

WEEK THREE

—Sunday—

*How good — how comforting to know
Someone who is always right! Keep me
close enough to hear what you say.*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Righteous. It is good to know someone who is indeed always right. On any subject, at any time, you can and will always say the right thing. In every situation with anyone you will always do the right thing. Absolute and total knowledge and unlimited, never tiring energy to use it — an absolute love and compassion — not to mention grace and mercy to apply such knowledge and energy. Your righteousness then becomes such a tremendous blessing to all.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Righteousness to me! To contemplate the giving or imputing of such righteousness to me is one awesome thought! That I can consider *my* standing as always right with you because I am in you and your Son — “He has become my righteousness.” In the good news that Christ died for my sins and rose for my justification is the righteousness of God seen. His hatred for sin, his infinite love for the sinner — he has become at the same time both just and a justifier. Praise his name — which is his authority to declare me righteous.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I do, without hesitancy, name each and every sin of which I am guilty — not only admit them, but truly sorrow over them. I am hurt that you are hurt. I do wonder how demons relate to temptation, but I give Satan no more advantage than he already has. I resist him, reject him, hate him. I at the same time claim the cleansing blood and a totally clean record for this new beginning! Praise your wonderful name!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised;
Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

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

HIS WORD

²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. —Acts 8:29-31, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear angel of God who appeared to Philip “the evangelist” — the servant at Jerusalem — appear to me. Perhaps someone more impressive than this angelic being has already spoken to me about every road in this town and every person in every house. When you asked Philip to “go to *that* chariot and stay near it,” he acted and came running! May I recognize your voice in the reading of your word. Dear God, sharpen my sense of hearing. May I see through your eyes those who would want to listen. Give me wisdom to be able to say the very most appropriate thing to give you the greatest advantage.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Can I ask Philip to stand aside and let me take his place? Dear Lord, would I be as immediately responsive? Would I think of my wife and daughters? Would I worry about my job? Would I question the choice of the Spirit for a candidate for conversion? Would I wonder why we were out here in this uninhabited territory? To all these questions I am much afraid I would answer "yes." Dear God, I want to learn better — Philip is teaching me — or you are through Philip. Would I be as well prepared to tell the story of the death and resurrection of God's Lamb? I believe I would, but I ask for an increase in my desire and faith.

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 gladly do I approach this section each day. Thank you: (1) For Philip who listened and heard, who ran and found, who heard and related. (2) For a rich man who read the scriptures. (3) That you expect us to tell others what you mean in your word. (4) For the limitless possibilities of where we can tell the story of our Lord. (5) For transportation to move us from place to place that we might carry the word of life. (6) For a desert place where we can meditate and understand your word. (7) That we want to be that "someone" who can and will explain what the prophet meant.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Going down from Jerusalem to Gaza. Let us think and pray in wonder and praise. (1) God sees possibilities where others see nothing. (2) Jerusalem must be left — not entered — to meet the Ethiopian. (3) God has a particular chariot as well as a road for us to "stay near." (4) Questions in the mind and heart of Philip were answered by obedience. (5) It is right sometimes to interrupt and insist on an audience. (6) Kindness and unselfish interest are always rewarded (at least by our Lord). (7) Religious people are lost too — and some are the best prospects for salvation.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How shall I ask from these verses? (1) Dear Lord, make me as sensitive to the Spirit's words in his book as was Philip when he spoke to him. (2) Let me run to do your will today — whatever it is. (3) Teach me to be silent when you want me to. (4) May I see or make opportunities to speak for you today. (5) Make me a good teacher of your word. (6) Teach me from the gospel prophet, Isaiah. (7) Bring an open hearted sinner into my experience.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I am listening — What do you say? (1) "Go, and I will go with you." (2) "Faith comes from hearing my word." (3) "There are many who will believe if they hear."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Panama — Points for prayer: (1) *The famous canal dominates the politics and economy of this "cross-roads" nation.* Nominally Catholic, Catholicism is an irrelevant cultural heritage, and spiritual lethargy is widespread, secularism increasing and sectarian groups active. (2) *Growth among Spanish-speaking churches* was good between 1935 and 1960, but has slowed considerably since. Denominational rivalries, a paucity of mature national leadership in many churches, and a lack of solid Bible teaching and sustained evangelism in congregations are areas of weakness. (3) *The most recent political strife*, too recent to be included in the Operation World book, should lead us to pray earnestly for this troubled land. (4) *Christian literature* is distributed by the Bible Society and a dozen bookstores, almost all in the Canal Zone. Poverty, illiteracy, and low interest in reading limit the impact.

