

WEEK FOUR

—Sunday—

I have said when I wrote this expression of worship: "the concept of infinity simply steps beyond the powers of our poor minds." But I want to worship you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

From everlasting to everlasting (Gen. 21:33; Psa. 90:2). How beautiful a description this is of yourself! There never has been a time when you did not exist. The concept of infinity simply steps beyond the powers of our poor minds. In the eons of eternity, before this world existed, before there was an Adam and Eve, before there was one angel, you were even as you are now and even as you will ever be. Dear Father, this quality of yourself says several things to me. (1) You have the experience of millennia of time to prepare you (is that the right word?) for any and all experiences I will have.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Everlasting to everlasting for me. (2) There never will be a time when you are not there. You will be present for every emergency — for every hard question — for every personal need, you are "always there" as perfect Person. (3) One day I will graduate from this school into the eternal realm where you have lived and are living and will live. I will live there with you and your dear Son and the blessed Holy Spirit. There I will understand so much more of what is now only seen dimly. (4) Praise somehow seems inadequate in your presence. But it is essentially all I have. I raise my whole heart to you!

How do you personally relate to the timelessness of God, and God who is from "Everlasting to Everlasting"?

CONFESSION OF SIN

To fail to recognize your greatness is a sin of gigantic proportion. How sad it is for me to limit your eternal value to the time-frame of my own understanding. Dear everlasting Father: forgive me for not truly knowing you! Dear God, open my eyes. Cleanse my heart. Somehow I want to stand with Isaiah and see your total character fill the whole house of the world in which we live!

"Wrong for wrong." Who gave us this concept? The

law — the principle of equalness. Do you return wrong (i.e., punishment or hurt) for wrong? No, no, no, we would all be in torment this minute if you did. Can we not give to others what you have given to us?

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

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

HIS WORD

'Finding the disciples there, we stayed with them seven days. Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. 'But when our time was up, we left and continued on our way. All the disciples and their wives and children accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray. 'After saying good-bye to each other, we went aboard the ship, and they returned home. —Acts 21:4-6, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How good to find learners at Tyre! Who were they? You know them — every one. How many other disciples have been at Tyre? Are there any there today? I ask these questions only to identify with the text. Seven days is enough time to know people rather well. How was it that "the disciples" "through the Spirit" urged Paul "not to go to Jerusalem" and the same Spirit "compelled" him to go? Thank you — I know the answer: It was the disciples' reaction to the "bonds and afflictions" that awaited Paul in Jerusalem. Paul's reaction to "prison and hardships" was;

"I consider my life worth nothing" as compared to the value of his work of teaching and preaching your rule among men. How wonderfully poignant is the scene on the beach! How I would like to hear the prayers! You have and do. Is not the record of all good kept? Perhaps I can one day hear them!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Yes, yes — where is the spontaneous personal interest in your Son and his work? How good to see the spread of your word over the length and breadth of the land of promise. How do I react to negative messages from the Holy Spirit? He has spoken very bluntly in his word: "Let nothing be done through envy or strife." "Count each one better than yourself." "Speak not evil of one another." The reaction of Paul to personal harm needs to be my reaction to an assault on my ego! My life is of no value as compared to the value of your rule in the hearts of men beginning with my heart!

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the beautiful oneness described in the association of Paul and the Christians at Tyre. (2) Thank you for the whole families who are involved in Paul's visit — all Paul said related to the whole family. (3) Thank you for the kneeling in prayer — perhaps they learned this from our blessed Lord. (4) Thank you for the tearful parting — so encouraging to see such love. (5) Thank you for Luke's poignant words, "... and they returned home." (6) Thank you for the preservation of this record even until our day. (7) Thank you that I can find and have found people with the same unselfish love and interest.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"All the disciples and their wives and children accompanied us out of the city." The personalness of this record convinces us of its reality — especially when we know we are reading something nineteen hundred years old! The manuscripts of 350 A.D. give us a document over 1600 years old. What are the possibilities that men of the second or the third century fictionalized such an account? The details are too many and too accurate and too casual to be anything but the account of an eyewitness! There are other lines of evidence, but this needs to be said. I'm glad to say it! The whole family was reached for our Lord. How many disciples were there in Tyre? Perhaps we should ask, "How many family units were reached for our Lord?" The Holy Spirit lived in each member and spoke through some of them. The supernatural knowledge that Paul was to endure imprisonment and mistreatment at Jerusalem made them want to be with

him as long as at all possible. I confidently expect to meet each one of these disciples and ask more details than we have here.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Paul's journey to Jerusalem was beset with warnings. He must have been often in prayer: (1) In the seven days at Tyre I wonder what was discussed? Perhaps: "Use Paul's witness to change hearts." (2) Grant me the same commitment to your will amid those who unwittingly wish to deter me. (3) May the tender love of family sharing be a part of my service. (4) Teach me how to share in personal public prayer. (5) Dr. Luke knew it was "through the Holy Spirit" that Paul was warned. How did Luke know this? (6) Help me to be willing to prefer traveling to "home" if others can know of my Lord. (7) May prayer mean more to me than ever before.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these three verses are three things you want to say to me: (1) "Disciples are 'learners' — are you a disciple?" (2) "The Holy Spirit is still directing the body of my Son." (3) "Pray with others — all of you will be blessed."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Missionaries' Children (MKs) The education of missionaries' children is one of the major causes for suspending or terminating the cross-cultural ministry of missionaries at the very time when they are at the peak of their usefulness.

