repent all over again. (6) Give me the seasons of refreshing. (7) I want the blessing of turning from my sins.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

**READ HIS WORD AND
WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS**

In these verses what do you say to me? (1) “Find out how Jesus is like Moses and teach it.” (2) “I want all the peoples of the earth to be blessed.” (3) “If you do not listen you will be cut off.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mongolia — Points for prayer: (1) *Pray for other unreached peoples:* a) *The Kazakhs* 72,000, were largely Muslim. b) *The Chinese* 6,000 or more. c) *The Russians* 200,000, generally live in special areas and camps and come from all over the USSR. Believers are not selected for such service. (2) *Christian radio broadcasts in Halh Mongolian* — there are none at present, pray that they may become a reality. Many Mongolians can speak Russian — pray for broadcasts in that language beamed to the region.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Christ has for sin atonement made,
What a wonderful Savior!
We are redeemed! the price is paid!
What a wonderful Savior!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Jesus!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Lord!
He gives me overcoming power,
What a wonderful Savior!
And triumph in each trying hour!
What a wonderful Savior!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Jesus!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Lord!

WEEK TWELVE

—Wednesday—

As a sheep in your pasture and under your care I cast myself before you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Shepherd: How easy it is to praise you for being a shepherd — shepherd of love — of total care and concern for me. How I need — how I accept your love and care for my life!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Your pastures are green and your waters are still and your food is nourishing. I gladly accept your love and oversight. I sit at the table prepared in the presence of my enemies. I long to enter your eternal fold.

How do you personally relate to the shepherding of God, and God who is our shepherd? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Oh, dear shepherd, how often does this sheep go astray — how welcome is your voice that calls me back to your care and love! I want to be healed of my self-inflicted wounds. Dear Lord, forgive — cleanse me of my sin — but purify within.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

More holiness give me,
More striving within;
More patience in suff'ring,
More sorrow for sin;
More faith in my Savior,
More sense of His care;
More joy in His service,
More purpose in prayer.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

4 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ²They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand. ⁵The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. ⁷They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" —Acts 4:1-7, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How gladly do I read again these words. Honor and thanks to you for causing them to be written. They are and have been such a source of blessing to so many for so long — too bad — oh, sad beyond words, that this word is not known to more. Dear God, give me the courage and wisdom to do what I can to tell these religious persons of our day of the resurrection of your Son.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Teaching and preaching are linked with the same action. Dear God, give me the power and privilege to do the same thing today! Jesus will raise *me* from the dead — indeed all that sleep in the dust shall arise! (i.e., the bodies). "So in Christ all shall be made alive." Praise your wonderful name! Many that heard the word believed! — I believe if more heard, more would believe. Oh, dear Lord, move me, enable me to make such possible!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

How I thank you for: (1) Religious people who have a disposition to listen. (2) The power to think and speak your thoughts and words. (3) In Jesus we will be raised to live forever in heaven. (4) Jail is no disgrace if it is for him — it is an open door and not a closed one. (5) The 5,000 who could hear and accept today if we would tell them. (6) The historical accuracy of the account — names, places, etc. (7) “By what power or by what authority” do we do anything and everything?

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

By what power have you done this? (1) Not the power of education for they were unlearned and ignorant. (2) Not by the power of personal moral courage because they fled and denied him but a few days earlier. (3) Not by the power of personal ambition, for they had everything to lose and nothing to gain by their actions. (4) Not by the power of money — silver and gold; they had none.

It was by the power of: (1) The resurrected Christ — he was alive and this news was so exciting and important it *must* be told. (2) It was by the power and person of the Holy Spirit of God. He enabled them when they trusted him. (3) It was by the power of love and concern that men would hear. (4) It was by the power of the spoken word.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I am asking you out of your word — I claim your promises: (1) Reveal to me if I am in any way like these religious bigots. (2) How I want to proclaim the same message today — help me! (3) Open my mind as to the prominence of the resurrection in preaching. (4) Help me with the boldness I lack and want. (5) I do pray for my brothers in jail now for their faith. (6) How I want to make my intercession intelligent — help me! (7) How can I reach men today?

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in these words: (1) “You are not as willing to suffer as you should be!” (2) “Belief comes by hearing — speak out.” (3) “Go to religious people first.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Morocco — Points for prayer: (1) *Islam has so completely replaced Christianity that little remains of a once large church.* Pride in Morocco’s glorious past as a center of civilization and Islamic learning, and prejudice against the truths of Scripture are barriers to the acceptance of the gospel. 80% of the population

have had no contact at all with the gospel. Pray for individual hearts — and the entire nation — to be opened for messengers of the Cross. (2) *Praise God for a new and unprecedented level of interest in the gospel.* Yet every advance is bitterly contested by the enemy, and every possible obstacle to the witness of national and foreign believers is exploited.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I’m standing on the promises of God.

WEEK TWELVE

—Thursday—

It is our privilege to sanctify at least our hour with you. Gladly do I do it!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Sanctification: Dear God, how you do set people aside for your work. All that you do is sanctified — blessed be your name — what a wonder you are. You are much more a sanctification than anything else. All you have done is holy and pure and right and unique.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Sanctification of myself. How I need you and want you to set me aside as a servant of yours. I want to be a vessel for use — whatever honor comes from this, let it be in the good works as a praise to you — even as my Lord has said.

How do you personally relate to the sanctification of God, and God who is Sanctifier? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How easy it is to confess to you my sin. I do so in plain words. I am deeply sorry for my sin — not only so, I honestly purpose to forsake them! Dear Lord, help me! Cleanse me! I accept your forgiveness.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

More love to Thee, O Christ,
 More love to Thee!
 Hear Thou the prayer I make
 On bended knee;
 This is my earnest plea:
 More love, O Christ to Thee,
 More love to Thee!
 More love to Thee!

HIS WORD

⁷They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?”