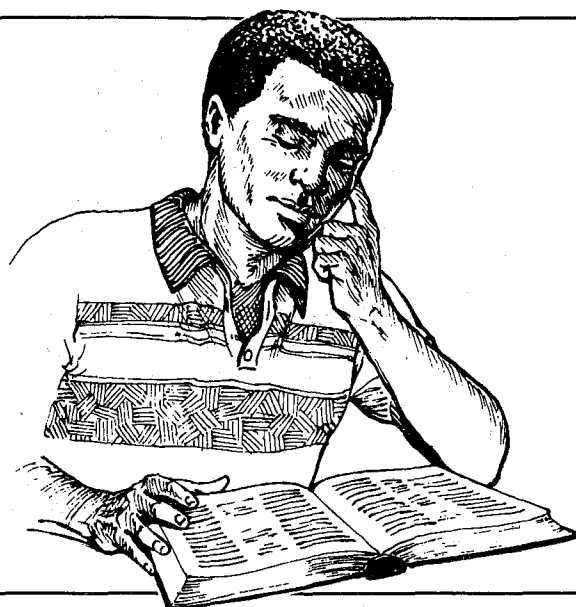
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I will sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me,
How he left His home in glory
For the cross of Calvary.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me,
Sing it with the saints in glory,
Gathered by the crystal sea.

WEEK THREE

—Monday—

What a lifting — life-giving description of yourself is in the one word “majestic”! I gladly worship you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Majestic. Oh, dear, wonderful Father, how good it is to worship before you this morning! Majestic and mighty is your name throughout all the earth. I like this term in description of you. It suggests exaltation, wonder, beauty, and you are the sum total of all this and more! We expand our thinking way, way beyond the limitations of this little, very little planet upon which we live to the infinite wide expanse of the total of all galaxies — beyond that, you are! Total power and immensity is your name. Majestic!

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

How everlastingly good it is to be related to such a One, to know that I am your son, that you have made me, indeed all men, in your image! Not physically or outwardly but inwardly — and according to my spirit. I shall one day be liberated from this humiliating house and enter into an appreciation of your true Self. Man is majestic in his capacities and identities. But to me your majesty is exciting and mind expanding! Praise you!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I want to admit and yield up all my limitations to you. Therefore, I shall confess all the particular sins I can bring to memory, but also review the ones you have listed in your word and relate them to myself. “Jealousy” — dear God, I do not want to be jealous — it is such an unhappy quality! such a negative attitude! It is a competitive world. I do not like it and do not even want to think about it. Is this because I am guilty of it? If so, please forgive!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

The great Physician now is near,
The sympathising Jesus;
He speaks the drooping heart to cheer,
Oh, hear the voice of Jesus.
Sweetest note in seraph song,
Sweetest name on mortal tongue;
Sweetest carol ever sung,
Jesus, blessed Jesus.

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

HIS WORD

³¹“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³²The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”

³⁵Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” ³⁸And he ordered the chariot to stop. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

—Acts 8:31-38, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The arrangement you have made to tell your message

of glad tidings to all the world is seen right here — one-on-one — if at any time we could sustain this desire into action 16 or 18 generations of it would convert the world in 30-33 years. How profoundly simple are all your plans for success. “The good news about Jesus” is just that, “good news,” but man is so very hesitant to express the joys of heaven. Dear Lord, deliver us from our earth-bound perspective. Why did the eunuch want to be baptized? Because preaching Jesus as God’s Lamb includes the need to be baptized to receive him. It is no accident, and I praise you for showing me that the convert rejoiced after he was baptized.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

My blessed Lord was “like a sheep to the slaughter” — what a thought! Sheep are dumb animals. He truly emptied himself when he became flesh for me. He became a sheep — and what pain and suffering he endured for me. He was physically abused and mistreated, all for me. He was like a lamb to be shorn — meekly and silently awaiting the rough hands of man to cut for profit what belonged only to God. He was oppressed and given no fair trial. It was all for my sin. He was God’s lamb to take away my sin.

