

# WEEK TEN

## —Sunday—

*Being able to balance several factors into a design for my good and your glory is true understanding. Help me to appreciate it.*



### PRaise GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Understanding.* How glad I am that someone understands everything and everyone — your understanding is total! Nothing escapes your notice. I worship before you in calm assurance that all is well — with you and your plans. All is not at all either calm or right, here in the maelstrom of human affairs, but you are not confused or tired since you are *perfect understanding*. What an amazement. Won't it be an amazement when one day all is explained to all men? I can rest in you. I can rest in you. I can trust the one who has never made a mistake. You who are the originator of all the complexities of this physical world have no problem with the social, emotional, mental, moral complexities of man. It is all clear and clean and right with you. Dear God, it is too much for me. I trust 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

Understanding of myself — my amazement at the outer world is only matched by that of the inner world. "The heart (intellect, will, emotions, conscience) is desperately wicked and full of deceit — who can know it?" You can and do! It is *my* heart that you understand. I'm glad you do — I have given up the effort long ago. I am constantly surprised at my selfish willfulness. Dear God, forgive me! I do believe if I am ready to read and accept you are ready to reveal your will for my life. You understand me in a way (ways) that no man ever could, or that I could myself. How comforting it is to give myself to the one who not only understands, but is at work to help and bless and use my life.

*How do you personally relate to the understanding of God, and God who understands?*

### CONFESSiON OF SiN

With no reservations I admit my willfulness, my stubbornness, my resistance to your love. It is kindness,

meekness, gentleness, tenderness that I resist. Why? Why? Because there is someone lying to me who himself is the very antithesis of each of these virtues. He appeals to my selfish interests and says: "They (your interests) are being threatened, demand your rights" — and such an expression becomes very unkind in attitude and word — and in all areas he lies to me but why do I believe his lies? It is the weakness of my flesh; it is because I have lived such a long time in this sick, sinful environment — but most of all — because I can't or won't or don't hear your voice. 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

So precious is Jesus, my Savior, my King,  
His name 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.

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

### HiS WORD

<sup>19</sup>Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. <sup>20</sup>But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe. —Acts 14:19,20, NIV

### READ HiS WORD TO HiM

How very good it is to attempt (and how poorly I succeed only you can know) to relate these two verses

just as you would! Your own people opposing your own servants — how it must have broken your heart! How such an attitude today does grieve your heart! What words were used to persuade the multitude who but a little time before were ready to worship Paul and Barnabas. They are now ready to stone them. You heard them. They are recorded. Will they be rehearsed at judgment? Where was Barnabas? Perhaps there is much in this account we do not know — you know — and I do so want to hear it when I am in your presence. Was Paul dead? Did he come into the third heaven and “see you”? Did you encourage him?

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I want to gather around the prostrate form of Paul. I see Timothy, Lois, Eunice and several others there. I see tears streaming down the face of Timothy — years later Paul was to write to him and say “remembering your tears” (II Tim. 1:4). If Paul left the next day — and he did — a healing must have taken place. Dr. Luke’s careful report does not mention it. What a wonderful man is Paul, but what a wonderful Savior, and divine Father! Oh, that I might remain in Lystra to think and meditate and pray over all I had heard and seen.

*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

Oh, how gladly do I thank you: (1) For the plain fact that crowd approval is not based on truth — not on evidence but emotion — and is *never* dependable and should always be balanced with facts. (2) That Paul was ready, even glad, to suffer for his name’s sake, to bear in his body the sufferings of our Lord. (3) That what men think is often blessedly wrong! (4) For the love and concern and courage of the learners at Lystra. (5) That God raised Paul from whatever suffering he had to endure. (6) That Paul was ready to go back to the very place where he suffered the most. (7) For the vast understatement of Dr. Luke about Derbe — I would like to hear about each conversion — one day I shall. Praise him!

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*They preached the good news in that city (Derbe) and won a large number of disciples.”* It is so unusual to read an understatement concerning evangelism. The whole book of Acts is such an understatement. The appearance of the country through which they journeyed is not mentioned. The conversion stories of the thousands who became Christians does not find a place here. The personal impact of the sermons is not a part of the record. Where did they preach? Since both Lystra and Derbe were Gentile cities it must have

been in the market place. How could they proclaim the word in the winter? Just what constitutes a “large number”?

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

If I were present at the stoning of Paul I would surely have had several requests and so I do now: (1) Help me never to underestimate either the ignorance of “the crowd” or the persuasiveness of Satan. (2) Prepare me to suffer physically and respond as did Paul. (3) May I use the freedom I have while I have it. (4) Thank you for your mercy in Paul’s life. What an example! (5) Give me the same tender identity with those of Lystra. (6) May I remember the tears and prayers of those who have ministered to me. (7) I need the courage to carry me beyond the opposition of men.

*Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.*

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As you spoke to Paul, speak through Paul to me: (1) “What men think is dead is often very much alive.” (2) “Suffering binds people closer to each other than any other one thing.” (3) “There is always a blessing in every suffering.”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Thailand* — Points for prayer: (1) *There is much to praise God* — even in this land where the response has been so slow: a) *Thailand means “Land of the free.”* Praise God that it has remained so despite fears to the contrary. b) *The marked increase in interest in the gospel since 1975* (the time of the fall of Vietnam). The emptiness of Buddhism has brought disillusionment to many. c) *The increased emphasis on evangelism and church growth* by a new generation of Thai leaders, and widespread and effective use of media: radio, drama, cassettes, films and audio-visuals. (2) *The long-awaited spiritual breakthrough has yet to come* despite 160 years of missionary effort. Prayer must break down: a) *The fear that keeps people from Christ.* The social cohesiveness of Buddhism is strong, and Christianity appears foreign. b) *The bondage of demonic powers is real.* Behind Buddhism is a complex world of venerated and feared spirits. Nearly every building has a spirit shelf and most Thais wear charms to ward off evil. c) *The power of sin.* The social erosion caused by corruption, drugs and violence comes from the heart of man, but few have a concept of the need to repent.

### 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 TEN

## —Monday—

*There is a sad void in our lives when someone we love dies. It is so good to worship Someone who can eternally say "I Am"!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*I am.* Blessings and praise to yourself — the great Self, existent one — there never has been a time when you were not. In time past, in time present, in all time to come you are the "I am that I am" — your dear Son so described himself. What an encouragement to all men to know they worship one who is never surprised, or confused, or asks a question — all things are immediately known to you. All the qualities of love, mercy, power, wisdom, etc. are static. Praise and wonder is my totally inadequate response to such qualities.

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*"I am" for me.* How shall I possibly tell you all I see and feel in your divine permanence? "Change and decay in all around I see — oh, thou who changest not abide with me" — so sang the poet and so sings my heart. When I know of the fluctuations of my own heart and try to comprehend what it would be to be always and constant in character — I am like Moses, on holy ground, and an unholy man, unworthy, and full of need for forgiveness and your strength. It will be altogether glorious to one day enter into a static state where I shall not struggle with the changes otherwise known as wrong choices — when I have no option how glad I will be!

*How do you personally relate to the "I am" of God, and God who is "I am"?* Speak it out or write it out.

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Why should I, why do I choose to accept Satan's offers? Is it because I have not developed the attractiveness of your choice? Perhaps. Is it because I have been such a long time repeating sin? To repeatedly accept is to make acceptance easier than rejection. If I knew that the next time I accepted Satan's suggestion I would never be forgiven, would I accept it? No! Am I not then sinning twice over in presuming on your mercy? Dear Lord, forgive!

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Give me a faithful heart,  
Likeness to Thee,  
That each departing day  
Henceforth may see  
Some work of love begun,  
Some deed of kindness done,  
Some wand'rer sought and won,  
Something for Thee.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>21</sup>They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, <sup>22</sup>strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. <sup>23</sup>Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord in whom they had put their trust. <sup>24</sup>After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia, <sup>25</sup>and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

<sup>26</sup>From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. <sup>27</sup>On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. <sup>28</sup>And they stayed there a long time with the disciples. — *Acts 14:21-28, NIV*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

My heart always skips a beat when I try to truly enter this expression of prayer and devotion. How can I *really* and *truly* read the word as you would? I can't. It is an impossible task, but one I love to try each day!

How pleased you must have been to follow Paul and

Barnabas back into the houses of your children in Lystra, Iconium and Antioch. Every one of them is a learner — were they good students? They were better students after Paul and Barnabas came. They were “strengthened and encouraged to remain true to the faith.” Faith is something they had both subjectively and objectively.

How is it that Paul and Barnabas led in the appointing of the elders for them in each church — three sets of elders in three churches. The word “appoint” means “to stretch out the hand.” I am embarrassed to mention this to you — how much, much more you know about this than I do.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I have been unable to keep from reading for my own personal help before now, but let me now devour every word! Just how did these preachers “with prayer and fasting commit the church and its leadership to the Lord in whom they had put their trust”? There must have been a time set aside for fasting and prayer for the whole church and the elders — in each church — was it just one day? A three-day fast? Or perhaps a seven-day period? One day is the most common practice, but a three-day fast would not be unusual. Where is this practice today? Gone with the devotion and evangelism that accompanied it? Perhaps the words of Paul and Barnabas are a key to our problem: “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.” We do not want and will not accept the hardships and therefore reject the rule of God in our lives.

