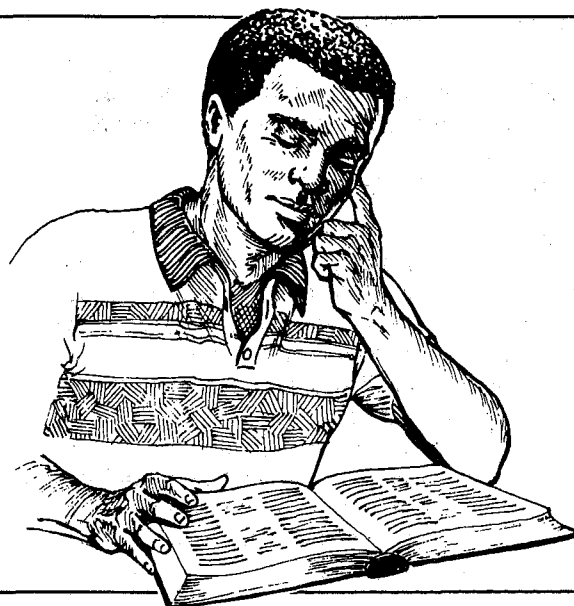


WEEK ELEVEN

—Sunday—

Will I come out of the prayer closet knowing more and more of your word? This is my desire. Help me!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"I hold fast to your statutes, O Lord; do not let me be put to shame. I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free" (Psa. 119:31,32). A choice is ever before us. In the realm of teaching we have before us your word and the words of men — to what will we hold fast? It is evident that we have often failed here. What material do we pick up to read more often than anything else? Is this not that which we hold fast? Are we ashamed of such action? It is in your truth we have freedom — yea, liberty of heart. I do want to make this prayer mine!

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 praise is for the quality of steadfastness which you provide. It is really not in man to direct his own steps. Indeed, unless you build the house it will not be built. My response of obedience is a consequence of running in the path of your commandments — the more I do your will the more comfortable I am in doing it. I *do* have the capacity to choose — in such a choice oft repeated is the liberty you have promised. I do indeed want to avoid the shame I bring first upon yourself, and then upon my own head. There is no joy like that which comes from a sense of your approval. Thank you for accepting me in your Son!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

What a dull, stubborn student I am! How is it I lose interest so soon? Interest is a by-product. It is in direct proportion to my involvement in the object of interest. If I have been giving hour after hour of interest to one sport and another sport is introduced to me for my consideration I have but little interest.

Even so with your statutes — forgive me — I know I am at war with the environment in which I live — indeed, I want to produce my own environment! In this struggle there are many failures — for each of them made only yesterday, forgive me! I so eagerly accept 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

I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
"Take thy cross and follow, follow Me."
Where He leads me I will follow,
Where He leads me I will follow,
Where He leads me I will follow—
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

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

HIS WORD

"To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. —Romans 1:7, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

There are five forms of worship I can lift to your throne: (1) Praise, (2) Confession; (3) Intercession; (4) Petition; (5) Thanksgiving. Of these five which shall it be from this text? It would indeed be easy to use all five — but the words of the text seem to direct me to praise and thanksgiving. The Christians in Rome (and in every place — then and now) were described as: (1) Called; (2) Belonging to Jesus Christ; (3) Loved by yourself; (4) Saints — or those set apart. If I could not praise you for these bounties I have lost all sense of meaning. If gratitude does not spontaneously arise

to my lips I have lost all meaning in life.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I know I will be short of expressing all I want to in this realm of praise and thanksgiving — but I do want to try. (1) Help me to respond to your calling — I reach out to all you are and all you want me to be. Thank you for the wonder of being your child and your servant. (2) I have a contractual agreement with you in which you have agreed to purchase me as your very own — I do want to offer praise and love to yourself and the lost world in which I live. (3) “*Loved by God*” strikes me with real force — I can hardly comprehend a small part of what this means. Since this life is only a small part of your plans for me I am full of excitement.

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 you objectively consider me in your Son as a “saint” or one set apart. (2) Thank you that subjectively I am expected — and want to respond to my position in your Son. (3) Thank you for your constant grace. (4) Thank you for the peace that does indeed surpass human understanding that can and does guard my heart in your Son. (5) Thank you for the constant joint effort to meet my needs by yourself and your Son.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*” This is surely a pleasant greeting. But it is much more. This greeting contains the essentials of life. We could not live without the unearned favor of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul wants the Christians in Rome to appreciate such grace — i.e., to appropriate such a concept into their very being. It is very difficult to convince many Christians that they really are in God’s favor. Once we accept this gift of God we have peace. Peace is a consequence of grace. I want to hear this greeting as though it came from heaven itself — spoken by Gabriel just for me.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I do need the requests that arise from this one beautiful verse: (1) May I hear this as if spoken only to me. (2) I need the fact of your love for me impressed upon me again and again. (3) May I live this day conscious from time to time of my being your “called one.” (4) I want to look at life from the detached position of one separated unto yourself —