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

Gratitude — real personal thanksgiving is such an attractive quality! How I do thank you: (1) For those who would invite us to teach if we would ask them. How many are there who will never be taught because we have never asked them? (2) For the Holy Spirit who knows just whom we should ask. (3) For the privilege of interpreting or explaining your word to men who want to know. It is up to us to tell “of whom the prophet spoke.” (4) For the full wonderful meaning of baptizing anyone — going down into the water to be “buried with Christ in baptism, to be raised to walk in a new life.” (5) For the meaning baptism has for the preacher as well as the baptized — it helps him in a way he needs so much. (6) For the great universal church of which Philip and the eunuch were members. (7) That the very same joy of the eunuch is mine!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“He ordered the chariot to stop.” How often have I wanted the chariot of life to stop, to stop long enough to fully appreciate the joy of telling the good news, to think as deeply as I could and should about my Lord, the Lamb of whom Isaiah spoke. How much do I want the chariot of the daily routine to stop — stop — wait — change. If we stop, perhaps we will see a lovely expanse of water and it will

become a grave for our old and a resurrection for the new — or we will at least see the ordinary in a new light with a new meaning, if we will only “order the chariot to stop.”

Dear God, I want the chariot in which ride all the relationships I have with other people to stop — wait — let me change them — let me baptize them into the love of God — into the compassion of my Lord — into the reality of the value of our soul. Oh, chariot, stop! stop!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

It is so good to ask from your word: (1) Where are the open-hearted students of the word today? (2) Humble my spirit as I consider your Lamb! (3) May I never again complain about mistreatment in your service. (4) Should I include baptism in the preaching of the cross? (5) I want to baptize people in the same way and for the same reason as Philip — help me! (6) Why not baptize the chariot driver? Was it because he was not discipled? (7) How did Philip know the eunuch was to be taught baptism? Did he learn it from the apostles?

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What do you say to me in these verses? (1) “Preach the death, burial and resurrection of my Son.” (2) “Please tell people what Philip did to be saved.” (3) “Remember the words of my Son, ‘He that believes and is baptized shall be saved’ ” (Mark 16:16).

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Papua New Guinea — Point for prayer: *The government faces a daunting task* in welding such a diverse and potentially explosive variety of tribes into a single nation. Tribal fighting and revenge killings are still fairly frequent occurrences, and the social dislocation caused by half-educated young people flocking to the cities has bred serious urban violence. Pray for the leaders of this land, and pray that they may seek the guidance of God in the affairs of their nation.

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 THREE

—Tuesday—

*You live in the midst of your children.
You walk and talk and eat and enjoy
our company. Gladly do we worship
you.*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Social Being. How wonderful it is dear Father to know you *want* me to come to you — you have created me, and all men, for your own self — for mutual sharing! Society — all of it, should be a theocracy — an absolute theocracy. At the same time there is a marvelous interaction of an equal level. I want to be like you want me to. How good it is to talk with you and know you hear and care — to come into the oneness of spirit — into an awesomeness of your personal interest in all I do and in all I am. Praise your name.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

To be the Creator who made me for yourself — what a lovely thought! Today in my conversations with others I do not want to forget to include you. In riding from place to place I want you in the car. When we sit down to the meal we not only thank you for it, we want to share it with you. In our task of teaching and preaching may we do it before you and be constantly conscious of your presence with us and in us.

How do you personally relate to the sociableness of God, and God who is a social Being? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

To imagine or believe the end justifies the means is a constant temptation and source of sin (occasion). Dear God, purify my motives, guard my mouth, forgive my sin. I'm glad to say that "fits of rage" do not occur too often, but I am not immune. Dear Lord, "lead me not into temptation." The tenderness and kindness of my Lord — how I want it! It is good to come away from this time of prayer clean and pure and whole — thank you!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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," every day the same;
"Jesus," let all saints proclaim
Its worthy praise forever.

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

HIS WORD

³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea. — Acts 8:39, 40, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What unusual action for the Holy Spirit! Are we right in assuming the person of Philip was suddenly gone, i.e., in a supernatural sense? Or were some sudden instructions given which directed him to Azotus? In whatever circumstance (and your ways are past tracing out) the eunuch was so very, very glad and I am too. What a testimony of devotion that Philip continued to preach and work among the despised Samaritans — perhaps they were more prepared to hear than the house of Israel.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I do, I do want to feed my soul on these two verses — when we all come out of the water we need to re-

