

# WEEK TWO

## —Sunday—

*Teach me in this time with you that you only hate that which hurts and hinders. I open my mind to receive your instruction.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Wrath.* This would be hate expressed. I would soon lose heart if I only emphasized this aspect of your character, but I *must* face the fact and it is that you hate sin and do express your hate in wrath or punishment — no sin escapes — I do not say *sinner*, because many of us have cast ourselves upon your mercy — for you are not totally wrath. Great, wonderful, dear God. I am full 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

*Wrath against my sin, because it hurts as much as it offends your character. Dear God, I must not allow your mercy and grace to outweigh other qualities. You do hate my sin and express your wrath against it. Not only my sin but the sin of the whole world. Oh great God, Creator and Ruler of all, who can stand before your wrath? No one, nothing!*

*How do you personally relate to the wrath of God, and God who is wrath?*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

How I waste the precious time you give me looking at TV — do you want me to rid myself of the set or looking at it? Dear Lord, forgive me, forgive all my rationalizations for my sin, deepen my love for you. “Shameful speaking” — dear Lord, forgive me, 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

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

<sup>37</sup>“This is what Moses told the Israelites, ‘God will send you a prophet like me from your own people.’

<sup>38</sup>He was in the congregation in the desert, with our fathers and with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai; and he received living words to pass on to us.

<sup>39</sup>“But our fathers refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt.

<sup>40</sup>They told Aaron, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who led us out of Egypt — we don’t know what has happened to him!’ <sup>41</sup>That was the time they made an idol in the form of a calf. They brought sacrifices to it and held a celebration in honor of what their hands had made. <sup>42</sup>But God turned away and gave them over to the worship of the heavenly bodies. This agrees with what is written in the book of the prophets:

‘Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the desert, O house of Israel?

<sup>43</sup>You have lifted up the shrine of Moloch and the star of your god Rephan, the idols you made to worship.

Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.’

<sup>44</sup>“Our forefathers had the tabernacle of Testimony with them in the desert. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen.

<sup>45</sup>Having received the tabernacle, our fathers under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them. It remained in the land until the time of David, <sup>46</sup>who enjoyed God’s favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. <sup>47</sup>But it was

Solomon who built the house for him.

<sup>48</sup>“However, the Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says:

<sup>49</sup>“Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me?

says the Lord

Or where will my resting place be?

<sup>50</sup>“Has not my hand made all these things?”

<sup>51</sup>“You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! <sup>52</sup>Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him — <sup>53</sup>you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it.” — *Acts 7:37-53, NIV*

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How wonderful is your promise of “a prophet like Moses” — how gloriously did you keep that promise: (1) Born under tyrants. (2) Persecuted in infancy. (3) Hid by loved ones. (4) Rejected by their own. (5) Prepared in seclusion. (6) Given divine credentials of miraculous signs. (7) Delivered people through death. Oh, wonder of wonders! Moses and our Lord were in the congregation (of men) in the wilderness with the fathers of Israel and with holy angels. Oh, oh, how solicitous angels must have been with our Lord!

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Oh, speak to me dear Lord — bless your name — you already have! As Moses received the “living words” so have I. Let them burn and warm and come alive in my total being! Dear Lord, that we might not repeat the sin of idolatry today — of apostasy — of sensualism — of admiration for the works of man’s hands. Dear Lord, the most beautiful house you have on earth today is the body of man — together making up the body of your dear Son. Dear Father, deliver me from “stubbornness” — unclean mind — will — emotions — conscience — unclean hearing and seeing and speaking. Oh, oh, may I not resist the blessed Holy Spirit — in every way let me be submissive.

## READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving from this word: (1) That Jesus even my present living Lord is my prophet, i.e., teacher. (2) He is with me now, inside in the person of the Holy Comforter. (3) In this desert wilderness he is my cloud by day and fire by night. (4) Dear Lord, I thank you for every time I have been willing to heed your word — and ask forgiveness for all the times I have resisted you. (5) Thank you, thank you, thank you that I am out of Egypt and hate the very thought of returning. (6) Thank you that I envision Jesus, oh, blessed Savior, on the throne of my heart. (7) Thank you for the mind-boggling display in the galaxies of planets and stars testifying of your everlasting power and super-human qualities.

