

WEEK EIGHT

—Sunday—

*I so like the thought of your being my **ROCK** — a hiding place — an assurance of strength — permanence. I renew these qualities in worship of you.*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Rock. Praise your wonderful name! One of your names is “Rock.” This gives all men the assurance of stability, of strength, of protection, of a shade from the heat of the sun. The immense bulk of a great rock is most impressive, as is the weight involved. All these qualities — and more — tell me and all men of your character. I can and all can hide in you from the storms of life. What a tremendous need is met in shelter, protection, shade, refreshment and peace. Praise your name I am delighted to be in 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

My Rock, my fortress and high tower! The psalmist uses this figure to describe you, or his response to you. So do I. I want to get away, to leave, to hide from this life and all and everyone in it. I’m so glad you are “my escape” — not from reality but into reality — into the One who cares about every hurt of everyone. I stand before you as I would stand before a gigantic rock — larger than any rock I have ever seen, like the overwhelming bulk of the rock at Alice Springs in the outback of Australia. Oh, wonder upon wonder. Praise you.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

To confess my sins is not difficult — I am daily reminded, and always aware of my short comings, my missing the mark. I do not ever, ever want to become comfortable with this. I want always to be sincerely, deeply sorry and full of desire to do better, to lean upon you, to hide in you. To love — love you so deeply that my response (which is my lifestyle) will not include selfishness, pride, flesh. Dear God,

forgive my insensitivity. Clean me up.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in mine ear,
The sweetest name on earth.
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Because he first loved me!

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

HIS WORD

¹¹When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was in the wrong. ¹²Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. —Gal. 2:11-13, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Gladly, gladly! How fallible are your servants! Even Peter (the rock) becomes shifting sand. How strong beyond belief is peer pressure! How marvelous is your check and balance in the problems and weaknesses of men. What a snare is the fear of men! Oh, dear God, how I do see myself in this group. I have vacillated in both roles. Some days I have been Peter and other times among those from James. Dear God, forgive! How more than patient you have been — yea, you *are* today! How we struggle for identity and acceptance with one another, when our identity is always in you!

In you we are important and accepted!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How easily and personally can I allow you to speak to me! Have I been listening when some dear, courageous brother (or sister) has opposed me to the face? And "even in the presence of them all"? No, no not all the time, but I *have* had second thoughts — and when the clamor of my emotions was stilled I could hear, sometimes — oh, how I need to hear. Have I had the courage and boldness and real love of the apostle Paul to oppose some brother to the face when he stood condemned? Is this my place? If it isn't, who will do it?

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Yes, yes, thank you: (1) That Peter was willing to go to Antioch — it was a long journey. (2) For the fellowship or partnership that was shared around a dinner table. (3) For the lesson those from James could have learned from the words of Paul to Peter. (4) That such segregation was labeled for what it was, "hypocrisy." (5) That God has only one "group." (6) For the healing and liberating power of truth received. (7) For the overwhelming tender love that must have accompanied every sharp word from Paul to Peter — for Peter's tender heart and sensitive conscience that let him receive and respond to the rebuke.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"*Even Barnabas was led astray.*" How could it be? We know how, by the hypocrisy of the "other Jews" at Antioch this dear good man was led. This speaks both well and ill of him: (1) *Well*: He was submissive, i.e., he could be led. He admired and respected other men and their opinions. He truly wanted to be careful in his relationship with God and men. (2) *Ill*: He did not look beyond the moment. He did not look at the whole picture. He allowed pride of position and party majority (which is usually wrong) to rule over what God had plainly said. Praise your wonderful love and Barnabas' grace, he repented! We can change our minds several times and be acceptable to God!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the mistakes of others I can find requests for my needs: (1) In the midst of unfamiliar surroundings keep me humble-minded. (2) Give me the wisdom to know the difference between culture and sin. (3) Give me a man as bold as Paul to speak to my inconsistencies. (4) May I be as humble-minded as Peter. (5)

Teach me how pervasive is my influence, for good or evil! (6) Show me your face, O my Father, that I need not fear the face of man! (7) How subtle is hypocrisy — show me my sin!

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

If ever I need to listen and hear it is now! (1) "I expect obedience under all conditions of life." (2) "You are always in need of instruction — listen!" (3) "Repentance means restitution — win Barnabas back."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Sri Lanka — Points for prayer: (1) Claimed by some to be the site of the Garden of Eden, but now an island of tears. The ugly conflict between the Buddhist Sinhala and Hindu Tamil has brought disaster and death to many. The security situation in the north and east is limiting outreach and causing the closure of some churches. Many villages in the north have been turned into terrorist camps. Pray that the strife might humble the pride of the Buddhist in his religion of non-violence, and convince the Hindu of the futility of life without Christ. Praise God for the evidence of this already occurring. (2) *Sri Lanka is the only non-Muslim Asian country where the Christian Church has steadily declined in numbers and influence this century.* The causes: a) Colonial suppression of national culture, language and imposition of Western national forms of Christianity. b) The renaissance of national culture after independence and revival of traditional religion. Some nominal Christians have become Buddhists. Pray for a decisive reversal of these trends. c) Hardly any evangelization by the mainline churches. Biological increase among Christians less than among non-Christians.

