

WEEK NINE

—Sunday—

Life without hope would be no life at all. I have eternal hope — and hope right now. I renew such hope in your presence.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Hope. How shall we live without hope? We cannot! We *do* not. Hope is the beautiful quality that gives anticipation and relish to our efforts. You are the one who creates hope! Blessed and holy and wonderful is your name! You have been the source of hope for every man from the beginning of time — what a great thought! Hope in the face of the grave! “All men” — i.e., “*all men* will hear his name and come forth” (John 5:24-29). As in Adam all die and surely they do, just so certainly in Christ shall *all* be made alive (I Cor. 15:22).

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 hope. Dear wonderful Lord, how delightfully good it is to write, to pray, to praise before you! Without my hold on your word full of your promises life would be worse than useless — for there would be no purpose or point. But because I have your very nature, your Holy Spirit, (or the Holy Spirit), I have all things that have meaning and purpose. You are my all and you are in all I want and do. You are my hope — the wonderful fact is: all that we hope in you happens. No hope is short of reality. No idle dreams, all living fact! Praise your name which is hope!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

To return wrong for wrong might seem to be “natural” but it is sin, and an indication I am living by self and selfishness and not by the Spirit of my Lord who when he was reviled, reviled *not* again. Dear Lord, deliver me from the need to have my own way. Forgive me for resentment and frustration at being interrupted. Our Lord was interrupted in the

midst of a far more important work than I will ever do and he did not resent it.

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 happy day that fixed my choice
On Thee my Savior and my God!
Well may this glowing heart rejoice,
And tell its raptures all abroad.
Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!
He taught me how to watch and pray,
And live rejoicing every day;
Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!

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

HIS WORD

²⁹“When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰But God raised him from the dead ³¹and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

³²“We tell you the good news: What God has promised our fathers ³³he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

“ ‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father.’

³⁴The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words:

“ ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.’

³⁵So it is stated elsewhere:

“ ‘You will not let your Holy One see decay.’

³⁶“For when David had served God’s purpose in his

own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. ³⁷But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

³⁸Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. ⁴⁰Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you:

⁴¹“Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you.”

⁴²As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. ⁴³When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God. —Acts 13:29-43, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How easy this is to relate this text to yourself! How interesting that *all* you had written was fulfilled before your dear Son was taken from the cross! That one verse: “But God raised him from the dead!” Praise, adoration, wonder, joy, all such words are not enough to say all that is in my heart as I consider what happened when you raised him from the dead! You knew how slow and dull we are in relation to divine reality, so you appeared for many days. Dear, dear Lord, how kind and good you are, how patient with our willfulness.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Indeed, indeed I have been doing that very thing! Those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem were both men and women who had followed him. They were all eyewitnesses of his majesty. He was and is king over all! Death, life, hell, the grave, king over all! They saw him, talked with him, handled him, ate with him, feasted their eyes upon him. Oh what “good news” it is! He is alive today, right now!

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 could we do less? Thank you, thank you: (1) For every single promise fulfilled in him. (2) That our Lord was truly dead and buried to show the power of his resurrection. (3) That the evidence for his resurrection is so overpowering. (4) The promises made to the fathers can be fulfilled in the lives of the children. (5) For the holy and sure blessings of David in the resurrection of Jesus. (6) Each man can serve his own generation — there is no other time to do it. (7) That right today we can proclaim from the housetops the forgiveness of sins!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Urged them to continue in the grace of God.” This is a word from Paul to the devout Gentiles of Antioch of Pisidia. They had not yet become Christians — at the same time they were urged to “continue in the grace of God,” i.e., to continue in God’s favor. Their interest in God’s Son put them in the favor of God. Indeed, in one sense there are degrees of grace or favor: (1) God looks with grace upon the whole human race or we would all be destroyed long ago. Are Christians “the salt of the earth” that gives God’s flavor and preserves the population from destruction? (2) God looks with favor on those who have an interest — like the first Gentile Christian, Cornelius. Those who seek him will be found by him.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Paul’s sermons produce all manner of requests in prayer: (1) Impress upon my memory all the prophecies of his death that I might teach and preach them. (2) Thank you for the overwhelming evidence of his resurrection — move me to preach it! (3) Dear Lord, may I serve your purpose in my generation. (4) There is no greater need today than for men to know they can be forgiven — move me to tell it! (5) I believe, I am always seeking help for my unbelief. (6) In every way, help me to continue in your grace. (7) Open my heart and mouth to preach even to those who do not want to hear.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

You were speaking through Paul to those in Antioch of Pisidia — speak to me through him today: (1) “Men who hear for the first time do not always understand.” (2) “Detailed teaching can produce wonderful results if you keep it up.” (3) “I am looking in favor upon all who are interested in my word.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Sweden — Points for prayer: (1) *In the last century Sweden was noted for its revivals*, but in this century for its permissive society and materialism. Pray for the government and leaders of the nation, as years of permissive legislation and erosion of respect for the things of God needs to be reversed. (2) *The spiritual need of the country* is shown by the decline of professing Christians from 99% of the population to 69% today. Only 3-4% of the population regularly goes to church.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name!