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*The Tabernacle of Testimony.*” — what an intriguing name! A dwelling place for God — note: (1) Covered with skin like your body and mine. (2) Totally dark inside except for the golden lampstand which had to be replenished each day, morning and evening. Oh, oh, how I want to let the light of your word permeate each day every dark recess of my heart and life. (3) Inside was the table of the Lord — where he could share a meal with us. Dear blessed Jesus sup with me as I do with you. (4) Oh, how I want to spend time with you “ministering in the Holy Place,” and you with me.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Petitions from Stephen’s defense: (1) Dear Lord, may I hear your prophet Jesus. (2) May your word relate to all of life — all of my life. (3) Help me not to try your patience in my repentance. (4) May I treat your tabernacle — even my body — in a way that brings honor to you. (5) Lift my eyes above the ordinary to see your eternal purpose at work. (6) May I in no way resist the Holy Spirit. (7) Give me the courage to rebuke sin when it will help.

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

Speak to me: (1) “Keep your heart out of Egypt.” (2) “Burn up all your idols.” (3) “The most high does not live in houses made by hands.”

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Nigeria* — Points for prayer: (1) *The Middle Belt* was pioneered at great cost in the early years of this century. The ministries of the early missions have been merged with, or absorbed by, their large daughter churches. Pray for the continuing work of the missionaries in their self-effacing ministry of support and help to these churches in their maturation and outreach. (2) *Muslim missionary activity* has been most marked in this region. Considerable efforts are made to win over pagans and backsliding Christians. Pray that these attempts may be frustrated by conversions to Christ. Pray that Christians may overcome historic hatreds and personal fears for courageous witnessing to Muslims in love. (3) *The North* — there have been great gospel advances into this Muslim area over the last 20 years. There is a slow but steady trickle of Muslims being converted and churches planted.

## 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 TWO

## —Monday—

*"Fill me with fire, where once I burned with shame; grant my desire to magnify thy name."*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Fire.* A fire is not only destructive. But you *do* destroy as well as build up. A fire — even yourself — can and does warm those who are cold. How cold life is without you, and there are two billion people who have never heard of you or your Son! A fire offers light and you do indeed supply such light!

*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

*Fire* for me! Burn out all my dross! Warm the very depths of my total inward being, enlighten me in every area of need. Dear God, become fire for me, to me. How I want you to accomplish in me all of yourself, all of your personal qualities. Consume the chaff of this life in me.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

How many unnecessary besetting sins I have — I know you hate them, your wrath is against them — only because they *hurt me*. Dear God, I do, I do want to lay them aside. I openly, fully, candidly, name my personal sins — “shameful speaking” — get it out of my mouth and clear the record — “passion” — immoral thoughts expressed in some form of “passion.” Oh, God, deliver 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 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

<sup>54</sup>When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

<sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

<sup>57</sup>At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, <sup>58</sup>dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup>While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. **8** On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup>Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

—Acts 7:54-8:2, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

When your servant Stephen looked up into your presence what did he see? He saw because he was full of the Holy Spirit — he saw a revelation of a part of your very person, your character, your total being. But oh, oh, he saw Jesus standing at your right hand! I do not know if there was any materialization of yourself. Whatever it was, it was a great source of strength for Stephen. He did not fear the face of man

when he had looked into *your* face.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Dear Lord, help me to believe that in every death there is a purpose we cannot see — in the streets of Calcutta, or the homes of Kanpur, or an apartment in Tokyo, someone, several someones have died — one every two seconds dies — most all of them with no knowledge of you whatsoever! Dear God, is there any purpose in their death? While my Lord lived 18 years in Joseph's home and worked in the carpenter's shop, men and women and boys and girls died and went to torment or comfort for what purpose? It was for a reasonable, altogether good purpose, which you will explain as soon as I die.

*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 a heaven into which I can look. (2) For another real world (of the Spirit) which is much more real than the one I am in. (3) That no one can challenge Jesus' claim of Lordship. (4) That death is an open door, not a blind alley. (5) For someone who died like my Lord, i.e., in the same frame of mind. (6) That Saul saw beyond the stones and carnage. (7) That I can commit myself to the same Lord and faith for today.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Let's gather around his word and think and pray: Moses was taken care of for three months by someone else — even great Moses was once a helpless babe — so also was my Lord, and, so was I. Pharaoh's daughter had a mother's heart of love and concern — there are some today among the rich and powerful. A secular education does not need to corrupt you if you are taught by your mother. A visit to some people will not turn out like you think it will — some will love you — many will listen — some will hate you. But deliverance in the name and attitude of our Lord is yet our purpose in life.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Stephen speaks to my heart: (1) Give me a new, fresh look at the character of God. (2) How I need to more freely understand the authority of my Lord. (3) Keep me more aware of your presence than the presence of men. (4) Remind me again and again that: "no word of God is void of power." (5) Give me the unselfish love of my Lord and Stephen for those who hated them. (6) May I be more aware of the world beyond. (7) Thank you for godly men, wherever I find them.