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and everyone in Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you completely healed. ¹¹He is “ ‘The stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’

¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

¹³When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁵So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. —Acts 4:7-15, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How interesting it will be dear Lord when I can inquire personally about so many men that have crossed the canvas of time. What ever happened to Annas and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all the other men of the high priest’s family? I know you know and this is enough. Peter and John I expect to meet and talk with.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Dear God, I want to see my salvation fulfilled in Him — even in your dear Son. He is my capstone — my hope — my door — my peace — my courage and

boldness. Bless and adore his dear name! Oh, how I want to be so often personally with you that men will see reflected your presence in me.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you: (1) For every day as a judgment day. We will decide issues today that will not appear again. (2) The power in the name of our Lord — to save and forgive and bring joy. (3) Acts of kindness — in all the past (but for today is there one act for me?). (4) Jesus is alive, and even now sees me and knows me, loves me. (5) The capstone of all history. (6) What unschooled and ordinary men can do. (7) That I can this very day, right now be with Jesus.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Dear Lord, you know and I know these thoughts are fleeting and sometimes not at all profound. I want to wonder and praise in the thought of *trials before men* — we all have them every day. We threaten one another's interests and are brought into conflict. How shall we react? Perhaps Peter and John are saying something to us such as: (1) They were first of all "filled with the Holy Spirit" — filled with the power and name (authority) of the "Other Jesus." (2) They emphasized the good or the kindness done. (3) They gave all credit for all good to the One to whom it is due. (4) They did not ignore the problem — were ready to lay their lives on the line.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How good it is to relate my requests to your unchanging word: (1) Am I to expect any better treatment from religious leaders today? (2) Perhaps all those who accept my Lord are my brothers — is this true? (3) What trophies of your triumph can I show to all men? (4) How can I convince men of the reality of my Lord's salvation? (5) I want Jesus to be the capstone of my life — help me! (6) Give this ordinary man extraordinary courage from yourself. (7) How can I establish a closer fellowship with my Lord?

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

You are speaking — am I listening? (1) "I will be just as near to you as you are to me." (2) "Men will have nothing to say against you if you do good." (3) "Men are plotting now how to silence my witness."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Morocco — Points for prayer: (1) The government

refuses to recognize the legality or even the existence of an indigenous Moroccan Church. For individuals who become followers of Christ, this lays them open to charges of treachery, illegal contacts with foreign organizations, and to prison sentences for not adhering to Islamic practices such as the fast month of Ramadan. For church groups it is very difficult to find meeting places or arrange Christian marriages and burials. Pray for the king and those in authority, and for a radical change of policy that will give greater freedom to Christians. (2) *The Church in Morocco is becoming a reality.* Growth has been slow, but the momentum has picked up. There are possibly 1,000 believers and eight cities in which Christians gather in little groups.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Golden harps are sounding,
Angel voices ring,
Pearly gates are opened,
Opened for the King;
Christ the King of glory,
Jesus King of love,
Is gone up in triumph
To His throne above.
All His work is ended,
Joyful we sing;
Jesus hath ascended;
Glory to our King!

WEEK TWELVE

—Friday—

Since you have redeemed us we no longer belong to ourselves. I bow before my blessed Redeemer in praise and wonder.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Redeemer: “O blessed Redeemer, how precious Thou art.” This is more than a song; it is the eternal truth. The amazing fact is you have paid the ransom price and brought us back to yourself. Blessed be your name forever — my redeemer — but also the world’s redeemer. What a price you have paid! How I do appreciate it!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

You are *my* redeemer — my ransom from sin and bondage. I am deeply moved with the cost involved! O holy Redeemer, how precious you are to me! It is the wonder of ten million galaxies that you should take the form of man and pour out your blood for my redemption.

How do you personally relate to the redemption of God, and God who is Redeemer? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Surely my deepest need is redemption and to be forgiven. I need to freely confess all my need and to be made clean. I do confess to One who knows and loves and heals. Dear God, forgive! To be open and free with you — I name and label my sin and accept the remission.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹⁶“What are we going to do to these men?” they asked. “Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

¹⁸Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. ²⁰For we cannot help speaking what we have seen and heard.”

²¹After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. ²²For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old. —Acts 4:16-22, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

“What are we going to do with these men?” You surely must have been pleased when Peter and John caught the fire of love and zeal. What deep humility it took for these ordinary men to become such extraordinary slaves of King Jesus! Dear God, how I love the record of evangelism in this account. Oh! oh! that it might be repeated right here in our town. To speak to men and women in the name of Jesus is my desire — my commitment — my job. Is it right in the sight of God? in the sight of men? What have I seen and heard? Oh, speak and reveal yourself as I read your word.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

There is an open door in our town. I *want* to get your word in every home in *every* heart, in every life, in this town. If these men and women could fill Jerusalem, we surely can fill the place where I live. There *are* people here who will praise God for what is done. I have less reason than they did for not doing this. No one has commanded me not to do it. More want it than oppose it, what am I waiting for?

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you, thank you for: (1) The honesty (though forced) of the men in authority — it could easily be the same today. (2) The power of *his name*, his authority, his presence, his word, his total person. (3) The directness and clarity of the words of Peter and John. (4) Their willingness to back up their words with their lives. (5) People that have the capacity of praise and wonder now as then.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

The little leaven. Just two men, just two lives, just a poor beggar, just verbal expression — but leaven is total — all the leaven is leaven. Whenever Peter and John touched the lives of anyone they affected them. There was no time, no place, no one who touched Peter and John that was not infected with the leaven of joy and happiness. People were touched by the wondrous news that the Messiah had come! The lame man had a strong infection — he was incurably affected by the leaven of deliverance from sickness, boredom, meaninglessness, despondency.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Indeed I do want to ask everything according to your word: (1) How can I let everyone in my town know of your Son? (2) Am I in any way intimidated by my fear of men? (3) Do the laws of men today in any way oppose the laws of yourself? (4) I want to see more and hear more of your Son — help me! (5) How can such an act of your power happen today? (6) I am the man who was healed — increase my witness. (7) How would it feel to beg for years and years?