Points for prayer: (1) *The children themselves.* MKs often live under unusual conditions; many have an identity crisis as they grow up in two worlds, and some become resentful or rebellious. Pray that both parents and children may be a united team for the spread of the gospel, and for a right balance between ministry and family. (2) *Primary education* is often provided locally or through correspondence courses with parental guidance. It is hard for mothers and fathers to play the dual role of parent and teacher, and stresses in this area can impair the ministry. (3) *Secondary education* is the major problem. In some cases MK schools on the field are possible. In other cases the only possibility for further education is in the home country.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

The great Physician now is near,
The sympathizing Jesus;
He speaks the drooping heart to cheer,
Oh, hear the name of Jesus.
Sweetest note in Seraph song,
Sweetest name on mortal tongue;
Sweetest carol ever sung,
Jesus, blessed Jesus.

WEEK FOUR

—Monday—

There are times I feel exceedingly weak — then I can rejoice in your strength — when I am weak your strength is so meaningful. Teach me as I worship you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

El — The Strong One. Our Lord used such a name on the cross when he said, “My God, my God,” and Eloi, Eloi — “*My Strength, My Strength*” is a part of the same name. Dear Father, how glad I am to honor you as “the *strength* of my life.” But you are “the *strength*” of the life of the whole world — and all that in it is. Is this the same as saying you are the sum source of “energy” or the “dynamic” of all life? I believe it is! Wonder of all wonders! Oh, *praise and amazement* does not at all adequately express my deep appreciation of your Person. How I need such inward reinforcements.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

The Strong One for me. Oh, that all the energy you have given to me for every task over all these many years might be attributed to the right source — it is not my strength or cleverness, not my inventive genius, but you, you are the true *Source* — the real power to will and to do. Praise your name forever! How profound is the thought that you are in truth the Intelligent Power or energy behind all that lives — indeed behind all that is animate or inanimate! Why should I ever doubt that *you are able to do* far abundantly *above everything* that I ask or think! *Not* for my glory — Dear God, deliver me from this, but for recognition of “El” — the Strong One!

How do you personally relate to the strength of God, and God who is “El” — the Strong One?

CONFESSION OF SIN

How sad to say I have leaned upon the strength of “the flesh” which is so totally undependable. One day my body is rested and strong, the next weak and dull. Does this relate to you? Have you lost your strength? I act and speak and even think as if you have. Oh, it is sin, sin! Forgive me! Dear Lord, I need so very much to be able to pause in the midst of discouragement and identify the Source of my strength. Will you please help me to do it?

“*Grieving the Holy Spirit.*” How unique! What greater sin against the Holy One than to try to lift the weight of life in our own strength when *The Strength* of all the world awaits? He is grieved by my trusting in the arm of the flesh. Forgive me!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,
A wonderful Savior to me,
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
Where rivers of pleasure I see.
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;
He hideth my life in the depths of his love,
And covers me there with His hand,
And covers me there with His hand.

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

HIS WORD

⁷We continued our voyage from Tyre and landed at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for a day. ⁸Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. ⁹He had four unmarried daughters who had the gift of prophecy. — *Acts 21:7-9, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What a beautiful visit! To stay a whole day at Ptolemais — on what day of the week was it? How many brothers were there? From whom did these men hear the good news? Once again, I’m only asking to get the flavor of the text as you already see the whole. I’m only looking into a very small part of the whole. What was discussed during the day with “the brothers” of Ptolemais? I can make up answers for each question, but I will await your full revelation. Oh, to be in Caesarea in 56 A.D.! How I long to accompany Luke and all the others as a visitor in the house of Philip the evangelist! Wouldn’t it be wonderful to be

introduced to Philip's gifted daughters? Indeed it would! Philip was one who heralded forth the glad tidings. But where did he get his information? Did he depend on "hearsay," i.e., what others could remember and told him? I think not! He shared the gift his daughters possessed. The Holy Spirit equipped him with information and miracles for accreditation. Have I read it right? Dear Lord, you know.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How many people did Philip reach as he lived and labored at Caesarea? It has been a long time since we read in Acts 8:40 "Philip . . . preached the gospel in all the towns (of the plain of Sharon) until he reached Caesarea." It has been several years. How many? 10? 15? 20? 25? It has been at least 15 years. What has he been doing in the important seaport since he arrived? If his name is an indication of his work — and we believe it is — he has been preaching to the residents of the city and through Christians to others in the district. How did Philip, the evangelist, acquire a home? To whom did his daughters prophesy? Why were they unmarried? How intriguing are all these questions! How much I wish I knew the answers to them. We *can* say with confidence: (1) Philip did own a home — "the house of Philip." (2) His daughters did express their gift to those for whom it was intended.