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

I hear you say: (1) "Love me in life — meet me in death." (2) "I give a hope both sure and steadfast." (3) "Persecution is not all bad."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Norway — Points for prayer: (1) *There is much spiritual life in Norway* through the influence of Pietism, prayer and revival movements within the State Church over the past 300 years, which have left a strong evangelical heritage. Yet today believers long for revival. Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit that will thrust out more soul-winners and evangelists. (2) *The Lutheran Church* is unique in Europe, for although it is the State Church, most of the pastors are theologically evangelical. Most Norwegians, though, have little understanding of the new-birth. Many volunteer organizations have sprung up within the Church with a burden for home and overseas evangelism. Pray that this large Church may not be moved from its biblical basis, and may be continually freshened by the work of the Holy Spirit. (3) *The Free Churches* are a small but significant minority, yet only a few of the Pentecostal groups and Baptists are showing any growth at all. Pray that this stagnation may end, and that a new vision for evangelism may emerge.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Wounded for me, wounded for me,  
There on the cross He was wounded for me;  
Gone my transgressions, and now I am free,  
All because Jesus was wounded for me.

# WEEK TWO

## —Tuesday—

*You are wholly other and at the same time intimately personal. I am full of wonder before you.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Holy-Pure.* Dear Lord, holiness is a foreboding word, but this is one of the most attractive qualities of yourself! That you can be morally perfect as well as intellectually perfect is a wonderful quality — to know and worship Someone who has never made a mistake (intellectually or morally) and never will is a thought of solid comfort. Eternal security is your very 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

Holy and pure for *me*. I could be terribly intimidated by such a thought, but the other qualities of yourself prevent this. I am instead full of admiration and wonder. You can and do impute this holiness and purity to me. Praise your holiness and purity.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

When I consider my sin and ignorance and your holiness and purity I am overwhelmed, but I am also cleansed because you are total forgiveness and mercy. It is indeed not only good but needed. Dear God, I want to learn more fully how to repent and how to adequately confess my sins.

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

### 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

<sup>3</sup>But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

<sup>4</sup>Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. <sup>5</sup>Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. <sup>6</sup>When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said.

<sup>7</sup>With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. —Acts 8:3-7, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How delighted I am to share your word — to contemplate the activities of your servant Saul. I know of the personal interest you had in his life (and every man — but as a servant of yours for a particular task.) Dear God, how the example of those who were scattered blesses my life. To think that everywhere they went they were moved to tell of your love. Thank you, thank you for moving Dr. Luke to tell of Philip — he was only one among a multitude who told — but his bold, glad witness is such a help. Was it because the apostles laid their hands upon his head that he was able to do the miraculous signs?

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It was through the Holy Spirit that such signs were

done — it was to confirm his word. The great joy in the city of Samaria was due to the good news as well as the healings and exorcism. Dear God, do you want us to do this today? Is not your word already confirmed by the complete record before us? Is the attention and interest of persons today to be secured by the supernatural? "Many paralytics and cripples were healed." Why? As signs — to cause wonder and interest — would not such interest and wonder be caused by the same signs now? Is your word adequate today? How many signs will convince people? What did our Lord mean by his words: "*a wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign*"?

*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 that when persecution comes you offer special help in signs and wonders — in the midst of ignorance and unbelief attention is polarized by the miraculous. (2) Thank you that the good news was so deeply implemented that those under stress were not discouraged, i.e., about the good news. (3) Thank you that there were those who so trusted your power and interest they were willing to accept difficulty as a purpose of your direction. (4) Thank you that the Samaritans were no longer despised. (5) Thank you that evil spirits can be overcome. (6) The joy of salvation and your interest in our lives is yet with us. (7) Thank you that Jesus is right now ready and listening even as I write these words.

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"*Philip proclaimed the Christ*" — the power of *desire* must be present first. Why did Philip feel he *must* do this? (1) Our Lord told the apostles and they told Philip (and others) to do it. (2) It was too good to keep to himself. (3) He loved the people and wanted to meet their needs. A person to a person is God's way of communicating the good news. "*Great joy*" is an awesome thought!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

*Requests amid opposition:* (1) I need the zeal for truth Saul had for error. (2) I need the lifestyle evangelism of those in Jerusalem. (3) I want to be an evangelist like deacon Philip. (4) Make me ready to accept without qualification the evidence of Philip's signs. (5) How can I overcome evil with good? (6) Lead me to the "greater works" promised by my Lord. (7) Give me the joy of my salvation.