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

**READ HIS WORD AND
WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS**

Speak to me, Lord: (1) “Men will not always be convinced even by the best evidence.” (2) “Most men will be convinced — keep on telling the story.” (3) “There are men just waiting for your word of healing.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mozambique — Point for prayer: *Mozambique has never known religious freedom.* Protestants were severely limited in their outreach, and sometimes persecuted, in the time of the Portuguese rule. Persecution of all Christians was particularly severe after independence and until 1982. Missionaries were expelled, Christian leaders intimidated and imprisoned, and many churches and institutions seized or destroyed. Discriminatory legislation was passed to limit Christian gatherings to recognized church buildings and prevent evangelism. Since 1982, the military and economic situation has brought an easing of the pressures and made Mozambique more open to the gospel than ever before. Praise God for this, but pray for complete religious freedom and peace for this tormented land.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

WEEK TWELVE

—Saturday—

It would seem the all-inclusive name is savior, and yet it is meaningless until we know how lost we are without him. Here is a rare opportunity to thank him!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Savior: How good to call you by this name. Angels so described you. All that is valuable and has any meaning in this whole world is the object or trophy of your salvation. You have saved us all — most have just never heard of your offer.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

How easy it is to relate to your work in men. I have been saved from a life of frustration and emptiness to one of true joy and peace and eternal purpose. These are much more than mere words on paper. Joy in your presence and person — peace with you and all others — eternal purpose in what I do: teaching, writing, speaking — without you, there would be nothing. Indeed you have saved me!

How do you personally relate to the salvation of God, and God who is Savior? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

This is an admission — a tragic admission that at times I do not want to be saved! Most of the time it is because I do not know how lost I am. But there are other sad days when I am unwilling to change my mind in a way that will alter my conduct. Dear God, save me from this selfishness! Your salvation is *from* my sins — but it is also *to* your happiness!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

My Jesus I love Thee,
I know Thou art mine,

For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²³On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ²⁴When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

“Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

²⁵You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

“ ‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.’

²⁷Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” —Acts 4:23-30, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How easy it will be to praise you and wonder before you from this passage! I stand in the crowd to hear the exciting words of Peter and John. How encouraging and at the same time they are a cause of deep concern. How beautiful to find just the appropriate text for the situation. Men do only nothing without your knowledge. Men do not always do what you want, but they do nothing without your knowing it.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I want to be a real part of "their company." I acknowledge not only your sovereignty but your intimacy and your personal interest in the affairs of men. For today with the president and congress and with our local officials — in all the occurrences of our town. Dear God, in my own life "stretch out your hand to heal." If you consider whatever threats there are, I have no fear. You know my needs and have much good prepared for me.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) For all the varied lives that have made up your company — over the centuries. (2) That I can acknowledge your sovereignty now — creator of the heavens (fantastic!) and the earth and the sea and all in each — wow! (3) You inspired the Old Testament. David wrote and spoke through the Holy Spirit. (4) Jesus was and is your anointed One — the Messiah! (5) Men cannot successfully oppose you. (6) We can, by the Holy Spirit, speak the word with boldness.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Let's consider carefully these two thoughts: (1) Isn't it strange that the very men who should be glad were mad? The priests should have been the leaders in telling of their Messiah. The captain of the Temple never had better worshipers in his building. The Sadducees have now before them the most profound event in human history, but they were blind. (2) Many that heard the glad, good, life-giving word believed — 5,000 plus many others. Belief *does* come by hearing the word. This progress was planned by God, not man.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

There are so many requests in this text — I make them mine: (1) Open my heart and mouth in a word to my friends for you. (2) Direct me to those who will pray with me. (3) I believe you did indeed create the heaven, the earth, the sea and all in each. (4) Help me to find the fulfillment of your word in my daily life. (5) Lord, I want to pray for the governor of our state — for lesser officials — help me! (6) Consider the threats in my life. (7) Grant me the same boldness I see in this text.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Please visit me and let me open my heart to your word! (1) "I grant boldness in the speaking of my

word." (2) "I am looking upon all threats to your life." (3) "Honor my holy Servant Jesus."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mozambique — Points for prayer: (1) *The long succession of political, military and natural calamities* has created a great hunger for reality and peace with God. Widespread responsiveness is evident, and churches are growing — in some areas dramatically. Pray that the spiritual needs may be met, and that the whole land may open up for the preaching of the gospel. Mozambique has the largest unreached population in Africa south of the equator. (2) *Christian leaders have been under great pressure to compromise their faith and their congregations* through intimidation and fear. The only recognized interdenominational body is the Christian Council of Mozambique, but not all members are evangelical. Pray for bold, clear, incisive leadership for each denomination.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word:
From Heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

WEEK THIRTEEN

—Sunday—

I am forgiven; I have been forgiven; I shall be forgiven. In the closet of prayer is where I claim such a gift!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Forgiver: This is your major work and characteristic. How I praise you that this is so! How many people have you forgiven? There are billions of people upon the earth — no two just alike and not even one that does not need forgiveness.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Forgiver of myself! of my sins and basic selfishness. How I want to be clean and pure before your presence. How gladly do I confess my sins to obtain your cleansing. I must forgive as I have been forgiven.

How do you personally relate to the forgiveness of God, and God who is Forgiver? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Oh, dear Lord, why should I want to hide my sins? I want to confess them and rid myself of them. Cleanse and remove and restore. Dear Lord, I do rejoice in forgiveness, but I do not hesitate to freely, openly confess my sin and need! Thank you for accepting me!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain
Free to all — a healing stream,
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
'Til I reach the golden strand

Just beyond the river.

In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever;
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions were his own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was with them all. ³⁴There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. —Acts 4:32-35, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How glorious to read of your involvement with your children! To read that "all believers were one in heart and mind" is a total amazement. We have terrible trouble in this very area. We need today the same motivation — it is the risen Lord — it is the power Person of the Holy Spirit — it is the wonder of the Messiah concept. Has our King come? Has our deliverer arrived? Has he spoken to us? Dear God you know I am telling you just *how* much these verses say to me.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I mix the direction of my worship. Dear Lord, I want it all to be of you. How can I truly say that nothing I possess is mine, but I have all things common with my fellow believers? What an all-consuming, all-powerful love swept across the hearts of the Christians in Jerusalem! What about my town? Telling and sharing

truly *does* impress people — nay, it demonstrates our love and faith in you!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you, thank you for: (1) The desire to be one in heart (emotions) and mind (intellect). (2) The possibility of unity among believers. (3) My risen, living Lord. (4) Every possession I have and can share. (5) Men who can administer means. (6) The joy and blessedness of giving.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

How I want to deeply meditate upon these verses. *Much power in testifying — much grace in lives and giving.* Peter and John, James and Andrew and all of the other eight could say they saw the Lord after his passion. No wonder there was so much *power* behind their words! Have I seen the Lord today? Have you? Jesus is alive whether we can see him or not. He *is* speaking to me — not only through his word, the New Testament, but in all it means to my life and yours. The *power* is twofold: (1) What we say, but more powerfully, (2) what it means to us that is reflected in our total demeanor. Much unearned favor of the Lord was with them and worked through them! Dear God, may it be so today!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What a beautiful area for requests: (1) Let me give my heart and mind to you. (2) Let me give my heart and mind to others. (3) Release my hold on my possessions when others are in need. (4) Open my heart to receive the full impact of my Lord's resurrection. (5) I want to continue steadfastly in the apostles' teaching — grant me wisdom. (6) How can I meet the needs of the hungry of the world today? (7) How can I relate physical and spiritual needs?