Let angels prostrate fall:
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all,
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!

WEEK NINE

—Monday—

I want to relax in your hands and let you fashion me into what you want. This time of worship truly helps in that purpose.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Potter. This is a beautiful figure (metaphor) to describe yourself and your relationship to man. As the potter finds the clay — you have done even more — you have created the clay, and you remember that we are dust. You moisten the dust to make it pliable. In one way or another you must and do moisten us that we might be clay in your hands. How long will it take to beat all the air bubbles out of us? Air pockets in the furnace of the kiln will burst the purpose of the potter. Just what form do you have for me (and ten million like me)? I'm sure it is no problem since I raked ten billion leaves just last week and there wasn't one exactly like another — is not man of more value (or thought) than leaves? Indeed he is!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I praise you about my pot — I am clay — of a most perishable substance and to the dust shall I return, but this is a discussion not only of the outward but the inward man. On the inside I feel my weakness, but it is with the inside you work. We have the bodies of flesh from our parents — it is with spirit that you work. I'm so, so glad that none of the comparisons here made are static (i.e., cannot be changed). You are *constantly* in the process of the work of the potter. You are always kneading me, you are always shaping me, you are always firing me, etc. I am also glad that in a sense you have shaped me for a work and it has been done, and now you are at work shaping me for another task, but I want to remember the whole process is present all the time.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

As I think of you as the potter, I want to fully confess I have been, nay, I am: (1) full of rocks to be

removed; (2) mixed with soil that needs screening; (3) stupid in that I try to tell you how I should be made. In this connection I want to confess to often grieving the Holy Spirit. I do so in thought and word and deed. I think thoughts unworthy of his presence. I speak words he must reject. I have spent my energies on tasks of no benefit or pleasure to him. Dear Lord, forgive! In the specifics I openly admit and repent of sin, yea sins. I claim your cleansing.

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

Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise:
Father, all glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

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

HIS WORD

⁴⁴On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying.

⁴⁶Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

" 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.' "

—Acts 13:44-47, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, do you see all men as we see a crowd? Or

do you see each one all at the same time? Or is there another way of seeing that I could not even imagine? "Almost the whole city of Pisidian Antioch" came out to hear the word of yourself — how large a crowd was that? How could such interest in your word be aroused? What did you do? What did your servants do? What should I *do* today to arouse such interest in the city where I speak?

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Yes, yes I do want to mingle in that crowd. I am a *most* interested Gentile. I want *right now* to respond as did these men and women to the abusive language of religious leaders who argue among themselves. Help me, help me, to hear from the original source and find the same light, eternal light, salvation, that these Gentiles did in Antioch. That your salvation was to be "to the ends of the earth" is a fascinating thought! Only if those taught were to teach others could this happen. "To teach others also" would seem to be *the one most important task* we have to perform. How beautiful are the words: *eternal life, light, salvation*. This is what we enjoy and share, but until we have caused others to share with others we reject eternal life — shut off the light and condemn the world.

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 Sabbath day of the Jewish calendar — typical of the eternal Sabbath called heaven. (2) That there *are* cities today who would give the same attention to your word — help me to find them. (3) Thank you for men who will get sad, mad or glad — if they do not, nothing can be done. (4) Thank you for the bold words of Paul and Barnabas — they help me. (5) Thank you that whereas we must obey, we need not repeat a profitless effort. (6) Thank you that we decide if we are worthy of eternal life. (7) Thank you for the command to go to the ends of the earth.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"We had to speak the word of God to you first."

The urgency of Paul and so many of the first century speaks so eloquently to me today. Do I feel the compelling "must" in my preaching? Is necessity laid upon me? Our Lord said the good news must first be spoken to the Jews — and then to the Gentiles. Is there a priority in audience today? It seems obvious to me that our Lord is sending us first to the religious people — what about the Mormons? The Jehovah's Witnesses? Are these persons any more steeped in their religious beliefs than the Jews were in theirs? There are religions in the world such as those in India

or other parts of Asia, but what of Europe? Do we owe a debt *first* to the religious people of the world? Dear Lord, most of all we owe a debt to you — it is preaching the word that matters most.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As men and women gather to hear your word I want you to hear my prayers: (1) Lead me to religious people who will have an interest in your word. (2) May I respect the beliefs of those who do not know you, even as did Paul and Barnabas. (3) Give me courage and wisdom to stir people as did your servants here. (4) Give me grace to receive the abuse of men even as your Son. (5) Lead me to the very ones who should hear. (6) Keep me aware that it is in men's response the decision is made as to the worthiness of the person. (7) Do I believe salvation is for "the ends of the earth"? I do — help my unbelief!