and yet placed in the midst of life as salt and light. (5) I want to just now enjoy my present position in grace. (6) May your peace guard my heart and thoughts (emotions and intellects) just now.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I do want to hear this greeting — and all it says as if I had never heard it before: (1) “My love separates as well as constrains.” (2) “I ever stand before you with my arms outstretched calling you away from and into.” (3) “Grace and peace to you from myself and my Son.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Albania — Points for prayer: (1) *Albania is Europe’s most closed and least evangelized land.* Only for a brief period before World War II were there some evangelical missionaries in the country. (2) *Albania was Europe’s only Muslim state.* Marxism has suppressed Islam too. The people live in fear and in a state little better than slavery. Pray that the liberating gospel may be proclaimed freely to them. (3) *There are still believers meeting together in secret* — despite the claim that all religious superstitions have been eradicated. The Albanian press complained in 1975 that there was a remarkable increase in the public and secret practice of religion! A wave of arrests of Christians was reported in 1981. (4) *The Greek minority* has been heavily persecuted, and a large proportion are in prisons and labor camps. Pray for them. (5) *Christian radio broadcasts* are the only way, at present, to get the gospel into the land. Pray for the raising up of more believers in the West who are fluent in Albanian who can help prepare programs for transmission by TWR from Monaco and IBRA from Lisbon. There are now six programs beamed into Albania every week. Pray that the news of these broadcasts may reach those who need the message of the gospel. Pray for good reception in Albania, where radio receivers are few and of poor quality, and where the government frequently jams incoming broadcasts.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne.
Let those refuse to sing
Who never knew our God;
But children of the heavenly King
May speak their joys abroad.
Then let our songs abound,
And every tear be dry;
We’re marching through Emmanuel’s ground
To fairer worlds on high.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Monday—

Control my preferences — just now I seek your face! Renew my life!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; renew my life according to your word” (Psa. 119:36,37). If there ever was a quality we might devoutly desire it is this one! You can produce within us an inclination or leaning. What a wonderful capacity to attribute to yourself and for which I can truly praise your name! “Our wills are free, and yet without violating their liberty, grace can incline us in the right direction. This can be done by enlightening the understanding as to the excellence of obedience, by strengthening our habits of virtue, by giving us an experience of the sweetness of purity, and by many other ways” (*ibid*). Thank you, I wonder in joy before your throne.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

In order to impress upon my heart the terribleness of covetousness (which is at the base of the desire for selfish gain) I want to review the awfulness of this most common of all sins: “It is idolatry, and so dethrones God; it is selfishness, and so it is cruel to all in its power; it is sordid greed, and so it would sell the Lord himself for pieces of silver. It is degrading, groveling, hardening, deadening — *sin!* — which withers every thing around it that is lovely and Christlike. He who is covetous is of the race of Judas, and will in all probability turn out to be himself a son of perdition” (*ibid*). I now want to claim to my heart this attribute of yourself! *Turn my eyes away* — you can do it — I want you to — “Turn my eyes away from worthless things — renew my life according to (or by) your word.”

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is indeed good to be transformed each day by

renewing our minds (it is a blessing I cannot compare with any other one thing). At the same time it is necessary to each day confess our sins. It is so easy to be drawn away by the love of selfish gain. If we are in love with the blessings we find in the searching of your scriptures we will have no time or interest in selfish gain. This, however, has not always been my desire — forgive me. How often have my eyes been turned — and even fascinated — by “worthless things” — not necessarily sinful — but *worthless*. Dear Lord, renew my desire to be renewed.

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

Wounded for me, wounded for me,
There on the cross He was wounded for me;
Gone my transgressions, and now I am free,
All because Jesus was wounded for me.

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

HIS WORD

⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. ⁹God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you ¹⁰in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God’s will the way may be opened for me to come to you.
—Romans 1:8-10, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Paul had not been to Rome, but he had heard enough about the congregation, and had enough friends there he had met in other places (16:3-16), that he could lift them up to your throne in thanksgiving. We are well aware that this is a formal greeting of salvation and thanksgiving — but it is much more. Everywhere Paul

went in the Roman empire — and he was a world traveler — he heard something good about the believers in Rome. This is such an interesting use of the term “faith.” Paul did not hear about what they believed — he heard about what they did. Paul was that one whom our Lord said in John 4:23 you were looking for to worship you. In spirit and truth — Paul served (worshipped) with his whole heart in preaching the gospel.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It would seem an exaggeration to call your very Self to witness his constant remembrance of the Christians in his prayers, i.e., if we did not know the vast importance of intercessory prayer. I need to be reminded again that Paul had “prayers”, i.e., a time and place for praying. There is nothing more important than this time and place. If Paul interceded for each of the more than 20 persons named in the last chapter of this book he must have spent much time in prayer — he no doubt prayed equally for the Christians in Philippi, Thessalonica, Ephesus and other places. Much of Paul’s day must have been spent in prayer. What does this say to 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 there is indeed someone listening when I pray. (2) Thank you for the example of Paul in keeping times of prayer. (3) Thank you for your personal interest in the many “little” things that make up all of life. (4) Thank you that your will is being worked out at all times — whether I recognize it or not. (5) Thank you for opening doors and shutting doors in every day of my life.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... that now at last by God’s will the way may be opened for me to come to you.” Why did you make Paul wait for a positive answer to his prayer? It is totally useless to ask such a question, I doubt seriously that at this juncture in his life Paul even asked it. He was confident you were at work and if the way did not open for travel then it was better that he not travel. Waiting is what we can do best here because in the world to come there will be no time — therefore no waiting. It is enough to know that acting or waiting it is by your will such takes place.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I relish this time of prayer above all other times of the day: (1) Thanksgiving is such a good quality — keep