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 every unknown brother and sister who love you as I do. (2) Thank you for the accuracy of the Luke account that can be checked even today. (3) Thank you for Philip — such a faithful, consistent man. (4) Thank you for the warm, unqualified hospitality extended to Paul wherever he went. (5) Thank you for each of the daughters of Philip — I wish I knew their names — such a good testimony. (6) Thank you for Philip's unnamed wife — a real essential part of this team. (7) Thank you for the Spiritual gifts that equipped the church at Caesarea.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... four unmarried daughters who had the gift of prophecy." How we would like to know more about these girls. Here are some things we *can* know about them: (1) They were sorely needed inasmuch as there was no New Testament. The church was built upon "the apostles and prophets" (prophetess), Eph. 2:20. The sum total of divine direction through teaching came from this source. (2) They were the literal fulfillment of prophecy. When Peter predicted through Joel "your sons and daughters shall prophesy" (Acts 2:17-19), these are some of those who fulfilled the

prophecy of these last days. (3) They were very likely not alone — in many congregations of the Roman empire there were other young women — or older women who had this ability.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Tyre, Ptolemais and Caesarea are all such interesting places. Are there prayer requests in these verses? (1) May my first interest in any place be the salvation of the lost. (2) Teach me from the total lack of Christians in these places just how important it is to teach your word to every generation. (3) Dear Lord, help all who believe to be One. (4) How I would like to know just how Philip's daughters obtained the gift of prophecy. (5) Just whom did these daughters teach? (6) May I follow the example of Philip the evangelist — just where did he evangelize? (7) Why had Philip stayed in Caesarea for such a long time (Acts 8:40)? I confidently expect an answer to these requests in the study of your word.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me: (1) "If Paul could be friendly to those who were unfriendly, so can you." (2) "Many labor for me that you do not know or appreciate." (3) "Women have much to teach us in so many ways."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Christian Literature More than half the born-again Christians in the world testify that literature played a part in their conversion. Its role in strengthening Christians is incalculable. The Communists appreciate the importance of literature and spent over \$5 billion on propaganda in one year.

Points for prayer: (1) *Crash literacy programs* in many parts of the world create an immense desire for *any* literature among newly literates. Pray for a greater interest among churches in this ministry. (2) *Very few languages have an adequate range of Christian literature.* Literature translated from English can be good, but can never be a substitute for that written by nationals. Yet there is a critical lack of spiritual and mature Christian writers in nearly every language.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I have found a friend in Jesus,
He's everything to me,
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul;
The Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see
All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.
In sorrow He's my comfort, in trouble He's my stay,
He tells me every care on Him to roll:
He's the Lily of the Valley,
the Bright and Morning Star,
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.

WEEK FOUR

—Tuesday—

I have found hidden qualities of yourself — and every one is full of beauty! Just now I enter your closet for a fresh look!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Elah or Eloah — The Adorable One (Ezra 4:24). You are not only the One God wholly worthy of our adoration, but you have such attractive attributes that adoring you is a spontaneous response of our hearts. Since all men and all women are but a faint reflection of yourself, we can find the most attractive person we could imagine and multiply their beauty ten thousand times and we would have but a hazy representation of your adorable self! If we would imagine a super generous benefactor who would give us gift after gift of both practical and divine value, and then enlarge immeasurably the generosity and thoughtfulness of such a Giver, it would be yourself! Surely you have merited all the love of all men!

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Elah or Eloah — “Adorable One” for me! Dear Father, I have indeed found you more than worthy of all my adoration. How can I say I love you? What I have told those I love I can express to you in total abandonment. There is nothing in my mind or experience in what I know of you that would in any way hinder me from absolute adoration! My wife never tires of hearing me say, “I love you” — surely I never tire of the same words from her. I try each time to demonstrate by action and thoughtfulness the truth of those precious words. So it is immeasurably more true in my worship at least in words, when I say “I love you.” For today I do want to demonstrate in life just how true are those words.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is easier now to see why our blessed Lord spoke so often of loving God with all our hearts — of loving him, of loving one another — even of loving ourselves as we love our neighbor — for love is of yourself. Sin in its essence is failing to return love. Dear Lord,

that I should ever be so involved with the gifts that I forget the Giver! Forgive me!

“Quenching the Spirit” — how do I do this? Is the Holy Spirit a fire? He is so symbolized. A fire gives warmth — when I choose to be cold or cool I quench the Spirit. A fire gives light — when I choose to live in darkness, I quench him. A fire is fascinatingly interesting — when I am fascinated by someone else or something else, I quench him who lives in me. Dear God, on all these counts I plead guilty. 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

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

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

HIS WORD

¹⁰After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, “The Holy Spirit says, ‘In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’”

¹²When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³Then Paul answered, “Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

¹⁴When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, “The Lord's will be done.” —Acts 21:10-14, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

While in Caesarea a remarkable incident took place. How differently you look at it than I do. Agabus is so well known to you — so little do I know about him. He seems a strange man to me — indeed he is, but to you his mother, father, family and house are all known. Did you speak to him directly or did you communicate through someone else? Why this instance on the persecution of Paul? Were you trying to give Paul a choice or a test? I want to enter into this text in a deep appreciation of all you have said. Is Agabus saying anything Paul has not already heard? I am struggling over just why you sent this prophet with his dramatic warning. I am persuaded you are trying to show all of us just what real dedication to you and your Son means.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Is there a pattern here for my imitation? We could say: "It was easy enough for Paul to endure hardships — he had the constant directions from the Holy Spirit. We do not know why things befall us — we do not hear the Holy Spirit speak to us today." Such is a pathetic expression of not only lack of faith, but of Biblical ignorance. Does the Holy Spirit now live in our bodies as his temple or not? Of course he does (Rom. 8:9-12; I Cor. 6:19)! Has the Holy Spirit given to us through his prophets and apostles "all things that relate to this life — and the life of faith" or not (II Pet. 1:3)? Of course he has!