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

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

*I want to hear from you:* (1) "Preach the word

wherever you go." (2) "You have the product advertised by Philip's signs." (3) "Great joy only awaits great preaching."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Oman* — Points for prayer: (1) *Rapid social growth* together with war and tensions in the gulf have begun to break up the stability of the old traditional culture. May this make people receptive to the gospel. (2) *Indigenous Christians* may number 40 in two small Arabic-speaking groups. There are no known believers among any of the minority groups indigenous to Oman; the Mahri villages of Dhofar, Baluchi of the eastern coast or the Indian middle-class traders. (3) *Almost all Christians are among the expatriate work force* — Westerners, Pakistanis and Indians. Pray for a pure life style and glowing witness for believers to their own communities, as well as to indigenous groups. There are several Western and Indian pastors serving these fellowships. (4) *Cross-cultural outreach* must be through Christian "tentmakers" in the future. The Reformed Church of America has maintained a good medical work since 1890. Samuel Zwemer, the famous missionary to Muslims, began his mission work in Oman at that time. The hospital, clinics and missionary workers have been incorporated into the government health service. Pray that by some means the gospel may be proclaimed.

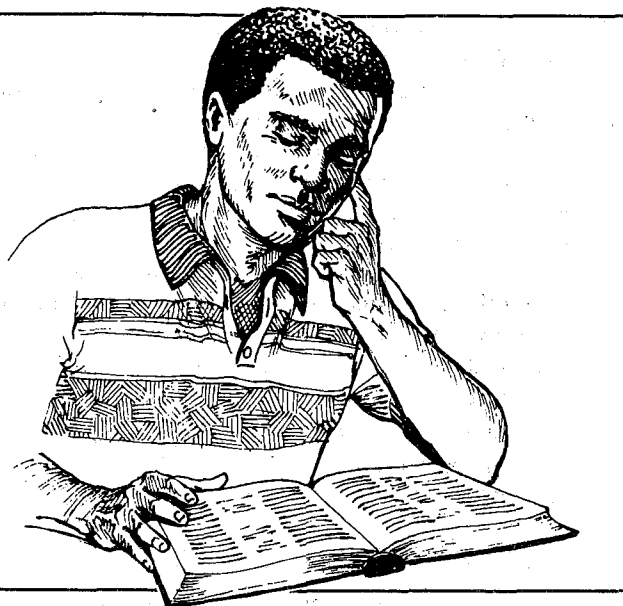
### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Come, we that love the Lord,  
And let our joys be known;  
Join in a song with sweet accord,  
And thus surround the throne.

# WEEK TWO

## —Wednesday—

*It is because you speak to me every day through your word — your teachers — in answer to prayer that I bow before you.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Speaker.* That you have spoken in times past is the record of your word — that you can speak is a part of your nature — that you are speaking to us through your word — and through nature is gloriously true! But do you speak to us in any other way? To listen to the multitude of conflicting reports will do us no good! I am very much content to open up your word and hear your voice. Dear God, speak, your servant is listening. Dear Father, I want to open my inner ear!

*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

Speaking is accomplished through words. How precious and eternally important is every word you have said — and written. Your words are full of yourself, for they are indeed the expression of your heart. A speaker is of no value without a listener, and one who truly has ears to hear. I propose to be that listener. Dear God, in the inwardness of my being I want to hear your voice as I read your word.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear interested, listening Father, forgive my foolish, willful, ignorant, sins. *Covetousness* — have I wanted that which belongs to another? Dear Lord, forgive! It becomes a bore to confess over and over again the same sin, i.e., unless there is true repentance also present — 70×7 with true repentance is acceptable — if for men, it must be increasingly true for God. I do repent. I do confess. I am forgiven! Praise your name and blood!

