

WEEK FIVE

—Sunday—

All things are mine — because I worship One who himself is the source and sum of sufficiency. What a privilege to worship him!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

El Shaddai — All-mighty, all-sufficient God (Exod. 3:15; 6:3). It is one thing to have and exercise total might; it is quite another thing to be absolute in sufficiency, i.e., to be able, to be willing to meet every need of every man. But this is just what this name implies. Praise and adoration surely arise from my heart to you for being the all-sufficient one for the entire world population. All men are in need in three areas: (1) The desires of the flesh. I believe there is more than enough food for all men if it were adequately distributed. I know thousands starve to death every day — possibly every hour — and I am shocked and frustrated. This is not your fault. Sex is another gigantic desire of the flesh. Marriage is your answer — it has a track record of success far ahead of anything else. Thank you!

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Praise you for myself, i.e., to you! (2) You are *all* sufficient in the area of “the strong desire for things.” How many “things” did our Lord accumulate during his lifetime? How many houses did he have? How much land did he own? What kind of wardrobe did Jesus leave? Do I *really* believe his words? He said: “A man’s *real* life, *real* happiness, *real* fulfillment, does not consist in the abundance of things.” How can I better make these words a part of my life? (3) You are the all-sufficient One in the area of the “pride of life,” i.e., status and acceptance among men. Am I ready to accept your value system?

How do you personally relate to the all-sufficiency of God, and God who is El Shaddai?

CONFESSION OF SIN

How easy it is to admit my lack — my sin in this relationship. It seems I have always been too much self-sufficient. When will I truly learn my sufficiency is

not in myself, but in you alone? Any accomplishments are not mine, but yours. Any possessions are your gifts — to be used to bring honor to you, not myself. Dear God, that men might see whatever good work you have helped me do and glorify you! Forgive me for the sin of pride.

“*Scoffing*” — I am guilty. Whatever seems to lack purpose, or quality, becomes a source of disdain to me. I have scoffed and lashed out at those involved. Dear God, how do my very best efforts look to you? You judge desire and motive not accomplishments. Oh, oh, may I leave such judgment with you! Forgive.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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

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

HIS WORD

³²He at once took some officers and soldiers and ran down to the crowd. When the rioters saw the commander and his soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

³³The commander came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. Then he asked who he was and what he had done. ³⁴Some in the crowd shouted one thing and some another, and since the commander could not get at the truth because of the uproar, he ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. —Acts 21:32-34, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

We want to run with the commander to where Paul is being beaten by the crowd of Jews. Before he arrives

you are there! What did you see? I'm sure it was much different than the troops or their leader. Yea, much different than we do now. Let me meditate upon what you could have seen: (1) You saw a reenactment of the mistreatment of your dear Son — the same men, the same hatred, the same willful ignorance. (2) You saw the wounds willingly received by Paul, who was completing or accepting in his body the suffering of our Lord — such an example of unselfish giving of His life. (3) You saw a group of Roman soldiers who knew not that there was a God in heaven. Any one of them and each one of them was the object of your love and concern. How unspeakably sad that the one thing that was intended to unite all men (your Son) has now divided them and prevented your expression of love for all.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I am much too glib and judgmental. How we have divided — how easily we fight and separate from each other! How confused is the lost world in which I live! The world in which I live knows about you less than the Roman soldiers. Dear Lord, we have less promise of the progress of your word, i.e., in some areas, than Paul had in Jerusalem. On the other hand, there are your dear children being treated today as Paul was treated then. I think of Christians in China and many other places where persecution is a reality! I think also of the marvelous results Paul's living sacrifice produced in the city who crucified our Lord. Paul was catapulted by this experience to the ends of the earth in a proclamation of your word!