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What do you say to me here? (1) "Crowds do not mean there will be no opposition." (2) "There are some who are disbelievers." (3) "There are always multitudes who will hear."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Sweden — Points for prayer: (1) *All is not dark!* Praise the Lord for evidences of spiritual renewal in some areas. Real life in the more informal home gatherings is encouraging. Many churches are majoring on evangelism. Cooperation between churches in fellowship and outreach has increased. The population, as a whole, has become more receptive; post-war idealisms have been cruelly disappointed. (2) *Theological training* is a key prayer target. This education is affected by the humanistic influence of the universities in general; pray for more lecturers who are truly evangelical. (3) *Missionary outreach from Sweden* has been outstanding. The contribution of the Lutheran Church and all the free churches in more than 60 countries has been used of God. Sweden's unusual stand in world politics opens up many areas of the world for missionaries which are closed to other countries.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Great God of wonders! all Thy ways
Are matchless, God-like, and divine;

But the fair glories of Thy grace
More God-like and unrivaled shine,
More God-like and unrivaled shine.
Who is a pard'ning God like Thee?
Or who has grace so rich and free?
Or who has grace so rich and free?

WEEK NINE

—Tuesday—

It is so good to have the intimacy of marriage when you are the partner. I want to talk to you about this right now.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Husband. The whole world is not at all married to you, but all Christians are! Together we do indeed make up the bride. How comforting and full of strength is this fact. How thoughtful and careful are you as a husband. I know you created all men to be married to you. As a husband loves and provides for his wife so do you for us. Indeed, you are the pattern — the model for all husbands — a very good description of your love and care for your bride is found in the Old Testament as Israel was your beloved. Oh, may I not repeat their unfaithfulness.

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

A husband to me. You have provided in so many, many ways for me! What clothes! The robe of unearned righteousness! The sandals of peace — not to mention the armor of warfare — I feel like the prodigal (and indeed I am) who received “the best robe in the Father’s house” — I wear the ring of recognition, the blessed Holy Spirit. Blessed be your marvelous name — which is my name since I am married to you. All that I have said about you reflects in my life for I share your intimacy — what an ideal marriage — never, never, will you in any way at any time disappoint me!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I feel like an unfaithful wife — (which is exactly what I am) returning to blurt out my sin, my adultery, my stupidity, my unworthiness. I do not sin in anticipation of forgiveness, or do I? Dear God, oh, wonderful Savior, sweet Holy Spirit, may my love so increase, my intimacy be so constant that I will have no place

for anyone else. Could I be predisposed with self-interest to such an extent that the needs of the sad world about me do not even reach me? Dear God, forgive. The more I think of my sin the more helpless and hopeless I become. It is in the cleansing I find release and freedom. Praise your wonderful name! Clean! Free! Forgiven!

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 like the Master I would ever be,
More of His meekness, more humility;
More zeal to labor, more courage to be true,
More consecration for work He bids me do.
Take Thou my heart, I would be Thine alone;
Take Thou my heart and make it all Thine own;
Purge me from sin, O Lord, I now implore,
Wash me and keep me Thine forevermore.

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

HIS WORD

⁴⁸When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

⁴⁹The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. ⁵⁰But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from the region. ⁵¹So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. —Acts 13:48-51, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

In the midst of the crowd of Gentiles in Antioch were those who were disposed to believe and those who were not. How remarkable it is that I could ever contemplate your position on this circumstance, but such

is not at all different than what happened to me yesterday. You were the silent observer of all that happened. You read the hearts of the listeners, as well as the heart of the speaker. How many were truly listening? How many listeners thought the same thoughts as the speaker? How many truly understood even the basic point of the lesson? You know, you know.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It is such an encouragement to read of the spread of the word "through the whole region" — how did it happen? It seems so obvious that those who heard and accepted were too glad and delightfully motivated to keep quiet. Was there more freedom and openness then? Were there less restrictions in "the whole region"? Were people ready to listen? We could say "yes" to all these questions and contrast them with what we imagine are the opposite conditions of our day, but since we are using our imagination in both instances we must confess we do not know. What we *do know* is that the joy of the salvation these persons experienced was a contagion in their heart that spread itself through their lips and lives.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

How easy this will be — thank you, thank you: (1) For every man and woman in Antioch who "honored" the word of the Lord — respected, accepted, believed — and were given the confident hope of eternal life. (2) For all who were "disposed or inclined or moved in the direction" of eternal life. I take this to mean that holding out eternal life as an offer appealed to some, and did not appeal to others. (3) That your word moves men to act; it is never neutral. (4) That even when the preachers were expelled, your word continued to grow. (5) That protest is not offensive to you. (6) That one day I will know the whole story of the spread of your word in the region of Antioch of Pisidia. (7) That in spite of persecution the learners of Jesus "were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them." There are several lessons in this for me: (1) The protest was against those who hindered others — not against the persecutors per se. It was the hindrance of the truth in the hearts of potential converts that caused the decision of protest. (2) Dust of the feet was washed away by our Lord — what a contrast! And yet his act was also a form of protest. (3) What does this act say? "Sorry we came — you can have your dust back." Or, "You dirty people — good

riddance!" Or, "You are not worthy of our efforts!" Or, "Your rejection of us is God's rejection of you."