*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

“Man of Sorrows,” what a name  
For the Son of God who came  
Ruined sinners to reclaim!  
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>9</sup>Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, <sup>10</sup>and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, “This man is the divine power known as the Great Power.” <sup>11</sup>They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic. <sup>12</sup>But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. <sup>13</sup>Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.  
—Acts 8:9-13, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Praise you for the conquest of Simon the sorcerer — a trophy for yourself and your Son. Dear, dear Lord, deliver me from repeating his sin — we are not, have not seen and never will be any great one! You are the great One — just by your very nature as creator and sustainer, you are the true and only source of greatness — all others are but a poor reflection — sometimes on and sometimes of yourself. People are gullible and are like sheep — and do follow. But they will also believe Philip — if Philip is around to tell them.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Do you see the words here on the page? The most unlikely persons can and do follow our Lord, but there *must* be a preacher. Will you be that preacher or will you train others that they might be the ones to bring the good news concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of the Lord Jesus? Philip must have preached something about baptism here (even as he did later to the eunuch) or men and women would not have been baptized. I am also astonished at the great signs and miracles he did. I know they confirmed the truthfulness of what he preached — my question is: “Do we need such confirmation today?” What would be confirmed that needs confirmation?

*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) That sorcery is so far inferior to the power of God. (2) That people will heed and listen and believe and follow. (3) That there is in man (*all men*) an innate desire to worship, to be amazed. (4) Praise your omnipotent name that you totally satisfy and never disappoint this desire to worship. (5) Belief comes by hearing — not through some other means. (6) It is good news for God to rule — it is good news that we can submit to the Lordship of Jesus. (7) Even Simon believed and was baptized and was saved — and continued in his Christian life for a period of time.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*The conquest of Simon.* Note he: (1) Had a deep attachment to a position of recognition. (2) Had established himself for years and years. (3) Must have been in league with Satan and manifest lying wonders. (4) Had some disdain for the dupes who followed him. (5) Could be impressed with the real thing! (6) Did believe that Jesus was the Messiah and Savior — and that Philip was God’s spokesman (and not himself). (7) Went under the water to wash away his sins in the blood of Jesus. (8) Took a back seat and followed instead of leading.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Asking and receiving: (1) Give me the boldness of our Lord and his servants. (2) Deliver me from thinking of myself as “some great one.” (3) May men hear the same message from me they heard from Philip. (4) Give me those who will believe and be baptized and be saved. (5) Give me heaven’s confidence that delivers me from fear. (6) Even men like the sorcerer can be saved — help me to believe. (7) Thank you for the prejudice overcome by the Jews with the Samaritans.

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

Speak Lord, thy servant is listening: (1) “The power called great is my great power.” (2) “The Samaritans were saved as an example for all men.” (3) “Being with God’s servants does not make you a servant of God.”

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Pakistan* — Points for prayer: (1) *Pakistan is one of the most open Muslim lands for the gospel.* Despite Islamization, Pakistanis are proud of their record of religious freedom and tolerance. Commonwealth citizens are free to live in Pakistan and serve the Lord, but few have taken up the opportunity. Many missions are asking for workers. Pray that the door may remain open; Islamic fundamentalism or Communist plottings from Afghanistan could limit the present freedom. (2) *Muslims have never been so open to the Good News as now.* Pakistan’s turbulent recent history, military setbacks and secularism have made many receptive to new ideas. Islamization was instituted to unite the nation, but it has increased sectarian violence. Many are disquieted and disillusioned, and fear the full implementation of Islamic law and practices. Yet despite openness, social pressures limit conversions from among Muslims.

## 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 TWO

## —Thursday—

*You design all of life — and yet some things — yea — all things are designed for death and then life. I ask for wisdom.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Designer.* Oh, bless your Holy Name. How delighted I am to acknowledge and praise you for all the tremendous designs I see all about me. The design in the flowers, in the rocks, in the trees, in all of physical creation — your own handiwork. How I do worship before you. The intricate design in the human body is a total amazement, but the designing of human lives and destinies is your greatest work!

*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

*Designer for me* — Oh, dear God, wonderful heavenly Father! The ways you plan my life are beyond my understanding — the detail and interest you have in every area of my life is deeply appreciated — and acknowledged! Oh, that today I might cooperate with your design for just today. Bless your name that you have a plan for today. Oh, dear Lord, all your plans are good, and therefore it is relaxing to place one's self in the hands of One who does all things well.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

To confess is one thing; to forsake is quite another. As you know, I want to do both. Since we are in the presence of absolutes it is difficult to know how to do more than admit I am but a poor, weak, ignorant, willful sinner! I am most willful or I would not repeat my sin. But I do confess and I *do want* to forsake my sin. I do indeed claim the forgiveness, the freedom, the wholeness 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've found a Friend, oh, 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.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>14</sup>When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup>because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup>When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, <sup>19</sup>"Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

<sup>20</sup>Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!" — *Acts 8:14-20, NIV*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Oh, there are ten thousand Samarias that would receive the word today if we would go and tell them — perhaps you will need to scatter us — arrange for our persecution so we will be ready to share — but on second thought those who were scattered were filling Jerusalem with their teaching words before they went to Samaria — and it really was only *one* man, i.e., Philip who did it — but perhaps he was only representative. How I delight in the devotion of your servants!

