

WEEK TEN

—Sunday—

Gold and honey — what a combination! Your word is both very usable and very satisfying. I want to find it so on a very personal level.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“More to be desired are they (the statutes of the Lord) than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb” (Psa. 19:10). I just come to praise you for the qualities of yourself I see in this beautiful verse: (1) You must be wonderfully interested in the deepest needs of man or you would never have given us your word at all. (2) There must be something intrinsically attractive about your word or man would have no desire for it. (3) Your word must be understandable or man would not be attracted to it. (4) The value is deep and lasting and permanently satisfying — this can not be said of gold. (5) Its value grows. Even much fine gold finally is gone. (6) Your word appeals to man’s senses. All his sensate abilities are given full expression: (a) The more we look at it the more we see. (b) The more we hear it the more we listen. (c) The more we taste it the more we want to devour it all — over and over again.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Just for me. To make personal application of the general principles is both painful and profitable. I know you are indeed interested in the deepest needs of my life. I want to do two things about this. (1) Read much of your word each day. (2) Be sensitive to what you will say to me. Relate your words to my personal sins, weaknesses, ignorance. Your word has more attraction to me than anything else in this whole world. My consuming desire is that all men might hear you speak to them through your Son in your word. Dear God, keep me on the track running toward the goal. I do indeed believe your word is a revelation not a riddle. I also believe we must yield to your Lordship before we have a personal desire to know what you have said.

How do you personally relate to the word of God, and God who is speaking to you?

CONFESSION OF SIN

My blessed Father, all my fondest expressions are

read for what they truly and actually mean. As I know (and you know perfectly) they, i.e., my expressions, are mixed with desire and fulfillment. I am in a constant struggle to match my desire with my action. Forgive me, dear Lord, for the large gap that often develops between the two. I do praise you that at times I have felt the two were one (you know how easily I am deceived). Forgive me for excuses — rationalizations, justifications and just plain wilful disobedience.

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

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He, whose word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for His own abode:
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation’s walls surrounded,
Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

HIS WORD

²³They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. ²⁴Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. ²⁵They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: “The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet:

²⁶“Go to this people and say,

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.”

²⁷For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears,

and they have closed their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and turn and I would heal them.'

²⁸"Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!"

³⁰For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him.

³¹Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ. — *Acts 28:23-31, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, was Paul satisfied that he had fulfilled his commitment and accomplished his purpose in "seeing some"? There were "large numbers." How many? I'm so glad that only you know. Where did Paul get the energy to speak from morning till night? Oh, my Father, what is meant by "declaring" your kingdom? Your rule, your kingship in the hearts of men. Dear Lord, how I need to see and hear this word for myself. To be convinced is something far more than being baptized or confessing that Jesus is the Messiah — although I'm sure it included such. The practical daily application of your will lived out in human relationship.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I unavoidably include myself in the above, but here I want to apply this text as personally as at all possible: (1) If Paul could talk from morning till evening when he was past sixty years old, who am I that I should complain about the classes I have to teach? (2) I can be and want to be convinced from the Law of Moses and from the prophets that Jesus is the Messiah. (3) Dear Lord, I want never to be among those who "would not believe." (4) How easy it is for religious people to disagree among themselves — what a danger there is in this for me!

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Yes, yes, there is much gratitude here: (1) Thank you for the Holy Spirit who spoke the truth in the Old Testament scriptures. (2) Thank you for the courage of Isaiah and Paul in applying the text to life. (3) Thank you for ears that can hear and eyes that can see your wonderful truth. (4) Thank you that I can set a guard on my ears and eyes and heart lest they become calloused. (5) Thank you that I can be healed and made whole. I can see and hear and believe as you want me to. (6) Thank you for the two whole years Paul had to preach and teach.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ." Here is such a meaningful verse. We have here described both the manner and the matter of Paul's work in Rome. "Boldly" — in freedom of speech — this does not refer to brashness or offen-

siveness — the content might have been received as brash or some because of their life or beliefs would have been offended! But the majority did not so consider the preaching of Paul. Did he only preach to the lost and teach the saved? Perhaps so — but the communicative dynamics were the same in both if the crowd was large as seems to be here indicated.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these last verses of Acts we can find areas for petitions: (1) Give me the same dedication to the teaching of your word. (2) Is your rule in the hearts of men my *primary* subject in teaching? Help me! (3) May I always remember that your Son is the subject or theme of all the Bible. (4) I *want* to believe — help me to find men who share this attitude. (5) As the Holy Spirit speaks through your word, give me ears to hear and a heart to understand.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these closing words speak to me: (1) "I still rule as king in the hearts of some men." (2) "Consider again the evidence of fulfilled prophecy." (3) "I want you to preach and teach to your generation what Paul did to his."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Middle East — Points for prayer: (1) *Believers from a Muslim background* are few and often scattered. Pressures on them are usually acute, from relatives, in employment and from the authorities. For many, emigration is the only way out of impossible situations. Pray for: a) *All who have come to Christ out of Islam*. They need fellowship, but often cannot find it with Christians from a different background. They need to study the Word and become established, but rarely have the time or facilities. They need courage in the face of intimidation, threats, ostracism and even physical danger. b) *Christian homes*. These are few. Unequal marriages between Christians and Muslims are a major cause of backsliding. The Muslim world needs to see the beauty of a Christian home. (2) *Effective means of reaching Muslims* must be exploited to the full: Medical work, personal witness by nationals and expatriates, literature, radio, Bible Correspondence courses, and gospel recordings. *Muslims in other lands* are more accessible.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