joy like the eunuch. After all we do have a similar experience. We are traveling through life — someone preaches Jesus to us. We learn of our need to be baptized. Since the suffering Savior was what was preached to us, salvation must also be involved in the purpose of our baptism, but what do we feel and know as we come out of the water? A great deep cause of joy begins in our innermost being — the blessed Holy Spirit takes up residence in us — we have found the cause and purpose of life indeed! Salvation!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you, thank you: (1) For the confidence you place on the self-sufficiency of the eunuch and his spiritual development or the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in his life. (2) For your exciting and unaccountable actions — we will know why one day — it is enough to thank you that we must trust. (3) That Philip didn't miss any towns of the Samaritans. (4) That he seems to establish a base for service in Caesarea (since he and his family were here twenty years later — Acts 21:7-9). (5) That the eunuch was also a preacher in Ethiopia. (6) That it is easier to preach and teach in every village, town and city of our state than it was in Philip's day. (7) That you left this permanent record for our following.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"When they came up out of the water. . . ." How significant — the Spirit of God worked when they both came up out of the water. He works today in entering the lives of his servants when we baptize the lost. He went on his way rejoicing when they both came up out of the water — there is no joy at all like that of the lifesaver or the freshly saved — they both continued in the service of God.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

There is so much for which I can ask you from this text: (1) May your Spirit be very much a part of my work for you today. (2) I want to rejoice in my salvation for the same reasons the eunuch did. (3) As I move from place to place may I deliver the good news. (4) Help me to remember your work continues long after I have left the place of preaching. (5) Who labors for you in Ethiopia today? Surround them with your love. (6) May a door be opened for the preaching of the word in Samaria. (7) Break me out of the mold of American churchianity!

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What are you saying to me here? (1) "I can act suddenly as well as slowly." (2) "Man can only truly rejoice in me." (3) "Ethiopia is still stretching out her hands to me."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Papua New Guinea — Points for prayer: (1) The initial penetration of most tribes is complete. Massive people movements have resulted in a nominal and superficial Christianization of the majority, without achieving their deliverance from witchcraft, spirit and ancestor worship. Fears and superstitions have dominated them for millenia. (2) The PNG church has, generally speaking, not understood the missionary challenge. Some have become cross-cultural missionaries in church planting and Bible translation in PNG, but far more should catch the vision. Only about 10 Protestant missionaries have left PNG for other lands. (3) Bible translation is the major incomplete missionary task. The profusion of small languages and extreme difficulty of travel make this a difficult and demanding task. The widespread use of trade languages in churches hinders the realization of the need and blunts the urgency.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

We praise Thee, O God! for the Son of Thy love,
For Jesus who died and is now gone above.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory;
Hallelujah! Amen!
Hallelujah! Thine the glory;
Revive us again.

WEEK THREE

—Wednesday—

Gladly do I bow before you — through tears and pain I bow. But in this I learn as at no other time.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Chastener. Dear Lord, how very, very effective you are as a chastener! I can speak from experience — and I know I am typical of all your children — at least in the basic areas. How tender, kind and persistent you are — how you have pursued me and found me — not to my hurt — but for my correction, for my maturing. So do you chasten all your children. All the lovely qualities of a mother are in you. All the strong qualities of an infinitely wise father are yours. With tender, constant attention you come to us — and we are corrected on our course — we are turned into a way of profit and peace.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I can say from much experience that *no* chastening for the moment seem joyous — but grievous — but I surely do not wish to regard it lightly and call it “tough luck” — when all the while you are trying to get my attention, trying to reach my conscience. Dear God, you know I love you and respect your interest, your deep interest in my total life. Neither do I want “to faint” when I am reproved by you. I want to learn by this experience. I do want to love you from the heart — the compass of all my being. Chasten me today as seems good to you.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Confession of my sin — of my need. “Selfish ambition” is such a besetting sin of mine! Dear Lord, I hesitate to say this — for fear I will be prevented from pursuing my own ambition — Oh, Lord, purify my motives but increase the drive, energy, eagerness

within my total being — but humble my purpose, my direction. Oh, dear Lord, how I want to help here. My goals and projects need your hand upon them. Forgive me, cleanse me — 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

Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treacherous shoal;
Chart and compass came from Thee:
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

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

HIS WORD

9 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. —Acts 9:1,2, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Saul of Tarsus — what a man! How I look forward — when my mind is totally enlightened, when I have no other interest, when I have lost all selfishness, to talking with him, but much more his talking with me — of being so much enlightened by his words, by his presence. It will be so wonderful to have omnipresence and be able to talk and relate to multitudes all at the same time. How else would we be able to talk to Saul? “Letters to the synagogues in Damascus” — someone's name and the names of their loved ones would be in those letters — this

means arrest, imprisonment, removal from all that was dear to them — but God had another plan for Saul. How much are we saved from of which we will never know? Praise your name!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How wrong can one sincere man be? How moved I am to know God's hand is not shortened — nor his power limited by man's inability. It is very, very possible to be religiously wrong. Dear God, open my eyes, but you must first make me blind. How beautiful to be called "one who belongs to the Way." I gladly admit this position, this direction, this happy fact. I have found the way of gladness. I have found the way of joy, the way who is a person, even my Lord!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you, dear Lord: (1) For the high priest who could be personally introduced to the power of God — did it make any difference in his life — no matter — it does make a difference in mine. He was given the opportunity to see and know. So have I — am I responding? adequately? commensurately? (2) For the letters — God's roll of the faithful. No doubt some of these very people became the dearest friends of the one who came to take them prisoners. (3) For every one who journeyed with Saul — how many became Christians? (4) For the same road today — everyone has his own road to Damascus.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