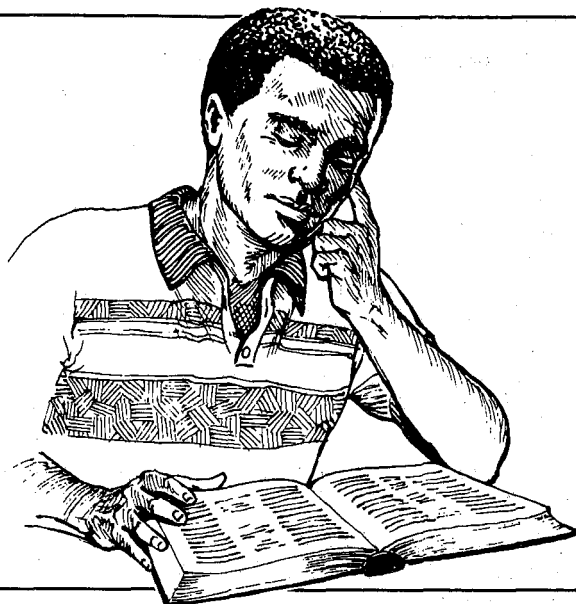
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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 EIGHT

—Monday—

I have no problem at all in thinking of you as triune and yet one. One in nature but three in person. I bow in wonder before you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

One. There is one true God and his name is Jehovah — Lord — his name is many, but this is One — three persons — but one in nature. There are three separate, distinct, divine beings, but all are the same in Being. I praise you for the beauty and meaning of this important quality. To know the one true God is no small matter — indeed the most important fact of my life or the life of any man upon this earth. I try to contemplate the meaning of such a thought. Why would there be three beings? I do not know, but I see multiples of the triune all about me in the world in which I live — man is body, soul and spirit. Praise you for one more amazing characteristic.

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

One to me. I believe the oneness of your purpose, accomplished by yourself, your Son and the Holy Spirit, is one source of amazement to me. Just to consider two or three areas: (1) *Salvation.* You thought it — “God so loved that you gave” — Jesus effected it, and the Holy Spirit sealed it. (2) *Creation.* You conceived it, Jesus did it, the Holy Spirit coordinated it. (3) *Resurrection.* The thought originated in your mind, Jesus was the first fruit, the prototype, and the Holy Spirit was the power to accomplish it. Praise and wonder before the three in One!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

“Their god is their stomach — their glory is their shame.” When I allow my body to run me it becomes my god. When I joke and laugh and ignore the problem, my glory is a shame, my characterization of the problem is a true shame — I mind earthly things.

Dear God, forgive! The lust of the flesh is no joke. The desires of the body are only two — as near as I know: sex and food. They are closely associated, if not integrated. To sin in one area opens the door for sin in the other. Dear Lord, I want to beat my body — I do not at any time want it to beat me! Forgive, cleanse, renew and transform!

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

13 In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. —Acts 13:1-3, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How good is this word! We are back “in the church” at Antioch. How do you see us today? Are we *in* the same called out assembly today? Dear, dear God, we *do*, we do want to do just what they did to become what they were. We do want you to see in the earth

today the same faith and faithful men that you saw in the church at Antioch. Oh, dear God, if you want to make me or anyone else "a prophet," i.e., with direct heavenly input of information, I am more than ready, but what shall I say in my forth telling that has not already been said? The content of the teaching — what shall it be? Dear Lord, how I struggle — help me! If I said more than your word it would be too much.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How easily I can identify with these burning, living words! Whom did you call to lead the first Gentile church? "Simeon called Niger" — if he were here today there are those among us who would call him something else and reject him. Cyrene is in northern Africa. Are we looking at "another one of them"? A man who had been educated and lived in the court of Herod? They were worshipping you. What were they doing? Surely in prayer, praise, adoration, and at the same time "they were fasting." Are you saying to me that you speak to men, most unlikely, unworthy men in a period of devotion and fasting? I can only answer in the affirmative! Dear God, I want so much to imitate their faith and love for 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

Amen! Thank you: (1) For Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius, Manaen and Saul — I want to be much more specific, but I can't. I am deeply grateful for them. They say so much to me. (2) That you have teachers in the church today. We have no direct input of curriculum but we do teach *your word*. (3) You call men of experience to new experiences. (4) I can worship, I can fast today. (5) You want men "to work" not just or only to worship. (6) That others can and should send us forth to your work. (7) The laying on of hands for approval and separation and blessing is such a beautiful part of your church.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"After they had fasted and prayed." How very much more can be done *after* we fast and pray and *during* a fast and prayer! We clean our ears so we can hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. He is speaking today just as clearly and personally through his word as he was in the church at Antioch. Indeed, he is speaking right here and right now as we read this Acts account. He is saying: All the areas of the world have not heard. As I sent Barnabas and Saul to Cyprus, I'm sending you to _____. (You fill in the blank.) But we are too full of Christmas and New Years, etc., feasting to hear the gentle dove-like voice of the Holy Spirit. How clear would be our desire to share if we should fast and pray! We would find some sorcerers in our experiences but we would have the same

resources as the first two missionaries. Dear God, when will we fast and pray?