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As your word spreads I have several requests: (1) I want to honor your word and be appointed for eternal life. (2) Who does the appointing? I want to know! (3) If faith comes by hearing your word and eternal life is promised through believing, I have my answer. (4) Keep me aware of the influence of women in all of life. (5) In the midst of persecution give me peace. (6) In the center of opposition keep me steadfast. (7) It is right to protest — show me how.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Surely there is much you can say to me from these verses: (1) "In spite of your poorest efforts some will believe." (2) "In spite of your best efforts some will not believe." (3) "In spite of all your efforts it is still my work."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Switzerland — Points for prayer: (1) *Few today know of their national heritage through the great reformers Calvin and Zwingli*, or much of what real Christianity is. Materialism and a comfortable satisfied indifference prevails. However, there is a new spirit of inquiry among young people who seek a living faith. (2) *In the Catholic cantons*, predominantly in the south and center of the country, the small evangelical witness is growing, and the centuries-old prejudices and religious polarization are breaking down. More Bibles are being purchased by Catholics than Protestants. (3) *The immigrant "guest workers"* are predominantly Catholic (Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Yugoslav), Orthodox (Greek, Yugoslav) and Muslim (Turks, Arabs). Pray for each of the 19 ethnic minorities represented to be evangelized.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus has loved me — wonderful Savior!
 Jesus has loved me, I cannot tell why;
 Came he to rescue sinners all worthless,
 My heart He conquered — for Him I would die.
 Glory to Jesus — wonderful Savior!
 Glory to Jesus, the One I adore;
 Glory to Jesus — wonderful Savior!
 Glory to Jesus, and praise evermore.

WEEK NINE

—Wednesday—

I am just now ascending the stairs of worship to the top of this high tower — what a view I anticipate!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

High tower. What an interesting expression! I am sure it was used of you by those who had such towers for protection and observation. I can surely relate to this. You are the eternal protection, or security for every man alive as well as every man who has ever lived! How secure and safe I feel in you! How strong is the position of your children! The height of this tower is beyond human comprehension — into infinity! From this perspective there is nothing hidden from you. How full of meaning and value is the thought — all men of all time and place can run into this high tower and escape the corruption that is in the world through lust.

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 thought that you are *my* high tower is beautiful! How I want so much to enter in and feel the cool, refreshing shade of your presence! To look around and know I can ascend the stairs — or perhaps no such effort is needed to ascend to see what you can see! How do you see the world today? It surely must sadden your heart to see your children with your light hidden under the basket of their own interests. Dear God, I believe we could take your light to all men any time we decided we would.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I want to be the first to stand before you in guilt! I have not even spoken to those to whom I could speak. Dear God, I am here to confess my blood guiltiness and at the same time I am ashamed to even ask your forgiveness. I purpose in my heart, here and now, to visit the homes in Joplin, to enlist others to

help. For other sins, too numerous to mention, I ask your cleansing, release me! free me! I believe you are working in me both *to will* and *to do* your good pleasure. By your willingness and your energy I shall overcome!

What personal sins do you want to confess?

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I have a song I love to sing,
Since I have been redeemed,
Of my Redeemer, Savior, King,
Since I have been redeemed.
Since I have been redeemed,
Since I have been redeemed,
I will glory in His name;
Since I have been redeemed,
I will glory in my Savior's name.

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

HIS WORD

⁵²And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

14 At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish Synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed. ²But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders. —Acts 13:52-14:3, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

To read that the learners were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit is a moving, challenging word to me. What does it mean? Oh, that you would explain it all to me. I know you know every nuance of meaning in these expressions — the text seems to separate the two thoughts and say that they are not necessarily the

same, i.e., being filled with joy is one thing and being filled with the Holy Spirit, though associated, is not altogether the same thing. What gave them their joy? Remember: they were Gentiles with but little background in the Jewish religion. This was: (1) the joy of total forgiveness, (2) the joy of the true meaning of life, and the world in which we live, (3) the joy of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in their work.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Careful now, read this text just if you have never read it before. It seems striking to me that whereas the Holy Spirit is very prominent in the first century church, or the church described in Luke's second treatise, we find no reference to "miraculous signs and wonders" being performed by the disciples. Paul and Barnabas, or Silas, or Peter and John, or the apostles — yes — but *not* the Christians. Why? Why? At the same time I will not ignore the plain statement of their "being filled with the Holy Spirit." Neither will I ignore the obvious purpose of the supernatural acts of the Holy Spirit, i.e., to "confirm the message of his grace" (of *your* grace). Hasn't the message been confirmed by the preservation of this blessed account called *Acts*?

