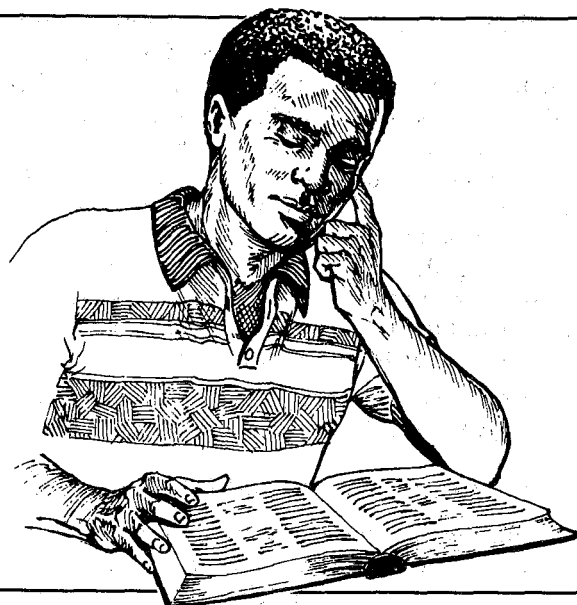


WEEK SIX

—Sunday—

There is a harvest even now being reaped. Open my eyes to what you see. Gladly do I worship you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Harvester. Indeed you are! All the harvest and reports of all us preachers is but a reflection of (and sometimes on) your work. You *are* “the Lord of the harvest.” The physical harvest all about us testifies to your power, to your provision, to your personal interest in man! I love you for all you are but most of all for every precious person you have brought to yourself through what feeble efforts I have given. How wonderful, beyond adjectives, to be a workman together with you! I shall never, never be able to say an adequate “thank you.”

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Harvester for me. In my life if there is to be a harvest in character, or in any project, it will be because I have cooperated in “the law of the harvest.” Plant — yes, yes, I must plant the seed of the word of God, and he that soweth bountifully shall reap bountifully. I want to plant the seed of your word in *millions* of hearts. Water the seed — I want to have whatever part I can in this, but I also want to be an encourager for others to do this. Cultivate — dear God, I am somewhat unwillingly engaged in this, but please forgive. You will give the increase and we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gossip — a hard word to say because we know to some extent how guilty we are (I am). Why repeat an evil report? Why tell of someone’s failure? Why embellish a report of success? Why must we tell what we hear of someone else? Dear God, help me to turn gossip into praise and thanksgiving and if the report is

not good, help me not to repeat it. You did say, you do *now* say, “speak not evil one of another.” I believe; forgive me for not believing more totally. Pride and Prejudice — what odious sins. Forgive me!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I am resolved no longer to linger,
Charmed by the world’s delight;
Things that are higher, things that are nobler,
These have allured my sight.
I will hasten to Him,
Hasten so glad and free;
Jesus, Greatest, Highest,
I will come to Thee.

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

HIS WORD

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came upon all who heard the message. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” ⁴⁸So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea **11** heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him ³and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

⁴Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened: —Acts 10:44-11:4, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Indeed, indeed I want to read this word to you. I have such concern that I fully, or more fully understand the supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Such an unusual thing! What a surprise to all, what a surprise to all of us. Just what are you saying to me? I do want to appreciate all you say. The Holy Spirit was "poured out" on the whole household — the "gift of the Holy Spirit" or the "Holy Spirit as a gift." The major emphasis is that they were Gentiles and as such received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Talk about instant initiation, here it is! It will take man years to accept what God did in a moment! Praise your beautiful love and acceptance of all men.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

So many questions I have asked for such a long time (40 plus years): (1) Was this just a one-time event for a one-time purpose? It would seem to be, i.e., the Gentiles were being inducted into the family of God by this means. (2) Were there several languages represented in the household? There could have been since Caesarea was an international seaport and on the caravan route. Or there weren't and the supernaturalness of the event is what you want emphasized. (3) Why command them to be baptized "in water"? Was it not for the same purpose our Lord indicated in Mark 16:16 and Peter repeated in Acts 2:38 and in his letter I Peter 3:21? If so, then the Gentiles were lost when they had this supernatural experience and its primary purpose was for the Jews present, and all subsequent Jews.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

How I do raise my heart and voice for: (1) You interrupt what you yourself commanded to be done to show you have a dual purpose (or is it a single purpose?) that could only be accomplished here in this unusual manner. (2) That the Holy Spirit is a gift — if he comes in this manifestation or another, he is always a gift — oh, blessed beautiful gift! (3) That Peter and the six were ready to receive your conclusion and choice. (4) The "name" or authority of the Lord Jesus is behind all actions and words. (5) That good news can spread so rapidly even without present day communication media. (6) At the dinner table is where we can share our faith. (7) That Peter was willing to patiently explain.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Everything precisely as it happened! How encouraging it is to know that everything our Lord did to and through Peter was recorded, not only by the honesty

and faithfulness of the apostle but under the immediate direction of the Holy Spirit. All these 2,000 years later we yet have the precise account of the salvation of the very first Gentiles. If we are as precise in our commitment to him as was Peter in his record we can become precisely what they were, i.e., Christians. Dear Lord, I do believe you sent your Son to be the anointed Savior of myself and all those who will trust him. A piece of precision machinery would fade into a clumsy anachronism when coupled to the multiplicity of prophecies and plans that mesh in the coming of yourself in the person of Jesus.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