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

These three verses (Acts 13:1-3) have been precious to me for more than 40 years. I want to pray out of them for my needs: (1) Keep me aware that I am a member of the same church that met in Antioch! (2) I am no prophet, but oh, how I want to be a teacher! Teach me! (3) Help me to be a true "son of encouragement." (4) I am glad there was a man called "black" in the first Gentile church. (5) There was even a man from the "third world" of northern Africa. This says something — open my ears! (6) A man reared in the immoral court of Herod the tetrarch would be so polluted there could be no hope — wrong, wrong! He was a leader in the body of Christ! I know several like him. Help me to be open to your power to change people. (7) And last of all was Saul. There was a time when all of us were last of all — that time is *now*!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As you spoke and separated and called so speak now through these verses: (1) "I can call better where men fast and pray." (2) "Men can hear better when they fast and pray." (3) "I will not separate men and send them out without fasting and prayer."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Sri Lanka — Points for prayer: (1) *The Church* is one of the most nominal in Asia. Pray for a demonstration of the love and power of God in the lives of those who bear the name of Christ, and for a convincing unity among all true believers. Specific areas of weakness: a) *Cultural isolation*, with Western worship forms, widespread use of English, and with obvious links to the colonial past. Most traditional churches are middle class and unable to relate to the poor. b) *Liberal theology* has had a deadening effect. Dialogue rather than evangelism, church union rather than union with the Lord, and social concern rather than meeting heart needs have been the norm. c) *Limited outreach to non-Christian religions*. This has been hampered by an introspective attitude, a theology that suggests that the church's mandate is not to gain converts from other religions, and inconsistency in the lives of many Christians. (2) *Theological education* has been a fundamental weakness and the need for full-time evangelists and pastors is acute.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

WEEK EIGHT

—Tuesday—

Jesus is in the water of the Jordan — you are in the third heaven — the Holy Spirit is in a bodily form like a dove — and yet all are one in nature. I renew this truth just now.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Triune. Praise your threefold self! The Total cooperation of your three persons is a constant source of amazement! You are all in each area, i.e., absolute fulness — as God, as the Word, as the Holy Spirit. Help me and all other men to understand this quality better. Let me try to relate your triune nature to some other areas of your work. *Revelation.* (1) The thoughts originate in your mind. (2) The expression of them is from the One who became our Lord. (3) The power to carry this out was from the Spirit. *Judgment.* (1) The definition or balance between what is right or wrong from yourself. (2) The decisions stated by your Son. (3) The power to carry them out from your Spirit.

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

Triune to me. All the above expression of praise does is enable me to praise you and enter into a time of wonder at your greatness. All three Divine Beings have the same nature, i.e., all of you are *eternal*, having no beginning and no end. Alpha and Omega can be as easily applied to all as One. All of you are *omnipotent*, i.e., total in power. This is more than I can grasp, but I thank you and try to worship adequately before you. All of you are *omniscient*, i.e., absolute wisdom and knowledge — that each one could have all that the others had in knowledge and wisdom would assure Oneness in action and thought. How feeble do my words appear when related to your essential Being. Praise is too weak a word.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Truly, truly, *nothing* is hidden from you — my sin

cannot be unknown — the hollow efforts of man to explain anything apart from your word is a total absurdity. There is no meaning without you and no explanation without your revelation. Forgive me of the sin of reading or expressing one thought apart from you. Dear God, speak into my being every word of your book. I love your word, for in it alone can I find answers to the deep questions of who? why? where? how? For other sins which essentially reflect upon my unwillingness to accept your total rule, I seek forgiveness.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

More about Jesus would I know,
More of His grace to others show;
More of His saving fulness see,
More of His love who died for me.
More, more about Jesus,
More, more about Jesus;
More of His saving fulness see,
More of His love who died for me.

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

HIS WORD

⁴The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down from Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. ⁵When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

⁶They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, ⁷who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. —Acts 13:4-7, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear, dear Lord, how is it that the Holy Spirit sent these two servants of yours? Was it only by the instructions you gave them in Antioch? I wish fervently that I *knew* the answer to this question. I do want to be sent by you — help me dear Lord, I am so, so glad to see you at work in the very ordinary activities of places on a map. You selected Seleucia and Cyprus — or did you? Perhaps Barnabas did since it was his early home (4:36) and you honored his choice, or worked through it. Dear Lord, I do wish I knew for certain what is meant here, in the expression “they proclaimed *the word of God*.” They had no Bible. They did know your word from the Old Testament scriptures but this must then be intuitive information and they speak as your prophets. Is this correct? How many synagogues heard their word? Were there no converts? How did John help? I know you will answer all these questions when I see you face to face. Amen!