*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 supernatural gifts or abilities of the Holy Spirit which kept the assemblies alive in the absence of the apostles. (2) “The Faith” to which they could be true — indeed that there was such a distinction made between truth and error. (3) The sharp rebuke I feel in my own conscience when I read of the faith and devotion of these disciples. (4) The “grace of God” that accomplished all that was done. (5) The fact that “the church” could be gathered — the people were “the church” not the building where they gathered. (6) The credit given to your working through your servants. (7) The “door of faith” opened to anyone, everyone, when there are men of faith like Paul and Barnabas.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.” What did they do? Wouldn’t it be interesting to follow Paul and Barnabas through six months of day-by-day activity? They *did* spend six

months or more in the large city of Antioch. Did they keep the Jewish hours of prayer? If so, then nine o’clock found them in prayer. At what time did they arise in the morning? Was the example of our Lord in often finding a place of prayer a part of their daily routine? Was Paul supported by the Christians at Antioch so it was not necessary to make tents? What was the occupation of Barnabas? Most of all we would like to know how they won others to the Lord in this large metropolitan city. We can answer this last important question: they did it one at a time.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What courage and love led Paul and Barnabas back to where they had been mistreated! Such action promotes requests: (1) May I love people and your word more than I fear trouble. (2) Help me to have the same goals in my ministry — of “strengthening the disciples.” (3) How I want to encourage people — help me! (4) There *is* a faith to which we must remain true. I want to know it and teach it. (5) The rule of God is always attended with hardships — help me to remember! (6) Dear Lord, give me wisdom in the appointment of elders. (7) Open my desire to fast — fulfill its purpose in me.

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

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

From your word speak to me: (1) “People are eager to hear what I have done — tell them.” (2) “I am in the ‘door opening’ business today, but I do not have enough Pauls and Barnabases.” (3) “Paul and Barnabas stayed a long time with the Antioch church — you can do the same where you are if your purpose is the same.”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Thailand* — Point for prayer: *The slow growth of the Church is cause for concern.* The potential is great, but has yet to be realized. Pray for a much greater prayer burden and zeal to grip believers. Most of the congregations are poor, rural, and the believers are only partly literate. About half the believers are Thai, the other half are among the Chinese and tribal minorities.

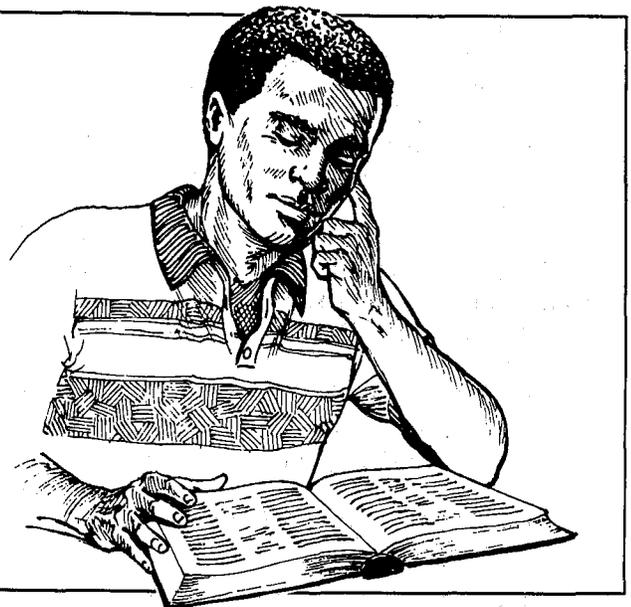
### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When I saw the cleansing fountain  
Open wide for all my sin,  
I obeyed the Spirit’s wooing,  
When He said, Wilt thou be clean?  
I will praise Him! I will praise Him!  
Praise the Lamb for sinners slain;  
Give Him glory, all ye people,  
For His blood can wash away each stain.

# WEEK TEN

## —Tuesday—

*To have some power is one thing, to have great power is another, but to have ALL POWER — ah, this is yourself! I bow in wonder before you.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Omnipotent.* All powerful God! To put no limitations on your power in any area of expression — this is an awesome thought, but it is much more than a *thought*, it is a *fact*. Evidence of your “everlasting power” is all about us — being clearly seen — and has been available since the foundation of the world. The power of your intellect is what impresses me. My little feeble efforts at prayer and praise are known to you and are not counted as either little or feeble. But as compared with your knowledge and person, they do look but what they are: the expression of one of your billions of beings in your likeness. Power in the moral realm is the most impressive since it is where we are the weakest — to will and to do and to always do is indeed an awesome thought.

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*Omnipotent for me.* To be able to link myself with the one who has total power in the physical, mental and moral realm is a wonder of all wonders. It excites me more than I can say, or express, although I do indeed want to try. If I but yield myself, give myself away to you, integrate my being in you, surrender in faith — it can happen. How much more I need and want the inward strength — shall I call it “grace” for that is what it truly is — to fulfill the desires of your heart — and my heart — “according to the *power* that worketh in us, both *to will and to do* his good pleasure”! Dear God, give me the grace to let go and let you fulfill your promise!