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It was no easier then than now — we can — and will share the word for the Lord today. Right now, I recommit myself to the spread of your good news. If the Samaritans were baptized believers (and they were), then they received the Holy Spirit — the new birth includes the gift of the Holy Spirit. We can't begin in the Christian life without him (Holy Spirit) but his supernatural powers had not been given. Simon *saw* something supernatural and wanted it! I say all this because I need to think carefully here lest tradition become truth.

*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 the willingness of Peter and John to be those who were sent rather than the senders. (2) For your power through humble men. (3) That all knew it was your power and not man's that moved men and women. (4) For the "coming on" of the Holy Spirit — was it relegated only to the hands of the apostles? (5) Simon wanted an ability illegitimately. I want to learn of its true source: "the gift of God." (6) For the courage of Peter — his direct application of truth to life. (7) That Simon was given a chance to be saved — i.e., to repent.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*Prayer and the laying on of hands.* In what sense did Peter and John pray that the Samaritans should receive the Holy Spirit? Can there be anyone anywhere who was saved or "born again" *without* the Holy Spirit? Weren't *all* Corinthian Christians the temples or sanctuaries of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19, 20)? Didn't *all* the Christians (saints) at Rome have the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9)? Didn't *all* the Galatian Christians receive the Holy Spirit at the preaching of the faith (Gal. 3:1-5)? The answer is obvious. Since the Samaritans (including Simon) had believed and had been baptized they all had the Holy Spirit, but he had not "come upon" them. We must say this is a reference to the spiritual gifts for equipping the Samaritans to carry on the work of the Lord in the soon coming absence of Philip.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

*Petitions from Samaria:* (1) May I be as responsive to needs as Peter and John. (2) Open my mind as to the meaning of the little phrase, "the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them." (3) Doesn't the Holy Spirit come with the baptism Jesus commanded? (4) Can one be saved without the Holy Spirit? (5) What did Simon see? (6) Give me the same holy honesty shown by Peter. (7) Keep me free from bribery.

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

Speak Lord: (1) "The 'coming upon' of the Holy Spirit is different from the Holy Spirit as a gift." (2) "Money will never buy the gifts of God." (3) "Men do go to hell."

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Pakistan* — Point for prayer: *Unevangelized peoples and areas abound.* Pray for: a) *Baluchi and Brahui.* 75% of the 4,500,000 Baluch live in Pakistan. There are only about 10 known Christian Baluch in the world. Seven hundred thousand live and work in Karachi; Baluchistan is largely desert and not open for expatriate workers. There are no known Christians among the Brahui, who live among them. b) *The peoples of the N.W. Frontier* on the Afghan border are predominantly Pushtu, and famed for their war-likeness. There are only a few believers and no known churches of Pushtu speakers. Over one million Pushtu-speaking people live in Karachi. c) *The mountain tribes of the northern mountains and Pakistani Kashmir.* Over 27 small peoples live in the districts of Kohistan, Swat, Dir, Chitral and Gilgit. For years no Christian witness was possible, but now pioneer thrusts are being made into the region through medical workers. The 3,000 Kalash are largely animist, but turning to Islam since 1975. All the other peoples are Muslim.

## 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 TWO

## —Friday—

*Here am I Lord, send me — just here  
and now show me where and when.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Sender.* In times past you sent so many men (and women) to so many places — you are yet in the sending business. “Here am I, send me” should be the attitude of every man and woman on earth. In spite of reluctance, and downright refusal, you are still sending men to tell the glad tidings — our son is an example. Praise your wonderful name — I join the ranks — I did more than 40 years ago. You sent your Son as the first missionary — “the apostle and high-priest of our calling.”

*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

*Sender of me.* Dear Lord, whereas I have been sent, and a good number of times I have responded to your call, there are many more times when I have refused, excused and rationalized until I did not go. I am so glad to read that when the church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas out amid prayer and fasting and laying on of hands, I yet read that it was by the Holy Spirit they were sent forth (Acts 13:1-4). I take courage in this inasmuch as the efforts of men can be the means of your sending today.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

My sin, my pride, my ignorance, my lies — forgive them. Deeply convict me, cleanse me wholly, move me to love, to joy, to acknowledgment of my cleanness. Oh, praise your name! Thank you for freedom, liberty! Open my inner heart to receive the blood and Spirit.