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I do so want to be with these two men. The actions and words of Barnabas and Saul are all so natural, i.e., unforced and spontaneous. Did they talk to the men who worked on the ship as it carried them to Cyprus? Did they call on any of the thousands or hundreds of homes in Salamis? Why didn't they stop at the many cities or villages on the way from Salamis to Paphos? Perhaps they did. Some commentators say the word “traveled” refers to a leisurely journey, but it is quite possible that I am reading into the text the cultural milieu of today's world. Help me, dear Lord, to walk in their sandals. How did they see Bar-Jesus? I.e., what was their attitude toward him? Are there today such evil men as Bar-Jesus? To ask the question is to answer it. Can we expect God to blind the eyes (understanding) so as to defeat their counsel? Will God use men like Barnabas and Saul to provide this blindness? All such questions are much more easily asked than answered.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Yes, yes, I thank you: (1) For the sending power of the Holy Spirit. (2) That you did not tell us who decided to go to Cyprus. (3) That the pattern of working with the religiously oriented people is yet applicable for today. (4) That proclamation (or preaching) was a very real, large part of your work in the early church. (5) That there are helpers as well as leaders. (6) So much could be done with no mechanical transportation. (7) That your word recognizes intelligence and ability wherever it is found.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*A Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus.*” There are so many interesting things to consider here: (1) That a man who was a Jew could also be a sorcerer is more than too bad. How was he ensnared in the occult? What was the mixture of Jewish religion and the pagan influences? (2) Evidently

ly he used his so-called power to represent himself to Sergius Paulus as a prophet of the gods. (3) It strikes us as more than strange that his name should be “son of Jesus” or Joshua. He appears to have a very aggressive temperament. This is sometimes an indication of insecurity. When his position and influence were threatened by Paul and Barnabas he became very adamant in his attempts to dissuade the governor. What shall we say of this one? Is he beyond redemption? He must be shocked out of his bondage. Were the eyes of his understanding opened while his physical sight was gone? We like to think so — we do not know.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As Paul and Barnabas begin their journey there are naturally several requests: (1) May the journey of each day be under the direction of the Holy Spirit. (2) Help me to see finding passage on the ship at Seleucia was of the Holy Spirit. (3) Did Barnabas suggest work on the island of Cyprus because he once lived there? Is this also the leading of the Holy Spirit? (4) Luke reports no converts at Salamis. This does not mean there were none — give me a balance of values. (5) Luke reports nothing of the wonderful messages preached in several synagogues at Salamis — puncture my pride! (6) Luke does not tell us how John helped — am I ready for that kind of obscurity. (7) Although they walked 100 miles and could have spoken in several towns, Luke had a higher purpose than reporting preaching success — do I?

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

You have already spoken to me — speak again: (1) “No man is impossible of influence for me.” (2) “Intelligence is not the property of the saved.” (3) “There are false prophets in the land today.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Sudan — Points for prayer: (1) *The devastation due to war and famine appears unending.* Political and religious extremism, mistrust between Muslims and non-Muslims, as well as between the southern peoples themselves, are bringing despair. Pray that in all these disasters the Holy Spirit may soften hard hearts and give new openings for the gospel message of reconciliation. (2) *The Church has gone through 30 years of suffering, and periods of persecution.* Persecution has increased in intensity since the implementing of Islamic law.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

WEEK EIGHT

—Wednesday—

How abundant — lavish — generous you are! In so many ways. I live because of your grace and mercy. I gladly worship you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Generous. What a happy choice of qualities for yourself. You are so much more generous than any man has ever been to any other man — some men who have emulated your grace have expressed this quality in lovely ways. You are so generous in so many realms, such as: (1) In the animal world you have created such a generous amount in every species — how many kinds of dogs are there? (2) With birds you have been so infinitely generous. I looked over a handbook for birdwatchers and was once again amazed at your handiwork — hundreds of different birds, every one beautiful. (3) In the creation of trees — oh, how intricate, every leaf perfect.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Generous to me. This is but another way of saying you are full of grace — indeed you are to me — you have placed me in the most prosperous country in the world, both financially, in productivity, in access to the Word of God — if we lose it all, I have enjoyed more than sixty years of abundance! Dear God, accept my gratitude for every second of every day you have placed me in the midst of a people who love you and each other and want to help me and I want to help them. Bless your heart of grace! You have supplied all our physical needs, and we have more than we need. How fully, yet poorly does this word describe you — amazing generosity!

How do you personally relate to the generosity of God, and God who is generous?

CONFESSION OF SIN

I suppose the sin of ingratitude is the worst of all sins. It springs from some sins and produces others, but it is a terrible sin. I want to be forgiven, and open my eyes to see how uncaring I am in so many ways and times. I am afraid to care — is that true? I do not see, therefore I do not care? For whatever reason — surely best known to you — forgive! And yet for one more sin forgive, and that is false humility. Help

me, move me, cleanse me — I claim your cleanness.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Sing them over again to me,
Wonderful words of Life;
Let me more of their beauty see,
Wonderful words of Life,
Words of life and beauty,
Teach me faith and duty;
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of Life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of Life.

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

HIS WORD

⁷who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. ⁸But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. ⁹Then Saul, who was called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, ¹⁰“You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you ever stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?” ¹¹Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun.”