WEEK TEN

—Monday—

Trust is much more than mere acceptance — I rest my whole life in your name — yourself. Deepen this commitment!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God” (Psa. 20:7). What are the attributes of yourself I see in this verse? Here are some: (1) Chariots are a protection in battle. You are my strength and protection in any and every conflict. A soldier is much less vulnerable in a chariot than on foot in the field. How often do we need to repair to the cover of your presence. (2) Chariots offer much more speed and maneuverability than any foot soldier could find. The psalmist is saying that the physical battle advantages of chariots and horses are nothing without your direction, but we see a parallel in what chariots and horses offer with the name or character of our God. In the realm of the spirit — where all battles are really fought — our Lord is superior to all chariots and horses can offer.

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

Just for me. It was by no accident that Paul described the Christian life as a battle. I find it so! I want to “fight a good fight.” Dear Lord, if we didn’t have to fight every day it would be easier. I hear my commander say: “As your days are so shall your strength be.” I can climb into his chariot right now in this early morning hour and let him direct my moves through the battle of this day. Praise the Lord, I do not need to fight one battle of yesterday, nor make one move in tomorrow’s conflict.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Lord, as you know I have trusted in what men can do and have found it sorely, sadly lacking!
“Blessed are you when you fall into manifold trials

(temptation) because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance” (James 1:2,3). If I would turn to you automatically, if I didn’t have to make a value judgment temptations would only become tests and would indeed develop perseverance. As it is, it is your grace and mercy that develops my perseverance. Temptations too often become a trap or snare — not all temptations — but “the sins that so easily ensnare us.” Dear Lord, I am still in the battle and I do indeed love you. Forgive my defeats — they are also your loss.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

If you are tired of the load of your sin,
Let Jesus come into your heart;
If you desire a new life to begin,
Let Jesus come into your heart.
Just now, your doubtings give o’er;
Just now, reject him no more;
Just now, throw open the door;
Let Jesus come into your heart.

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

HIS WORD

⁸Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul — an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus — ¹⁰I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹Formerly, he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

¹²I am sending him — who is my very heart — back to you. ¹³I would have liked to keep him here with me so he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do will be spontaneous and not forced. ¹⁵Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good — ¹⁶no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear

brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back — not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask. ²²And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers. —*Philemon 8-22, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What a precious message I have to share with you! Am I right in seeing in this letter a strong emphasis on apostolic authority? Please help me! These are the reasons I say this: (1) "I could be bold and *order you to do what you ought to do.*" (2) "... so he could take your place in *helping me.*" (3) "... not to mention that *you owe me your very self.*" (4) "I do wish, brother, that I may *have some benefit from you* in the Lord." (5) "Confident of *your obedience.*" All these phrases seem to say that Paul has a rank that should be respected. He did not want to "pull rank" but appeal out of love. Is this what you are saying to me through Paul?

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

There are so many areas where I can use this text. I want to take the place of Philemon: (1) I receive the appeal of love and apostolic authority. There are a hundred things I *ought* to do and the love of my dear friends and brothers moves me to do them. At the same time the apostolic authority enforces it and breaks me away from my selfishness into action. (2) I believe I am almost as old as Paul was when he wrote this letter, but my body is soft and flabby compared with Paul's. How his age and imprisonment rebuke me!

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 a slave who was willing to listen and learn to be converted. He became a slave to a new Master. (2) Thank you that Paul saw the value of a person not a position. (3) Thank you for the fact that our usefulness to anyone is in you. Formerly we were useless, but now we are useful. (4) Thank you for showing me that Paul gave his heart to many people — "his very heart." (5) Thank you for Paul's example of welcoming and seeking others to help him in your work. (6) Thank you that Paul ever sought spontaneous service. (7) Thank you Paul referred to himself as he wrote to Philemon as "a partner."