*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 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

<sup>21</sup>“You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup>Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. <sup>23</sup>For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Simon answered, “Pray to the Lord for me that nothing you have said may happen to me.”

<sup>25</sup>When they had testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.

—Acts 8:21-25, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Could Simon have had a part in the ministry of healing and preaching? i.e., if his heart was right with you? Perhaps it is idle to ask — the answer is not there. Dear, dear God, I want, oh how I want, my heart to be right with you. No bitterness, no bondage. Is bitterness the root and bondage the fruit? I believe it is! But the real root cause is “*thought*.” Am I bitter about *anything*, or *anyone*? Dear Lord, deliver me! Forgive me! Cleanse me, move me to the deepest repentance. That you should so clearly reveal what is needed for release and liberty and cleansing is so much appreciated.

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How often I kneel with Simon to piously prattle the empty words, "Pray to the Lord for me." Dear God, I want to pray, repent, yield myself to you! That Peter and John proclaimed the word of the Lord is a wonderful evidence of your power and love, of the transformation you can perform in the lives of your servants. Peter and John were commercial fishermen of years and years of experience. They had no formal training, but oh, oh, they had been with our Lord — what a difference being with him makes! He captured the depths of the hearts — they *must* tell of him! The suffering servant of Isaiah — the worship of the eunuch was not left in the Temple of Jerusalem. Dear God, while I travel today may I read from memory your word and worship your Son and yourself!

*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

Dear Lord I could really never thank you enough: (1) For the tremendous change in the "sons of thunder" that they are now ready to speak to the villages — to tell the good news that Jesus saves — not destroys. (2) For the total honesty of Peter in defining the sin of Simon to his face. (3) That my heart — that anyone's heart — *can* be right with you. (4) That repentance is possible and for the renewal of repentance. (5) That his forgiveness is *not* automatic, it is conditioned on sincere sorrow that leads to a real change of mind. (6) That peace and acceptance instead of bitterness and bondage can be mine. (7) That I want to repent and pray for myself (not that I do not appreciate the prayers of others).

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Shall we (you and I) gather around the word and think and pray and praise together. Saul went from house to house dragging and committing in prison — what a reverse example for me in evangelism — if Saul had such zeal for opposition who am I to have less for saving men and women. Dear Lord, I am *not* like Philip (or like others who were scattered). Do I speak the word wherever I go? I.e., spontaneously? I do if it is expected or assigned, yes, but otherwise? No! God forgive. Thank you for speaking to me. Simon was a real convert! Bless your name! Wonderful Jesus accepted a man who was a eunuch and did not consider him anyone else.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Out of these verses arises the following requests: (1) Keep my heart ever right before you. (2) Teach me true repentance. (3) Give me a tender heart free of bitterness. (4) Make me a captive of yourself. (5)

Open my mouth to testify and proclaim your word. (6) Break down all race prejudice in my heart. (7) Keep me excited about the "good news."

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

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

What do you say to me from these verses? (1) "You cannot serve God and money." (2) "You can be totally ineffective through bitterness." (3) "Sin is a terrible master."

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Pakistan* — Point for prayer: *More Unevangelized peoples and areas:* a) *The Sindhi and Punjabi majority* on the Indus plain. Christians are almost exclusively from the Hindu minorities that were originally at the bottom of the social order. Few Muslims have been evangelized. There is no known ethnic Sindhi church. b) *Karachi* is a city of many languages and peoples. Every community in Pakistan is represented, and this is one of the key areas for the evangelization of the non-Christian majority of Pakistan. Pray for workers to be set apart for each community in the city. The few Protestant churches cater to the needs of the Punjabis and other minority groups; they are small and the Christians discouraged. c) *Afghan refugees* have been pouring out of their land since 1978 and probably number four million. The 330 refugee camps house mostly women and children as the majority of the men are looking for work or fighting in Afghanistan. They are mainly Dari speaking, but many Pushtu, Uzbeks and other ethnic groups are represented. Never have Afghans been so open for and to the gospel, but only a few Christian workers are permitted to give material and spiritual aid to them. d) *The 3,500,000 Ahmaddiya Muslim sect* is militantly missionary minded. Few have ever come to Christ.