me open to gratitude in the changing circumstances of this day. (2) Paul was indeed “people oriented” — I need this quality much more than presently is mine. (3) Being able to sincerely rejoice in the success of others is a grand attitude I need. (4) Paul felt he served you first and people second — give me such an understanding. (5) Memory is such a boon to life — flood my mind with the needs of others that I might pray for them. (6) There is deep assurance in knowing you are superintending the activities of this day.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Once again I pause before your throne of grace to hear you speak to my heart: (1) “Thanksgiving is always welcome and in order.” (2) “If people do not hear of your works they have not heard of your faith.” (3) “It is possible to serve me with your whole heart.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Albania — Points for prayer: (1) *Albanians outside the country are more accessible:* a) *In Yugoslavia* 1,800,000, where there is a small group of believers; the only such in the world. b) *In Italy* 260,000, where centuries-old Albanian communities and new refugees live. c) *In northwest Greece* 12,000 living in villages near the border. d) *In west Europe* where Albanian guest workers from Yugoslavia have sought employment. Pray for these to be evangelized. There are less than 50 known ethnic Albanian evangelical believers in the world. (2) *The New Testament was printed in 1937 in Gheg.* A revised New Testament in modern Albanian was printed in 1981. Pray for its effective distribution and impact on lives. (3) *Christian literature in Albanian* has been almost totally lacking since World War II. A number of books and booklets have been produced recently, mainly for the Albanians living outside Albania. Pray that some of this literature may find its way over virtually sealed borders with Greece and Yugoslavia. Pray for those who receive such literature — possession of which may lead to a death sentence. It is almost impossible for the few well-guarded tourists to distribute inside the country. Pray that the slight thaw in relations with the West may result in more openings.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe —
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Tuesday—

I wish today to renew my obedience to you — I can best do it in worship.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared. Take away the disgrace I dread, for your laws are good. How I long for your precepts! Renew my life in your righteousness” (Psa. 119: 38-40). Inward confidence in your presence and interest in us are constantly in need of reinforcement. With me: among the options open nothing makes sense but a confidence in yourself as revealed in your Son and in your word. You have fulfilled ten thousand promises to me — I can with strong assurance fear or worship you. Full assurance is the renewal of obedience and I purpose to obey!

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

There are many circumstances in my own experience where I would bring disgrace upon your name and my own. I do not trust myself without your presence — and most especially your word in my heart. (And I mean *consciously* in my heart.) If you will turn our eyes away from falsehood, and I believe you will, then we may also expect you to turn falsehood away from injuring your good name! Thank you for this assurance. We are often bowed down by our sense of weakness and need of grace but we can claim sincerity — a strange desire to fulfill your precepts in us. Essentially this is all we can offer you — but we can long after your will in our lives and expect the renewing such a desire produces.

How do you personally relate to this attribute of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Must I always confess my need? Is it not enough to know that you know my need and will meet it? *No — it is not enough!* It is in verbalizing — in framing such need in words that I find relief: forgiveness and

a fresh start. Where is my reverence toward you at 10 A.M. — or 2 P.M.? Unless or until my present worship of you affects my total attitude it is wasted time — but I *do* see effects in my experiences — but not as much as I want. Forgive me and renew me according to your word and in *your* righteousness.

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

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels in chorus
Sang as they welcomed His birth,
“Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth.”

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

HIS WORD

¹¹*I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong — ¹²that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. —Romans 1:11,12, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Paul's modesty is surely evident in these few words. He expects to find something in the faith (lives) of the Christians in Rome to strengthen and encourage him. He also expects to be able to share with them his faith in such a manner that they will be encouraged. Such an encouragement is the spiritual gift he would give them. That Paul felt his need of strengthening is a real revelation to us. How sadly lacking is this quality in our association with those who work with us and we with them.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

We find just what we are really looking for. If I expect to find those who will lift my heart and bring cheer to my life I will find them. If I believe all men are negative I will surely find enough to make me think the woods are full of them. Paul was positive in his anticipation of his visit to Rome. If there is one thing we need more than encouragement I do not know what it is. Perhaps acceptance would be a close second, but it must actually precede encouragement, i.e., if we do not accept people we will not encourage them. Dear Lord, I want this quality up front in my relationships!