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 dear disciples who no doubt faced problems much greater than mine and yet were filled with joy. (2) That I as a disciple can be and should be and want to be "filled with the Holy Spirit." (3) For the power of good habits, such as is suggested in the little expression "as usual." (4) For the fact that effective speaking is mentioned — it would suggest that some speaking was not effective. (5) For the willingness of some to believe — which in a sense made the speaking effective. (6) That it was the majority who believed, both of the religious and irreligious — so it is today if we would only get there with the message. (7) For the use of the term "refused to believe" — it is not a matter of evidence, it is a moral choice.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, . . ." Really now, this is what it is all about. To worship and not reach the lost or educate the religious is a very unbalanced, unsatisfactory relationship. To even perform signs and wonders and yet remain silent about our Lord is to miss the whole point of miracles. It is such a privilege to speak on his behalf. Does the Lord need our help? Couldn't he speak for himself? Of course he could and at times he has spoken directly to men, but never, never has he told men what to do to be saved. He has

never sent an angel on this mission. The greatest of all tasks he has given to us!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

At Iconium you were at work. From this experience I have petitions: (1) Give me the joy of the learners in Antioch. (2) Fill me with the Holy Spirit. (3) Enable me to so speak that men may believe. (4) Keep me aware that there are always wolves in sheep's clothing. (5) Remind me that all of us who work for you are brothers. (6) Give me the same boldness in the face of opposition that filled Paul and Barnabas. (7) Thank you for your confirmed word — help me to preach it with your wisdom.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me through these few verses: (1) "Nothing can overcome my joy." (2) "Your greatest need is to be filled with the Holy Spirit." (3) "You can spend considerable time in the midst of opposition if I am with you."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Syria — Points for prayer: (1) *Syria is a land of religious coexistence.* Tolerance for minority religions is tempered with surveillance of any activity that could provoke communal tensions. Christians find it hard to witness freely in these conditions, even when given the opportunity. Syria is one of the less evangelized nations on earth despite the large minority of traditional Christians. (2) *The Muslim majority has a false conception of what a true Christian is.* Pray that they may be enlightened by contacts with believers who have a holy life style and radiant witness. Muslims are in daily contact with traditional Christians, as are Syrian soldiers based in Lebanon. (3) *The Christians have stood up to Islam for centuries and survived.* Most Christians are Arab and 25% are Armenian, descendants of a multiplicity of Orthodox and Catholic traditions. Christians are an influential minority in the cities, professions, politics and the armed forces, but are a shrinking percentage due to a high rate of emigration to the Americas and Africa. Syria was once one of the great centers for the spread of the gospel. Pray that believers may recapture the zeal of the church of Antioch, and reach out to their compatriots with the gospel.

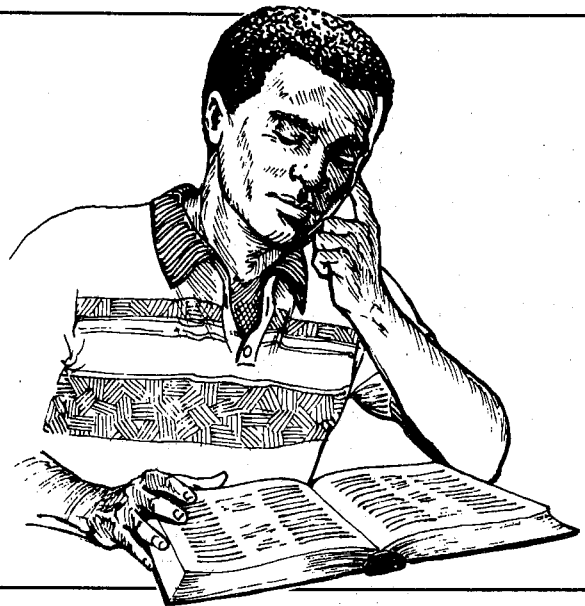
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy bosom rest.

WEEK NINE

—Thursday—

How very much we need protection only you can know. I enter this time of worship to see you as my shield.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Shield. You said to Abraham, “I am your shield and great reward” and so you have been to all those who trust in you! Oh, bless your wonderful self. I need protection — all men need *personal*, close protection. All of us want to feel secure and safe. We are in constant battle and therefore we need you in such a real way. I am glad to believe Satan is held in check, i.e., according to the experience of Job. Many, many more fiery darts would be thrown our way were it not for your interest in and protection of your children. How I thank you. How many do not even know of your care?