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Surely I need to hear your voice in this text: (1) "Believers can be of one heart and one mind today." (2) "I want the unity of believers." (3) "The world will never care how much you believe until they see how much you care."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Namibia (Southwest Africa) — Points for prayer: (1) *The political future of Namibia* calls for believing prayer. Pray for a peaceful settlement fair to all Namibians, and for a government that will uphold

Christian values. (2) *Namibia is one of Africa's most Christianized lands*, yet biblical truth and true spirituality are in short supply. Christian leaders need prayer that they stand for the gospel rather than ideologies or sectional interests. Only Christians can adequately bridge the tensions and hatreds that divide the diverse ethnic groups. Pray for a deep spiritual revival. (3) *Leadership training.* The major seminary in the country has been much influenced by Black and Liberation theology to the spiritual impoverishment of students passing out into the ministry. Several smaller Bible schools make a stronger evangelical stand.

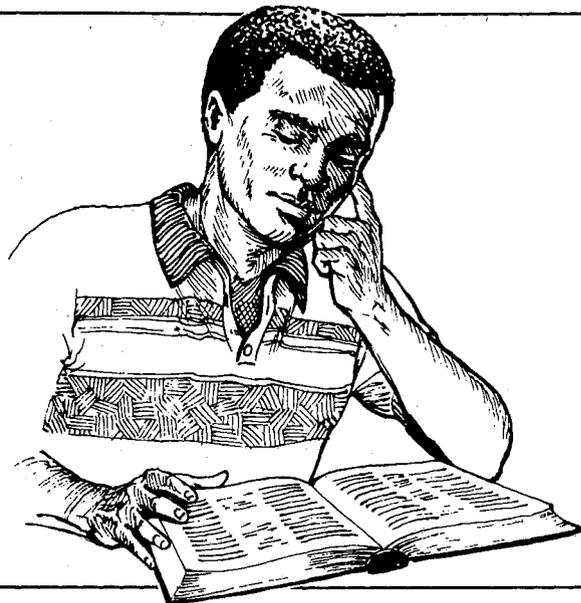
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O Worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

WEEK THIRTEEN

—Monday—

Cleanliness is NOT next to godliness — it is godliness! You are the omnipotent cleanser. This is a new quality as an expression of yourself.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Cleanser: You do keep a balance in this total universe — to keep man clean is one immense task.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

My cleanser — praise your name! I am glad to claim your cleansing. How good to be clean! To know inward forgiveness is a great gift! Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow!

How do you personally relate to the cleansing of God, and God who is clean? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How I do want to be honest and candid! To be open and clean before you! As I look over the list of sins in your word I am impressed with how many do have at least partial application to me. Dear God, forgive.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me,
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;

My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

³⁶Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

5 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ²With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

³Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God." —Acts 4:36-5:4, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What a good man is Barnabas! To sell a field with no other thought than the good it could do for someone else is indeed a wonderful example. How I thank you for the preservation down through all these ages (2,000 years) of the lovely record. I am just as glad you have so carefully kept the account of Ananias and Sapphira. I need and want to read and believe it all over again. Dear Lord, how good to have your estimate of the seriousness of a lie. Forgive me!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

To read this record and alternately take the place of

each of these persons is an awesome experience — for I can (and do) stand in the sandals of Barnabas, Peter, Ananias, Sapphira, the rest of the apostles, and any other persons present. Dear Lord, may I examine before you all thoughts that bid for action — it could be that Satan is talking to me — but I have *your* written word — I want to inscribe every word of it on my mind and will and conscience.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

How shall I thank you through this text? (1) For Joseph the encourager — may I today be like him. (2) For money and what it can mean for your work in this world. (3) For hypocrites — or hypocrisy — as they and it display the contrast between truth and error. (4) For the marvelous power of choice — oh, how awesome it is. (5) For the living, real Holy Spirit. (6) That what we have of material means is indeed ours and at our disposal. (7) That you are right this moment listening and seeing and knowing — in all I do you *are* present.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

What meditation shall we have on this meaningful text? How to distinguish the thoughts of God from the thoughts of Satan. (1) When *anything* we think is contrary to the Bible it is from the evil one. (2) When a thought is selfish — when a thought is prideful — when a thought exalts me and mine — it is from beneath. (3) When we must conceal and hide and become devious it is of Satan. (4) When we hesitate to do the obvious right and good thing to meet a human need we could be listening to the devil. (5) When the praise comes to us and not to God Satan is behind it.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

It is so easy to pretend — give me the courage to be candid. (1) Give me a godly fear that leads to repentance. (2) Guard me from the love of money. (3) Show me over again that no one deceives the Holy Spirit. (4) Help me to include you as a silent listener in all my conversation. (5) Open my heart to the real world of the Spirit. (6) I am glad I want to tell the truth — increase my desire. (7) May I have a clear, clean conscience if this is my last day.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

May I hear what the Spirit through his Word is saying to me: (1) “Your appointment with death has already been made.” (2) “There is another very real world

right on the other side of your last heartbeat.” (3) “Try yourself, not the Holy Spirit.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Nauru — Points for prayer: (1) *The wealth of Nauruans* contrasts markedly with the relative poverty of surrounding island states. Materialism has sapped the people of spiritual concern. Church life is at a low ebb. There are few evangelical believers. (2) *The immigrant phosphate workers* — Chinese, Tuvalu and Kiribati islanders — need to hear the gospel, for few of them know the Lord.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing,
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing cease them from distressing,
Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.