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing you will do even more than I ask." How good it would be if our Lord was always confident of our obedience. This quality is essentially all we have to offer our Lord. We, like our Lord, must learn obedience by the things we suffer. The lesson of obedience comes from these sources: (1) Respect for authority. If we do not have confidence in the integrity of the one who has given us the command, we have little reason to obey. Can we respect and honor the One who commands us? Indeed, we can! (2) The value or purpose in the command. Our Lord obeyed "for the joy that was set before him." There is no order given by our commander that does not have great reward.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Surely in these personal requests of Paul we can find requests for prayer. (1) May my motives always be "for love's sake." (2) I want to be indeed "a prisoner of Christ Jesus." (3) How many who now enjoy new life owe their life to my teaching or preaching? Not near enough. Help me. (4) *Onesimus* is such a meaningful name, i.e., *useful* or *beneficial*. I want it for my name. (5) How I need more real empathy for those with whom I work. (6) I wonder just what type of service *Onesimus* gave to Paul? (7) How can I say to those about me: "Charge that to my account"?

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

There is much you can say to me in these verses: (1) "Let others refresh your heart in Christ." (2) "You can refresh others in my Son." (3) "Treat your fellow Christians as 'beloved brothers.'"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The Pacific — Points for prayer: (1) *The Pacific* was one of the first areas to be evangelized in the modern Protestant missionary movement. Few areas of the world have claimed more missionary lives through disease, violent death and cannibalism. Praise God for the sacrificial labors of those early missionaries. (2) *Great people movements* over the past 200 years have brought whole peoples and islands into Christianity. Some of the most strongly Protestant Christian nations in the world are in this region. The Solomon Islands have the remarkable distinction of being possibly the nation with the highest percentage of Evangelical believers in the world. These people movements continue to this day in Papua New Guinea.

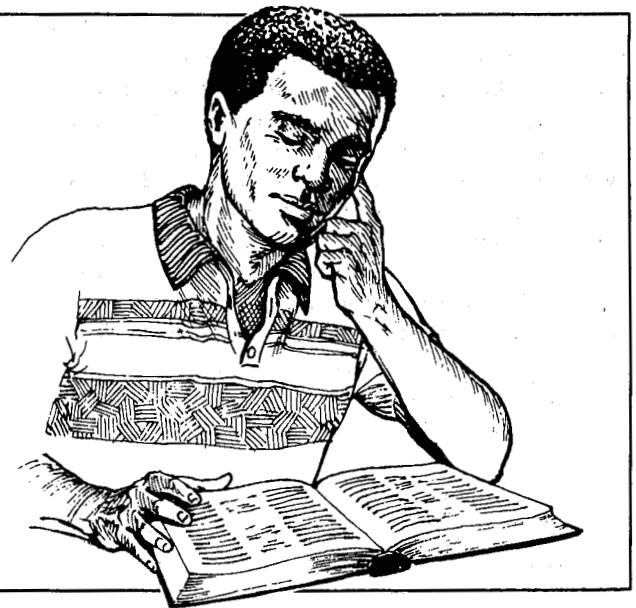
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Praise ye the Father! for His lovingkindness,
Tenderly cares He for His erring children;
Praise Him, ye angels, praise Him in the heaven,
Praise ye Jehovah!

WEEK TEN

—Tuesday—

You know my inmost self — you know how vulnerable I am — I need your strength — your forgiveness.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength (rock), and my redeemer” (Psa. 19:14).

There are three or four qualities of yourself I see in this verse: (1) You know the words I form in my mind before they come out of my mouth! This is an awesome thought! But to think less of yourself is to lack omniscience. You do know all. (2) The meditations — or evaluations — I make before action is taken are also known to you. It is in such meditations I reveal your real involvement in my life. Praise your name you do not expect or demand perfection — sincere desire to doing right is acceptable with you! This is all we can give. (3) You are indeed my total source of strength — of stability. (4) You have bought me with a great price; I belong to you.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Just for me — I want this text to sink down into the very depths of my being! (1) You know, you hear, you listen to the words of my mouth. By my words I am cleared or condemned! (2) The evaluations I give to any project or any choice in life — all choices in life are also known, understood, shared by you! (3) You do not expect, nor can I give perfect obedience, but you do expect and I can give consistent sincerity. Dear Lord, dear Lord, I do! (4) I have no strength at all to fulfill what I have just written; except you build this house it won't be built, but you want to live in it therefore you will help me to build it. (5) I have been bought with a price; I want to glorify you in my body!

How do you personally relate to the strength of God, and God who is our Rock?

CONFESSION OF SIN

There is much confession of my missing the mark in the above worship. At the same time, I want to seek your cleansing blood. I want to claim your inward

strength. I want to hide in the rock. I want to openly, fully, dear God, *finally* confess all my sin, cast all my guilt over on you; free me and clear my record — I claim your promise!

“Keeping Jesus on the outside.” This can apply to all my relationships. I do not want him on the outside for salvation or forgiveness of past sins — I surely do not want to go to hell. But do I really want him to eat with me, live with me every day in every relationship? Yes, yes, come in Lord Jesus and make my house your home!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

HIS WORD

³I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

—II Timothy 1:3,4, NIV

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.