My road to Damascus for today — consider: (1) We are either persecuting him or serving him; we are never neutral. If we are not aggressively for him we are positively against him — to hurt his body through neglect is to hurt him. (2) God reads the names of every church roll — not only here but in the prison camps and cells of suffering in places we will never know. God knows every one. (3) We never travel alone. He sees us and wants us to see him.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Here are my requests from Acts 9:1,2: (1) Give me the zeal of love — the fervency of concern. (2) I want to make more and more learners of you — help me. (3) Send me to the religiously confused — today! (4) How can I let men see "the way" in my experience? (5) May I in no way minimize the place of women in your work. (6) Send preachers to Damascus today. (7) Why has the good news been lost to Syria?

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Open my ears to hear: (1) "Threats and plots can be overcome." (2) "The ones who oppose the most are sometimes kicking against the goad of God." (3) "There are those as prisoners for me today — love them."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Paraguay — Points for prayer: (1) Praise God for a rising expectancy of a great harvest. The impact of Luis Palau's evangelistic crusades in 1976 and 1982 was nationwide. In the latter over 10,000 decisions were recorded. In the 1983 Rex Humbard crusade many more sought the Lord. Pray that the thirst after God manifested then may continue and be satisfied, and result in church growth. (2) A traditional, syncretic Catholicism, with much emphasis on Mary and the saints, has a strong hold on the people. Pray that the spirit of idolatry and fear of man may be broken; the breakthrough will not come without this. Only a minority of believers are of the Spanish-Guarani Mestizo majority. (3) Nearly half of all Protestants are members of immigrant communities isolated from the mainstream of national life, such as the Lutherans and Mennonites. Many of these churches still use German. There are also six Korean denominations. Pray that these communities may integrate into Paraguayan society and contribute towards its evangelization.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

WEEK THREE

—Thursday—

You are abundantly able — you “can do” in every situation. I bring some of those to you just now.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Strong. How infinitely strong you are! Beyond all that we could say or think! What a comfort for mankind to have One who is never tired or unable! Praise your strong name. Praise to the One who is strength itself! Nothing is too large or small, too complex or simple for your strength and interest. How amazing. I am glad to express my joy and privilege before your power.

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

Strength for me: “My strength indeed is small,” as the poet said. I find in me not even the desire to do. My strength is in you. I refer to moral, spiritual and mental strength. I am strong enough physically to do what needs to be done, but even in this without you I would not even live or move or have my being. Praise and adoration ascend to your presence! The essence of strength! How good!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is an encouragement to be able to come to One who is Strength Itself. You can forgive and help. I do not want to be a part of *dissensions*, but at times I am drawn into them — forgive me. Oh, dear God, you see the depths of my heart and know I am indeed a sinner and need and seek forgiveness and cleansing. Purify me and I shall be whiter than snow!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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

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

HIS WORD

³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

⁵“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

⁶“Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

⁷The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes, he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. —Acts 9:3-8, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Damascus was and is a very real place. There must yet be the very place near the city where you (through your Son) appeared to this very real person called “Saul of Tarsus.” Perhaps he was riding on a horse or walking. We do not know, but we do know a light above the brightness of the Syrian sun at noonday shone on him. A voice spoke to him, even your voice. He saw your dear Son, i.e., before his eyes failed him. The penetrating accusation never left his conscience: “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.” Dear God, I want to read and reread these words as if I had never seen them before!

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

There is indeed a sense in which this experience is a norm or pattern for each of us in our conversion to you. But there is also a sense in which this is but the record of one man's experience with you. As example, I could hardly ask or expect everyone to imitate the details of my own conversion experience, but what are the principles in Saul's experience that speak to my heart? They are in part: (1) Jesus is alive — who sees and hears and knows all about me. (2) He can and does speak to me through his word. (3) My service to his body is a service to him — what hurts his people, hurts him. What helps his body helps him.