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

It is most difficult to pray about your essential being without relating to myself! I am the one who knows the result of not calling for your protection. I am most delightfully happy to get behind you, to put you out front in the thick of the battle. I want only to hide, but I know this is not essentially my place. As you can see I am struggling with the two aspects of your nature and mine; you can be and are my shield only when I claim your presence and protection in the midst of the fight. You are indeed my shield, but not for hiding, for winning on the front lines of the struggle.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I need not detail my losses in the fight, or perhaps I should. I must, I need the reinforcement of forgiveness to arm me for today's effort. There really is no way to write down the intimacy I feel and know in a confession of my personal failures. I thank you

that you are indeed, indeed at work in me to will. You create the willingness. You live in and for me, i.e., in my place and you are at work in me to do. You provide the divine energy to get it done. I am so full of self and self desire, but if that self is changed by the renewing of my mind, bless your name I can be transformed! I claim your promise and your forgiveness.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I need Thee ev'ry hour,
Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford.
I need Thee, O I need Thee;
Ev'ry hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee!

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

HIS WORD

⁴The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles. ⁵There was a plot afoot among the Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them. ⁶But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, ⁷where they continued to preach the good news.

⁸In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. —Acts 14:4-8, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is refreshing to see people to whom a message about their Messiah meant so much. Today most men

would not care. Perhaps if money and prestige became an issue as it did in Iconium we would suffer the same opposition. At the same time we would need to be as bold and confident as the apostles. Dear Lord, you know of the whole circumstance and have left it for me to ponder and that I do.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Yes, yes. How is it I am content to live in my little comfortable world where no one takes sides? How is it that we are not in the thick of the battle for truth and right? If our missionaries turned a report in of constant opposition amid many successes, but not a few failures, what would be the response? It appears to me we are represented by the Jews whose little world was torn up by the "sword" our Lord came to thrust into society. Dear God, have I misjudged the situation, or have you opened my sleepy eyes?

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

Indeed I shall: (1) Thank you for the term "apostle" as applied to Barnabas. He was a "sent one" along with Paul. He felt the sense of call and commission. He went because he was sent. (2) Thank you that however planned and well supported, no plan or plot will work if you oppose it — good or bad. (3) Thank you that had they stoned them at Iconium you would have raised them up as you did at Lystra. (4) Thank you for that precious unnamed man or woman who told the apostles of the plot for their lives. (5) Thank you that we can go today to this same country and walk where those men walked. The millions of Turks there now are as lost as the Lycaonians of long ago. (6) Thank you, thank you that Paul and Barnabas just kept on preaching the good news. (7) Thank you for the unusual outreach of men not only in cities but in "the surrounding country."

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Let's answer the following two questions with some real thought: (1) A very important decision was made as related to preaching in Antioch. What was it? The Jews had judged themselves unworthy of eternal life, therefore the apostles turn to the Gentiles. It was even a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. To me it seems an incongruity as to how a human decision could be made from those totally free of influence and yet be a fulfillment of what was said centuries before and yet this is part of the wisdom of God. (2) There were two responses to the preaching of Paul in Iconium. What were they? A great number believed — those who refused to believe opposed them. Can we expect a different response today?

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

When men plot to kill there is hope in prayer: (1) Help me to make the message so clear that men cannot be neutral. (2) Give me friends like those of Paul. (3) Help me to leave a place of labor for the same reasons that prompted Paul. (4) Thank you for your divine leading through circumstances. (5) Keep my focus clear — preaching the good news is my work. (6) Is it easier or more difficult to preach today? Open my eyes! (7) May the "surrounding" country where I live hear the good news.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

There is much you can say to me: (1) "Division is not necessarily a reason for leaving." (2) "I have those who will help you." (3) "Sometimes the only safe route is out of town."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Syria — Points for prayer: (1) *The Protestant witness is small*, but churches are slowly growing. Almost all converts are from the traditional Christian minority. There are churches in most cities, but the lack of full-time workers and availability of training for leadership are serious limitations. (2) *Conversions out of Islam are few and far between*. Spiritual bondages, social barriers and religious prejudices must be broken down before some can take the decisive step. (3) *The entry of Christian literature was restricted for years*, but since 1981 there has been much more freedom to import and distribute Bibles, etc. Pray for the entry and dissemination of Arabic literature, and blessing to come to Christian and non-Christian readers. There are two Bible Society shops in the country. (4) *Missionaries are not allowed to reside in the country*. Pray for those who pay occasional pastoral visits, and for a more open door to this needy land.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

WEEK NINE

—Friday—

In the most unexpected ways you reward us. I pause just now to thank you for them all — but also just for yourself!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Reward. You yourself are the reward! For all men you are the sole object of desire. In the person of your Son, you are “the Desire of the Ages” or “the Nations.” In you is the full accomplishment of mankind. Reward is such a strong incentive — to gain yourself — and be found in you — what a goal! So many rewards are far less than the anticipation — the unknown becomes more attractive than the reality — not so with you. I am sure that when I enter your eternal presence I will say of you as the queen of the south said of Solomon, “the half has never yet been told.”