With real zest I relate my requests to the text of Acts 10:44-11:4: (1) May I never, never refuse the gospel to any man. (2) Keep me sensitive enough to be astonished at your work. (3) I want to appreciate more fully than ever the presence of your Holy Spirit in my body. (4) I do want to understand every word about the baptism of these Gentiles with the Holy Spirit. (5) Open my mind as to the purpose of speaking in tongues and praising God. (6) Had Peter changed his mind as to the purpose of water baptism, i.e., since Pentecost? (7) When these Gentiles were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ what did they become? Dear God, I ask these questions in the full assurance you will answer me in the study of your word!

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me through this text: (1) "To have the Holy Spirit is to have my approval." (2) "Do not be as slow as Peter was in hearing my message for the whole lost world." (3) "Don't be surprised if some of your brothers do not understand."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Saudi Arabia — Points for prayer: (1) *The Islamic missionary impetus* is coordinated by the Muslim World League in Mecca. Vast sums of money are used to propagate their faith around the world — aid to countries considered sympathetic, building mosques, sending missionaries, literature, radio, etc. The Saudi government denies to Christians the liberty to share their faith, yet they expect it for Muslims everywhere. Pray for the King and leaders of Saudi Arabia. (2) *Saudi believers*, if there are any, have to hide their faith or risk death. Pray for such. Pray that living fellowships of believers may be planted despite the apparent impossibility.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

WEEK SIX

—Monday—

I do so want you to rule — to reign — to direct — to change. This time of worship can make this so. Maranatha!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Lord. How glad I am to claim your Lordship in my life, but you are Lord if I claim you or if I do not claim you. You are Lord of all the world and ten billion worlds (physical planets) like ours. What a total wonder to know you are all you are independently of my response or anyone else's response. Dear, dear God, to know you is peace and joy and hope. To love you is the fulfillment of all that is right and true. To own your Lordship is only to acknowledge what is obvious. But, oh, how much there is in that little word "Lord." Ruler, despot, king, and 10 million more qualities.

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

Lord in *my* life. I want you to take control in the innermost area of my life. I have *such* a problem yielding my inner-self to you. I want you to dominate, but I find a passivity about yourself, i.e., you cannot and will not violate your decision to leave me totally free to choose, to invite and initiate the action. Only when I truly think your thoughts will your thoughts be mine, and I must think them (those found in your word) in such a manner that I love them. I am eager to *do* them, to will to *do* what you have said. When (and only when) I act upon what you have said will your Lordship become a reality to me.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

"Lewd thoughts" is a sin mentioned in your word. I am not either emphasizing my sin here or rationalizing so as to deny it. I also know the evil one is present even now and is seeking to defeat my love and devotion to you. I live in an environment that promotes

lewd thoughts. Illicit sex has become a way of life with millions of people. I want to treat the cause not the effect. "To the pure all things are pure." Dear God, I am a sinner and I sin in this area. Forgive me, cleanse me, wash me! Praise your holy self!

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 sympathizing Jesus;
He speaks the drooping heart to cheer,
Oh, hear the name 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

⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. ⁶I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter, Kill and eat.'

⁸"I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

⁹"The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.'

¹⁰This happened three times, and then it was pulled up to heaven again.

¹¹"Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. ¹²The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us

how he had seen an angel appear in his house to say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon that is called Peter. ¹⁴He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'

¹⁵"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. ¹⁶Then I remembered what the Lord had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God!"

¹⁸When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has even granted the Gentiles repentance unto life."