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

Praise your wonderful name, how easy it is to do this. Thank you: (1) For your knowledge of every town where every man lives. (2) That you are light and in you is no darkness at all. (3) That you are speaking in words I understand — to me *now* from this word. (4) I can and do affect you in my actions and words. (5) You are my Lord, my Lord — keep me down before you in worship. (6) Man must and does tell poor sinners what to do to be saved. (7) There are those who even if they do not hear or know you are kind and helpful to me.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

How to be saved like Saul. (1) Find out you are so very, very wrong — perhaps religious, but lost. (2) Develop or accept God's goad in your conscience. (3) See our Lord in all his exalted majesty and authority. (4) Let the light blind you to all others — remember Saul never saw the light but a person in the light — it wasn't the light that held his attention until he was blind, but Jesus in the light. (5) See him personally, hear him personally, relate to him personally. (6) Wait for a time until the reality takes hold of your inner being. (7) Let others lead you as directed by the Lord.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

You move me to ask: (1) Am I near a major decision for you? (2) Shine your new light on my way now. (3) Am I in any way persecuting your body today? (4) Show me your Lordship in my personal life. (5) I want to know more and more of your rule in my life. (6) Am I listening when you tell me what to do? (7) Shut my eyes to other things that I might see you.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Having ears, let me hear: (1) "I can and do speak to your personal needs." (2) "You either hurt me or

help me." (3) "Those around you will not see me or hear me."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Peru — Points for prayer: (1) *The Catholic Church* is beset with problems; 80% of the clergy are foreign, and there is a growing polarization between the traditionalists and those who espouse liberation theology. Many are leaving the Church and turning to ideologies propagated by Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and Marxists. Pray that churches may more faithfully proclaim the attractiveness of Christ and the fulness of the gospel. (2) *Spanish-speaking evangelical churches* are growing apace, with many congregations being planted every year. Growth has accelerated since 1980 in nearly all denominations — especially Assembly of God, Iglesia Evangelica Peruana, Christian & Missionary Alliance and Baptist groups. About 40% of evangelicals are Pentecostal. Pray that this growth may be maintained despite: a) *Strong denominationalism* and lack of real fellowship between believers of different evangelical groups. b) *More transfer growth than conversion growth.* c) *A high rate of backsliding* and congregations hampered by resentments, moral failures, sin and divisions. d) *Too little earnest prayer* for growth of believers and salvation of sinners. e) *Too few leaders of maturity and spiritual depth.*

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

WEEK THREE

—Friday—

*A whole new vista opens to me today!
When I consider that sex has
NOTHING to do with your essential
being!*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Female-like. To consider you in the image of a woman is a reverse, but nevertheless a true concept! All the dear, beautiful qualities of the best mother and wife as seen in Proverbs 31 can be multiplied a millionfold and yet could not approximate *your* true, real self. Soft and kind and full of concern is altogether true of yourself! How I love you for all you are — a Father *and* a Mother to me and to all the peoples of the earth if they *only, only* knew it.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Female-like to me. Oh, dear Person, not only heavenly Father but heavenly Mother and all that means to me. All the care when I did not even know it, all the thoughtfulness not understood and or appreciated, days of concern and prayer, nights of vigil and work, total interest and dedication is what my dear mother and wife have given — are you like that? Yea, and a million times more!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

The first thing to confess would be my unworthiness, my terrible lack of gratitude, of strong desires that are fulfilled outside your will, status, sex, food, things. Dear God, dear God, forgive me. I pronounce the particular sins before you — accept inwardly the cleansing and feel free, free! Praise you!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the dark unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
Will your anchor hold, or firm remain?
We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.

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

HIS WORD

⁸Saul got up from the ground but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹²In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." — Acts 9:8-12, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How better can I read these words to you my wonderful Savior and Father than to visualize the actual scene? I know it is imaginary, but I want to make it true to each word you have given us. There is Saul, blind, confused, overcome, full of wonder, led and not leading. For three days in darkness, i.e., physically; inwardly he was seeing as he had never seen before. Were not the eyes of his heart enlightened as they had never been before? You spoke to your children in words, words from you and in marvelous specific detail. Help me to read your word with the same interest.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Oh, yes, yes, I want to hear it, read it and see it again and again. In so many ways I am like Saul (all men are like Saul). Stubborn and self-willed, hurting the One who loves you most, kicking against your own conscience — God can and does knock you down, shuts out and stops all your plans — you are rendered impotent! You lose appetite for all that seems so important. All your plans are dead! Then a vision! A strange inexplicable vision! A man comes to you with God's will and deliverance — God's sight! Oh, to see now with God's vision, to look through his eyes! Praise him!