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 common feelings expressed by Paul almost two thousand years ago that we share today — we too long after the good of others. (2) Thank you for the spiritual gift Paul has given to us in his many epistles. (3) Thank you that we in imagination can be present to receive the encouragement this letter gave to the Roman Christians. (4) Thank you that one day Paul's presence will encourage all of us when we see him in your house. (5) Thank you that we can be made strong by encouragement. (6) Thank you for the ministry each Christian has in your body.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.” Anyone who has just returned from a session of preaching and teaching as I am just now will know just what Paul means. There is something wonderfully exhilarating about sharing the good news with others. In the very act of teaching and preaching we have a form of worship. When we learn of the needs and desires of those to whom we speak we are drawn out in concern for them. The example of devotion I found in the life of a mother who had lost two sons and was now giving her life to the care of the third son who was paralyzed in an automobile accident will not soon be forgotten.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I have already found real reasons for prayer, I know there are others: (1) Give me the longing to identify with the needs of others I see in the life of Paul. (2) May I have enough spirituality to be able to help others. (3) I want the compassion and wisdom to find encouragement in the lives of those with whom I work. (4) May I always know you are the real planner in my life. (5) May the constant concern for the lost seen in the life of Paul move me to the same commitment.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I am listening — speak to my heart: (1) “I long to see you — you can share my concern for others.” (2) “My desire is for increasing strength for all my children.” (3) “I move in and through the little things of life.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Algeria — Points for prayer: (1) *Opposition to the gospel is intense*. A hundred years of tearful sowing the seed by a tenacious succession of missionaries has yet to bear fruit. Satan's forces must be overcome in the heavenlies. Muslims have a long and bitter memory of “Christian” conquests, colonialism and atrocities, so miracles are needed to overcome the centuries of prejudice. (2) *Independence failed to provide the prosperity and progress expected*. Young people are frustrated and dissatisfied. Many seek solutions in fundamentalist Islam and Berber nationalism but rarely in the gospel, for few have heard it. Pray for ways and means of reaching out to them. (3) *Berber nationalism* is a potent force among the younger generation who resent Arabic political, religious and cultural domination and increased efforts to Arabize them. Pray that this may bring many back to the faith of their ancestors. The majority of Algerian Christians are Kabyle. (4) *The unreached* — really the whole nation. a) *The growing cities* — the educated elite, the middle classes, and the teeming slums. b) *The Kabyle in the Djurdjura Atlas Region*. There are no longer any missionaries in the country speaking the language, and any efforts to evangelize them in their own language is a politically sensitive issue. Many live in France. c) *The Shawiya* — no known believers. d) *The Tuareg*. 1-2 believers known. No continuing work in Algeria. e) *The Mzab* oasis towns in the Sahara. No known Christians and no specific effort ever launched to evangelize them in their tight-knit communities.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.
Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you.
All you may need He will provide,
God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you.
No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon His breast,
God will take care of you.
God will take care of you,
Through every day, o'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Wednesday—

Freedom — hope — comfort — all these are mine. In obedience I find them. I here and now renew my covenant with you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"I will always obey your law, forever and ever. I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope. My comfort is this: your promise renews my life" (Psa. 119:44,45; 49,50).

"Nothing more effectually binds a man to the way of the Lord than an experience of the truth of his word, embodied in the form of mercies and deliverances. Not only does the Lord's faithfulness open our mouths against his adversaries, but it also knits our hearts to his fear, and makes our union with him more and more intense" (*ibid*).

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 found the above sentiment to be gloriously true in my own experience. To continue from the pen and heart of Spurgeon: "Saints find no bondage in sanctity (and every Christian is a saint). The spirit of holiness is a free spirit; he sets men at liberty and enables them to resist every effort to bring them under subjection. The way of holiness is not a track for slaves, but the King's highway for freedmen, who are joyfully journeying from the Egypt of bondage to the Canaan of rest" (*ibid*). The constant quality of hope is essential to all of life — only in yourself and your word do I find hope. Blessed be your name!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Since all these qualities are a part of your very Self and a gift to me — how is it I am so sadly lacking them from time to time? I fail to obey your law because I remove it from the upfront interests of life — I relegate it to a certain time and place and only

return to it when that time and place become a part of my life. How sad a confession is this! In you and your will we live and move and have our being — how then can we remove ourselves from you? My hope is this: your promise renews my life. Praise to your mercy 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

All hail the power 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!