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. ¹²When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord. —Acts 13:7-12, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I truly, truly love to read this word — your words —

to yourself! For someone to request an audience with yourself! What a beautiful desire and request. How was it produced? It all seems so natural, but you have your part and you have given man his part — did the news of the efforts of Barnabas and Saul to spread your word reach the ears of the governor? All of the thinking processes of Elymas and Paul and Barnabas and the proconsul — you can and do enter fully and understand perfectly. Praise your omniscience! You also know me in the same way.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Yes, yes. Paul was “full of the Holy Spirit” when he read the mind and heart (i.e., motives) of the sorcerer. Does this mean that the Holy Spirit gave him such power? The text seems to say this. Why was such power given? To prevent the defeat of “the word of the Lord” — your own defeat in the eyes of the governor, and all men of the island. Your word had not been recorded — the governor could not read it; he would know nothing more than what was said on this occasion. If your cause was to be sustained it must be here and now! Notice the qualities of this man: (1) “child of the devil” — what an awesome thought! (2) enemy of *everything* that is right — *everything*? This seems so inclusive! but it is true. (3) Full of all kinds of deceit and trickery — all for selfish ends. (4) Perverter of the right ways of the Lord — probably a reference to his false prophecies and Jewish background.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that some men in leadership want to hear your word. (2) Thank you that some servants are so energetic and full of zeal and love that they develop such an interest in men of leadership. (3) Thank you that there is “the faith” from which to turn or toward which we can turn. (4) Thank you that we can be filled with the Holy Spirit today and through him overcome opposition. (5) Thank you that I can become a promoter and friend of all that is right. (6) Thank you that I am your child. (7) Thank you that I can be open, honest, true and known and read of all men.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Shall we think and pray as we answer these questions? (1) Why did Paul oppose Peter — and that publicly? Because he stood self-condemned as a hypocrite — praise God for both Paul’s courage and Peter’s repentance. (2) Even the good man Barnabas was not at all immune from peer pressure and became confused and was led astray. He was no doubt led back by the same rebuke Paul gave to Peter. All of the disciples were in

debt to Paul. (3) How is a man justified? By faith not by law. God *must* give us a standing before him or we could never stand at all. We are neither good enough nor smart enough to be saved by anything but grace. (4) The death of our Lord for our sins would be useless if we could be justified by obeying the law. (5) In the church at Antioch were three most unlikely prophets and teachers: Black Simeon, Lucius of Africa, and the half-brother of Herod — plus the illustrious Barnabas, and last of all Saul.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the midst of opposition so many questions arise which can be turned to petitions: (1) Lead me to men in high places who want to hear the word of God. (2) Give me the courage to speak in spite of all opposition. (3) There are many “wise ones” who need to be converted — give me grace and boldness. (4) May the Holy Spirit fill me to meet every crisis with his wisdom and power. (5) I ask by faith for the wisdom from above that I might answer Elymas. (6) Help my unbelief that you can defeat liars and tricksters today. (7) Send a mist and darkness over the eyes of those who oppose your work in my experience.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

How dramatically did you speak to Paul, Barnabas, the proconsul and Elymas — speak to me through their experience: (1) “Expect opposition when someone wants to hear the word.” (2) “You must face and answer opposition to overcome.” (3) “Greater is he that is in you than he that is in Elymas.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Sudan — Points for prayer: (1) *The growth of the Church since independence has been significant in some areas. For many, Christianity has become a means of demonstrating opposition to the Muslims, but for others there has been a genuine work of the Spirit. Parts of the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches have experienced revival, and there have been significant people movements among the Nuer, Mabaan, Uduk, parts of the Dinka, Toposa, Acholi, and some of the Nuba tribes. Yet in many Christianized areas there is a considerable degree of nominalism (both Catholic and Evangelical). Revival is needed.* (2) *The Church in the Arab-speaking north is minute. There are a number of Coptic Orthodox churches in the towns, but probably no more than 200 ethnic Arab evangelical believers.*

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The Triumphs of His grace.

WEEK EIGHT

—Thursday—

Beyond anything man is or can do you stand invincible — the overcomer! How encouraging to worship such a ONE!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Courageous. In so, so many ways you are courageous in the affairs of men. From man's perspective it took great courage to create the worlds, the ten million galaxies, as you have — but since nothing you do in the physical world can fail — it is only from our perspective that courage is present. But I want to say, and all your children will stand back aghast at the courage present in creating man and angels! That you would place your confidence in my willingness to do your will and leave me open to Satan's efforts is an act of courage beyond human words! At the same time I thank you that such is true!

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 courage in the promise of "the woman's seed" — what boldness and adventure it took for your Son to become flesh and live among men — courage to believe in me for me to believe in you — how is it that I lack this quality? Dear God, I repent — if you believe in me, then I *know* it shall be done. How I want your perfect will to find fulfillment! For your strength and character I thank you and glorify your very Self!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

"To be carnally minded is death," is separation from your presence, to be cut off by my own thoughts. To think on the things above, to meditate upon them *immediately* removes this sin. But it is the "set" of the mind that directs the life. "To be spiritually minded is life and peace," but only when it is the habit of thinking! Dear God, I do, I do want to repent — "change my mind" down deep in the depths of my

being. I want to change my mind; to set my mind upon those things which are: (1) true, (2) noble, (3) right, (4) pure, (5) lovely, (6) admirable, (7) excellent, (8) praiseworthy. All these qualities could be seen in my Lord, and in his servant Paul. Dear Lord, if I meditate upon them they will be seen in 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

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my guide.