—Acts 11:5-18, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How I appreciate the care in repeating in clear terms all you did for Peter. You came down to where Peter was and in a form or manner he could — and could not understand — and so you have from that day to this. More than I'll ever say adequately I want to say "thank you" for appearing to me in so very many ways and times. Many I could not understand and many I rejected "out of hand." Later you rebuked me, sometimes bluntly and sometimes gently, but I heard your voice and know your meaning.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I can surely take the place of some of the ones who criticized Peter. Dear Lord, I am critical of too many people and things. I want to hear with open ears. I want you to open my eyes to see all you want me and others to see. Peter was most careful in his recounting. He applied the promise our Lord made to himself and the other apostles (Acts 1:2-5) to the household of Cornelius. Peter said the household was baptized in the Holy Spirit. This fact convinced those Jews the Gentiles were to be granted "repentance unto life." The whole household was "saved" through the message Peter gave them and their response to it (11:15) not through the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Yes, yes, let me hasten to do so. Thank you; (1) For the open, spontaneous acceptance of the Lordship of the One speaking to Peter. (2) For Peter's immediate application of what you said to the circumstance — he gave your answer to this question of morality. (3) That there is progression in revelation. (4) That you repeat what you want several times — you don't have to — out of your mercy you do. (5) That you synchronize your actions so we can get the whole lesson. (6) That Peter identifies Pentecost as "the beginning" — what a beginning! (7) That the apostles received because they believed and so is the equation of reception from that day till now.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Six Jewish Christians went as witnesses. How I want to add my name and presence to theirs. Cornelius was expecting Peter, and in a most expectant, eager manner he had made preparations — all his relatives and close friends were in his house waiting. The deepest respect was expressed to Peter in falling at his feet. It was out of politeness and thoughtfulness that Peter responded as he did. God told Peter three times each time he requested information. The careful time reference of the army captain was additional confirmation to the hesitant Jewish apostle.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Shall I ever lose my eagerness to absorb every word you have said? I pray I shall not. (1) Give me the careful patience in repeating what should have been understood the first time. (2) Remind me all over again that you love everyone! (3) Move me to see that evaluations must be made in the light of your word. (4) If you had to say things three times before they were heard I too must do the same. (5) Keep me aware of your timing. (6) Give me six brothers to help me in my witness for you. (7) Impress upon me deeply that men are saved by the message I bring.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I hear you Lord! (1) "I am counting on you to tell men for me about my Son." (2) "The Holy Spirit is speaking to you today through his word — hear him!" (3) "The baptism of the Holy Spirit has never been for salvation at anytime with anyone."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Senegal — Point for prayer: *Islam has grown rapidly over the last 50 years from possibly 50% to 92% of the population, yet the land is wide open for the gospel! The highly organized and politically powerful Sufi brotherhoods claim 85% of all Muslims as members. Hitherto tolerance for other religions has been a point of pride. Pray for its continuance; extremists could insist on setting up a narrow, bigoted Islamic state. Pray for a breakthrough for the gospel among Muslims, and for an impact to be made on the Muslim brotherhoods.*

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

WEEK SIX

—Tuesday—

The things that are seen — ALL things that are seen have an end. ALL things unseen have no end. Teach me as I pray.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

End-maker. I'm sure you already know when my end, i.e., on this earth, will be. Indeed, you know the end of all things, the consummation of the whole plan of this little planet. To now talk with the One who has such knowledge and such power is indeed an awesome thought. But I praise you for such grace and mercy extended to me. How unbearably sad it is that the end of those not your children will be just that for this world, and the beginning of torment in the world to come. I look forward to the new heaven and the new earth.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

The end of my life, i.e., as a certainty, is best left to you. I am not hastening the day, nor do I dread it. Indeed, I welcome it and rejoice at the prospect. What a wonder that it is given to man to know that the entrance into the next world has already been prepared — “the abiding places,” the rejoicing angels, the spirits of just men made perfect. I simply rest my whole case with you through the One who said, “I am the resurrection and the life — he that liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Am I ever profane? Dear God, forgive me for taking what you have given and treating it lightly and as if I did not know you had made it. I refer to other people, to your physical universe, to my own body, and then to put such an attitude into words of profanity! Awful! And yet I have done this. Forgive me! All of life is sacred, holy and should be so considered. I want to increasingly develop the sense of wonder and

awe in all I do and say. Only when my outlook and basic attitude is pure can I escape profanity.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Break Thou the bread of life,
Dear Lord, to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves
Beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page
I seek Thee, Lord;
My Spirit pants for Thee,
O living Word.

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

HIS WORD

¹⁹Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. ²⁰Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

²²News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. —Acts 11:19-22, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How is it that the first disciples were infected with a desire to share and so many since are not? The answer is in the word “disciple” — many since that glad day did not “so learn Christ.” Dear Father, how shall I accept this fact? The point you are making in this text is that only Jews heard — but they *did* hear. We have Jews and Gentiles and neither one of them hear! How

I would like to be in Antioch for a few days to see and hear and know the very first persons who were called Christians. To hear the men from Cyprus and northern Africa tell of my Lord and his love — the good news about the Lord Jesus. What a privilege that would be!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Read this word to or for myself in praise and thanksgiving, in confession and adoration. What a great city Antioch must have been when these people first came — “the hand of the Lord was with them.” Just what is involved? Probably miracles, the divine credentials. Did the apostles lay their hands upon them? They could have, but it does not say such happened and just how do we know such powers were given to others to pass on to others because of the hands of the apostles? Simon the sorcerer wanted such from the apostles — he didn’t get it — did anyone else? Philip and Stephen did miracles to confirm their words and the hands of the apostles were laid upon them (Acts 6:1ff.), but for what purpose? Was it not to set them aside with others to serve the widows? What happened to the other five? Here are “men” — just “men” — from Cyprus and Cyrene. Dear Lord, I’m listening.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