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

HIS WORD

¹³I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. —Romans 1:13, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

There are so many blessed truths in this one verse. Paul was so very interested in people he had never seen. Notice: he had heard much about the Christians in Rome; he continually remembered them when he prayed; he is full of a tender love for them; he had often planned to visit them. Paul says in 15:22 that he was hindered from coming to Rome because he had purposed to preach where no one else had been. Perhaps this was the reason for his inability to get to Rome. Dear Lord, I am trying to understand this verse from your perspective — I'm not doing too well. Paul looked on all Christians as his brothers and

sisters — I want this same quality — but not in any superficial manner.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Paul expected results and he had them. The necessity of fruitbearing was in the mind of our Lord (John 15:1-8) and Paul had the mind of his Master. Paul could pass off a harvest of thousands of precious people with the little phrase "as I have had among the other Gentiles." Could we do it? Do we do it? Dear Father, speak to my conscience! Do I truly believe it is essential that my life bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit — that my efforts in your service bear fruit in the lives of others? Can I leave the harvest with you and not brag about it or seek compliments? You know I ask these questions to probe my own inadequacies. Forgive 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 the constant thought of others that filled the heart of Paul. (2) Thank you for the blessed word "brothers" — it so well describes all who love you. (3) Thank you for the negative answers you give to some of my prayers. (4) Thank you that I can always count on some answers from you. (5) Thank you for telling me again of the necessity of fruit bearing. (6) Thank you that someone cared enough to tell this Gentile of your love.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... just as I have had among the other Gentiles." Paul had a harvest among the Gentiles. It was indeed a hundredfold harvest. Every one of them was taught, baptized and taught again — even as our Lord commanded. Paul wrote back from a Roman prison cell that he did indeed have a harvest — "the whole Praetorian Guard" were included. Many of the original members of the church in the imperial city were converts from the teaching of Paul. This consuming concern for the lives of men and women characterized Paul from the Damascus road to his martyrdom in Rome.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How needy I am as I stand in the presence of this bondservant of yours. (1) Dear Lord, have I ever laid plans to reap a harvest for you? Open my heart. (2) How do I look on my fellow travelers? As "brothers" or just Christian people? (3) May I first of all submit all my plans to your will. (4) Do I believe your good news has power today? I believe — help my unbelief.

(5) When people are won they belong to you — not myself. Keep me aware of this.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

You through Paul speak so powerfully to my heart: (1) "All your plans are subject to my approval." (2) "You can have the same heart of compassion you see in Paul." (3) "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Algeria — Points for prayer: (1) *The Algerians outside the country are more accessible to the gospel*, and more so since travel restrictions abroad were eased. Pray for effective outreach to tourists and residents in Europe. Pray for churches to be planted that also have a vision to evangelize in their native land. (2) *The active mission force has steadily declined since 1970 with a number of expulsions.* Missionaries are severely restricted in their activities. All use secular jobs for residency and as a platform for witnessing. Personal witness and discipleship, camps and Bible Study groups are the main opportunities for service. What wisdom, tact, courage and faith these servants of God need in the midst of frequent discouragements and insecurity! What sensitivity they need in tactfully helping the few groups of believers to maturity without dominating them! (3) *Literature in Arabic and especially Kabyle may not be imported.* The one Christian bookstore (United Bible Societies) may only sell literature in other languages. Pray for an end to restrictions and the wide dissemination of Christian literature, gospel cassettes and Bibles. Pray for those writing, printing and distributing literature among North Africans in Europe, and that some of this literature may be taken or sent to Algeria. (4) *Radio programs* prepared by GMU in Spain and NAM in France and transmitted by TWR in Monaco have proved the most widespread and effective means of evangelism and teaching of isolated believers. Possibly thousands have been converted in North Africa. Pray for the follow up through Radio School of the Bible (NAM), visitation, BCCs and literature. Pray that literature may not be intercepted in the post and that those receiving correspondence for Christians may be free from harassment. A BCC in Kabyle is an urgent need. The Kabyle radio programs are particularly effective.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

In shady, green pastures, so rich and so sweet,
God leads His dear children along;
Where the water's cool bathes the weary one's feet,
God leads His dear children along.
Some through the waters, some through the flood,
Some through the fire, but all through the blood;
Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,
In the night season and all the day long.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Thursday—

*Only by laying your word on my heart
can I find comfort. Gladly do I do such
just now!*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"I remember your ancient laws, O Lord, and I find comfort in them. Your decrees are the theme of my song wherever I lodge" (Psa. 119:52,54). "The comfort of the scriptures" is a New Testament concept. It is indeed a principle that shall always be true. What consolation is found in your laws! This is true only to the extent I am ready to make application of what you have said to my life. Dear Lord, I want to be open each day to receive your word with meekness. It is impressive to be able to read words that were written thousands of years ago! There are no other words available to me of such age. The preservation of your word speaks to my heart.

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

In how very many places I have lodged in the past few years. I have stayed in no less than forty homes each year. The circumstances have been varied — but in no place have I failed to find this verse true: "Your decrees are (indeed) the theme of my song." I must have a song before I can find a theme. I.e., I must feel like singing. My salvation has given me the song — each day a new theme is given to me to sing. There are endless applications of your word to my life — and I am glad to make each one.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

What a boon to the weary is memory! What a curse to the wicked! We can relive your goodness or our wickedness. It is so much better to remember some blessed promise of your word. Introspection and retrospection can produce depression and discouragement. I want to remember every promise of forgive-

ness and grace. I do not ignore my sin — I confess it and forgive it! "Saints find horror in sin, and harmony in holiness. The wicked shun the law, and the righteous sing of it" (*ibid*). It is such a comfort to know I can find forgiveness and a song any time any place.