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 extended visit to Caesarea — even when Paul was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem he took time to visit and teach. (2) Thank you for the personal love and concern so many had in the life and welfare of Paul. (3) Thank you for the dramatic, exciting action the Holy Spirit took in communicating his message — nothing dull or stodgy here. (4) Thank you for your warnings — which are as much a part of your love as your blessings. (5) Thank you for tears and entreaties — all of which must be evaluated for meaning. (6) Thank you for your will which is indicated as much by man's choices as direction of circumstance. (7) Thank you for "the name (or authority) of the Lord Jesus" — by this Paul lived and was ready to die!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... we gave up and said, *The Lord's will be done.*" How could we "give up" and still be in "the will of the Lord"? This is perhaps the one thing that indicates the presence of his will more than anything else. This indicates a real pattern for us. The disciples

thought it reasonable to be concerned for Paul's safety. When they knew he was in danger, they thought it God's will to warn him — even to dissuade him from entering the place of danger.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

It will be easy to pray for Paul, and ourselves, from this text: (1) Dear Lord, may I know how to separate conflicting messages from those who know our Lord. (2) Give me wisdom in reading aright Paul's intention in this incident. (3) It is sometimes necessary to suffer for your name — let me know when and why. (4) If you do not choose to tell me when or why, may I be willing yet to suffer for you. (5) Why did Luke plead with Paul not to go to Jerusalem — wasn't Luke inspired? (6) Why wouldn't Paul be dissuaded? (7) What was "the Lord's will" in this circumstance? As always I confidently expect your answer to these questions.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

There are so many messages for me in this text: (1) "Opposition does not necessarily mean you should change your plans." (2) "Sometimes all of your best friends are wrong." (3) "The only one who has all the answers is myself."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Christian Literature — Points for prayer: (1) *The rapidly increasing cost of printing* and the poverty of the people most needing the literature hinder this ministry. Pray for needed funds to launch programs. Pray that profitable areas for selling Christian literature may be used to finance production in poorer areas and where there are few Christians. (2) *There is a worldwide shortage of Christian printers.* Pray for all those engaged in printing, and also for the smooth running of expensive machinery — breakdown in under-developed lands can be disastrous. (3) *Literature missionaries are too few.* Pray for the calling of those with the right qualities and qualifications for this ministry — in journalism, printing, publishing, writing, distribution, etc. Few Bible schools give adequate attention to the training of literature missionaries.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

WEEK FOUR

—Wednesday—

You are the "God most high" whether I admit it, accept it or not. I want to enter a very positive relationship in this time of prayer.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

God Most High (Gen. 14: 18-22; Num. 24:16). Exalted — lifted up, ascended. Dear Father, you are all this to me, but it is your position before men — before all men with which I am concerned. One day — when all days will end — “Every tongue” will offer you the praise and full recognition you now deserve. “Every knee shall bow” and look up to see your exalted position — nay, more — your character. It is only because of a little salt you have not already destroyed this world. The unnamed poet has said it so well:

Lord of all! enthroned afar,
Thy glory flames from sun and star;
Center and Soul of my sphere,
Yet to each loving heart how near.

We bow before you now and gladly acknowledge your greatness.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

God Most-High to me. I am a child — a citizen, a soldier — a slave of this God Most-High. Dear Lord, I want you to be “the most high God” in the nitty gritty relationships of life. Is your word exalted as the “most high” book I have in my library? Am I constantly searching every word you have said? Or am I interested in what men have said you have said? Are you most high God to me when I find a contradiction in my conduct or thought process? I.e., am I willing to change my mind or am I ready to accept a lower place for you? Dear God, I do want to mean just what these terms mean. You are above all — “before all.”

How do you personally relate to the exaltation of God, and God who is Most-High?

CONFESSION OF SIN

I have already begun to acknowledge my need — my sin. There is little need of seeing you “exalted” — “lifted up” before all men if you are not exalted in my life. I am seeking for more practical applications

of this relationship. To exalt you is to exalt your character as seen in your Son. With my wife, will I exalt your kindness? With my students, will I exalt your patience? With other teachers, will I exalt your appreciation? Forgive me, Lord, I have sinned in all these areas. “*Shepherds who feed only themselves.*” Could it be that they fail to exalt the Great Shepherd?

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

True-hearted, whole-hearted, faithful and loyal,
King of our lives, by Thy grace we will be;
Under the standard exalted and royal,
Strong in Thy strength we will battle for Thee.
Peal out the watchword! silence it never!
Song of our spirits, rejoicing and free;
Peal out the watchword! loyal forever,
King of our lives, by Thy grace we will be.

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

HIS WORD

¹⁵After this, we got ready and went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁶Some of the disciples from Caesarea accompanied us and brought us to the home of Mnason, where we were to stay. He was a man from Cyprus and one of the early disciples.

¹⁷When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers received us warmly. ¹⁸The next day Paul and the rest of us went to see James, and all the elders were present.

¹⁹Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

²⁰When they heard this, they praised God. — *Acts 21:15-20a, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I want to get ready and go with the disciples up to Jerusalem. It could not have been without some real

apprehension they approached the gates of the holy city. But there was a warm welcome and a spacious home awaiting them. *Mnason* is one more of the little known disciples. Only little known to me. Not with you. Did *Mnason* know *Barnabas*? Both were men of Cyprus, both were early disciples, both were open-hearted in sharing with others. Perhaps *Mnason* was just as generous with his words of love and encouragement as he was with room and board. What great expectations were present in this house! To hear of all God (yourself) had done through Paul's ministry — to anticipate the renewed meaning of the feast of Pentecost.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How very good to look on others as your brothers! The dear close associations and remembrances of a family is what is involved here. To look into the faces of men you haven't met before and know that these are long unknown brothers — each of you want to hear what the mutual Father has been doing in your lives. How I would love to look into the face of James our Lord's brother! At the same time we ask, "Where are Judas, Simeon, and Joseph? And what of our Lord's sisters?" (Matt. 13:54-56). We can assume that the letter of Jude was written by Judas, but what happened to the others? Were they "the brothers" in the upper room (Acts 1:14ff.)? We want to believe they were! How many elders were there to hear Paul?