WEEK THIRTEEN

—Tuesday—

To bow before One, even yourself and know that Jesus was the express image of your person moves me to worship like no other thing.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Christ-like: How attractive is this quality! What great assurance — what personalness — what hope. All that attracts me or “all men” to my Lord, attracts to you. Wonder of all wonders! God became man! To praise you is a joy and delight since you are just like the one who is all in all to me!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Christ-like to me! I cannot — or do not — separate these qualities. Oh, dear God! You are full of wisdom — love — tenderness — peace — purpose — all because you are just like Jesus! Just like my dear, wonderful Savior! Praise your eternal self!

How do you personally relate to the Christ-likeness of God, and God who is Christ-like? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How unworthy I am to be your son, but since I have nothing to hide, nothing to gain but cleanness — forgive. If you only forgave on the basis of performance there would be little hope for anyone. Bless your name, you forgive, cleanse and forget — just because we need it!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

O Master, let me walk with Thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Teach me Thy patience: still with Thee
In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.
In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only Thou canst give,
With Thee, O Master, let me live.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁵When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. ⁶Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. ⁷About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?” “Yes,” she said, “that is the price.”

⁹Peter said to her, “How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.”

¹⁰At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. And the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.
—Acts 5:5-10, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How glad I am that our lying is not so punished today! May great awe and reverence grip me and hold me as I stand in that crowd and look for a long time at what happened that day in Jerusalem. You have given such graphic details of this incident that I'm sure we are to lay it to heart. I feel like Sapphira — i.e., I really do not know what happened — I can read it and see it, but the reality occurred in the spirit world.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

What do Ananias and Sapphira know now? They have been in the world of the unseen for almost two thousand years — in torment and anguish and remorse! Oh, oh, terrible, terrible thought! and yet according to Luke 16:19-31 it is true! My Lord, my Lord, keep me clean and ready, but full of joy and peace. Dear Lord, help me, help me to guard my lips — may they only speak what is true and faithful to you. Dear God, you need no test to prove your faithfulness to me!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you for: (1) Peter's holy courage and wisdom — really from you — but not without Peter's willingness. (2) The group effort in worship and learning — the pallbearers probably never forgot! (3) The clear record to produce wonder and belief in my heart. (4) Peter's words to Sapphira — the last words she ever heard. (5) The example of the seriousness of lying. (6) Your personal interest in truth. (7) The fact that I can die to sin not in it.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord?" Of course we would never do such a thing — or would we? Every time we question one word of the Spirit's word, i.e. the Bible, we are tempted in this same area. If we do not decide this side of death that God has said what he meant and meant what he said we will find it out too late. Every time we decide that God has not heard our prayers we tread dangerously in the same area. How much better to trust him completely.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I want to ask as you would ask: (1) May I be ready for your great day of equity? (2) How can great fear seize the church today? (3) Am I right in believing only the apostles performed miraculous signs up till this time? (4) Dear Lord, I want to know the whole and true purpose of healings. (5) Why not be healed by someone else but Peter? (6) How could "all" be healed? (7) In what way were people "tormented" by demons?

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

**READ HIS WORD AND
WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS**

Speak to me from these few verses: (1) "If men will not believe the apostles and prophets, there is no other message." (2) "Discipline can help the church."

(3) "It is possible to have the same salvation today they had in Jerusalem."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Nepal — Point for prayer: *Praise for the growth of the Church in Nepal.* For years witness among Nepalis was only possible in North India, but in 1951 the land opened a little for the gospel. In 1960 there were about 25 baptized believers; in 1985 this has grown to around 25,000. Most of the growth is in the last 10 years. In some places whole villages have come to Christ, in others whole families. There are nearly 400 larger or smaller worshipping groups scattered across the country and in all of the major ethnic groups. Most are linked to the *Nepal Christian Fellowship*, an umbrella fellowship for a wide variety of groups.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

More love to Thee, O Christ,
More love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make
On bended knee;
This is my earnest plea:
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!

WEEK THIRTEEN

—Wednesday—

All I have and am belongs to you — you have just let me use what I call mine. I want to learn more about this quality in worship.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Owner: You are the original owner of all that is or ever will be! You own everything because you created it, and in man's case you bought him — all twice belong to you. How I enjoy talking to such a Prominent Person! To think you want me to commune with you!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Naught have I gotten but what I received — grace has bestowed it since I believed! Blessed be your eternal power — wisdom — knowledge — purpose — and to know I *belong to you!* This is a most comforting thought. Dear God, help me to let you manage your property.

How do you personally relate to the ownership of God, and God who is owner? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I guess all sin is but a basic denial of the right of ownership — or at least an ignoring of it. Dear God, I *know* you can do so much better than I can, but I am just unwilling to let you have your way. Forgive me! Help me! Purify me, clear my record!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now, I wait for Thee,

Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

¹¹Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

¹²The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. ¹³No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. ¹⁴Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. ¹⁵As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. —Acts 5:10b-16, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How exciting and full of life are these words. How amazed and awe struck are the people of the city of Jerusalem. How I want to be "seized" by joy and fear — what a procession of healing is taking place! What wonderful respect and high regard is accorded the believers. How rapidly did the body of your dear Son grow! The little phrase "they were healed every one" or "all of them were healed" strikes me. How good that you helped in such a marvelous manner!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I want to be just as reverent and full of wonder as those in the city on that day — both types of fear are

seen here — reverent and judgmental. I am glad to say I come as a penitent child. How I long for the same kind of turning to the Lord as witnessed in Jerusalem. It does seem significant that miracles were done “by the hands of the apostles” — but the purpose was accomplished.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you, dear Lord: (1) For power and direction you give to all of life. (2) That you are interested in my body as well as my heart. (3) For the respect you can develop in the hearts of unbelievers for the good news. (4) That multitudes today can be and should be “added to the Lord.” (5) That we together make up “the Lord” (his body) on this earth. (6) For the deep respect people have for men who love you. (7) That evil spirits are subject to you.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Gather around his word and let him speak: (1) Dear Lord, we do not have a greater need than unity for today — one heart and one soul and one in material needs to help others — one in belief. (2) Needs can be met in any group anywhere — this is a startling statement, but it is true. (3) Joseph, a man of means, gave his means to you. (4) That I am not the body, but only a temporary resident — my house is not here and surely not in torment! (5) That there are laws by which we can live. (6) That such action happens today only spiritually and not physically.