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

Reward for me. Just what do I really want? Deep down in the strongest desires of my heart, what do I want? (1) To create or bring into existence something of long lasting value — through you and your dear Son and the powerful Holy Spirit, I can — but if I do not have you, if I am not in you, nothing shall be done. You are the creator. I am only a faint reflection of your likeness. (2) To grasp and help others to know the value of life, i.e., as lived by mankind past, present and to come. To coordinate the various areas of living — you are the only and real answer to the reason for living. Truly in you is an exceeding great reward. Your book gives me the key to open the mysteries of who I am. Why I am. Where I am going. Praise your wonderful name!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Grumbling and fault-finding. I am so very prone to be this way when I am excessively tired. The weakness

of my body becomes the weakness of my temperament. Why? I believe it is because I have not built up a reserve of resolve. It is also because I fail to pause and pray before I think and speak. Here in the cool of the garden let me sweat to keep my heart sweet and kind and my mouth open only to your praise. If I can't (or won't) say something good, may I be like my savior who was excessively tired as he carried the cross for me. He said, “Forgive them, they know not what they do” — or *he said nothing*. Forgive and cleanse me.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for ransom to Jesus have fled?

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

HIS WORD

⁹He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed ¹⁰and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk. ¹¹When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in human form!” —Acts 14:9-11, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How many men and women who sit along the highway of life, or in the market place of living, have never walked? I'm sure you can see and identify every cripple in the whole wide world. It is sad, and in comparison to those who can walk in this life, but how many are there who will never walk the streets of

gold? I take the latter to be the purpose for the healing. How is it that faith on the part of the lame man is here mentioned, and was not mentioned in the case at Jerusalem? It would seem it was Peter's and John's faith not the lame man's that made him whole. Dear Lord, I know you want all men to be whole, whether it is through my faith or theirs. If I do not preach they will never believe and be made well. Help me!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

That men could so widely misunderstand your purpose seems more than remarkable and yet they do! Men have and do and will misunderstand my purposes — at times will give to me far more credit than is due (since *none* is due). How zealous and creative was Paul! How enterprising! Did he make a mistake in his evaluation of the possible response of the people? Did he expect the same response as Peter and John at the gate beautiful? We do not know — the candid report of Dr. Luke casts no blame, we are out of place doing so. How do we relate to the principle today? I.e., what are we doing to attract the interest and attention of our audience; with one, or a thousand?

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you, thank you: (1) That human need does become a catalyst for listening to the one who can help. (2) For the direct, personal interest of Paul. (3) For Paul's adventuresome willingness to do anything to get an interest in the good news. (4) For the record of work in totally heathen culture. (5) For the power to heal — used as a sign — not an end, but a means to an end. (6) That somebody understood the Lycaonian language — was it Paul — who "spoke in tongues more than anyone"? (7) For the wonderful power of public speaking.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Stand up on your feet! How could God better describe our permanent posture? We are not animals, so "stand up on your feet!" We need not grovel to any man — "stand up on your feet!" We have strength and health — and in him all things — so "stand up on your feet!" I have a journey ready for you — a real important, urgent task for you to do. "Stand up on your feet!" At the same time how better could we describe the man outside of salvation than "crippled in his feet, who had never walked from birth." At one time sin crippled us, but Jesus healed us and we have been made to walk in the presence of men and God with the assurance of freedom and strength. In him, indeed we are whole — "stand up on your feet!"

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the midst of those who do not believe I need prayer: (1) Thank you for the miracles of Paul (of you through Paul). Teach me all their meaning. (2) When do men not need faith to be healed? (I expect to get an answer from your word.) (3) Why did Paul heal the lame man? (4) What response did Paul expect from the healing? (How I do want to meditate on these questions.) (5) Which was the most important to the man healed — his healing or his salvation? (6) Someone understood the Lycaonian language — who was it? (7) Dear Lord, I labor among people who misunderstand motives. Help me.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Through this experience you spoke to Barnabas and Paul — speak to me: (1) "Men will interpret your actions in different ways than you intended." (2) "Healing the lives and homes of people is a greater work." (3) "Men are hero worshipers — turn them from yourself to me."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Tanzania — Points for prayer: (1) *The growth of the Church* has been good, but patchy. Evangelical churches have been more successful. Pentecostal, Evangelical Anglican and AIC churches have grown fast; the large Lutheran Church more slowly. Yet there are problems: a) There are extensive areas where the churches have stagnated; and many potentially open villages unreached. b) Western cultural forms and formalism are common where revival has not touched the lives of churchgoers. c) The lack of Christian workers and lay leaders. (2) *Leadership training* needs to be given top priority in the churches. Pray for the 15 or so Bible schools and seminaries in the country. Many need upgrading to higher levels to prepare leaders for an increasingly literate population. (3) *Response among young people* has been particularly encouraging. There has never been such responsiveness before. Workers for this ripe harvest are needed. Religious education is taught in schools, and Christian teachers have had a big impact — more national and expatriate teachers are needed. It is difficult to integrate young Christians into the churches.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All praise to Him who reigns above
In majesty supreme,
Who gave His Son for man to die,
That He might man redeem!
Blessed be the name, blessed be the name,
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be the name, blessed be the name,
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

WEEK NINE

—Saturday—

In you is "no darkness at all." I want to be taught by yourself to more closely "walk in the light."