## 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 TWO

### —Saturday—

*I am so glad you have a perfect record of every life — and its importance. Open my mind to this thought.*



#### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Historian.* Historian seems an unusual designation, but in a wonderful way you are the greatest of historians for you have a record of *everyone's* life — no life is unimportant — it will be possible in the world to come to ask you for the record of anyone and learn all about them — *some* bright morning this *will* happen. You have given us a book predominantly full of history as an indication of your interest in the subject.

*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

*Historian for me.* I am glad you are keeping a record for I have forgotten most of what has happened with me. But nothing, utterly *nothing* is unimportant with you — all has been kept and one glad day I will be able to relive those things that have eternal meaning from my life. It is because of the elusive transitory nature of all we do that I began writing — and encouraged others to do so — but if nothing is preserved here, *all* is preserved in the new world.

*How do you personally relate to a God who keeps records, and God who is a historian? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

#### CONFESSION OF SIN

*Idolatry* — am I guilty? Whatever gets my attention — time, energy, talent — that ought to go to you is idolatry. In the area of evangelism I feel like a miserable sinner. Dear God, move into my mind and will and emotions and memory and let me see myself as you do — selfish and willful — please change me! Forgive me — open my heart to you, to the lost world.

#### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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 giv'n for Me?  
I gave, I gave My life for thee,  
What hast thou giv'n for Me?

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

#### HIS WORD

<sup>26</sup>Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road — the desert road — that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." <sup>27</sup>So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup>and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet.  
—Acts 8:26-28, NIV

#### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

That you would send an angel to instruct one of your servants is wondrously encouraging since I know they minister to me — and all others who shall inherit salvation (Heb. 1:14). You gave directions, and such strange directions they were. But you have ways and people not known to us, but so well known to you! You are interested in people not geography — only as it relates to people — and your purpose for them. Your purpose is to save the eunuch (and his queen through him), Dear, dear God, may I somehow capture your concern and establish your priorities as mine!

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

#### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I do expect to meet this man in the world and life to come, and he will speak to me and tell me of the joy he found in finding the Messiah. There are many

more men just like him that I want to meet today.

*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 each serving angel who speeds on errands for each Christian. (2) For obedient Philip — it must have been quite a shock to hear these instructions — no hesitancy, no arguments, no rationalizations, just “So he started out.” (3) For humble-minded people in high places. (4) For the fact that eunuchs can be true servants and totally accepted by you — even if sometimes rejected of men. (5) That there is really nowhere convenient and no place inconvenient for the message of salvation. (6) That we have the same book of Isaiah to read today. (7) That angels are not commissioned to preach the glad tidings of great joy — we are!

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*An Ethiopian eunuch* — the most unlikely candidate for salvation, i.e., by men's standards. Consider: (1) Wrong race — since they are not *our race*, you know they are of the wrong race. Praise God, he has no race that is right or wrong. (2) Wrong color — he had more pigment in his skin and therefore was wrong. Oh, oh, how shortsighted, how ignorant and bigoted. Praise your wonderful name, you are color-blind, i.e., see no skin color but only heart condition. (3) Wrong sexually — he was either born this way, made this way by man, or chose to be this way himself (i.e., according to our Lord in Matt. 19:10-12).

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Requests from the experience of Philip: (1) May I be as responsive to your word as was Philip. (2) May I see opportunity in desert places in my life. (3) Break down my hesitancy in speaking to important people. (4) I want to believe there are some men in high places who are as open to the gospel as the eunuch. (5) Use me to reach just those people you want me to reach. (6) May I use travel as a way to reach the lost. (7) Let me see men as you see them.

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

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

Speak to me from these verses: (1) “I can appeal to all men.” (2) “Eunuchs are prospects for salvation the same as all men.” (3) “I am interested in religious people today.”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Pakistan* — Points for prayer: (1) *Christian missions*

*have been working in the land since 1833.* Christian standards and institutions have had a deep impact on the country. There was a great turning to the Lord from six of the 30 scheduled Hindu castes between 1890 and 1930. This was accompanied by revival in 1904. Other missions, predominantly evangelical, entered Pakistan at or after independence. The great majority of missionaries are serving within the existing church structures; only a minority in pioneer evangelism and church planting. Most missionaries are from the West, but an increasing number come from Asian lands. (2) *The Christians are almost all Punjabi-speaking* of Hindu derivation. Many are still illiterate. Most are second, third and fourth generation Christians who lack spiritual life and teaching. Tragically, some churches are riven by leadership struggles, court cases, factionalism and schism. Some Christians are drifting away from the churches, adopting Muslim customs and marrying Muslim partners.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing,  
He chastens and hastens His word to make known;  
The wicked oppressing cease them from distressing,  
Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.