—II Timothy 2:8,9, NIV

⁶For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. —II Timothy 4:6,7, NIV

⁹Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. ¹²I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

—II Timothy 4:9-12, NIV

¹⁶At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. —II Timothy 4:16-18, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Did Paul have two times of "prayers"? You were the One to whom he lifted his voice — so I know you know and heard. I do wonder so earnestly just how he worded his prayer to you about Timothy. Paul had a clear conscience because his performance was near enough to what he planned that your umpire (his conscience) approved of his actions. Am I right on this? How Paul did find happiness in the presence and work of others. Dear Lord, I want to do the same! I am woefully short here. Help me! How precious are the words of Paul in the few closing days of his life. What an outlook: (1) The word of God is not chained. (2) I have fought the good fight. (3) I have finished the race. (4) I have kept the faith. (5) Mark is helpful to me in my ministry (he could not always say that). (6) The Lord (even yourself) stood at my side and gave me strength. (7) I was delivered from the lion's mouth. (8) The Lord (even yourself) will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and forever!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How gladly I take this up! What did Paul do? Where did Paul go after he was released from his first imprisonment? It is good for me to read again what I wrote several years ago in my study of his letters to Timothy and Titus. Right now I want to go into that prison with Paul and share his words: how I do want to serve as my forefathers did! I can think of those who served from 1809 to 1919. I know many of them had a clear, clean, good conscience or they would never have done what they did. May I imitate their faith.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for Paul's devotion in spite of desertion. (2) Thank you for Crescens and Titus — good men who had jobs for you in Galatia and Dalmatia. (3) Thank you for Luke the beloved and faithful physician. (4) Thank you for Mark the profitable servant. (5) Thank you that Paul had "a ministry" even while in prison. (6) Thank you for the personal touches Paul includes in his letter to Timothy. (7) Thank you that "all the Gentiles heard the message through Paul." I do not know just how this was done, but I'm glad it was.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom." Does the promise always hold with everyone in every situation? The "rescue" of the Lord must always be first our reaction to such evil attacks. Our Lord does not necessarily deliver us from such attacks. Let us listen to Paul tell us of many of these "evil attacks": (1) Many, many imprisonments (not just this last one at Rome). (2) "Countless beatings" — often near death from these beatings. (3) "Five times my back has been torn to ribbons by the lash of the Jews." (4) "Three times I have received the rods of the Romans — even when I am a Roman citizen." (5) "I have been shipwrecked three times before the latest episode — I spent all night and all day adrift in the briny deep."

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these last words of Paul there is so much about which to pray: (1) Dear, dear Lord, I want to keep up the names and needs on my prayer list. Help me. (2) Where is the deep longing for fellow workers that filled the heart of Paul? (3) How can I better impress upon my heart the reality of my Lord's resurrection? (4) Since the word of God is not bound, release it through me. (5) May I be as ready to depart this day, this moment as was Paul.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

You speak real often to me in these verses: (1) "Finish the race." (2) "Keep the faith." (3) "I will stand by you even as I did with Paul."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The West — Points for prayer: (1) *A godless materialism* has become the formative philosophy of the majority — particularly in Europe. To term Europe today as 'post-Christian' is a sad partial truth. Pray that this trend may be reversed, and that empty churches and chapels may once more be filled with people praising God. (2) *In many countries an increasing percentage of the population has had no meaningful contact with biblical Christianity for ages.* Parts of Europe, especially, are now some of the most spiritually dark areas in the world; southern Europe is, possibly, after the Muslim Middle East, the hardest mission field on earth.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

WEEK TEN

—Wednesday—

My very life — here and hereafter are dependent upon your goodness — I renew this quality of you in worship.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Do good to your servant, and I will live; I will obey your word. Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. I am a stranger on earth; do not hide your commandments from me” (Psa. 119:17-19). My very life is dependent upon your goodness. How I need to assimilate the meaning of such an expression. On how slender a thread does our life hang! How exceedingly fragile is our very existence. Without your goodness we could not draw our next breath. Why should we then be hesitant to obey your every word? I wonder just what David meant when he prayed the prayer: “Open my eyes that I may see the wonderful things in your law”? Whatever it meant it is increased many fold in this gospel age!

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

Just for me. The qualities of yourself are ever before me: (1) You want to and do communicate with your servants through your word — through your teachers — through answered prayer — through your providence. In all these I praise you! (2) Every communication of yourself is out of *absolute goodness*. (3) You have ways of opening the eyes of our understanding to meanings and applications of your word we would never consider unaided. Praise to you for your goodness! (4) I am indeed “*a stranger on earth.*” I do not know how to direct my feet — in this need — “do not hide your commandments from me.”

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Full many a time I have found but little reason for a continuance of my life — i.e., from your point of view. I live by your goodness! To say that I obey your

word is an absurdity — i.e., as you consider my efforts. Forgive my failure even to meet my own standards. How dull are my ears — how sleepy my eyes — shock me — woo me — lead me into an awareness of the deeper meaning of your word. Forgive me for my sad response to your revelation. I do look upon the world about me as “a stranger.” If I do not have your direction from your commandments I shall wander and be lost — help me — forgive me!