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Light. Such a beautiful representation of yourself! There are several qualities of light that tell me and all the world of yourself. To illumine is the first quality of light. How truly do you open and uncover and make plain all things. There is nothing in the dark that cannot be set in the light. How beyond human thought it is for you to live in eternal light — in you and of you there is no darkness at all. You are the light, the Father of lights, and when we walk in you we find warmth — and comfort.

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

Light for me! How very, very much do I need light in so many areas of life. I am glad to acknowledge you can and will and do give me light — or I have none. Your word is a lamp for my daily path and a light at the end of the road; and illumination all along the way. I need and want light on how best to teach the students who sit in my classes. Dear God, you do open my mind with your light as to how best to present what you have said in your word. Another name for this would be what James 1:5 calls "wisdom," i.e., the best use of knowledge. Praise you, how I depend on you and ask in total confidence and receive!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I have so often become frustrated in one area or another because I did not ask for your light. I walked and stumbled in the darkness. When I trust in my own wisdom it becomes darkness. How mean and hard we can become when we know not where to turn for light! How relaxing and softening is the illumination of the whole picture. Dear, dear God, forgive

me. Such a circumstance is no excuse for perverseness and unkindness — it is a plain indication of a lack of trust in the one who can see the end from the beginning and who dwells in everlasting light. I claim your cleansing!

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

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

¹³The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

¹⁴But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, shouting: ¹⁵"Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. ¹⁶In the past, he let all nations go their own way. ¹⁷Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." ¹⁸Even with these words, they

had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them. — *Acts 14:13-18, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How sad must have been your heart when you saw the procession of the followers of Zeus — animals to sacrifice to a god who is no god at all. But then, it has been repeated millions of times since — and even today you can see men sacrificing to dumb idols. Do we get as excited as Paul and Barnabas? Are we as jealous as you are about the homage that really belongs to you? Dear God, how apathetic I have been! How I long to let the whole world know of your greatness — the “one who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them.” Oh, open my ears and eyes to hear and see your testimony: rain, crops, food, good health. How good to acknowledge the creator who is a giver!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Dear Lord, I want to identify with your two missionaries or apostles, your “sent ones.” How, oh how, will I stop idol worship and turn the hearts of men to you? Dear Lord, I need motivation, not only information. I want to listen with my heart to the message I must speak to others. You are saying to me: (1) “You are only a weak human vessel but you are the only vessel I have for the little part of the world where you live.” (2) I have “good news” — I will never, never hear it enough, i.e., that you have given me GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! Put a smile upon my heart! (3) I must preach repentance — “turn from” as well as “turn to.” (4) I serve a living God who created all! Impregnate 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

How gladly I do this. Thank you: (1) For flowers I can enjoy as the expression of your creative genius. (2) For animals as the means of food and service to man. (3) That you want me to be very upset with idolatry. (4) That you want me to try to stop man’s onward rush to hell. (5) That you have plainly said some activity in this life is worthless. (6) That you have a permissive will — you “let” the nations go their own way, not that you wanted it. (7) That we should see the physical world about us as your “testimony.”

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“They had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.” Once popularity is established a sore temptation assails the man of God. It can take various forms, i.e., he has several choices: (1) He can

disclaim man’s adoration and worship in such weak terms that it becomes but an invitation to continue. (2) He can interpret the worship as but the ignorant expression of the masses to the real God who is seen through him. (3) He can reject it in such a decisive manner that he even risks the wrath of those who worship him — very much like the example before us.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How I do need your help in the midst of misunderstanding: (1) Keep me aware of who I am and whose I am. (2) Teach me how to relate to those who worship other gods. (3) How I need the power to turn men from the vain things of this world. (4) Keep me aware constantly that I have “good news.” (5) Open my eyes to see the world as created by yourself. (6) The next time it rains may I see it as your testimony of goodness. (7) May I remember that all joy comes from you.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What do you say amidst all this confusion? (1) “I am not confused — only men.” (2) “Men must be told many times before they hear.” (3) “My goodness can and should lead to repentance.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Tanzania — Points for prayer: (1) *The Muslim challenge.* Between 1880 and 1960 Islam grew rapidly. That growth has slowed, and a small, but increasing number of Muslims are coming to Christ. Pray for decisive breakthroughs in every Muslim community. Pray also for the calling of those from a Muslim background into the work of evangelizing them. (2) *Bible translation* is a partially met challenge. The increasing use of Swahili lessens the need for translation into some languages. However there are 18 languages that definitely require a NT translation and possibly a total of 82.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Fairest Lord Jesus!
Ruler of all nature!
O Thou of God and man the Son!
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul’s glory, joy and crown!