*How do you personally relate to the omnipotence of God, and God who is omnipotent? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Forgive — I have been selfish, prideful, afraid and just plain unwilling to let your power be manifest through or in me. It is easy to say, “I want to” — but do I? If I did you would! Forgive me! I am the

poorer, weaker, for my sin. Dear, dear God, change me! I am a congenital liar — from the birth of sin in my heart (James 1:13-17) I have lied when it would have been easier to tell the truth. I could say that most of the time — (there I go, lying again) at least *some* of the time I have been inhibited by fear — perfect love casts all such fear out. Cleanse me — oh, 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

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, 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

**15** Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” <sup>2</sup>This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. — *Acts 15:1,2, NIV*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

First the folk in Antioch were called “disciples” — now they are “brothers.” How good it is to be in your family! The record of the Antioch church is not

ancient with you — all the incidents of all the people there are as well known to you as are all the events of our lives today. The legalists from Jerusalem were not the first, and by no means the last, who taught, "Unless you agree with us you cannot be saved." Why, why do men do this? I want you to speak your answer right into the depths of my heart! Because man has mistaken a gift for a possession he has somehow earned. Salvation will always be a gift. I have it but it is only mine as a gift. I have had it for such a long time. I have become so familiar with it that somehow I believe I deserve it. Once I do then I can ask others to adopt my attitudes or they cannot have the gift. How ridiculous!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I want to listen with the "brothers" at Antioch for the first time to these jarring words: "Unless you are circumcised according to the law of Moses (the custom taught by Moses) you cannot be saved"! I do wonder just what form of expression the arguments took as the sharp dispute got under way. It was extended into a debate. Essentially it must have been a careful separation of the response of law such as circumcision or a thousand other acts of devotion and the nature of salvation which is grace or unmerited favor. Let me try to stand now with Paul and Barnabas. Would I have been willing to go to Jerusalem to settle this question? Hadn't it already been settled? Didn't I already know God's answer? Where is my humility and love?

*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) That even legalists are our brothers and I can treat them as such. (2) For teachers in the church like Paul who have the courage to correct. (3) That disputing and debating are not wrong in themselves. (4) That there was a body of men (elders) in the church at Antioch whom Paul respected and accepted. (5) That "other believers" were also responsible and respected. (6) That apostles and elders were the leaders at Jerusalem. (7) That supernatural powers of the Spirit do not eliminate free discussion.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*"To see the apostles and elders about this question."* How we do need to see the same people about any question we have as to who is a Christian, what a Christian should or should not do. Are we to understand that the elders of the Jerusalem church were on a par with the Apostles? If so (and so it would seem) they must have had supernatural aid in their oversight. How is it that an apostle had to ask apostles when both were supernaturally guided? Are there

elements in the divine direction we do not know?

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Debate and questions can also lead to prayer. I want this to happen here: (1) I like the constant use of the term "brothers" — help me to use it. (2) May I know false teaching when I hear it. (3) Impress upon me all over again that we are saved by grace through faith. (4) Say it again to me! "Nothing, nothing we do earns salvation or the forgiveness of sins"! (5) Help me to be as well prepared in debate as were Paul and Barnabas. (6) If Paul and Barnabas were "appointed" with others by the elders of the church in Antioch who am I to resist elders' oversight? (7) May I also consult the apostles (as found in the New Testament) about every problem.

*Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.*

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In the midst of many voices let me hear your voice: (1) "Without me all men are liars." (2) "Unless you know everything and do everything, you must be saved by grace." (3) "Be humble-minded; you can learn nothing if you are not."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Togo — Points for prayer: (1) Togo is the least evangelized non-Muslim country in Africa. For years the door for Protestant missionaries was open, but the opportunity was lost. Entry for new missionaries is only practicable at present for service with existing missions. Pray for the entry of missionaries adequate to evangelize every people. There are at present only six missionaries serving in the northern 70% of the country, where 65% of the population and most of the ethnic groups live. (2) The growth of Islam during this century has been marked and, as yet, unchallenged. There has never been any real attempt to evangelize Muslims or win those peoples being attracted to Islam. SIL has translation work among the Kotokoli and Chokossi, but where are the church planters to exploit the approaching availability of the Scriptures? (3) Bible translation is a major need. Pray especially for the completion of the Kabiye Bible now that it is one of the two indigenous languages used in education.*

### 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.

# WEEK TEN

## —Wednesday—

*There is utterly nothing you do not know! Gladly do I pause before you — I am so ignorant! Help me!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

**Omniscient.** This refers to your total knowledge — you know *all things*. This does not refer to the fact that you will know all things or that you have known all things, but that right now and always you know all things about all things. What a source of amazement! When man's knowledge is increasing, when man's confidence is in his own efforts such a quality strikes straight across man's self-sufficiency. What we learn you have always known. I want to face before you and worship in silence. I have no words to respond to absolute omniscience — even the adjective is a redundancy. "Holy (set apart)" is all I can say.

*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

Omniscience — I shall try to personally respond as best (so poorly) as I can. It is one thing to consider that you know all things of the world around me; it is quite another matter to know you know all things that relate to the world within me. To even state this truth is to ask "why can't I have access to such knowledge?" The answer is that I do! Your word will furnish me wholly (thoroughly) for every effort of this life — my response to your omniscience is to meditate on your word day and night! You have given me access to your knowledge of my heart in answer to prayer. I come to you for character development and you do hear and I am being formed into the likeness of my dear Lord by your chastening and blessing which are but an extension of your omniscience.

*How do you personally relate to the omniscience of God, and God who is omniscient? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

To lean upon my own understanding when such omniscience is available is more than folly, but I have

often played the fool. Dear wonderful, all knowing Father, forgive me. "Stealing" — to take what belongs to another without their permission. I have taken out of pure selfishness what I wanted for myself — of so many things. Most of my stealing has been from you — the precious moments loaned to me by you and so many, many of them used up as if they were mine. Intellect — but an extension of yourself — how often have I used it for the Giver? Dear God, forgive. Let him that stole, steal no more! Amen!