I do indeed! Thank you: (1) For the encouragement that there were no doubt many like Philip who went to Samaria. What he did there others did in Phoenicia and others in Cyprus and still others at Antioch. (2) If Philip needed to confirm his words with signs didn’t also these people? Thank you for this insight. (3) Telling “the message,” the “good news about the Lord Jesus” is what saves. Oh, oh, tell it! (4) That we can turn *from* our sin and turn *to* the Lord. (5) News about the good news is also news. (6) For Barnabas that *good man*. (7) “The church at Jerusalem” — the one right, true, loyal, faithful church.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Telling the message — this seems to dominate all this passage. These are transitional verses to introduce us to the record of the spread of this good news in the Gentile center of Antioch. How is it I am so content to tell the message by indirect means of the printed page? Of course the printed page becomes a direct means when used by others. This is no substitute for a one-on-one encounter. I put myself in the place of Barnabas — he was an encourager of others. Through his exhortation many people were brought to the Lord.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the midst of evangelism there are so many requests. (1) How can I today move believers to tell the message? (2) Break down our religious prejudice. (3) When will the “good news” live up to its name in the lives of those who have it to tell? (4) May your hand be with me today in my efforts to evangelize. (5) Turn me more and more to the authority and direction of my Lord. (6) Motivate me, like Barnabas, to encourage people. (7) I want to be a member of the same church as Barnabas and others in Jerusalem.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I am listening: (1) “All who are saved are members of my eternal universal church.” (2) “My goodness is like leaven — put it into the lump.” (3) “I cannot, and will not work without you and others like you.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Senegal — Points for prayer: (1) *Christians are few*, though their influence is disproportionately great through their input into education. Most of these Christians are nominal and their life style gives little credit to the cause of Christ. Almost all are originally from a non-Muslim background and from the Cape Verdians, Serer and Jola peoples. Even among the non-Muslim groups the powers of darkness have yet to be routed. (2) *Evangelical believers are a rarity*. There may be no more than around 1,000 in all of Senegal. Only through the work of the Assemblies of God and Finnish Lutherans have groups of churches been planted, and these only among the Serer and Bassari. Believers are scattered, often poorly taught and under constant pressures from Muslim or heathen relatives to conform. The lack of believing girls tempts many young men to marry unbelievers or to immorality. Pray for a strong church to be planted in each ethnic group. Sadly, liberal teaching is affecting the young Lutheran Church, with increasing nominalism among members.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

In loving-kindness Jesus came
My soul in mercy to reclaim,
And from the depth of sin and shame
Through grace He lifted me.
From sinking sand He lifted me,
With tender hand He lifted me,
From shades of night to plains of light,
Oh, praise His name, He lifted me!

WEEK SIX

—Wednesday—

Everyone is someone's slave. I am so glad to have a choice just here. I renew such a choice in the closet of prayer.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Slave-maker. Surely this is a voluntary bondage, since all of us will indeed serve someone. All men should gladly choose you as their master. Servitude on a glad choice should be the response of all men. *Every* knee shall bow and *every* tongue confess that your Son is Lord to bring a revelation of your true character. This is a promise yet to be fulfilled, but nonetheless a definite reality. Praise your name for the joy of bondage and yet I need to be reminded that service and yielding and obeying is not a word but in *deed* and *truth*.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

My master — I am your bond servant. Bless your name, I do yield my whole self, i.e., as much as I am able to understand. I do want to deepen my desire. I gladly own your Lordship. I have made such a mess out of my efforts to rule. How can I develop a deeper commitment? Bless your omnipotent name. I ask to receive in this area of character development. Move within through your Spirit, direct from without through your word, prepare ahead through your providence. "Behold the bond servant of the Lord." Can I say this? Not as I want to.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Master, forgive me for my pretense. Forgive me for hatred toward those I see who reject your will when they do not know it, and I am so many times unwilling to tell them. Move in my heart — to truly submit, to give myself away to others that I might serve you. I know in service I find fulfillment — forgive me for resenting the energy loss and tiredness.

I know from much experience I will feel fine again. One day I will feel fine forever. Dear God, give me a gentle and quiet 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, 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

²³When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. ²⁴He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. ²⁵Then Barnabas sent to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.
—Acts 11:23-26, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What a wonderful man you have in Joseph called Barnabas! Although he was a Jew he could see evidence of your favor and goodness among non-Jewish people — *all* non-Jewish people — he did not begrudgingly admit it, but was glad, happy, delighted and he looked upon it as a continuing condition. What a meaningful expression — "to remain true to the Lord — with all their hearts" — to adhere, or be glued to you with all my mind, will, emotions and

conscience. This I want to do, this I gladly embrace. What you through Luke say to Barnabas — oh, how I want it to be said of me: (1) “He was a good man.” (2) “He was full of the Holy Spirit.” (3) “He was full of faith.”

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Just what was the “*evidence of the grace of God*”? Was it the joy, the exuberance of the believers? It could well have been. Was it the miraculous signs that accompanied the preaching? This is far more likely. After all, the miraculous was the *evidence* of his presence and power. Signs were to credential the word spoken. Do we need evidence today for the same word? Do not the signs already accompany the word, i.e., in the same book where we read the word, do we not read also of the signs? But some will say, “Reading the word is not tantamount to hearing the word” — “signs accompanied the *spoken* word, not the *written* word.” John said he *wrote* signs that we might believe (John 20:30,31). I read this word to probe my own heart and help me to love you more and serve you better.