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 have a song that Jesus gave me,
It was sent from heaven above;
There never was a sweeter melody,
'Tis a melody of love.
In my heart there rings a melody,
There rings a melody with heaven's harmony;
In my heart there rings a melody,
There rings a melody of love.

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

HIS WORD

¹⁴I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome. —Romans 1:14,15, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Paul speaks out of his heart to our hearts. We have the same obligation he had. He had been sent by our Lord to the Gentiles. Some among them were wise and some were foolish, but he like our selves was obligated to all of them. The debt Paul had was to tell them of Jesus and his love. If we have a debt and the means to pay it does seem ridiculous not to pay it. Paul was not hesitant or reluctant — he was *eager* to meet his obligation.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

What is *embezzlement*? It is to spend money intended for one purpose on some other purpose. When we have the good news and we sing it — teach it — preach it to each other it does seem to me we are blood guilty of misappropriation of heavenly currency. How is it we can spend so much of our time, thought, talent and energy on ourselves and let the world go to hell? We seem eager to do almost anything but get the word to those for whom it was intended. I do believe it is much easier to speak to the wise and foolish in our generation than it was for one in Rome. Dear Lord, forgive our apathy!

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 divine obligation we presently hold in our hands. (2) Thank you for the power in the message we tell. (3) Thank you for the adaptability of your word to the needs of the Greeks as well as the barbarians. (4) Thank you for your definition as to who is wise and who is foolish. (5) Thank you for the eagerness of Paul — what a challenge to all of us. (6) Thank you that there are more to be won today than when Paul was alive — what an opportunity!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel to you who are at Rome.” Paul’s obligation reached out in several directions: (1) It was first of all to his wonderful Lord. Because of the incredible price Jesus paid to save the world, Paul felt an obligation to let everyone know. Perhaps primary in his feeling of debt was the authority of his Lord. He had all authority and he had commanded world evangelism. (2) Paul was obligated to the lost — their need called out from him a response. (3) Paul was obligated to his own conscience — “woe is me if I preach not the gospel.”

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Our debt to our Lord, to the world, to ourselves, has not lessened — but our need for prayer has increased: (1) Bring into my experience those influences that will remind me again of the opportunities for evangelism all about me. (2) Remove from my heart the fear of men’s approval or disapproval. (3) Teach me all over again of the need for you in the hearts of all people — especially those I meet. (4) I want heaven’s eagerness in my own heart. (5) Give me your wisdom in communicating your message — I want it to be what it is: “good news.”

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As I want ears to be open to your message so I want my ears open to what you are saying to me in these verses: (1) “What shall I do with those who make no attempt to pay their debt to me and the lost?” (2) “Eagerness comes from devotion.” (3) “My message has not lost its power — but I have lost many messengers.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Andorra (Co-principality in the Pyrenees Mountains between France and Spain) — Points for prayer: (1) *There is not one known Andorran evangelical believer.* Pray that a strong witness for the gospel may soon be established in this materialistic and cosmopolitan society. (2) *The only Evangelicals* who regularly meet together are 10 Spanish and a further five Filipino sisters. Pray for their witness to local and foreign residents. (3) *Christian literature* has been distributed throughout the country on several occasions in the '70s by both the Pocket Testament League and ECM. Pray for lasting fruit.

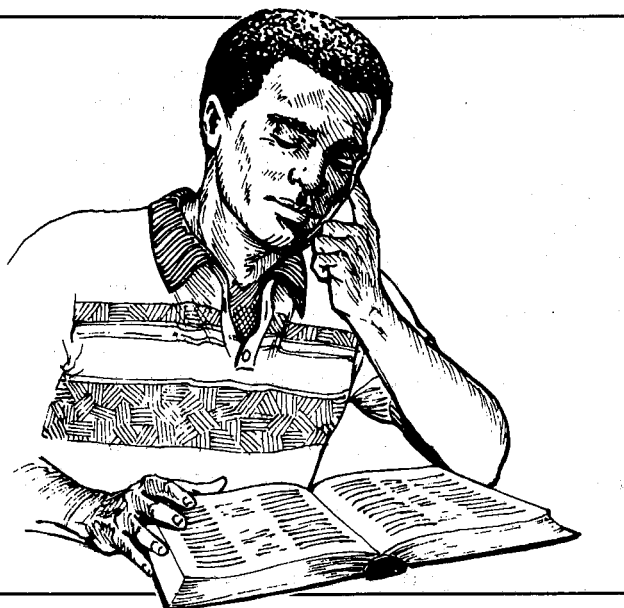
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.
Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.
When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Bear me through the swelling current,
Land me safe on Canaan’s side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Friday—

I thank you — I learn from you — you are my closest friend! I enter worship gladly!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“At midnight I rise to give you thanks for your righteous laws. I am a friend to all who fear you, to all who follow your precepts. The earth is filled with your love, O Lord; teach me your decrees” (Psa. 119:62-64). Why would anyone rise at midnight to give thanks? In particular: why would King David set this time aside? He had evidently retired earlier and awakens on purpose. He gets out of bed — perhaps to kneel as he prays. As busy as was King David he yet felt personal devotion required a prominent place in his life. I am so glad a true consideration of yourself yet produces such a response.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

When we spend our nights in prayer and praise we will spend our days with your people. How easy it is to become very selective in our choice of companions. David said he was a friend to *all* who feared you. Dear Lord, thank you for opening my heart to this truth. If the king could companion with the rich and the poor, with the obscure and the famous, it ill behooves me to do less.