*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

<sup>3</sup>The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the brothers very glad. <sup>4</sup>When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them. —Acts 15:3,4, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How wonderfully good to read "the church" sent them, or gave them provisions and money for their journey — it is more than three hundred miles from Antioch to Jerusalem. Oh, oh what a day when there

was only one church! There were even in that day several congregations, perhaps more than I could imagine — but only *one* body — one called out assembly. Here were Jewish Christians talking to despised Gentiles about the good news of the success of their first evangelistic journey among non-Jewish people. It was the same church that welcomed them that sent them! Dear, dear Lord, how do you see us today?

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Indeed I do! I want to be a member of that same church — it is the one that is right and cannot be wrong. I want to do exactly what they did to become a member, and be the same kind of person they were. The names used here are most interesting to me: (1) brothers, (2) apostles, (3) elders, (4) church. It would not seem to me that we could have successors to the eye witnesses of Jesus or the apostles — but for the others — how I want to be a true living, loving brother to every other Christian. How I do want to honor and respect the older men of the faith. How I long to see all men called out of the world into the one body! His church!

*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

Read this word with real thanksgiving — Amen! Thank you: (1) For a body of believers who placed confidence in and gave generously to their leaders. (2) For men who were willing to walk 300 miles to settle a matter that was already settled in their mind. (3) For men who were not so ego centered that they forgot the real meaning of the Christian life is the conversion of sinners. (4) That there were brothers in Phoenicia and Samaria — how did they get there? (5) For the mutual joy, happiness, delightful meaning we can all share in our salvation — even as then, so now! (6) For the open acceptance by the apostles and the elders. (7) For the wonderful new creation in the old city of Jerusalem.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*“This news made all the brothers very glad.”* Oh, that we might always rejoice over the success of others! It could seem that such would easily be always true as related to the salvation of the lost. Such is *not true* — for somehow we see what others are doing as a threat, or reflection on what we are (or are not) doing. We are so guilty of impugning motives that we just know “those ignorant Gentiles really never knew what they were doing” — or “they will not be Christians long.” How we can learn from the ignorant brothers in Samaria and Phoenicia. We overcome this sin by faith in the power of God and unselfish love

for the lost.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

There is a whole volume of instruction in these two verses: (1) The church sent Paul and Barnabas. I want to be sent by the same agency. (2) I believe this means the church at Antioch paid their way. Am I right? (3) May I have the same kind of unselfish joy in my heart as the Phoenicians and Samaritans. (4) Teach me that *conversion is what you want*. (5) Open my heart to count *all* Christians as my brothers. (6) How I need to see your work as you do — simple, clear, alive. (7) Give me joy in the midst of conflict.

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

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

You can say so much to me in just two verses: (1) “My church is my sending agency.” (2) “I want men converted today as they were in Antioch.” (3) “Elders are not apostles but they are important.”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Tonga* — Points for prayer: (1) *The Tongan church* has had a glorious history of missionary outreach. Pray that the vision may be restored. (2) *The last century has been one of spiritual decline*, bitter schisms within the Methodist groups, and the rapid growth of Mormons to almost a quarter of the population. Oh, for revival! (3) *Leaders anointed of God* to proclaim the truth in love must be raised up. Unity among the evangelical groups is hampered by doctrinal extremes. (4) *Scripture Union* has had considerable impact on nominal Christians, with many coming to the Lord and with branches in nearly every village of Tonga.

### 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.

# WEEK TEN

## —Thursday—

*In the beginning of any — and all human experiences you are there. As I open the prayer-closet's door you are there — waiting. Thank you.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Alpha* — the author, cause, establisher — “from everlasting to everlasting.” How well does this word describe you, both in the form of your Son and yourself! You are the author of not only the literature of the Bible but of this book of nature in which we live. What a careful, accurate, colorful, knowledgeable writer you are. You are the cause as well as the conclusion of all things. I try to stand back and appreciate fully the meaning of “establisher” or “from everlasting to everlasting.” The best I can do is to fall before you in wonder and 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

*Alpha to me.* Indeed, indeed, I want you to be first in all of my life — if I begin with you, you are indeed and in truth my author. Do I truly mediate on what you have written? How is it I have not memorized every word of your book, the Bible? Dear Lord, forgive me. I am delighted by reading the book of your creation all about me! I thank you for the beauty, but more do I thank you for the purpose. You are indeed the establisher or it will never be established. Dear God, wonderful Savior, blessed present Holy Spirit, may every day — this one, all of them — begin (and end) with you. How I want you to be the first cause of all I think and do today!

*How do you personally relate to the First Cause of God, and God who is Alpha? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Self-interest and “what do I get out of it” has been too often the first cause of my choices — forgive me! “Before the mountains were brought forth, or even thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God” (Psa. 90:2). It

does seem incongruous that I can live so independently of the one who “upholds all things by the word of his power.” I am the poorer — what strength and help I refuse. Dear Lord, I renew my desire to “seek first your rule in my life and your order of living.” Forgive and cleanse and remove. Praise your name — it is 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

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.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>4</sup>When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

<sup>5</sup>Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses.”