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

Amen, and amen! Thank you: (1) For every one of the first Gentile Christians or disciples who were first called Christians in Antioch. I shall speak to each of them in total leisure and interest. How interesting a time that will be! (2) For Saul who had been now several years at home in Tarsus — I’ll ask him what he did there when I see him. I wish I could today! (3) For all the conversation that was shared by the old friends — Barnabas and Saul — what did they say? Sometime (when there is no time) I’ll know. (4) That there are ten thousand Antiochs today — just waiting for Barnabas and Saul. (5) The church is simply the collective group of Christians anywhere — in Jerusalem or Antioch. (6) That teaching as well as preaching was the primary job of evangelism and confirmation. (7) Thank you for all the ensuing years and generations in thousands of places who did what they did in Antioch and became what they were.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*He was a good man.*” This is such a generic description that it means anything anyone wants it to. In the text before us it means that a good man is one who not only has a large generous spirit or attitude toward those who are different than we are, but a man who is “filled with the Holy Spirit and faith.” The Holy Spirit through our response to his presence produces the qualities of our Lord in our character — also called “the fruit of the Spirit.” Faith will move us to

do what our Lord commanded — no wonder “a great number of people were brought to the Lord.” Dear God, I want to be like him.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As you see my needs move me to make appropriate requests: (1) Help me to see your grace in the lives of saved men and women. (2) How I want to be true to you from my heart. (3) I want to be emptied of self and filled with the Holy Spirit. (4) Dear Lord, how I need to be filled with faith! (5) Are men brought to you only when we are filled with the Holy Spirit and faith? (6) I need to realize you want others to work with me. (7) May I be able to rejoice in the success of others as much as in your blessing upon my efforts.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What do you want me to hear from this text? (1) “Your faithfulness is your responsibility.” (2) “If you will, I will.” (3) “You need help — from me and from men.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Seychelles — Points for prayer: (1) *Nearly all Seychellois claim to be Christian*, but are steeped in superstition and depend on the outward rites of baptism and confirmation. Immorality is a serious problem, and very few have a saving knowledge of Christ. Pray that full freedom for the preaching of the gospel may be granted, and pray that many within the recognized churches may be converted. (2) *Since 1970 over 15 informal Bible study groups* have sprung up on the largest island Mahe, with a number of Seychellois coming to the Lord. An indigenous Pentecostal group, which began in 1982, has rapidly grown to over 500 believers. Pray for lively, locally led fellowships to be planted all over the islands. (3) *The Seychelles Creole NT* is now being translated through the Bible Society of Mauritius. Pray for the rapid completion of this project and for the Word to make an impact on Seychellois society.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

WEEK SIX

—Thursday—

How very much emphasis is given to freedom — to liberty — only in yourself and your Son is liberty. We ring liberty's bell in personal worship.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Liberty-maker. Bless your name you are just that to me! But to all men everywhere you are the true source of freedom! Openness is the attitude you produce in life — this gives freedom. Oh, to love to do what you choose to do! And this is exactly what you produce in life. When we establish a deep love for you and your Son, then we are so excited and happy about you, and establish goals of eternal value and you move us to reach for them. The very nature of yourself and your works sets us free — we are glad to do what we choose to do. There could be no One or no enterprise that offers such excitement, adventure and value. Praise your very self!

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Liberty-maker for me! How set free I feel! I have been led into a task I love to do, and I'm paid for it! I have found that thinking of you and your work all the time is the best way to establish goals that last, beauty with meaning, hope for eternity. The only limitations I have are self-imposed, or demon-imposed or demon directed. The truth of life and its meaning has set me free. The truth about life's true goals has broken me loose from the bondage of boredom! Praise your dear beautiful Self in the person of your Son. His life was one of total liberty — I want to follow him in the deepest areas of my mind.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear, dear Lord, deliver me from the terrible sin of substituting tradition for truth. Just because we have always done it a certain way does not make it true or right. In evangelizing how tragically I have capitulated

to tradition! Dear Lord, deliver me! It is not right, it is not true that asking people to "come to the meeting" is evangelism. Evangelism is going and sharing. Truth in the realm of personal purity is not compromise but commitment! We have much to learn!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

More love to Thee, O Christ,
More Love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make
On bended knee;
This is my earnest plea:
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!

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

HIS WORD

²⁶and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.

²⁷During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.)

²⁹The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. ³⁰This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. —Acts 11:26-30, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

"For a whole year (what year was it? 39? 40?) Barnabas and Saul met with "the called out ones" and taught great numbers of people. I know you were also

present then and there as you are present here and now. How many disciples were there? What was taught to them? If the same disciples were there all year, what were they taught all year? There must have been much direct revelation given to Barnabas and Saul. Did you call them Christians? Was this your choice of a name? "The ones who belong to the Anointed One" — is this a good meaning? Dear Lord, I want it to describe me.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

The church, "the called out ones" of my Lord, was built upon the teaching of the apostles and prophets. Here is one of them — Agabus is his name — you have anticipated the need and are here making provision for it. The Holy Spirit really did the speaking through the prophet. What an act of unselfish generosity — to help those they had never seen, who actually did not like them! The Jews hated the Gentiles. Those living in the province occupied by the Holy City would be especially prejudiced, but were not these learners called by the name of the One (even yourself) who gave himself to those who hated him? May I also so learn of you!