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 generous hospitality of many in Jerusalem — *Mnason* in particular. (2) Thank you for the personal note of Luke about *Mnason* so we may appreciate his long time faithfulness. (3) Thank you for some Jews in Jerusalem who were not bigoted — who were willing to be open-minded and warm-hearted. (4) Thank you for James who came to accept and honor his divine brother. (5) Thank you for every elder — none of whom I know, but all are known to you. (6) Thank you for every detail of Paul's account, some of which we can read in this book of Acts. (7) Thank you for the willingness of the elders and apostles to praise God for the conversion of Gentiles.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"When they heard this they praised God." This is a statement of a tremendous breakthrough in human history. It is an amazing account! Jewish leaders in the holy city rejoicing over the conversion to a new religion of a group of unclean Gentiles! We really cannot appreciate or approximate the kind of hatred and prejudice present in the hearts of the Jews. Surely two wonderful things had happened: (1) The authority

and love of our Lord and his message for all the world had penetrated their hearts. The example of the house of *Cornelius* no doubt helped. (2) The law-system of salvation had totally failed in their lives and was an obvious failure with the whole Jewish nation. We try to get the depth of the praise here lifted, but I'm sure we do not.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Jerusalem at last! How Paul wanted to be there — and yet there was much about which to pray: (1) No mention is made here of the distribution of the money Paul collected on this journey (Cf. I Cor. 16:1-4). Read Romans 15:31 for Paul's prayer request. (2) Give me the unselfish, humble attitude that characterized Paul in this incident. (3) Thank you for the hospitality seen so often in the life of the apostolic church. (4) There seem to be "brothers" or "disciples" in almost every city — why? (5) I want to read the epistle of James to absorb his wisdom. (6) What were the elders in Jerusalem doing in the direction of the church there? (7) How could the elders rejoice at the conversion of the Gentiles when other Jews didn't?

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In this prelude before the storm what do you say to me? (1) "There are many disciples today who would welcome you into their house — appreciate it!" (2) "I have placed elders in the body for a purpose." (3) "Tell others of my blessings upon your work — it will help them and you."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Christian Tentmakers Since the time of tentmaker Paul it has often been expedient or essential to use a secular skill or profession as a platform for sharing the gospel (Acts 18:3).

Points for prayer: (1) *Pray for the specific calling of Christians* with the necessary qualifications and spirituality to serve in "closed" lands — specifically the Muslim heartlands, Central Asia and Communist ruled lands. (2) *Adequate cultural and spiritual preparation* is hard to obtain while retaining the necessary expertise, yet it is essential. Pray for good, appropriate training and screening of this special type of worker.

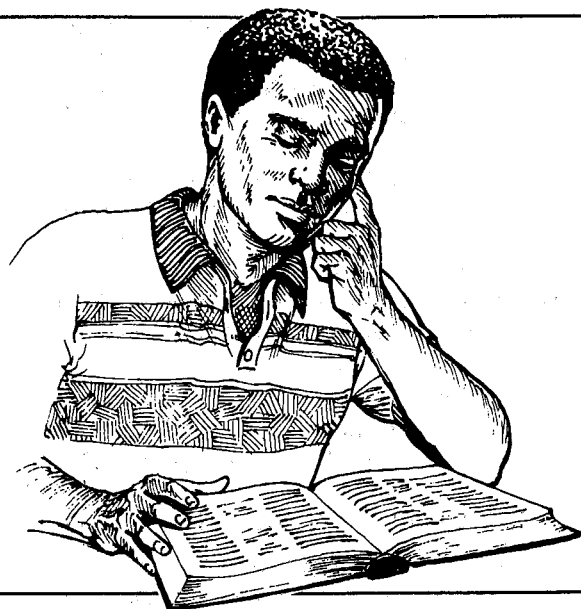
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

We would see Jesus, for the shadows lengthen
Across this little landscape of our life;
We would see Jesus, our weak faith to strengthen
For the last weariness, the final strife.

WEEK FOUR

—Thursday—

You, my dear Lord see me. Right now right here you see me. I lay my whole heart out before you. Thus do I enter this worship time.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

El-Roi — The Lord That Seeth (Gen. 16:13,14). Only once did you associate yourself with this quality, and at such an unexpected time. How I wish I knew more about Hagar. Dear Lord, I know you know all about her. You supplied her need for water for herself and her son. She even named her son after this incident, Ishmael — “the God who hears.” Praise your many-faceted name! How wonderfully good to know Someone who sees with compassion and understanding like no one else. “Thou, O Lord, seest me.” In the midst of family quarrels and sharp, deep misunderstanding, you see and understand like no one else.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

“*The Lord that seeth me.*” You have not caught me as a spy, for nothing has been hidden from you. You see me as no one else ever could — for no one else can read and know my heart. Dear God, I do not even know my heart. I do know that a negative introspection becomes totally fruitless. I do want to repent of my sin, but I have found no help in lacerating my spirit; it has become a form of pride. I am glad to turn my deceitful heart over to the only One who truly knows it. Cleanse and heal and change me. Do you see a million lost persons saved through me? You saw a great nation in Hagar. Dear God, make it so!