I am to be able to identify your goodness in the earth about me. I am to see expressions of your love in the created world. Dear Lord, open my eyes!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I have often risen while it was still dark — but not at midnight. I have had no occasion for such a time of worship. Open my heart to consider this as a real possibility. It is far too easy for me to withdraw and seek my own company and not share with *all* of your children — forgive this yet another expression of my selfishness. How easy it is to step out into your world

and not see it. I can have ears and not hear the sounds you have placed all about me to tell me of your love — forgive me! I am glad for this renewal of my mind as related to your mercies.

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

Out in the highways and byways of life,
Many are weary and sad;
Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife,
Making the sorrowing glad.
Make me a blessing,
Make me a blessing —
Out of my life
May Jesus shine;
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray,
Make me a blessing to someone today.

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

HIS WORD

¹⁶I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.
—Romans 1:16, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

There could hardly be a more climactic, pivotal verse than this one. Paul was hindered in coming to Rome — but it was not due to any embarrassment on his part with the message he had to bring. Far from it! He was proud of it and eager to tell it. The good news of our Lord's death, burial and resurrection is the very power of heaven for man's salvation. Romans were impressed with their power to conquer the world of their day. In the midst of this world Paul introduces your world saving power: your good news!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Salvation has roots — it is your grace — salvation has fruit — justification, sanctification, glorification — but the trunk of this tree is *living faith*! The belief here stated is more, much more than mere mental assent. It is trust, confidence, obedience. What is meant can best be seen in the lives of those who expressed it in the book of Acts. It was indeed to the Jews first — as on Pentecost and the temple in Jerusalem — and then to the Gentiles in Antioch and the ends of the earth — even to Rome!

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 power of the good news observed in the life of Paul. (2) Thank you that this good news is ever fresh and new. (3) Thank you for your personal interest and investment in the good news. (4) Thank you for every Christian's part in sharing the good news. (5) Thank you for the eternal record of the success of the good news as found in your word. (6) Thank you for the present need met by the good news.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... for the Jew, then for the Gentile.” How very interesting is a consideration of your own priorities. It would seem the rule “to whom much is given much is required” applies in every realm of human existence. You chose to work through one family — i.e., Abraham — one race — the Jews — one man — your Son. The principle of reaching those who are the most responsive also seems to be in action here. Among the common people of the Jewish nation our Lord was heard gladly — but those who made decisions for the nation rejected him. And so it has always been.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Lead me into a prayer time based on this incredibly important verse: (1) How do you look at America as related to world evangelism? If we will not evangelize those next door we can not fulfill your worldwide mandate in any sense. Burden my heart! (2) If we do not teach and preach the good news are we not also ashamed of it? (3) How many have been saved in the last month because I have told the good news? Does this mean anything to you? Open the eyes of my heart. (4) The Jews rejected your Son — you turned to the Gentiles — does this apply to our country? (5) Keep me full of the joy of salvation or I can not share it with anyone.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me with this power packed verse: (1) “Shame is expressed in hiding and inaction.” (2) “I see through all your excuses — and yet I love you and seek your service for me.” (3) “The whole world can be saved by any generation that takes my commission seriously.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Angola — Points for prayer: (1) *Pray for the peace of this unhappy land.* Many areas are scenes of both bitter civil war and confrontation with South African forces from Namibia. There have been enormous casualties through fighting and famine. Many have fled to surrounding lands. Pray for freedom for the gospel and a government that honors God. Praise the Lord for thrilling accounts of full and growing churches in most areas! (2) *Many refugess have fled to Zambia, Zaire and Namibia.* Pray for the Christian workers ministering to their spiritual needs in Namibia; most of the refugees are being evangelized for the first time. Efforts are being made for the evangelization of the refugees in Zambia; there are over 50 assemblies of Chokwe refugees among them! (3) *There has been an increase in witchcraft in many areas* since independence. Many believers have suffered persecution as a result. Pray for such a manifestation of the power of God that many of Satan's captives may be freed. (4) *Some missionaries of Africa Evangelical Fellowship, African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Brethren* still work in the country, but often with restrictions on their ministry. In some areas they may not preach; in others they face danger in traveling in war zones, shortages and many trials. Pray for them, and pray for reinforcements and the issuing of necessary visas. The number of workers needed will greatly increase should peace come to the land. (5) *Radio broadcasts reach the land in three languages from TWR* in Swaziland.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.
Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease,
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.
He breaks the power of canceled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.
Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come;
And leap, ye lame, for joy.
My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Saturday—

It was good for me to be afflicted. I am learning this more and more in worship of you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees. It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold” (Psa. 119:67,68; 71,72). “Often our trials act as a thorn hedge to keep us in the good pasture, but our prosperity is a gap through which we go astray. If any of us remember a time in which we had no trouble, we also probably recollect that then grace was law, and temptation was strong” (*ibid*).