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Yes, yes, thank you: (1) For the church in Antioch that could listen and learn. (2) For the honorable, blessed name of those who belong to the "Anointed One." (3) For Agabus who would make the long journey and would plainly, boldly predict a famine. (4) That all your promises find fulfillment. (5) That each disciple gave not as his neighbor did, but as he was moved by the need and yourself according to his ability. (6) That Barnabas and Saul were willing to be "errand boys." (7) That money is a very spiritual commodity given by Apostles to elders.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Is ability here equated with income? It would seem to be so — at least in the amount given — but all ability comes from God, therefore all income is from God. The surprising fact of this generosity is not its amount but rather that everyone had a part in it. "Each (one)" was involved. Ability relates to several areas of life such as: (1) Intelligence quotient. (2) Art — in music or painting or drama. (3) The gifts of the Spirit — God needs each of these to help those who are starving for the bread of life.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In life saving, spiritual and physical, there are petitions: (1) How can I learn to teach from the example

of Barnabas and Saul? (2) What was the great attraction for the people of Antioch? In these two requests I am asking for help in the deep needs of my own life. (3) Please help me to appreciate more fully the gift of prophecy. (4) I want the unselfish love these Gentiles had for the Jews. (5) Am I giving according to my ability? (6) Open my eyes that I might see that money is a spiritual commodity. (7) How do elders relate to the use of money?

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

There is much I should hear from these verses: (1) "All disciples (learners) are Christians." (2) "All Christians are disciples." (3) "All Christians are brothers."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Sierra Leone — Points for prayer: (1) *Sierra Leone was the first West African country to be evangelized*, but after nearly 200 years of effort, only 10% of the nation even claims to be Christian. There is no significant church growth, nor is there a single denomination that has ever made a lasting spiritual impact on the country. Pray that the Christians may be electrified by the ministry of the Holy Spirit! (2) *The decay of public and private morality* has been so severe that the land faces a grim future despite its economic potential. Pray for wise and godly political leaders with foresight to be raised up, and for freedom to preach the pure gospel and make amends for past failures. (3) *Witchcraft and the all-pervading secret societies* have hardly ever been challenged and defeated by the power of the Cross. Both Islam and churches in general have avoided the confrontation that must come before breakthroughs can be seen.

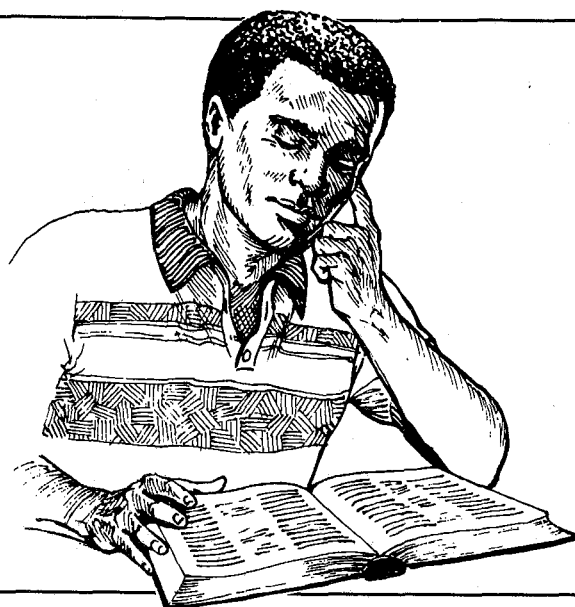
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Walking in sunlight, all of my journey;
Over the mountains, through the deep vale;
Jesus has said, "I'll never forsake thee,"
Promise divine that never can fail.
Heavenly sunlight, heavenly sunlight,
Flooding my soul with glory divine;
Hallelujah, I am rejoicing,
Singing His praises, Jesus is mine.

WEEK SIX

—Friday—

You Lord see me at all times — not to catch me but to comfort and love me. I carry this thought to your throne.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

The Seeing One. Oh, oh bless your name you see me! Blessed wonder of wonders! You see all men at one time, *all* events, all the sequence of all things. There is no past-present-future with you, neither is there anything happening that is a surprise to you. Dear God, my heavenly Father, to try to contemplate your omniscience and omnipresence is beyond my wildest imagination, but I want to try. It stretches my mind and gives me more cause for adoration and holy amazement. How limited is the likeness of man to yourself — at least in this realm.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

The Seeing One — “Thou Lord seest me,” but not as man seeth but you look into my mind — you know the true and real *purposes* of my life. You contemplate the emotions or affections that sweep my life. You can see the total meaning of the approval or disapproval I give to any one circumstance of life. You see me now but you see me in the total perspective of the ever-present now! How beyond all human understanding and yet a thrill of excitement pulsates through such contemplation.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Anger is a sin of mine. I am angry at the wrong thing, at the wrong persons — my anger is most easily released when I am tired and have concentrated on something for a long time. I really can not and do not rationalize and excuse such bursts of rage or resentment. Dear God, please forgive — right now I wonder how I could have done it, but I did and I apologized to those involved — and to you. Our Lord was angry

— “he looked about on them with anger because of the hardness of their hearts” at the healing of the man with the withered hand. His anger was deep compassion expressed in the hot surge of desire to help. Dear God, may I be like him!