How do you personally relate to the omnipresence of God, and God who is El-Roi?

CONFESSION OF SIN

How often have I acted as if you did not see me! “Hidden sin” is only hidden from men. But bless your name! hidden virtue is only hidden from men. You see it, appreciate it, acknowledge it, reward it. I confess openly that I am far too interested in what men see and say than what you see and have said (and through this prayer time are now saying to me). Forgive me! I am afraid and try to hide myself — it is

only a meaningless act of shame. Forgive me; lead me out into your light.

“*Grumbling*” — of all people who should not sin in this way, it is Americans. But as you hear the sound of grumbling when it is the most intense? I know you hear our groanings and cries — you said you do. Dear God, for one day you will not hear it from me!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain,
Free to all — a healing stream,
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.
In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever;
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.

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

HIS WORD

²⁰When they heard this, they praised God. Then they said to Paul: “You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law. ²¹They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or live according to our customs. ²²What shall we do? They will certainly hear that you have come, ²³so do what we tell you. There are four men with us who have made a vow. ²⁴Take these men, join in their purification rites and pay their expenses, so that they can have their heads shaved. Then everybody will know there is no truth in these reports about you, but that you yourself are living in obedience to the law. ²⁵As for the Gentile believers, we have written to them our decision that they should abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality.”

²⁶The next day Paul took the men and purified himself along with them. Then he went to the temple

to give notice of the date when the days of purification would end and the offering would be made for each of them. — *Acts 21:20-26, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How sadly do I enter this portion of worship! I know you were present when this conversation first took place. There is always joy and sorrow mingled in the same cup. Thousands of Jews in Jerusalem have become Christians — what a testimony to the power of the good news! At the same time, these same people are jealous of their supposed advantage over the Gentiles. It looks to me — correct me (and I *mean* it) if I am wrong — that these men are really asking all men to become as they are “Christian Jews” or Jewish Christians. To adopt all the traditional outlook of their background. How easy it is for me to do the same thing!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Do I really know what others teach or am I willing to repeat “hearsay” or gossip! Do others really know what I teach? Does love prevail in either case? Just how much of the law and customs did Paul teach the Gentiles? Fortunately we have his letters to the Gentiles. We can answer this question best by reading Romans or Galatians.

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 thousands and thousands that could be converted today if we had the same zeal and love. (2) Thank you for the record of misunderstanding in the early church — it helps us in today’s church. (3) Thank you for the example of the influence of one man — it helps me to appreciate the same thing today. (4) Thank you for efforts to reach out to those who violently disagree with us. (5) Thank you that we can hold very different views on matters of opinion and still both be Christians. (6) Thank you for the clear regulations for the Gentiles which obtain even today. (7) Thank you for Paul’s humility, zeal, love, unselfishness, courage.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*You yourself are living in obedience to the law.*” Even such obedience would not provide salvation but it was hoped it would provide a bridge over which communication between the extreme right and Paul could flow. Several things need to be noticed: (1) The Jews in Jerusalem were trying to do something about the problem. They did not hide from it or ignore it. (2) Paul was willing to allow the temple worship with all its ceremony if it was not made a test of fellowship. (3) The predictions of our Lord concerning the

soon coming destruction of the temple could have been a factor in the hatred of some for the Christians.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the advice of the elders there is surely room for prayer: (1) Lead me into a circumstance where I could influence a whole ethnic group as Paul did with the Jews. (2) Open our hearts to love the Jewish people and tell them of their Messiah. (3) Give me grace to do all I can to accommodate and not compromise. (4) May I respect and keep the laws of the land that I might better be able to speak to all. (5) Thank you that it is possible to be purified by the sacrifice of Calvary. (6) Paul invested time, money and energy into a ritual that was not necessary to help those who hated him — I need your grace to be like him. (7) May I share some of the pathos of Romans 9:1,2.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As Paul hoped against hope, speak to me: (1) “Your very best intentions can be misinterpreted.” (2) “It is not wrong to try to help even if you are rejected.” (3) “I can work out something good from every circumstance.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Outreach to Cultists The worldwide growth and spread of missionary cults of western and eastern origin has been a striking phenomenon in the twentieth century.

Points for prayer: (1) *Jehovah’s Witnesses* have grown worldwide from 916,000 members in 1960 to 2,842,000 in 1984. There are over 7,500,000 adherents today. Many give sacrificial hours in door-to-door work to proclaim a false message in 202 nations. (2) *The Mormons* (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) have similarly grown from 1,408,000 adherents in 1960 to 5,300,000 in 1985. The short-term missionary work of the Mormons puts many Protestant churches to shame. (3) The multiplication of many *Hindu-Buddhist cults* among disillusioned young people in the West has brought many into bondage and distress. (4) The high profile activities of the *Unification Church* (Moonies) and *Scientology* are well known.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Christ has for sin atonement made.

What a wonderful Savior!

We are redeemed! the price is paid!

What a wonderful Savior!

What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Jesus!

What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Lord!

WEEK FOUR

—Friday—

You call me "the new Israel" but I feel like the old Jacob. You know me better than I know myself — I trust you. Teach me as I worship you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

The God of Israel (Gen. 33:18-20). You gave Jacob the new name — now he gives it back to you. As Jacob's claim to identity with you is in his new name, so is our identity in the new name you have given for all men: "Christians" — the new "Israel." Dear God, we have indeed struggled — or simply "hung on" to you — out of your grace you have given us this wonderful new name. We are so glad to be "the anointed ones." We reign with him a thousand years. How I do want to keep ever before me the astounding fact that you want *all* men to be Christians. The new Israel of yourself includes all men of all nations.