What personal sins do you want to confess? There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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

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

HIS WORD

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an
1 apostle and set apart for the gospel of God —
—Romans 1:1, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Shall I *ever* become accustomed to the impact of your word? I hope not. Here are three characteristics of your Son seen in the life of your servant Paul: (1) A slave or servant; (2) called to be one sent (Heb. 3:1); (3) set apart for the glad tidings — or for the purpose of heralding this good news. Such are the three qualities I would want most in my own relationship with you. Whether Paul thought of himself as a *doulos* (slave) as compared to the slaves of the Roman empire — or a *doulos* in the context of the Old Testament, such as the prophets. He still asks me to imitate him.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How we think of ourselves is so very important — in these days it is called “self image.” How we think of ourselves is going to effect others — we have such a strong tendency to project onto others what we think of ourselves. Am I your called and sent one? Surely not in the same sense as the twelve and Paul — but no less called (by the gospel) and no less sent as your light and salt. Am I separated *unto* or *for* the gospel? It is one thing to be separated from sin and Satan — it is quite something else to be separated for our Lord and his good news.

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 Paul — all he means to me and the whole Christian world. (2) Thank you for preserving this word of your apostle for all these years that I might read it and obey it today. (3) Thank you for the privilege of belonging to the One who bought me at such a price. (4) Thank you for the call out of and into, given to every Christian by the good news. (5) Thank you for the source of the glad tidings — even yourself. (6) Thank you that I can be a herald of the King of Kings. (7) Thank you for the divinity of the job I have to perform.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... set apart for the gospel of God.” All of us are set apart for something — “His you are whom you obey.” Utter selfishness governs us too often. God in Christ has set us apart for spreading his good news; but this is purely judicial until we “put some feet on our faith.” When shall we be ready to agree with God’s estimate of what is important? How many people are set apart or sanctified for other purposes. There are numbers of men and women who hold two jobs so they can accumulate more money. Mothers set themselves apart for their children. The capacity is there — but where is the willingness?

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I can pray with real meaning through this verse: (1) It is required of a slave that he be absolutely submitted to his master — this is my sincere desire. (2) A slave depends so much on his master — so do I — open my heart to see just how much. (3) Since I belong to you by right of purchase you have unrestricted authority over me — forgive my rebellion. (4) There are so many servants (slaves) of times past that teach me — Abraham, Moses, Joshua. I want to learn from them. (5) Most of all I want to learn from the One who came to give himself for us.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me once again in this verse: (1) “You are my servant — I have no one else to do what you can do.” (2) “I have called you; I am calling you; I will call you — answer me.” (3) “Until you are separated from the world you cannot be separated unto the gospel.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The West — Point for prayer: *The less reached of the West.* An increasing worldwide emphasis on missionary work in the West is discernible, but such cross-cultural work is not easy and response has been slow. The missionary casualty rate is high. Pray for effective outreach to: a) *The 15 states and territories* where less than 1% of the population is evangelical Christian. b) *The mini-states* of Andorra, Liechtenstein, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Malta, Monaco and San Marino where there are no viable indigenous evangelical congregations. c) *Lands where the evangelical witness is very small:* Luxemburg, Greece and Spain. It is little better in France, Belgium, Portugal and Italy. d) *Large areas* of many West European nations, both Catholic and Protestant, which are without a strong, clear gospel witness. e) *The migrant workers* who need the gospel. Most are from unevangelized areas of Southern Europe and the Middle East. f) *Overseas students.* These number about 500,000 at any one time — especially in the USA, Canada, Britain and France. Many come from lands closed to conventional missionary work.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.
All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in Thee.
Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother —
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

WEEK TEN

—Thursday—

How easily are we led away to the lies of Satan — lead me to your word in the closet of prayer.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Though princes sit together and slander me, your servants will meditate on your decrees. Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors” (Psa. 119:23,24). It was no ordinary man who spoke against David — but Saul, Abner and Ahithophel. The king, the general and the chief counselor. We have no problems at all compared to David — God’s chosen king. What was David’s response? *“Your servant will meditate on your decrees.”* He must have had some documents to which he could make reference.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I have sixty-six books of your decrees and statutes. It is indeed my delight to turn each word over and over again — new light falls on my path as from the reflections of a flawless diamond. Praise and thanksgiving arise from my heart that you have been so thoughtful of our poor servant. It is not in a begrudging admission of my need that I come to your word — but in the exuberance of delight. How eternally important it is that I hide your word in my mind and conscience that I might have counsel in my hour of need.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I know I hide nothing from you. Self-deception is bad enough — but to attempt to deceive the all knowing One is ridiculous. I am much more influenced — intimidated by what those in high places (the ones who influence me) think or say or do than I ever want to admit. Forgive me for this hypocrisy! I meditate much more on what those who can call the shots say and do than I do about the eternal decrees of heaven. I do want to improve — help me! There are times when

your decrees are indeed my delight — increase those times. Keep me committed to an assimilation of a portion of your word each day.