What meditation will we do on this text? “The feet of the young men are at the door.” It may be several years from now — it may be today — but someone will come and carry out your body and mine. May I believe it as deeply and personally as did Sapphira! It is appointed unto me — the appointment has already been made — I simply do not know the date — help me to so live this day as if the hour was in it for my departure — indeed I have a strong desire to depart this body and be at home with the Lord, which will be very far better!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

We are indeed moved to prayer requests in the face of this text: (1) Give me such young men who will serve in difficult situations. (2) Help me to remember that all that is buried is the body. (3) Lead our local body of believers into “great fear” (reverence). (4) May we so live and work that unbelievers will respect us. (5) Stop people from joining a religious club. (6) Dear Lord, add to our number through our witness for you. (7) May all our preachers be as humble as Peter.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Dear Lord, if ever our ears were open it is now — speak to us through these verses: (1) “I want your whole attention all the time.” (2) “I can — and do — work through all types of circumstances.” (3) “There is no limit to what I can do when men love me and worship me.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Nepal — Points for prayer: (1) *The political situation is tense and potentially explosive.* Pray for peace and enough freedom for the gospel to allow the whole land to be evangelized as soon as possible. (2) *Persecution has been intense at times.* In 1985 there were 50 Christians awaiting trial, and some were in prison for infringing the anti-conversion laws. Those who profess Christ are liable to one year in prison, and those who baptize them six years. Some Christians have recanted under pressure; many others have become more fervent and bold. Pray for valiant believers who risk all for the sake of the gospel as itinerant preachers, teachers and literature evangelists. Pray also for those who are suffering for their faith.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine,
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

WEEK THIRTEEN

—Thursday—

To be totally satisfied — or to be filled with all of your fullness is one rare opportunity. It is mine just now!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Filler: He is the fullness of all things and he himself fills all things — for of his fullness we have all received — grace for grace — or grace upon grace. How I praise you, dear Lord, that this word so adequately describes you. In you were all filled and you are our fullness!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Filler for me! I truly, truly find my fullness in him! He is before all things and in him all things hold together — in him is the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form. How beautiful he is to me — praise his glorious person!

How do you personally relate to the fullness of God, and God who fills all? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

To confess to such a one is no chore — nor need I hesitate — but opening my heart — all my mind — my total will, the depth of my affection, I give myself to you dear, wonderful Savior! Clean me up, wash me and I shall be whole!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Nearer, still nearer, close to Thy heart,
 Draw me, my Savior, so precious Thou art;
 Fold me, O fold me close to Thy breast,
 Shelter me safe in that "Haven of Rest,"
 Shelter me safe in that "Haven of Rest."
 Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring,

Naught as an offering to Jesus my King;
 Only my sinful, now contrite heart,
 Grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart,
 Grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹⁷Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors to the jail and brought them out. ²⁰Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of the new life." ²¹At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told. —Acts 5:17-21a, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How gladly I take up your word to tell you what it means to me and how much I appreciate what you have said and are saying to me. The opposition to your Son's body is most serious — all twelve apostles in prison — what beauty and surprise in the sudden appearance of the angel! Oh, dear Father, how I do want to tell the people of this town "the full message of this new life." How I admire and respect those men who laid their lives on the line for you.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Let's not be surprised today if jealousy becomes a large part of the opposition we face. Greed and covetousness and jealousy all form a real part of the opposition to your cause today. Wonder — praise — adoration for the ministry of your angels. I know they have not died since that day when one of them appeared in the prison cell in Jerusalem. The "full message" of the new life and hope in our Lord is so much needed today.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you; (1) For disbelievers who can be answered — and some become believers. (2) That no prison can hold the light and love of our Lord. (3) For the new daybreak of every day — a prototype of the eternal daybreak of heaven. (4) That we can teach the people the same wonderful message. (5) For a place, oh, so many places for teaching people today. We need, dear God, we *need* to be reminded that the people taught were interested unbelievers.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“An angel (messenger) of the Lord” — (1) Night has no hindrance for him — the angels that minister to me can do it at night as well as the bright daytime — praise and thanksgiving — this is a real assurance to me. (2) He can open doors shut and barred by man — no physical, mental or psychological door can stand in his way. If he wants to open the doors, they will be opened! (3) We can stand in the very place where we were defeated and win! (4) How good — so good — to begin each day with you. Today I can do the same thing they did: teach. Oh, that I could teach unbelievers as well as believers!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What requests come from this jail experience of the apostles? (1) Forgive me, Lord, for complaining when I have freedom. (2) May I check my motives today — am I jealous? (3) How can I be more and more aware of the presence of angels? (4) Open my heart to catch the full meaning of the expression: “new life.” (5) Can I ever catch the full impact of meeting in Herod’s temple? I want to try. (6) Give me wisdom to teach what the apostles taught. (7) I am glad to use daybreak each day to worship you — help me to guard it for you.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Here is what you say to me through your word: (1) “Do not expect present-day Sadducees to change.” (2) “Angels are still opening prison doors.” (3) “Go and stand in my presence and teach the people all the words of this new life.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Netherlands — Points for prayer: (1) *Netherlands has a great history of struggle for religious liberty, and of revival, ministry to refugees and suffering for the Word of God.* The younger generation is generally free-thinking, churchless, and more concerned with horizontal than vertical issues. The land has gained a reputation for drugs and loose living. Pray for

revival. Praise God for a growing awareness for church renewal. (2) *The Catholic Church* has a strong liberal element that has had worldwide influence, and which has caused great strain on relationships with the Pope. Numerical decline has accelerated over the past 10 years. Pray that the independence and spirit of enquiry among the Dutch may be harnessed by the Holy Spirit in a return to vital biblical Christianity for the blessing of the world.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I have a song I love to sing,
 Since I have been redeemed,
 Of my Redeemer, Savior, King,
 Since I have been redeemed,
 Since I have been redeemed,
 Since I have been redeemed,
 I will glory in His name;
 Since I have been redeemed,
 I will glory in my Savior’s name.