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

HIS WORD

¹³From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem. ¹⁴From Perga they went to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. —Acts 13:13,14, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Were you on board the ship that sailed from Cyprus to Perga? I'm sure — confident — you were. How very interesting that we are now following "Paul and his companions" instead of Barnabas and Paul. You have moved him to the front of the narrative, as you do in all of life in the experience of all men — some one *must* lead and others *must* follow. In a certain sense all of us are leaders and all of us are followers, but in the record of historians, like Luke, it is "Paul and company." Praise your name for your leadership

which we all want to follow. I have not been to this part of Turkey, but I have been in the country. What time of year was it? What type of weather faced them? What was the attitude of the people in Perga? All of these questions I know you can answer, but perhaps none of them influenced John Mark's decision to go back to Jerusalem. Thou knowest!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I know it displeased Paul that John Mark "left them and *would not* go with them to the work" in Antioch of Pisidia. Paul felt he had been deserted by this young man — was Paul right? What were the feelings of John Mark? Some people feel it was when he returned to Jerusalem that he wrote what we now have as the gospel of Mark. If this is true he was not depressed or discouraged. I can indeed relate to all three men. I would be sorely concerned if a relative of mine made some inexplicable move that would reflect upon him and the work of our Lord, to say nothing of our family. So was the place of Barnabas — I would think. "Leave then if you do not want the work. You cannot be the servant we need and God wants." So, perhaps, were the thoughts of Paul. But most of all I relate to Mark — "What can I do with men so capable as these? I am little or no help at all. I could do much more in Jerusalem."

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

Yea and amen! (1) Thank you for transportation — then and now. (2) Thank you for the clear record preserved by your power to this very day. (3) Thank you for thoughtful Luke, and the Holy Spirit who never told us who was at fault in John's leaving. (4) Thank you for the shocking fact that no travel scenes are described by this historian. It was more than a hundred miles of rough territory from Perga to Antioch. Luke's value system was almost totally spiritual. (5) Thank you that Paul *used* the religious practice to his own advantage — such as the synagogue and the Sabbath day. (6) It seems right to "sit" before you to learn and converse. (7) Thank you for all the unnamed people who sat there that day and heard for the first time the wonderful words of life. I shall be there too one day!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

John Mark left them to return to Jerusalem. Evidently there is much more in this text than we read in the Acts account — the choice of Mark was not acceptable to Paul, neither the choice Mark made to leave them at Perga, nor the choice Barnabas made later to take Mark on the journey. What possible reasons did John Mark have? (1) He had an urgent message from

his mother that he was sorely needed at home — perhaps his mother was sick and needed him, or had a financial crisis only Mark could meet. (2) He did not find the work he was doing with Paul and Barnabas what he expected. He was really not needed — as is shown subsequently, these two men were quite sufficient unto themselves and John Mark could do a better work elsewhere, like writing the third gospel in Jerusalem.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In an incident so briefly mentioned here, so largely considered later, we have several requests: (1) "Paul and his companions" is vastly different than "Barnabas and Saul." Help me to learn *you* identify and select leaders. (2) Keep me from homesickness — except it be heaven. (3) Keep me from self-pity which encourages nothing but weakness. (4) Keep me from personality conflicts which hinder your work. (5) Keep me from judging the motives of others. (6) Keep me from unforgiven ill-will. (7) Keep me from bragging about difficulties as if others have not so suffered.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Surely there is much you can say to me from these two verses: (1) "Every servant is important — John Mark included." (2) "Luke never gave a travelogue — he told of God's work in preaching." (3) "These men spoke to the religiously confused and uninformed."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Sudan — Points for prayer: (1) *Christian work was severely limited in 1964* with the expulsion of expatriates working in the southern provinces. The return of a measure of peace in 1972 allowed a limited return of personnel for rehabilitation and development programs in the south. Renewed fighting caused the withdrawal in 1983-85 of most personnel in the south, but in 1985 famine and refugee crises opened up aid and development programs in the north (Darfur, Kordofan, Khartoum and among Eritrean refugees). Pray for: a) *The opening up of this vast land for the preaching of the gospel.* Many areas in the north and south have never been evangelized. b) *Favor in the eyes of the authorities* for Christian agencies, and the issue of visas for new workers. (2) *Bible translation* is still a major unmet need. At least 16 and possibly 97 languages will need to be tackled. Various translators are working in 18 languages, but some work has had to be continued elsewhere due to the chaos in the south.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

WEEK EIGHT

—Friday—

You are healing me every day in ways I do not know — and some I do! I lay my body — mind — time in your hands. I do this again in the closet.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Healer. How strange to discuss this quality of yourself when I spent all of yesterday in class discussing the healing of Aeneas. You are the source of all healing, of all restoration of the imperfect function of all the human body. Why, why are we so interested in the function or malfunction of this machine? It is already doomed — the death sentence is upon it — to dust it shall return. The answer is as obvious as the question because while we live in this house we become very closely associated with it — indeed we struggle for independent identity. Praise your wonderful name — I am not, have never been and will not be this body.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