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

Thou, my everlasting portion,
More than friend or life to me,
All along my pilgrim journey,
Savior, let me walk with Thee.
Close to Thee, close to Thee,
Close to Thee, close to Thee;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Savior, let me walk with Thee.

HIS WORD

²*the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures —Romans 1:2, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

There are three qualities of the message just as there were three attributes of the messenger: (1) It is *good news*; (2) it comes from your very Self; (3) it was promised long ago by the prophets. I want to always remember that: (1) I have the very best of news: “Christ died to save sinners.” I hope the wonder and beauty of this message will never be last in my heart. (2) The message I carry is divine — not from a theological seminary — or even a home Bible class but heaven. (3) It was promised long ago in types and shadows by the prophets.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I want these words to be etched upon the tablets of my heart. Where is the excitement of the glad tidings?

I have had good news of a financial nature — I could hardly wait to tell someone. Our children have been blessed in some material manner and we want to tell everyone about it. Dear Lord open my eyes to the beauty and value of the glad tidings. I work far too often as if I was but a slave to some earthly pursuit — it is your very word I love to teach — how can I be so callous? The O.T. heritage I find fulfilled in the N.T. moves me to worship 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

(1) Thank you for all the centuries that have come and gone as a testimony to your faithfulness. (2) Thank you for Bethlehem's stable and Calvary's burden foretold and fulfilled. (3) Thank you for the expectation of meeting each of the prophets in the land that is fairer than day. (4) Thank you for the same Holy Scriptures present in my hands as was present when Paul wrote. (5) Thank you for your Son who gave himself for us that we might give ourselves to you.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son," your dear Son gives the meaning to the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. It is indeed true: "The Old is in the New explained, the New is in the Old contained." But in both the Old and New Covenants the Son is the theme. It needs to be pointed out that our Lord spoke of his own importance in the Scriptures: "For I tell you, what has been written must be fulfilled in me." Those who knew him best were making constant reference to the O.T. prophecies being fulfilled in his life and ministry. Such a concept surely gives great depth to the historical record.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I shall never tire of lifting my heart in prayer as I read these precious words: (1) May the joy of those who first heard of your love through your Son be mine. (2) Thank you for your total faithfulness in all your promises. (3) Lead me into a deeper awareness of the divinity of the Scriptures we sometimes treat so lightly. (4) I know I do not appreciate the messages of prophets as I should — help me! (5) Sum up all things in your Son in my life. (6) Stop me long enough to absorb each thought of your word as I read it!

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

My ears are open — speak to me: (1) "My message is

and has always been *good news* to those who have themselves received it." (2) "The depths of centuries is in every gospel message." (3) "If you do not communicate my Son you have not preached the gospel."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The West — Point for prayer: *Encouraging signs of spiritual awakening* are evident in the West. The overall decline in church affiliation and church attendance can obscure the positive developments: a) *Past revivals* have left a legacy of dynamism and spiritual wealth — the Puritan, Pietist, Methodist and 19th century awakenings ultimately led to blessing for the world in the 200-year old modern missionary movement. It can happen again! Never before has the potential for the West to speedily and deeply affect the world been as great as now. In recent years there have been localized revivals in Scotland, Finland, Canada and the USA. b) *The steady growth in numbers, confidence and influence of Evangelicals* in both North America and Europe is encouraging. This growth is also in mainline denominations returning to their biblical roots, and an ever increasing number of pastors are Evangelicals. Liberal theology that helped to empty many churches is being eclipsed, and the decline in Protestant church attendances appears to be ending. c) *The renewal movement* has deeply affected nearly every denomination in most countries. Many nominal congregations have been transformed. d) *The remarkable turning to Christ* of many thousands of the world's 6,000,000 *Gypsies* in parts of Europe. The Gypsy churches in Spain have become the largest evangelical fellowship of churches in that land.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise His name — I'm fixed upon it —
Name of God's redeeming love.
Hitherto Thy love has blest me;
Thou hast brought me to this place;
And I know Thy hand will bring me
Safely home by Thy good grace.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Bought me with His precious blood.
O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
Seal it for Thy courts above.

WEEK TEN

—Friday—

Use this time of personal worship to renew me — to teach me — to meditate on your wonders.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“I am laid low in the dust; renew my life according to your word. I recounted my ways and you answered me; teach me your decrees. Let me understand the teaching of your precepts; then I will meditate on your wonders” (Psa. 119:25-27). My purpose is always one: to praise you for your very Self! I can do this so well in observing your character is what you do in human experience. “Many are of the earth earthy, and never lament it; only the heaven-born and heaven-soaring spirit pines at the thought of being fastened to this world, and bird-limed by its sorrows or its pleasures” (Charles Spurgeon, *Treasury of David*).