<sup>6</sup>The apostles and elders met to consider this question. <sup>7</sup>After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.” —Acts 15:4-7, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I try to stand back and objectively read this passage

as if you were reading it. I know I can not do this, but I want to read it to you with as much appreciation of your point of view as at all possible. As Paul and Barnabas report to the crowd in Jerusalem, "everything you had done through them" — did you protect them from any exaggeration or false interpretation? If I were telling it no doubt I would overemphasize some things and forget other matters that should have been said. How was it on that day? If there was any impatience with the bigotry of the Pharisees it was not mentioned (maybe it was not bigotry), but there was much discussion. What did they say? Thou knowest!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I have unavoidably been doing this, but as an act and expression of praise and confession and adoration. I want to travel again with the apostles and see and hear all over again what happened at Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe. I want to rejoice and feel the wonder of your work through these men. I do want to be as generous and sympathetic as the apostles and elders who met to consider carefully and fully this emotion-packed subject. How do I relate to those who sharply disagree with 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

Yes, yes, thank you: (1) For the willingness and responsibility of Paul and Barnabas in reporting all. (2) For the humility and honesty of the apostles in recognizing your power working through them. (3) That we too can look back over their first journey and share their joy. (4) That the gospel does have an appeal to even those who misrepresent it. (5) That the apostles and elders were not all "easily offended." (6) That the question has been carefully considered and settled. (7) For the total beautiful example this whole incident is to us in the church of today.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"The party of the Pharisees." The record of the Pharisees is not all bad. This group of men believed in the inspiration of every word of the Old Testament. They accepted the supernatural occurrences of the Old Testament. They knew there would be a resurrection and judgment. They believed in purity of life. However, their fundamental flaw was in their trust — they trusted in law — it became a source of pride and failure. What a galling yoke trust in the law principle becomes! How easy to trace the record: we lie and cheat and deceive to hide our failure — open confession and humble confidence in our Lord did not occur to them.

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

While some question, others pray: (1) May I always believe you are at work through my feeble efforts. (2) Give me the joy of sharing the good news of your work with others. (3) May I expect some to disagree. Help me not to respond in pride. (4) Open my mind to know one more time that nothing I do will provide merit for heaven. (5) May I listen to the apostles through their writings for your will on all matters. (6) Give me a working association with elders in your Son's body today. (7) Shut my mouth that I might allow others to contribute.

*Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.*

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As you worked through the body then speak to me now through your word: (1) "It is good to testify to others what I have done." (2) "There are Pharisees today." (3) "In the counsel of apostles (their word) and elders is the solution of all church problems."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Trinidad and Tobago* — Points for prayer: (1) *The East Indians are the largest non-Christian community in the Caribbean*, and present the greatest challenge. Traditional standards and strong East Indian links are loosening. Pray for a turning to the Lord Jesus. About 14% of all East Indians are now, at least nominally, Christian. (2) *The 88,000 Muslim East Indians* have proved less responsive, but very little effort has even been made to evangelize them. (3) *The Hindus have been more open*. The Presbyterians and now TEAM, WT, and several Pentecostal Churches are seeing a pleasing growth. Pray for the breakthrough! (4) *Religious instruction in public schools* presents an exciting opportunity for the gospel. In 1981 there were 118 Trinidad Christians engaged in this ministry. Pray for the young people of all races.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O Word of God incarnate,  
O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,  
O Light of our dark sky;  
We praise Thee for the radiance  
That forms the hallowed page,  
A lantern to our footsteps  
Shines on from age to age.

# WEEK TEN

## —Friday—

*When you speak — and I respond from my heart with “Amen”! I say “so be it” but also I speak your name. Gladly do I do it in worship.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Amen* — credible, true, finality, the God of truth or amen, faithfulness — our Lord is the final “amen.” I think of your dear Son who was born in Bethlehem. Oh, oh, I love to pause and bow before you and tell you all (or a small part) of what you are. Life makes no sense at all without you. Life is nonsense without you — credible, true. In all you have said, or promised, you are *truth*. Truth I define as that which coincides with fact or “that which equals reality.” Without you there is no point of reference. I do not know who I am, why I am or where I’m going without you. You are life’s reality, life’s truth.

*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

*Amen to me!* In him, even my Lord, is the *Amen* — the finality, the final and first word. To say that Jesus, even your dear Son and my Lord, is alpha and amen is to say the beginning and the end. I have nothing I want except him. I want, just now, to renew my worship before him and as much as I can to give myself again to him. Here is a lovely little poem that expresses my desire.

I’m but a slave!  
I have no freedom of my own,  
I cannot choose the smallest thing,  
Nor e’en my way.  
I’m a slave!  
Kept to do the bidding of my Master!  
He can call me, night or day.  
Were I a servant, I could claim wages.  
Freedom, sometimes, anyway.  
But I was *bought!*  
*Blood* was the price my Master paid for me.  
And I am now His slave—  
And ever more will be.  
He takes me here, He takes me there,  
He tells me what to do;

I just obey, that’s all—  
I TRUST Him too!