WEEK THIRTEEN

—Friday—

When our wants are your desires for us we are both satisfied. This I want to happen as I worship you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Satisfying: How could I more adequately describe your total character? The completion of all the material universe — the fulfillment of every need is due to your creative power. All of life is a result of your meeting our needs. You satisfy in the realm of the spirit — the heart — the emotions — the body. Praise to you, you do indeed, in every way, for everything — satisfy!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

To me you are total satisfaction. I can not even imagine a need you could not meet! For my purpose — hope — peace — strength — for my home — wife — children — you are the source for satisfaction in every situation. Wholeness is the result of trusting you to satisfy! How I want to *increase* my trust. A deep awareness that all things fit together is my response to your satisfying nature. Praise your name.

How do you personally relate to the satisfaction of God, and God who satisfies? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Could I be guilty of lying? This is no question — I am guilty of lying — to misrepresent the facts is a lie! No one wants to admit to lying — but I do — I want to be clean, forgiven. Dear God, behind most (if not all) the lies I have told is pride — dear Lord, forgive me! Lift this burden from my heart. I confess other sins to you also — wash me and I shall be brighter than snow!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²¹At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin — the full assembly of the elders of Israel — and sent to jail for the apostles. ²²But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, ²³“We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” ²⁴On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this. ²⁵Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.” ²⁶At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them. — *Acts 5:21-26, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

That your leaders could be mistreated and thrown in jail is indeed an amazement! They were thrown in jail, but they were not kept there! How exciting it is to never know what you have ready next — different! We puzzle and wonder, but have no explanation ever for the most elementary actions of yourself! I want to remain full of wonder and expectant amazement.

Please express your response to this text.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How I rejoice at the devotion of the twelve — at the troubled authorities — at the angel's service. Dear God, I want to believe that there is *no* circumstance of life out of which you cannot bring some good. I am confined and hindered so many times by Satan and circumstances. The purpose you have for me is to teach the lost. Dear God, help me to fulfill that purpose. I am today in my world — your "sent one."

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

There is much here for which we can thank you: (1) For the accurate record preserved through centuries and centuries of time. (2) For the capacity and opportunity of visualizing these events in a most believable manner. (3) For freedom as compared with confinement — to be in jail is a miserable experience — how to appreciate fully what it means to come and go at choice. (4) You can deliver from any jail — indeed — our spirits cannot be bound. (5) The gospel would and does meet the needs of the average man.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

The prison they found empty! What Satan thought would be a place or a way to confine and inhibit only proved to be an open door to new freedom. Such can be and is true of: (1) A financial crisis — God either delivers us out of it by supplying the means or through teaching us lessons we could not learn in any other way. (2) Lingering sickness — some confined people are the freest spirits we have on this earth — we are *not* the body — I repeat for clarity and emphasis, we are *not* the body. (3) Those in jail today — I have read their words of joy and praise and liberty of the human spirit — through the blessed Holy Spirit.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

My prayer requests are surely provided by your word: (1) Help me to pray for the heads of religious bodies today. (2) I now ask your grace to truly love those who hate me. (3) Thank you for the surprises you hand out so often. (4) Opposition is nothing when your power is present — I claim this promise. (5) The apostles did not run from opposition. Teach me! (6) May I remember that people usually know more than we think they do. (7) May I remember what a powerful force fear is.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak Lord, thy servant heareth: (1) "Men's opposition is an opportunity for my power." (2) "I teach

better when I have men's attention." (3) "Support can come from the strangest places."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Netherlands Antilles — Points for prayer: (1) *Openness to the gospel has not resulted in a great harvest.* Moral laxity, superstition and the growing marginal sects show how few understand the message of salvation. (2) *Evangelical witness has progressed slowly.* A vital, growing church in every island is a target for prayer. *The Evangelical Alliance Mission* has concentrated on evangelism and church planting among the Papiamento-speaking majority, and the 11 daughter churches are a large part of the evangelical witness. There are estimated to be 20 evangelical congregations on Aruba, but interdenominational rivalry is a major blot on the testimony of the Church. (3) *The whole Bible in Papiamento* has been translated by TEAM and the Bible Society. Little Christian literature is available in this language.

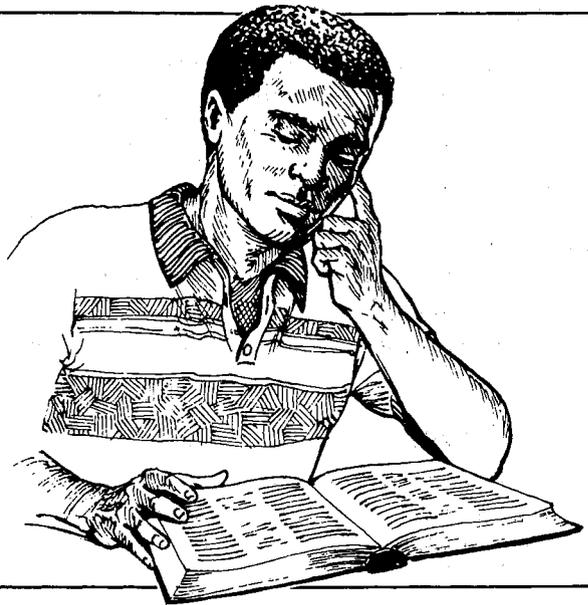
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

WEEK THIRTEEN

—Saturday—

I do not bow before the Bible — but I do bow before the author of it. Write its words upon my heart!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Writer-Author: How glad I am you are just what this name indicates — the author and writer (with 40 or more penmen) of the Bible, your word, your book! What an awesome thought! We have in our hands the book of which the great eternal God is the writer-author.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Writer-Author — to me it means I should learn — read and reread every word you have written — nothing, utterly nothing is more important than the Bible — it becomes *the* book for my understanding — my mind should be occupied with nothing else. Whenever I have a moment I need to be meditating upon it. I need to take many moments and give them gladly to a meditative reading of what the Eternal Creator has written!