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 qualities of yourself in these verses are indeed valuable: (1) You can turn affliction to our good and your glory. (2) Goodness is the essence of your very being. (3) You are a teacher — your decrees are what is taught. (4) You have a personal interest in each one who is being taught. (5) You can help us to appreciate the value of your law. In each of these attributes I want to lift my heart in praise. Give me the wisdom to make application of your word and your providence to my own life. Whatever I decide I *know* you are good and goodness is the purpose in all your ways.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

It would seem to me that I have gone astray afflicted or not. However — you know just how much affliction is good for each of us. My life has not been one of affliction — at least from my evaluation. I know you know my deepest needs and it is enough. Forgive

my laxness even in affliction — to say nothing of times of prosperity. I do want to learn from every experience of life something new about your decrees. There are times when I forget and my heart becomes callous — the sharp pain of affliction gets my attention. Thank you — but forgive the need for 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 Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

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

HIS WORD

¹⁷For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” —Romans 1:17, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, you know I tremble within to attempt any kind of interpretation of this great verse. I simply cast myself upon you and ask that I might understand just a little of all involved in the provision and promise made here. In the good news is a means of provision for your righteousness and ours. You can be both just or righteous and a justifier — One who declares as righteous. The promise of right standing before you is appropriated by our faith. Faith is the center and circumference of our righteousness. Our whole life with you is dependent on our faith.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

If there ever was a verse to lift the heart this is it! In my personal acceptance of the death of Christ for my sins is a means by which I can stand before you just as if I had never sinned. This does *not* free me from the responsibility of living for him who died for me — indeed it motivates me to do all I can to please him — out of sheer gratitude if for no other reason. It is from my personal faith I receive all I have in my standing before you. My whole life in your presence comes from faith. Needless to say this is a living, active, obedient faith — there is no other kind. Praise your name!

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 first of all and most of all for the good news — without it we would have nothing and be nothing. (2) Thank you for the freedom we have in knowing we can be righteous in your sight — and in our own conscience. (3) Thank you for the wonderful letter of Paul on the subject of justification by faith — even his epistle to the Romans — yea, to all Christians. (4) Thank you for the constant revelation of righteousness — ever before me and above me and within me. (5) Thank you that even now I live by faith.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“The righteous will live by faith.” What a wonder: to be alive and righteous! We are alive from our death in trespasses and sins. We stand before your bar of justice in the righteousness of your Son. We do feel like the prodigal son who came home. The father of that beautiful story well represents us when he says: “my son who was dead is alive.” We have on our backs the best robe in the father’s house. The crimson robe of righteousness. We have on our hand the ring of recognition in the form of the Holy Spirit. It is surely right to be glad and celebrate!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What requests can I make in the presence of such love? (1) Enable me to every day relive the power of the good news in my own life. (2) I want the wisdom to be a messenger of this good news to all my friends. (3) It is a deep source of comfort to know you look on me as righteous and retain your own righteousness. May I be able to express this to you in praise. (4) I believe; help my unbelief — it is almost too good to be true! (5) I want to enter into the joy of being alive from eternal death!

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

If ever there was one verse that could speak to my heart it would be this one: (1) “Do you really know what a treasure you have in the gospel?” (2) “Why do you fluctuate in your attitude toward me? I do not do that with my attitude toward you.” (3) “Do you think you should be happier than Lazarus who was raised from physical death? Then act like it!”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Angola — Points for prayer: (1) *The Church in the government-controlled areas* nearer the coast was more nominal in the past. Suffering is purifying many but causing bitterness, hatred, and a tribalistic spirit among others. Over 53 congregations of Christian refugees have been formed in the area. The Church is under considerable pressure, and some leaders have compromised with Marxism. There are limitations on youth work and the building of new churches. Pray for the witness of the Christians in times of much intimidation and persecution. The Evangelical Fellowship of Angola was formed in 1974, and provides a means of fellowship among believers and a channel of communication to the authorities. (2) *The churches in the war-ravaged center and south* continue to meet together. Many have to function in incredibly difficult situations — famine, destruction, loss of believers who “disappear” to fight, lack of leaders, lack of money to buy Bibles, etc. A few Bible schools still manage to carry on. (3) *Literature and Bibles are scarce* and in great demand. Pray for the supplies entering from Namibia, Canada, Portugal and Brazil, that these books and Bibles may reach those who need them. Many Spanish Bibles have also been taken in for distribution among the Cubans.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell,
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win:
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin.
When years of time shall pass away
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When men, who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call,
God’s love so sure shall still endure,
All measureless and strong:
Redeeming grace to Adam’s race —
The saints’ and angels’ song.
Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry,
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.