—M. Warburton Booth

*How do you personally relate to the finality of God, and God who is Amen? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

So often do the words of the frantic father come to my mind — “Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief.” I want you at the beginning of every day — and in everything. I want you in and through and among all I do or say or think. I want your conclusion to all I do. I do, I do *want* to be your slave, your clay, your wife, help thou my unwillingness. I am so insensitive, so dull of perception, so slow in hearing your voice, so unwilling. Is it my environment? No, no. Jesus lived in a worse, much worse place. Is it my nerves? How could it be when God made them? He is larger than nerves. Just deepen my desire to accept your ownership in every area of life. Forgive and cleanse.

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Come, ev’ry 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.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>7</sup>After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God

made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup>God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup>He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup>Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup>No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

<sup>12</sup>The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs God had done among the Gentiles through them.  
—Acts 15:7-12, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How good it is to try to take my place with you as I read these verses! From the lips of Peter the fisherman — your "called one," your "sent one" — I hear him tell of your call to him; it became your call to all of us, i.e., all of us Gentiles. It was through the hearing of the good news we obtained faith. Yes, yes, it was *your* gift, but through the lips of man and our acceptance of that message. I am more than delighted that you know my heart — no one else does, not even myself. You do!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It is most difficult to separate the points of view — indeed I couldn't — but I open my heart wide to receive each word! Your acceptance of me is indicated in the presence of the Holy Spirit in my body! But in the case of Cornelius your acceptance had to be seen and known by the Jews, so they would "make no distinction" between themselves and the Gentiles. I love that little phrase "purified their hearts by faith." My *mind* can be pure, whole, clean; my *will* can be pure, one, whole; my *emotions* can be pure, united, not divided, clean, whole. I believe in your marvelous provision for such purifying — it is done!

*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) Thank you I am free of the yoke and burden of the law. I am not saved by what I do, but by what my Lord did at Calvary and the open tomb! (2) Thank you that grace moved me to do much more for my Lord (not for merit) than law ever could. (3) Thank you for your great persistence and patience in moving Peter to tell the good news to us Gentiles. (4) Thank you, thank you for the blessed Holy Spirit. May I relate hourly to him. (5) Dear God, how thankful I am that I need not test you at all — I flunk the test; you know all the answers so you need not take it. (6) Thank you that "I am saved" just as are all Christians. (7) Thank you that I am being saved — and I

will be saved.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"God made a choice among you." God has always made choices of men among men. We would surely question some of his choices, i.e., in our own fallible, human judgment. Peter seems a poor choice to us, but he is such an encouragement to the weakest, most limited among us. If God could change Peter, then he could change me.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

The apostle Peter always had a message worth hearing. In it and from it I want to make some requests: (1) May Gentiles hear the same message from my lips as fell from the lips of Peter. (2) Keep me aware if men do not hear they cannot believe. (3) Search my heart — forgive me. (4) Thank you for the Holy Spirit — may he fill my heart. (5) Thank you for a pure heart — keep it pure. I want to see you. (6) Break the yoke of works salvation, in my life, in my teaching. (7) Thank you for your amazing grace — may I offer it to others.

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What are you saying to me? (1) "I have chosen all men to be saved. Tell them for me." (2) "I know the sin in the lives of people — if you do not preach, I cannot forgive." (3) "Salvation is free but it must be accepted."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Tunisia* — Points for prayer: (1) *In early centuries the Christian Church was strong.* Schism, heresy, foreign invasions and finally Islam brought about its demise. There are only about 50 indigenous evangelical believers today. Pray that a living, growing Church might become a reality again in this land. (2) *Indigenous believers* are often isolated, fearful, weak in their faith and prone to backslide or to marry a Muslim. To some, emigration is an easy option. Only a few have dared to openly share their faith. May they become "a threshing instrument having teeth" in the hands of the Lord!

### 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

## —Saturday—

*How ancient is ancient? You live in the absence of time so this is my frame of reference. But I gladly come to "the ancient of days." He knows the answer.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Ancient of days.* This is a prophetic description of our Lord and refers to his eternality — like one who never dies. It is so beautifully descriptive of yourself! There has never been a day since Eden's garden that you have not been alive and well and awake and alert and interested in all that happens in every life upon this terrestrial ball. Praise your wonderful name — and of him who was The Word — and of the Eternal Spirit — no event in any day has escaped your notice, yea more, your intense interest! We all know men of age who have acquired deep wisdom and patience, kindness and the gentleness that comes with much experience. Such qualities are to be associated in our minds with yourself and your Son — there is so *much* more — but this is enough now.

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*The ancient of days for me.* I am comforted by the thought that there has never been a day, and there never will be one, when you, dear Lord, loving Father, are not a part of it. There have been many days of which I am ashamed, but you know; you are more unhappy about them than I am. You forgive because I want — indeed, I do want — to love you and serve you. You are not a great, great grandfather — for all such lose capacities — you change not, but the kindness and thoughtfulness and personal interest of my grandfather was a real source of strength to me. Multiply that by ten million for you and your Son!