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

Praise your name that you place within my heart a desire to break out of this earthly existence. You have placed no unfulfilled desires in man. Praise your name that this deepest and highest of all desires — to be liberated from an earthbound existence — will be fulfilled! It is out of your word this life arises. Your word gives a record of your renewal — and in and of your word we find spirit and life (John 6:63)! “Nothing brings more ease and more life to a man than a frank acknowledgment of the evil which has caused the sorrow and the lethargy” (*ibid*). I have praised you often for your willingness to forgive and renew. I do it once again!

How do you personally relate to the wonders of God, and God who exalts us? 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 taught by your very Self! But I know there is no learning until I have been forgiven. There is a great impassible barrier to learning in unconfessed

and unforsaken sin. “When God forgives our sins we are all the more fearful of sinning again. Mercy, which pardons transgressions, sets us longing for grace which prevents transgressions. We may boldly ask for more when God has given us so much; he who has washed out the past stain will not refuse that which will preserve us from present and future defilement” (*Ibid*). To all of these precious words I add a hearty “amen”!

What personal sins do you want to confess? There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

It may be at morn, when the day is awaking,
When sunlight through darkness
and shadow is breaking,
That Jesus will come in the fullness of glory,
To receive from the world His own.
O, Lord Jesus, how long, how long
'Til we shout the glad song
Christ returneth!
Hallelujah! hallelujah! Amen,
Hallelujah! Amen.

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

HIS WORD

³regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, ⁴and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. —Romans 1:3,4, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

This is such a glorious declaration of the nature of your Son I do not have words to express the half — or even a tithe of the meaning. The human and divine nature of my Lord is here set forth in a most attractive manner. From what man can see, he was just what the sign said: “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the

Jews." He was of David's royal seed according to the flesh. But on the inside he was your Son — his body came from David — but his life, his presence in the flesh, came from yourself! Such a wondrous fact was made known through his resurrection from the dead. It was the Holy Spirit who raised him from the dead (Rom. 8:11).

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

There is so much wonder in this expression I looked for a poem to express it in words I cannot command.

The lark, the linnet, and the dove,
The chaffinch and the wren,
They must have known His watchful love,
And given worship then;
They must have known and glorified
The child who died for men.
And when the sun at break of day
Crept in upon his hair,
I think it must have left a ray
Of unseen glory there —
A kiss of love on that little brow
For thorns that it must wear.

—Albert Bigelow Paine

I shall never fully comprehend the full meaning of the incarnation, but it is good to try.

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 descendant from David so clearly and accurately seen in your Son. (2) Thank you for the very human nature of Jesus — the Son of man. (3) Thank you for the constant association of the Holy Spirit in the life and ministry of Jesus. (4) Thank you for that pure Spirit who lived in the very human body — his name was Jesus. (5) Thank you for the powerful declaration of your Sonship by the resurrection from the dead.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

... declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead." Here is the cap sheaf of his miracles! The resurrection proclaims to all the world for all time that he has power over life. The control of life or spirit is to control the very essence of things as they are. The resurrection declares his control over death. Indeed the last enemy has been conquered. His resurrection heralds to things visible and invisible that he can extend his power to "all that are in the grave." If Christ is not risen from the dead we are of all men most to be pitied — but now is Christ raised from the dead and we are of all men most triumphant!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I see requests in these verses to meet my deepest needs: (1) Keep the eyes of my understanding open to the divine nature of your Son. (2) I want to personally feel the interest my Lord has in my life. (3) May I remember just now that the same Holy Spirit who raised my Lord from the dead lives in me. (4) May the impact of his resurrection ever be with me. (5) I do want to look death in the face without fear — yea, with anticipation!

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

My ears are open to your word as you speak to me: (1) "I am the same yesterday, today and forever." (2) "Both my human and divine nature were a gift from my Father for you." (3) "My resurrection remains a declaration for all people of all time."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Afghanistan — Points for prayer: (1) *Afghanistan is virtually unevangelized.* Pray that this land may be fully opened to the preaching of the gospel. Officially there has been religious freedom since 1964, but proselytization is forbidden. The Marxist government has not opposed any religious activity at this stage because of its unpopularity in this staunchly Muslim nation. (2) *Unreached peoples — none can be considered reached with the gospel.* Pray especially for the *Uzbeks* in the north; the *Hazaras* in the center; the many *Nuristani* tribes north and east of Kabul, only recently Islamized; the nomadic *Pushtun* tribes of the west and the *Baluchis* in the south. (3) *There are still foreign Christians serving the Lord* in the land as doctors, teachers, etc. Pray that their lives may commend the Savior to the people to whom they minister and earn opportunities to testify to them. Pray that they may be able to minister there in the midst of difficult and dangerous conditions for as long as the Lord wills.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.
When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze,
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

WEEK TEN

—Saturday—

Deceit is in our hearts — it is the very essence of our enemy's efforts to defeat us. I seek your strength just now!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word. Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me through your law. I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws” (Psa. 119:28-30). Sorrow can indeed be very debilitating. Only the hope and peace we find in your word can remove this weariness. Your word is living and active — the very balm of Gilead. It is because you have considered man's need and gave him a treasury of riches for his need that we can ask you to strengthen us. Dear Lord, how much I need a fulfillment of these promises of protection and strength! I lift my heart in praise for your grace to me!