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, oh yes, thank you: (1) Someone thinks enough of me to lead me by the hand — man or yourself. (2) The voluntary loss of appetite, in grief or joy or wonder. (3) Three days — three days in the tomb — enough time to truly decide. (4) For unknown disciples who are far more ready to hear and do than some who are well known. (5) That you know all our names and our very selves — better than we know ourselves. (6) For Judas who offered his hospitality to Saul, for the unusual name of the street — straight is the way — and all life. (7) The "touching" interest God and Ananias had in Saul, and in me and in all.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"For he is praying." Indeed he is! (1) Saul is praying in deep personal repentance! This happened because he saw and heard the Lord in full reality. It will and can produce the same effect in me! (2) He prayed in total brokenness of his plans and life style and purpose. It was now: "What will you have me to do?" Unless prayer carries this element it is not true prayer. (3) He prayed *not knowing* what God would have him do — not to figure it out for himself — but to wait and hear — he knew God knew and would tell him, so he waited. "Wait upon the Lord." "Hope in the Lord."

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Petitions arise from Acts 9:8-12: (1) Help me to make fasting a way of life. (2) Give me grace to repent after the example of Saul. (3) How I want to be like Ananias — give me wisdom to know how. (4) May I be as specific in meeting needs as you were with Saul. (5) What were the prayer requests of Saul? "God be merciful to me a sinner." — Amen! (6) Give me a vision of those who can open my eyes. (7) Help me to be your man to touch someone with the *eye-opening* good news.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What are you saying to me here? (1) "It is not weakness to sometimes be led." (2) "My will for you can be more important than food." (3) "I want to lead you from darkness to light."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Peru — Points for prayer: (1) *The National Evangelical Council of Peru* has coordinated disaster relief programs; it is becoming a focal point for communication between evangelicals and the authorities, and for research into the spiritual needs of the land. (2) *The Quechua and Aymara peoples*, the descendants of the Incas, have begun to emerge from centuries of oppression, cultural deprivation, grinding poverty and isolation. Quechua was recognized as an official language in 1975. There is new growth, optimism and blossoming of Christianity in Quechua culture, with revival in some areas. Pray for: a) *The millions of mountain Quechua and Aymara* still bound by superstitions of pagan and "Christian" origin. There are one million landless Quechua. b) *The completion of Bible translation* in two major Quechua dialects and the undertaking of NT translation by SIL (Wycliffe) in 19 others.

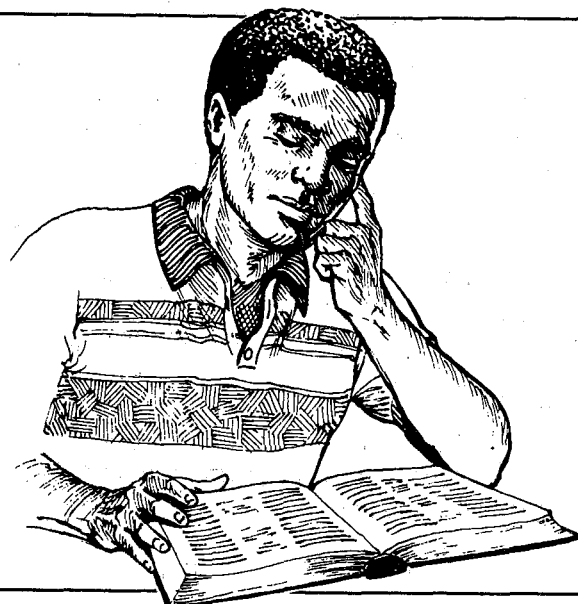
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All glory, laud and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To Whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before Thee we present.

WEEK THREE

—Saturday—

I open every door of every room in my heart! I want you to share — change — purify me from the inside!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Intimate. What a wonderful word this is for you. You want to be (and are) dearer and nearer than anyone else. How I love you and praise you for this quality! That you want to share a part and be a part of all I say, think or do is a real marvelous fact. I do so want you to be that involved with all I am and do and think. I *know* you have a deep interest and concern with all of my life all the time. Praise you, welcome to all that I have and am.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

What I say for myself I know can be said for all the children. How totally interested you are with *all men*, every man, every woman, to thus commune with you is a wonder and beauty beyond description. How I *do, do* want you to counsel me on so many things. How I do want your help and strength. Into my subconsciousness and in my every self-conscious moment, welcome dear Father, wonderful Savior.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I come each day in a deep sense of my own need and freely admit my violation of your will for my life, and truly seek and claim forgiveness, removal, freedom, cleansing. Have I been envious of someone? Am I envious now? Dear Lord, open my mind and memory, deliver me, forgive me — may I be totally satisfied with what you give me now — what I presently have! I rejoice in you!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Christ has for sin atonement made,
What a wonderful Savior!
We are redeemed! The price is paid!
What a wonderful Savior!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Jesus!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Lord!