You can and do heal me! I have been very sick, i.e., my body has malfunctioned. I sought your help first — last and always — through doctors my back was healed. Through the same means (but you are the source) other parts of my body were made well. The only difference in these healings and others was *time*. You did it! Praise you. It took longer, but you did it! Why shouldn't we praise you for all that doctors and nurses know about restoring my body? Because you have to work through men and women and it takes longer yet this does not deny your power. I'm right here to record my deepest praise for your healing.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I have been greatly helped by understanding you as power. Only because of and through your power can I overcome sin. I do not hesitate in admitting my sin, indeed I want to — to you, not to men unless they are involved in it. What I need and claim is the power to

overcome. I want not only to *know* the scriptures but the power of God. I do not — do not — want to be like the Pharisees who were ignorant of both — many of them knew the scriptures but not the power of yourself. I want you to work in me, through me. Forgive me, cleanse me, wash me, purify me, but most of all, *enable* me!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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

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

HIS WORD

¹⁵After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a message of encouragement for the people, please speak."

¹⁶Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Men of Israel and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! ¹⁷The God of the people of Israel chose our fathers and made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt. With mighty power he led them out of that country ¹⁸and endured their conduct forty years in the desert. ¹⁹He overthrew seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to his people as their inheritance.

²⁰All this took about 450 years.

"After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet." — Acts 13:15-20, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Oh, dear Lord, you have always "a message of encouragement" for me — most of all it is you have

come to heal me of all my diseases, inward plagues I have brought upon myself. The God of the people of Israel is my God. You are my God. I acknowledge, gladly, all your mighty works. Your choice of "the fathers" indicates there is hope and purpose for all men. Your endurance in the wilderness of the complainers and faithless indicates your kindness. Your war against the seven nations demonstrates your hatred against disobedience. Most of all what you have promised you surely will fulfill. 450 years is one long time by our measure, but a brief time with you. Blessed be your name for your careful record of deliverance and love.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How I would like to have been one of the Gentiles who worshiped in the Antioch synagogue on that Sabbath so long ago! What a verbal commentary Paul or Barnabas could have given me. But wonder of wonders, it would have been no different from the record I now have in your word. I can read, and I want to read, the books of Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges and Ruth. How personally helpful are all the records which tell me over and over again of your power in the lives of men and women.

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

Yea and amen: (1) Thank you for the purpose of teaching and preaching to one another, i.e., encouragement! (2) Thank you we all as Christians can be "brothers" in an even more precious relationship than the Jewish brothers. (3) Thank you that verbal communication is just as effective, with its facial expression and hand gestures, as it was when Paul spoke. (4) Thank you that I can learn from Paul how to speak to religious people and reach them for your Son. (5) That you are the author or source of prosperity and adversity when it suits your purpose. (6) Than you can (and do) lead me out of my own Egypt. (7) That you are more than patient with me. Dear God, I repent, please forgive me!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Overthrew the seven nations. It would sound upon hearing it or reading it that the whole initiative was with yourself, but it was Moses and his army, it was Joshua and his men, who did it. Without you they could never have done it, but without them you would not have done it. You have bound yourself by your own laws — and one of them is that you will accomplish your purposes through man. Blessed be your name, I believe you are even now at work overthrowing and raising up as you will. I want to be in the front lines being used of you for your will.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As we attend one of the Jewish worship services there are several petitions that occur to us: (1) Teach me to preach from the example of Paul. (2) Give me wisdom as I study your word. (3) Help me to speak to everyone who attends my class. (4) Give me the same conviction of historical facts that Paul had as I preach your word. (5) If you endured the conduct of Israel 40 years surely I can endure some people with the same love you had. (6) Thank you that you are fighting for me today. (7) Give me a time perspective like yours. Events, not time, are important.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Please speak to me through this text: (1) "History is His story." (2) "Please learn from the example of others." (3) "I have always worked through men."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Suriname — Points for prayer: (1) *The period 1975-1985 has been traumatic.* Religious freedom has been maintained, but the land needs a stable government that will ensure economic and communal well-being. Pray for the nation's leaders. There has been a growing spiritual hunger over this period. (2) *Christian leaders need to speak out for truth and mobilize believers for outreach.* Materialism, sectarian growth, spiritism and Marxism have made great advances. There are four Bible schools. (3) *Both the Moravian and the Roman Catholic Churches have a large following* in many ethnic groups. Few from these denominations know of the new birth and Christian belief is often mixed with spiritism. However, there are several key evangelical leaders in the Moravian Church, revival prayer groups and a spiritual awakening among the youth. Pray for them and for revival to sweep through the traditionalism of the majority of Christians.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

The name of Jesus is so sweet,
I love its music to repeat;
It makes my joys full and complete,
The precious name of Jesus.
"Jesus," O how sweet the name!
"Jesus," every day the same;
"Jesus," let all saints proclaim
Its worthy praise forever.