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 am the Israel of yourself! I surely can identify with Jacob — in so many ways his experiences parallel mine. What Jacob found in the physical land of Canaan I want to find in my sojourn here. There must be a day when I present my body as a living sacrifice and build a "Bethel" — or house of God — "gate to heaven." The wonder and beauty of that place (or commitment) must be so precious that I will simply not be influenced to conform to this world in which I live. I will be transformed by the daily renewal of my mind. Such renewal is largely a review of my relationship established at Bethel. I must "go back to Bethel" real often. When I do then I shall *know* your good and perfect and acceptable daily will for my life. Praise your holy name!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear God, you have been speaking to me most clearly through my praise to you, and for you. I do right

now renew my mind — I see Jesus lifted up for my sins — I see him raised from the dead. I want to imagine the glory he has with you as intercessor for me at your right hand. I remember I am not my own; my whole body has already been given you as a "thank offering." Dear Lord, forgive me for sacrilege, i.e., of using for myself what belongs to you. Dear God, deepen my commitment.

"Faultfinders" — since you find no fault in me, why should I be looking for fault in others?

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

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

HIS WORD

²⁷When the seven days were nearly over, some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, ²⁸shouting, "Men of Israel, help us! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple area and defiled this holy place." ²⁹(They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple area.) — *Acts 21:27-29, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

(I am trying to get behind these words and see this record as you see it.) How silly and pointless must the action of your children seem to you. You are not defiled by the presence of Gentiles in a special

building. Dear Lord, that we can be satisfied with the form and not the substance — what a loss when we settle for the shadow and not the substance. Why are men so willing to believe a lie? Satan is the answer — he is very much alive and very subtle too. Yea, even *now*. But I rebuke him in the name of my Lord! Out! Out! How much havoc among your people has been caused by gossip! When, oh, when will we check out what is said!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I do not want to take Paul's place — at least to begin the meditation and worship through this text. Have I ever believed an evil report of a brother because of what I have seen or others have said without investigating the facts? Yes, yes. Dear God, help me to guard my eyes, to open my heart and to do to others what I want done to me. How impossible it is to break away from tradition without persecution! In the area of devotion and evangelism this is even more true. Am I ready to make a break when I see it is needed? Dear Lord, I say, "yes," but how will I truly know until it happens with me as it happened with Paul?

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's courage in not withdrawing from the Gentiles when he arrived in Jerusalem. (2) Thank you for the previous warnings that encouraged Paul in the knowledge that you were aware of all that happened. (3) Thank you for zeal that *can* be directed toward truth and love — as well as toward error and hatred. (4) Thank you that the former "holy place" has been replaced with our bodies as his temple. (5) Thank you that we really know what defiles "the holy place," anything that hinders the full capacity of our mind or body. (6) Thank you for Paul's wide influence — all done in just a few years. (7) Thank you for the new Jerusalem where nothing that defiles will enter.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple area." How very much both good and bad are built on assumption! We believe man is guilty until proven innocent. Such a sad assumption. Paul assumed certain Jews could be influenced to accept him as not opposed to the law of God, or the temple of God. How sad it is when we depend upon our fertile imagination for what we believe about men and about yourself. These Jews lived in the realm of the senses and not of truth. Paul was more than willing to discuss all the points of "speaking against the law, against the Jews and against the temple." But there

was no way Paul could speak against the mob spirit of prejudiced hatred!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In spite of the turmoil we believe Paul was often lifting his heart in prayer — so do we: (1) When people lie about me, help me to be just as ready to give myself to them and you as was Paul. (2) Help me to resist in the same way as Paul. (3) Remind me again to see just how deep-seated is prejudice. (4) I want to always remember that lying is self-destructive as well as hurtful to others. (5) Help me to risk all as Paul did for friendship with someone other people despised. (6) Deliver me from religious bigots. (7) Guard me lest I become what I despise.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I wonder what messages Paul found in his experience of betrayal — speak to me through these words: (1) "There are men today who will lie for their cause." (2) "Aggressive teaching will produce enemies." (3) "Lo, I am with you always."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Development Ministries Christian workers have gained credibility for the gospel, and economic viability for local churches, through development programs. In many poverty-stricken areas preaching the gospel without meeting the felt needs of the community would be counterproductive. Dealing with the basic root causes of famine, disease and economic deprivation is not as glamorous as emergency aid in a major crisis or disaster, but far more effective.

Points for prayer: (1) *Christian churches, agencies and missions* with development projects. Many agencies have been specifically set up to fund and initiate such schemes. Pray that all projects selected may be those most beneficial to local communities, and pray for a wise selection of appropriate technology that can be continued and expanded locally without foreign input. (2) *The planting and strengthening of local churches* through these projects. The whole ministry should be geared to bring the gospel to the people helped, and to plant churches, or, where churches already exist, to enable them to raise the finances to support local and missionary work and workers.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

WEEK FOUR

—Saturday—

*Since I wrote what is found below
another nine years have come and gone
— I have not missed one day with you
except in sickness. I need you today
more than ever!*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

El Olam — God of Eternity or God the Everlasting. The older I become the more fleeting this life becomes. How soon most of life has come and gone. Perhaps I shall be given more than the three score and ten. The three score has already disappeared, only eight years on the ten are left. Will there be four score? Even if you in your mercy grant me these many days, my eightieth birthday will be the consummation of a vapor. I am so glad to worship before One who is “from everlasting to everlasting.” It surely seems to me that all men are looking for the security — the stability of One who never changes. One who is always full of love and knowledge and care and personal concern — One who has not altered at all from yesterday — will be just the same Eternal, loving Father tomorrow! Blessed be thy holy name!