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

HIS WORD

¹³“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call upon your name.”

¹⁵But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.

¹⁶I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

¹⁷Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here — has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. —Acts 9:13-19, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How good to see and read of your tremendous interest in the life of one unworthy man — even Saul of Tarsus. How carefully have you characterized him: “my chosen instrument — to carry my name — I will show him.” You gave him a vision of Ananias before Ananias ever came. One blind man was led — you turned his darkness to light. Praise to your love and power and mercy — the man was the same (in

personality or basic inward being), but his goals and purposes were totally changed.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

As you changed Saul you have changed me (and all others who are also your "chosen instruments"). It is wonderful to know that every Christian is just this! Saul was changed by the One he saw — when once the eyes of his heart were enlightened he could never forget *who* he saw, but more importantly, the glory and majesty and power present in the One he saw. I have come to see him in the same light — King of kings and Lord of lords. He heard his name, "Saul, Saul" (even in the Hebrew language). Dear Lord, I know you know me by name and call me, even by name. I gladly, humbly, answer "Lord, what will you have me to do?"

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

Gladly do I do this: (1) Thank you for a multitude of humble men like Ananias who are ready anytime to obey you — not without reason. (2) That we are to carry your name — which represents all you are — angels or prophets would gladly carry it, but we are given the priceless privilege. (3) The kings and those who are in high places can be influenced for our Lord — you want them to be — you sent Saul to them for that very purpose. (4) We *must* suffer for yourself for your "name's sake" — because we are yours, we suffer as you did — or for you. Help me to rejoice that I am counted worthy to do this. (5) That we can be and want to be "filled with the Holy Spirit." (6) Saul was baptized — what a trophy for King Jesus! (7) The same joyous fellowship Saul had with the disciples at Damascus can be ours today.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Let us gather around your word: (1) Saul went to the high priest for letters of condemnation and he himself became God's great letter of salvation to the same people. (2) As he drew near to the city light fell upon him — as we draw near to the great cities of our world is our Lord trying to enlighten our hearts with a message for them? (3) "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" To in any way hurt the body of Christ is to hurt my Lord. Dear God, may I remember this today! (4) Some small man told Saul what to do to be saved. Dear God, help me to do that today! (5) Help me to see the light and hear the voice!

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How I do want to ask according to your will revealed in Acts 9:13-19: (1) May I be as candid with you as

was Ananias. (2) I want to refer to Christians as saints as used here and mean the same thing. (3) Dear Lord, I call upon your name, i.e., your authority — how glad I am to claim it in so many areas of my life. (4) Do you have a few "chosen instruments" or is everyone such a Christian? (5) How much do I need to suffer for your name? (6) I claim the beautiful promise of Isaiah 42:16. (7) May I so decrease that he may increase in me and through me.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What are you saying through these beautiful verses? (1) "I accept no excuses when I command." (2) "I can appear to you every time you read my word." (3) "Your baptism gave you the potential of being filled with the Holy Spirit."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Philippines — Points for prayer: (1) *Praise the Lord for dramatic growth in Protestant Churches since 1974.* There is an exciting harvest being won in this nation and the Protestant Church is becoming a major force in the life of the country. Rapid changes, uncertainty for the future, religious freedom, aggressive evangelism by growing churches and good Filipino leadership, are all factors promoting this expansion. Above all, prayer has been answered! (2) *The Roman Catholic Church is at a crossroads.* The political polarization of the nation is dividing the Church; many priests openly support leftist revolution. The study of the Scriptures has opened the hearts and minds of millions of Catholics to the need for a personal experience of the grace of God — some remaining in charismatic groups within the Church, many others joining Protestant Churches. Pray that this time of crisis may bring many to Christ. A large proportion of all Catholics are practicing animists and spiritists.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

There is never a day so dreary,
There is never a night so long,
But the soul that is trusting in Jesus
Will somewhere find a song.
Wonderful, wonderful Jesus,
In the heart He implanteth a song:
A song of deliverance, of courage, of strength,
In the heart He implanteth a song.