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 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

⁹James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews. ¹⁰All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do. —Gal. 2:9,10, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How good it is to read of the meeting of two of your most devoted servants, Peter and Paul. Peter, James and John had the reputation of being “pillars.” How did you see them? How far from fact is reputation? But they were given divine perception — perhaps the gift of discernment — you know and I do not — but I am trying to think your thoughts. What is “the right hand of fellowship”? It probably was the shaking of hands — and using the right hand it signified the

strength of the agreement. Can you give me such a hand? I know you want to. Dear God, I want to so agree with all you want done that we can hold on to one another as we get it done. Wouldn't angels do a better job? *No*, they are not an extension of yourself like I am.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It is so comforting to know that even in the earliest of days, in the pristine purity of the apostolic church, there were those who wondered about the reaction of others. It is easy enough to say that what others think makes no difference — it doesn't to our personal relationship with you — but in the extension of your rule in the hearts of men it can make a very large difference — it can also be the difference between eating or not eating, of working here or there, or not working at all. It was with these areas Paul was concerned. In all these relationships, dear God, wonderful Lord, help me to remember to “see” the *grace*, the unearned favor you give to me, and to others. Help me to operate and let others do likewise out of the sense of *need* as well as *grace*. “Remember the poor” — remember the wide field.

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 unselfish generosity of the Gentiles meeting the needs of the Jews. (2) That grain and fruit and meat are just as “spiritual” as prayer and Bible reading and singing. (3) That God does expect someone to lead in this work, i.e., he wants to lead *through* someone. (4) Regardless of what we preach, human need, physical human need has a priority. (5) We can and should work with those who approach service from a very different background. (6) An emotional, warm friendship can exist in his work, indeed *should* exist. (7) That Peter, James and John could serve together for several years and still be the closest of friends.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

There are so many who left Jerusalem at the stoning of Stephen. They went “everywhere” and all of them as they went spoke or told or proclaimed the good news. Some went to Phoenicia, others to Antioch and yet others to Cyprus. Some even went to Northern Africa. It is most difficult for us to understand just how prejudiced some people can be (or we are). For 2,000 years God had been working with and through the Jews. There was nothing in common in the Jewish mind or life with Gentiles. God changed their minds through the marvelous miracle at the house of Cornelius. It is most interesting that *the church sent Barnabas*. Why didn't the apostles send him? Why wasn't

one of the apostles sent? Most especially is this true if only by the hands of the apostles could the supernatural gifts of the Spirit be given — perhaps that is why Barnabas went to find Paul. But the report of his work and many turning to the Lord occurs *before* Paul arrived. How long was he there before Paul arrived? These are moot questions, but they need to be asked.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the meeting of leaders of your Son's body there are several petitions: (1) I want to be like James who said, “Faith without works is dead.” (2) I want to be like Peter who said, “We become partakers of the divine nature.” (3) I want to be just like John who said, “God is love.” (4) I want to be like Barnabas who sold his own possessions to give to others. (5) I want to be like Paul, who said, “For me to live is Christ.” (6) I want to recognize God's grace in the lives of others. (7) I want to give to the poor, not because they will thank me, but because I love them.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me dear Lord: (1) “Give and it shall be given unto you.” (2) “People have physical as well as spiritual needs.” (3) “Let others serve without being suspicious of their efforts.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Singapore — Points for prayer: (1) *The dynamism and growth of the Church in Singapore* over the past 15 years is cause for much praise to God. The rapid social change, economic development and increasing use of English are human factors in this growth. The receptivity of the Chinese and Indian Singaporeans, active evangelism of church and para-church organizations, and the concentration of committed, giving Christians in the little state are spiritual factors. (2) *The challenges facing the Church in Singapore:* a) *How to maintain a spiritual cutting edge* in a time of increasing affluence. b) *How to lessen the dropout rate* — maybe over 30% of those converted do not maintain their faith. c) *Limited and expensive church building sites* — innovative methods to cope with further church growth are needed. d) *Maintenance of adequate family life and witness* in high-rise flats and with high employment. e) *The spirit of denominationalism* cripples the spiritual growth of a number of congregations.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thy abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

WEEK SIX

—Saturday—

I believe you hear even the inaudible expressions of my heart — but I gladly speak them out before you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Hearing. You hear the prayers of all men, but much more. You hear the conversations of all tongues of all men at the same time — it is, to me, a total impossibility and redundancy. Why would you *want* to do this? But it is an essential part of your very nature. You are not frustrated since there is nothing you do not know. You are never impatient for the same reason. To hear all words as well as to know all thoughts is one awesome concept! To imagine less than this for yourself is to attribute less than omniscience to your nature. Praise and wonder are my response.