WEEK EIGHT

—Saturday—

I am so glad to know the One who began my life and who will live with me eternally. I wait in his presence.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Life-giver. You are the one who gives life and the one who decides when our sojourn here will end. A profound thought: that all of life has its origin in yourself or of yourself. Man's life is a part of yourself, i.e., we are created in your image and share your nature — animals and all other life are created and are temporary. It is so good to know the life you have given to all men will never end. In the other world there will be a life beyond our very fondest dreams. How I do praise your name for life here and especially that my life is in America.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Life-giver for me — my life came from you. I am more than grateful — I am overwhelmed with the thought — all I am, all I hope to be or do, the source of life energy and thought process comes from you. I shall not have life one more day than you choose. If this is my last day of life for this world it will be your giving. Blessed be your name! I came from you and to you I shall return. In giving life you must also sustain it — what an amazement to maintain a life you have started! I shall never in ten lifetimes be able to thank you enough for all that is involved in life!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I want forgiveness for the misuse and dissipation of life — such a precious commodity — and how easily, lightly we abuse it! Only one little minute, but eternity is in it. For harshness in word and attitude, dear Lord, dear gentle Jesus, forgive me. I can blame it on nerves, but whose nerves are they? I can rest, I can relax, I can pray and I need not be harsh or unkind. For this sin, this selfish sin, forgive me. Each day, every day, I want to arise from the fountain of cleansing “just as if I had never sinned.” Praise your name!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my want and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

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

HIS WORD

²¹“Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. ²²After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’ ²³From this man’s descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised. ²⁴Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. ²⁵As John was completing his work, he said: ‘Who do you think I am? I am not that one. No, but he is coming after me, whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.’

²⁶“Brothers, children of Abraham, and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. ²⁷The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. ²⁸Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed.” —Acts 13:21-28, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear, dear God! When you give people what they ask, it is seldom good! We are so full of pride and selfishness, but even in the midst of our ignorance you can work it out for our good if only we have eyes to see! Such was the case with Saul the son of Kish.

You would but the people wouldn't — how often this has been repeated!

How I wish I could fully appreciate David the son of Jesse. Dear God, I want to have the very same disposition — "after your own heart" — or full of desire to do and be all you would do and be if you were man — even the great son of David.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

May I stand with John and freely confess that "I am not worthy of the least of his favor" — nay — I fall prostrate at his feet in contrition and confession. How more than glad I am to be a child of Abraham by faith and to claim all the promises God made to Abraham: the forgiveness of all my sins and salvation in him! Shall I repeat the monstrous sin of finding no proper ground for a death sentence and yet refuse to allow him to be king of my life? Dear Lord, no, no! "Crown him, honor him, worship him," is the cry of my heart.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the farm boy king — Saul the son of Kish — he could have been so much — he is so like me. (2) Thank you for the sweet singer of Israel — David the shepherd boy — he was a farm boy too, but what a difference! (3) Doing as well as being, or being and therefore doing is the secret — thank you for David. (4) Thank you for the long, patient record of history — it is "His story." (5) Thank you that there had to be Mary and Joseph and angels and shepherds to bring your Son — for we see our part in your great plan. (6) Thank you, thank you that I *can* and *do* recognize Jesus for who he is! (7) Thank you that I was not Pilate — and yet help me today to release Jesus and let him be king.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel." There is surely no message more sorely needed today. Where has real genuine repentance gone? Who is being used of God to bring deep sorrow for sin that leads to a complete change of conduct? Repentance needs to be preached — we can't mention it as a viable option to present problems. It must be infused into the heads and hearts of the listeners as God's command. Preaching includes all the rhetorical devices possible to elicit an involvement with the message. Can you see John on the banks of the Jordan? His words were alive with the presence of the Spirit of God. He named their sins and told them they were guilty before God. If there is no godly sorrow there is no repentance. We *do* sin against God. We *will* have to give an account for the deeds done in

the body. There *is* a judgment and there is a hell. Somebody needs to tell it like it is! John did.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

There are questions from history that can easily be requests: (1) Dear God, I am too much like Saul the son of Kish — forgive me. (2) David was the man "after your heart" — teach me what this means. (3) All you want done I do not always want to do — help me! (4) Thank you for the long promised Savior — I want him to save me from my own selfishness. (5) I have no greater need than a daily repentance — I claim your answer! (6) Help me to accept my sonship as a son of Abraham by faith. (7) I, like Pilate, find no fault in him, but do I, like Pilate, evade him? No, no, he is Lord!

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

You have surely spoken to me in this text — I am still listening: (1) "I will remove those who will not obey me." (2) "I can use anyone who loves me from the heart." (3) "Salvation's message is the same today."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Swaziland — Points for prayer: (1) *Pray for a prepared, united, revived Church.* Christianity is challenged by Communist ideology filtering over the border from Mozambique and entrenched traditionalism within the leadership of the country. Pray also for outreach teams and tent campaigns in towns and rural areas. (2) *The national believers* face many pressures if they want to live close to the Lord, for compromise is easy and materialism in the developing economy has a great attraction. As a result there are few believers who are willing to pay the price of going into full-time service for the Lord. (3) *Trans World Radio* has a powerful radio station in Swaziland, with an outreach to all of central, east and southern Africa, as well as to India and China: 280 hours of broadcasting a month goes out in 20 languages. Pray for broadcasts to the needy lands of Angola and Mozambique, and for the raising up of believers able to prepare programs in the languages of tribes that have scarcely been touched with the gospel.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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