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 can become redundant to speak so often of the absolute necessity of a propositional revelation — but I never tire of praising you for your word! Only in my firm constant choice of truth can I escape the ways of deceit. There is something mysterious about the desire to choose the way of truth. I refer to the *desire* to do so. It is of yourself and I praise you for it. When desire enters the realm of emotion — when decision becomes emotion then your service becomes joy. How glad I am to affirm it is even so in my own experience.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

“Consistency, thou art a jewel, and oh, how rare.” This is indeed my testimony — yea, my confession! How fluctuating is the human heart (my heart). I am glad to say the more I chase the way of truth the easier it is — but unless such a decision is repeated

often it is so easy to walk and think in the way of deceit. Forgive me! It is only when my whole heart is set on yourself as revealed in your law that I can testify to deliverance. What a blessed refreshment is confession and forgiveness. I want to live today on the side of your grace and goodness.

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 hear the Savior say,
 “Thy strength indeed is small!
 Child of weakness watch and pray,
 Find in me thine all in all.”
 Jesus paid it all,
 All to Him I owe;
 Sin had left a crimson stain —
 He washed it white as snow.

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

HIS WORD

⁵Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. ⁶And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. —Romans 1:5,6, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What bounties we receive from him! I want to thank you and praise you for the following: (1) A large quantity of unearned favor — in so many areas of my life this is true. But for what purpose? The little expression, “for his name's sake” has always intrigued me. The reason for your grace is that I might better spread your fame to all who know me. Your name, which stands for your very self, is to be held up and admired. It is because of who he is and what he has done that I have grace at all. (2) Apostleship in the

sense used here relates particularly to Paul, generally to all of us.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I am trying to understand the impact of these words: "to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith." It is the gospel that accomplishes this grand end. Paul was very experienced in fulfilling this very purpose. How many thousands had Paul called out from among the Gentiles? Only heaven can tell. There is no faith without obedience, and there is no real obedience without faith. This is the largest lack we have in so-called "saving faith" today — a lack of commitment — which tells everyone we have not been obedient in our faith.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you I can believe and obey today and become just what these persons were in their day. (2) Thank you I can belong to Jesus Christ, your dear Son. (3) Thank you for the calling of yourself through the glad tidings. (4) Thank you for the book of conversions — i.e., Acts, where I can see these principles in action. (5) Thank you I have been called to belong — give me grace to affirm this position. (6) Thank you for this beautiful salvation.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ." How precious is this thought! We are the called to belong to Jesus our Lord. Since we are his possession he will take a real personal interest in us. Every Christian first belongs to the One who paid the price for his redemption. We also belong to each other — and to a local assembly. But we are his twice over: he created us and he bought us. What a high honor is ours! We can and do disappoint each other — and we become quite unhappy with the activities of the local church — but with the great head of the body there is no fault in him.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Lead me into this prayer time with a keen sense of your presence: (1) It is *through him* we have been saved — keep my eyes up and away from other members of the body to the One who saved us all. (2) What authority is found in my Lord! His name means all in all to me — at his name every knee shall bow — beginning with me! (3) It is "for his name's sake" all has been done in salvation and sanctification — keep me related to him as a servant. (4) If I never call

anyone out of darkness my calling has failed — impress me with this thought.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me again through these precious words: (1) "Faith still requires obedience to be real or fruitful." (2) "Millions of Gentiles have never even heard the call of the goodness — does this mean anything to you?" (3) "If the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost — can you do less?"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Afghanistan — Points for prayer: (1) *Afghan believers are few* and mostly Dari-speaking; but since the Russian invasion, they have become bolder for their Lord, and more Afghans are coming to Christ than ever before. Pray for their protection in persecution, and growth in numbers and grace. Pray that living churches may be planted all over the country. (2) *The few Bibles and NTs in the country, in Pushtun and Kabuli Farsi, are not easily understood*; however, the Dari New Testament has recently been completed. Pray for the wise and effective distribution of God's Word. Pray for the translation of the Scriptures into other languages too; work is in progress in six, but at least five other languages definitely need translators. (3) *Afghans outside the country*. Pray for those who witness to Afghan students and refugees in the West, in hospitals and in the growing number of refugee settlements over the border in Pakistan. Pray for open doors and hearts among these suffering and sorrowing people.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.
O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space!
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail:
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.