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

Hearing me. To hear everyone and everything is one thing, to hear me and my prayers (as well as all other words) is something else! How wonderfully good it is — comforting and solidly reassuring to *know* you hear every word and give thoughtful consideration to each one. Even now you know I am trying to express my deep appreciation for your true nature. You read these words and know their meaning (or lack of it). Dear Father, give me traveling direction — a mercy today as I travel over treacherous highways. One day (perhaps soon — or not soon) I will be delivered from this clay house to enter into a full realization of the One who heard me — even when I wasn't listening to him. Bless your merciful Person.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Wrath — that I should express intense anger at anything but sin itself is sad. It is a reflection upon your creation and providence. Forgive me! I can

blame my fits of wrath on my nerves but who is responsible for the health of these nerves? Who aggravates them? Am I not the sinner here too? Forgive me! How I want your peace to guard my emotions and my mind. How I seek your powerful penetrating cleansing for my sin. How eagerly I draw to myself your promise of wholeness! Bless the Lord oh my total self!

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 would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

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

HIS WORD

12 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. ²He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. ³When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. ⁴After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

⁵So Peter was kept in prison. —Acts 12:1-5a, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It really meant something to “belong to the church” in the year 44! Did James have a wife and children? What were their feelings of terror and loss as they saw their loved one led away? I’m sure you can answer these questions with full detail and accuracy. I would

like to know someday (when there are no more days) just what kind of a man was Herod? How cheap was the price of human life! How precious to you — how meaningless to Herod. What were the thoughts of James as he laid his head down for the last time? How delighted I am to know someone who knows perfectly every answer — and several more questions I have not even considered. Praise your name!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I want to take Peter's place, or the place of one of those at the Feast of Unleavened Bread. What questions could have been asked of you and of one another? (1) How could God permit an arrest during the sacred feast? (2) What will we do if Peter is beheaded like James? (3) How can God let our enemies, and his enemies, overcome us? (4) Why doesn't God strike Herod dead? (5) What have we done to deserve this? All these questions, and others I would have asked or thought. I'm so, so glad to have all the answers in this historical record. May I remember when it happens again!

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Yes, yes, thank you: (1) For King Jesus, who was truly and is truly and will be truly GREAT. (2) That the called out ones (the church) became a clearly defined community in 44 A.D. (3) For the others who were arrested and persecuted that we do not know — but you do — and one day we shall meet and know and appreciate. (4) For death that is but a door into your presence and the wonderful world and life to come. (5) That we can truly and finally please you — man is never pleased with anyone or anything. (6) For our Passover who is ever alive to intercede for us. (7) That 16 soldiers cannot keep God's servant in prison when you want him out!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Some who belonged to the church." Let's ask and answer several questions about these unnamed persons: (1) To what church did they belong? (2) Can I belong to it today? (3) In what sense did they belong? (4) Why were they persecuted? (5) What happened to that church to which they belonged? *Answers:* (1) There was only one "called out" body of Christ — if we do and believe what they did we can become what they were — Christians who together formed the church of our Lord. (2) Indeed we can! The church is composed of all Christians — the same thing (or One) who saved me made me a member of his church. (3) They had been bought with a price and belonged to him, but in another sense they belonged to each other. (4) They represented a threat to the vested interests of

the religious leaders. (5) The church is alive — not as well as it might be — but whenever persons became Christians his church lived through them.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Out of persecution we can find much for which we must have your answers: (1) "Why do the Gentiles rage, and the people imagine vain things?" You have an answer — my need is trust! (2) Give me the same courage in the face of prosperity that your children had in persecution. (3) Keep me aware that with some people nothing is sacred — with me all of life is sacred. (4) Keep me aware of the temporariness of this life. (5) I want to affirm my confidence in your power to deliver out of any trouble — (help thou my unbelief. (6) Keep me tender-hearted toward those who are slaves to their jobs. (7) May I live today as if it were the last day!

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What do you say to me out of these verses? (1) "Do not fear what man can do to you." (2) "In this life right does not always win." (3) "Eternal life is right on the other side of your last heartbeat."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Solomon Islands — Points for prayer: (1) *Praise the Lord for the work of the Spirit in reviving power in the South Sea Evangelical Churches in 1935, 1970, and in nearly all Protestant denominations in the '80s.* People in all walks of life are coming to the Lord in churches, house groups and prayer meetings. There are strong, growing churches; dynamic leaders; and a remarkable missionary outreach, especially to Papua New Guinea. (2) *Island and tribal loyalties could create difficulties for the government.* Pray for wise leadership and continued freedom for the gospel. Its impact on the land has been great. The Prime Minister elected in 1985 is a born-again believer. (3) *The poor training of pastors* is the biggest bottleneck for growth in maturity and expansion of the Church. Pray for the six SSEC Bible Schools and the Anglican Theological College.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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