*How do you personally relate to the ancient of days of God, and God who is ancient of days? Speak it out or write it out.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

"Gossip." This is repeating what we have heard and have not confirmed. It is usually negative and critical of some person. Dear Lord, you know just how guilty I am in this area. I have tried to go to the ones I have offended in this way, but there are too many in-

volved, and I am repulsed by this sin. It is the total antithesis of love. How could we lie about people, when we love them? We somehow become important when we know something no one else does, but we really do not know it — it is pure hearsay gossip. Oh, dear Lord, would I want this said of me? Why *must* I find importance in such a poor, miserable manner? You have made me so very, very important as a Christian, and this is no gossip! Forgive, and put a hold on my tongue!

*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

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!

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>12</sup>The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. <sup>13</sup>When they had finished, James spoke up: "Brothers, listen to me. <sup>14</sup>Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. <sup>15</sup>The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

<sup>16</sup>" 'After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent.

Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, <sup>17</sup>that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things,

<sup>18</sup>that have been known for ages.' "

—Acts 15:12-18

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, how many more signs and wonders were done that Dr. Luke did not record? Oh, how I want to appreciate fully each sign. I want to be filled with the same awe and amazement that filled those who first saw such signs. But more than this, I want to buy the product these signs advertise — even the deity of your own dear Son — the truthfulness of the message Paul and Barnabas spoke, their authority as apostles of yourself. The signs and wonders were only a means to an end. The words of my Lord speak to me, “He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; *and* greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father” (John 14:12).

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Indeed, indeed I do! God through miracles spoke in two instances: (1) Peter, and (2) Paul and Barnabas. He spoke again through the prophets. In all cases of miracles they were a means. The message was in the *words* of Peter and in the *words* of Paul and Barnabas, and in the *words* of the prophet. Your word is yet with me — do I hear and heed it? Do I read and memorize it? Yea, Lord — not as I could or should, but I do believe I *do* accept! I do hear! Open my inner ear! Do we need miracles to confirm your message today? Your word includes the evidence for its acceptance — the same writers who give us what you said, tell us what you did to credential what you said. Will the miracles today do a better job than what has already been done?

*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 delighted I am to do this: (1) Thank you for your power to heal the sick and cast out demons, raise the dead, etc., as seen in the Acts account, but most of all for the product these signs advertised — even your wonderful Son, my Lord! (2) Thank you for James, my Lord’s half-brother — he once did not believe, but now he is a leader of the believers in the very city where he disbelieved. (3) For the knowledge of the prophets on the part of Jesus. (4) That we Gentiles are “a people for God’s own self”! (5) That we are the very “house or temple of David” rebuilt as the dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (6) Thank you, oh, thank you that you have made provisions for all mankind through us. (7) That there are no hasty plans with you.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“All the nations that bear my name” — The only nation we know who bore the name and accepted the authority of our God was Israel, and they were poor, poor examples. This is a prophecy of Amos fulfilled

in the “new Israel.” How encouraging to read this prophecy and anticipate its fulfillment. Will there be a day when the nations of the earth honor and respect the name of God? The spread of the good news in the first century made this prophecy a reality. We believe what Paul wrote to those living in what we now call Turkey is true: “. . . the gospel . . . which has been preached to every creature under heaven, . . .” (Col. 1:23). Has any other generation fulfilled this prophecy? Sad, sad admission of disobedience and failure! The gospel hasn’t lost its power — it just hasn’t been preached.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How easy it is to see needed requests in these verses: (1) Miracles were a sign of your approval. May I accept what they approved: the apostle’s word. (2) I thank you for the humility of Paul and Barnabas — they didn’t need to defend their authority. (3) I am so glad to be a part of the people you have chosen for yourself. May I be grateful enough to tell others. (4) How good to be a part of the new temple of David — dwell in my heart and life. (5) Thank you for the words of Amos fulfilled in the Gentile church — there are others not yet in it. (6) For the privilege of bearing your name, I thank you. (7) Thank you that I can live at the end of the age in which the promise of salvation is mine.

## READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I want these men to speak from you to me. (1) *Paul and Barnabas*: “You have greater signs to do than God helped us to do.” (2) *Peter*: “There are many more people I did not call.” (3) *James*: “You have all the reality of which prophecy was but a shadow.”

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Turkey* — Points for prayer: (1) *Turkey is the largest unreached nation in the world.* Ironically Paul, the first great missionary to the Gentile world, came from Tarsus, and much of his early ministry was in what is now Turkey. Fifty million completely unevangelized people need to hear the gospel somehow and soon. (2) *Islamic fundamentalists* are applying strong pressure on the authorities to take a harder, and unconstitutional line against believers to hinder witnessing and Christian outreach. Pray that both the courts and state may uphold the laws protecting religious freedom.

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When my life-work is ended,  
and I cross the swelling tide,  
When the bright and glorious morning I shall see;  
I shall know my Redeemer  
when I reach the other side,  
And His smile will be the first to welcome me.