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 Everlasting Father is also my eternal Savior. I honestly do not know how to relate to infinity. The limitations of time, the infirmities and physical presence of the body all tend to hinder my understanding or participation in this quality of your nature. I only want to pause here at your feet as a little child before his father. I am full of wonder and unknowing amazement! At the same time I am taken up in praise that I have found a rock — a solid rock — a solid everlasting dwelling place — a lodestar that never moves. Dear Father, I love you!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I am sure I could become more lucid if I were to open any number of books I have on my shelf, but this is

another form of sin — pride. I am only opening my heart to you — not men. How is it that I know time is fleeting and death is sure and yet I live like there was no time and death but a word? I am glad for time and I do not fear death — I welcome it! But I want to live in the light of truth not sensual thoughtlessness. Forgive me. There are so many sins that have their roots in this attitude. Forgive me, I can and do name them.

“Flattering” — the most often and the most obvious expression of this sin in on myself. Oh, to see myself as you do! I then would not either think more nor less of myself than what is true. I could then also think the truth about others.

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

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.

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

HIS WORD

³⁰The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut. ³¹While they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar. —Acts 21:30,31, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, how I do want to see these words from your perspective! This is what the Holy Spirit had

said would happen. But in it you have your child. Are some of those who were beating and mistreating Paul also some of your children? How sad! How very sad! Most of those who ran and cried and joined in the beating really did not know what they were doing — and so it has been for centuries of time! Here is a repeat performance of the treatment of your Son. In the same place he suffered and for the same charge. How strange! To bring order out of chaos by those who do not believe. The Roman soldiers act with more meaning than your own children!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

What possible purpose did Paul have for doggedly determining that he would go to Jerusalem? Here is the fulfillment of the Spirit's words. What has Paul obtained to the advantage of our Lord? Here are some possible answers that at least speak to my heart. (1) Paul demonstrated for all who had eyes to see and hearts to believe that he was unselfishly interested in his own people. (2) Paul exemplified total trust in yourself — indeed he did not count his life as dear unto himself! (3) Paul called national attention to the cause of Jesus of Nazareth who was indeed the long sought for Messiah! (4) In all these ways and others Paul set before me an example of dedication.

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 so much for the stirring up of a general interest — no one was unmoved. (2) Thank you for the focus of interest — Paul was well able (by your help) to turn this to your advantage. (3) Thank you for the destruction of one temple so we can identify the real temple of the living God. (4) Thank you for "law and order" ordained of yourself! (5) Thank you for every Roman soldier who helped — no doubt some of them looked beyond the effect to the cause. (6) Thank you that this happened at Pentecost — no doubt some thought of another year and another Pentecost. (7) Thank you again that this record has been kept all these years.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar." How wonderful that the cause of our Lord was given this same thought from the ministry of our Lord. Whatever else happened people were not going to be able to ignore our Lord. Why is it we do not have today the same effect upon our community? There are several reasons: (1) We do not get out into the mainstream of the community in which we live. We are not involved with these matters that touch the lives and pocketbooks of the people. (2) We somehow do not believe this is our arena of work. We are content to live and move among our own people where we feel comfortable. (3) We do not have a product

that wears well, i.e., by the example of our lives. When people see what we have do they want it? In some cases and places the answer is a resounding "yes," but in many others it is greeted and answered by a cold shoulder.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In just two verses so much happens about which we can pray: (1) There are various ways of polarizing interest — in my city how can I do it for you? (2) How did Paul relate what was happening to the prophecy of Agabus? (3) How did Paul relate this beating with the Holy Spirit's message to go to Jerusalem? (4) Dear Lord, give me wisdom in attempting an answer to the two previous requests. (5) Why drag Paul out of the temple? Open my heart to see just how wrong sincere people can be! (6) May I appreciate more than ever your ministries in the form of civil authorities. (7) Keep me aware that those to whom Paul was delivered, i.e., "the Gentiles" also saved Paul from the Jews. Thank you for your wonderful check and balance.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Was Paul aware of your presence in the midst of this chaos? We believe he was. (1) "I am never confused." (2) "Religious opposition does not mean I am against you." (3) "If I do not want a man to die, he will not die."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

International Conferences — Points for prayer: (1) *The Lausanne Movement*, which inaugurated great conferences in Berlin (1966), Lausanne (1974), Thailand (1980) had another major conference in 1989 in Lausanne. The constituency being Evangelicals in all Protestant churches and agencies. (2) *The World Evangelical Fellowship*, representing national and regional Evangelical Fellowships around the world, has held a number of regional and international conferences, the last being in Wheaton (1983). (3) *The Explo Mission Congresses*, which were organized by Campus Crusade in 1972 and 1974, culminated in 1985 in a worldwide satellite link-up of 300,000 believers in 53 countries.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

There is never a day so weary,
There is never a night so long,
But the soul that is trusting Jesus
Will somewhere find a song.
Wonderful, wonderful Jesus,
In the heart He implanteth a song:
A song of deliv'rance, of courage, of strength,
In the heart He implanteth a song.