How do you personally relate to the writership-authorship of God, and God who is writer-author? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Confession must include the sad sinful fact that I have neglected to study his word to the extent I should. Never, never could I read or learn enough from your book. Stealing could be taking that which rightfully belongs to God and selfishly using it for myself — such as time with his word, or honor and praise from him to me! God forgive. Dear God, look into my deepest consciousness and cleanse me!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

There's a stranger at the door,
Let Him in;
He has been there oft before,

Let Him in;
Let Him in, ere He is gone,
Let Him in, the Holy One,
Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,
Let Him in.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²⁷Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸“We gave you strict orders, not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood.”

²⁹Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men! ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead — whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. ³²We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

³³When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. ³⁴But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. ³⁵Then he addressed them: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. ³⁶Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. ³⁷After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. ³⁸Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail, ³⁹But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.” —Acts 5:27-39, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How exciting to identify with you in what you are saying in this text. How almost humorous must be the serious way men assume authority and position. How good it must have been — yea, still is, to see the city of Jerusalem filled with the teaching of the resurrection and salvation! How good to hear Peter do what he was not at all willing or even able to do a few days before — the resurrection of your Son, the reality of his power over *all* opposition, human or spiritual, gave Peter such courage. What was true of Peter was true of them all!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Has my Lord asked me (and others) to fill Joplin with the same message? Indeed he has! Are you going to do it? Yes, yes, to call on every home — to reach by word of mouth — in person — one on one — every-one. In the whole area there are 20,000 houses. A witnessing survey could take about 40 days. Dear God, we *will* do it. Nothing prevents us from calling *right now* on those I see every day.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you for: (1) The Prince and Savior at God's right hand. (2) The forgiveness of sins. (3) God induced repentance. (4) The Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (5) The ignorance of sinful men — as in Gamaliel's case it works to the advantage of the cause. (6) The fact that the wrath of man has never, never worked the righteousness of God. (7) The cause of my Lord that cannot and will not be defeated.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Fighting against God! How can we do this today? How can I possibly do it and not even know it? (1) To oppose in any way any spread of the word of God (if we waited until all Bible publishers or evangelists agreed with us we would have a long wait). (2) To resist anyone who preaches repentance and the forgiveness of sins through our blessed Lord! (3) Acting hastily in any circumstance — especially when related to the denial of the spread of the good news.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I want to ask in the light of your word: (1) Give me wisdom to know the difference between what you want and what I want. (2) Dear Lord, I am asking for grace to obey you in all things. (3) I do want to speak your word even if men do not want to hear — help me! (4) I accept my Prince and Savior — increase my

willingness. (5) I do want to be able to identify false prophets — help me. (6) Are there wise men like Gamaliel today? Who? (7) Was Gamaliel's advice good? Does it apply today?

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me from this text: (1) "You *must* obey me first." (2) "There is no forgiveness without repentance." (3) "Be careful you do not fight against me."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

New Caledonia (Overseas Territory of France) — Points for prayer: (1) *The political tensions* inevitably affect spiritual life and church growth. Pray for a wise solution to the territory's political turmoil; one that will also further the evangelization of this land with relatively few evangelical believers. Drunkenness, immorality and materialism are especially common among young people. (2) *The Protestant churches* though often liberal in theology, have a higher proportion of evangelicals than those in France. Pray for the witness of believers in difficult times — most villages and towns have no evangelical group.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All glory, laud and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To Whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before Thee we present.

If you have tried to maintain daily devotions and have failed – don't give up! There is a way that works.

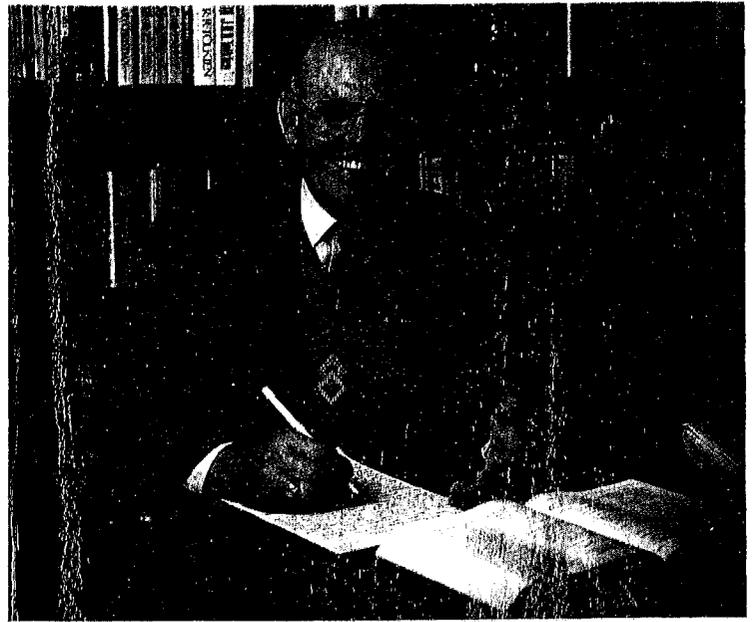
The simple effective method of daily devotions as described in **PERSONAL WORSHIP** can help you succeed where you have failed. You will know what it is to experience intimacy with God.

Discover How To:

- Overcome a wandering mind
- Establish the best time for your devotions
- Have a 100% record of success in daily devotions
- Overcome earlier failures
- Keep your personal devotional time as a regular commitment
- Produce your own prayer journal
- Write a prayer analysis of any Bible text.

When You Use This Proven Method You Will:

- Find more lesson and sermon ideas during your devotions than you ever found by using a direct approach
- Establish a personal relationship with your personal Savior
- Read more devotional comment on the Bible than you will find in any other source
- Discover that praise to God means so much more to you
- Become the spiritual example you always wanted to be



"Let my discovery work for you!"

I have been preaching and teaching for almost 50 years and I have observed the lives of thousands of Christians. I know how they have struggled to establish a regular daily time with God. I believe that the enemy attacks us in this area with all of his vigor.

It has been a struggle for me over the years to be faithful in my daily time with God. How I have longed for consistant personal worship with Him.

It took years but eventually I found the missing factor, and it has helped me more than I can express. I want to take you with me on my devotional journey. Come with me and find power in your daily time with the Lord. Come with me and rekindle your fire of spiritual zeal!

Yours in Christ,

Don DeWelt