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Indeed, indeed! (1) Thank you for the immediate response of the commander — as we have said before: without this Paul would have been dead. (2) Thank you for the fear of reprisal that filled the hearts of the Jews. (3) Thank you for the strange and wonderful ways you have of protecting your children. (4) Thank you that Paul was never bound in his spirit — even if this was the beginning of a long imprisonment. (5) Thank you for the sense of justice prevailing in the handling of the prisoner. (6) Thank you for the fair reporting done by Dr. Luke. (7) Thank you that we are given liberty to speak your word openly today.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Some in the crowd shouted one thing and some another." How typical of some crowds I have been in! As you view the body of your dear Son is this the circumstance you see? (1) Most are led and not leaders. This is both good and bad. When the purpose of following is clearly communicated and that purpose

is your purpose, it is good. But when hatred and excitement are the leading factors, it is very bad. (2) When men are unhappy with themselves they become easy prey for those who can show them who to blame. A scapegoat is gladly welcomed. All the griping and complaining in our present world is because we are unhappy with ourselves.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What was Paul praying in the midst of his suffering? Here are points for prayer: (1) Keep me aware of proper perspective — "This too will pass." (2) Help me to even rejoice inasmuch as my Lord was so persecuted. (3) May I remember that you are always at work. (4) Use the misguided zeal of the religious to attract the unbeliever to at least listen. (5) Give me the deep determination that filled the heart of Paul. (6) How precisely did the prophecy of Agabus come to pass! Keep me aware that you are always aware. (7) I want to remember: we are confused and do not know — you are never confused and know all.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Above the din of the voices of men speak to me in these verses: (1) "Paul was beaten often and did not die from the beatings." (2) "Where is your unselfishness when compared to Paul?" (3) "Paul balanced his part and my part in my will for his life — you can too."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Medical Mission Work — Points for prayer: (1) *Adaptability.* Governments demand higher standards, and in some lands, are taking over all non-government health services. Medical missionary work must constantly be assessed as to its usefulness in changing circumstances. The present trend is for fewer but better equipped and staffed mission hospitals, and an emphasis on preventive medicine. (2) *Supply of needs in funds and personnel* — that the mission boards and national churches may know how best to apportion them in accordance with the spiritual benefits to be reaped. Such programs can too often become the master rather than the servant! (3) *Usefulness in winning people to the Lord and for the churches.* The primary aim of medical missionary work can sometimes be forgotten in the busyness of a large institution. Yet many can be and are won by this means. Pray for the right balance between medical and spiritual needs.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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.

WEEK FIVE

—Monday—

Rule in my emotions — take captive of my will — take possession of my mind. These requests are serious — I know you can do it — make me willing.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Adonai — Our Ruler, Master, Lord, Owner. (Hab. 3:19; Ezek. 8:1; Psa. 35:23; 38:15). How exceedingly good it is to worship before you this day! I gladly take my place as a servant ready to hear what my master wants to ask of me. I am here to acknowledge you as the ruler and Lord and owner of all men. More and more I am disturbed that so few know you! Dear Master, how can I help to spread the glory and beauty of your name over all the earth? Oh, oh, if we can publish your word in the Pictorial form in 10 languages, I can at least speak to 400,000 to 500,000 people. Thank you for speaking this into 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

My ruler or owner. Oh, my Father, if I am owned by you, then I must express this relationship in fact, in truth, in deed. I am not my own; I belong to you. Dear Lord, I do want to express in a most practical sense my responsibility — open my mind to see just where this can be directed. I praise you for the amazing fact that your answers to my prayers take the form of what men would call coincidences, i.e., such things just “happen.” Many, many answers are so subtle that they must be seen through the eyes of faith before they can be identified as your work in us both willing and doing your good pleasure! Bless your Holy name!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

The words of my Savior and Lord surely take on new meaning as I begin to relate to you as Lord, or owner. The parable of the talents, of the vineyard, of the virgins — how often did my Lord speak of this

relationship — indeed it seems to be the *one* basic expression of our living for you. Forgive me and move me into a glad willingness to spend and be spent for you.

“Pride of possessions.” How shall I discover this sin? Whenever anything, or anyone becomes more important than, or of equal importance to me as yourself, I have sinned. Time, energy, money, ability, thoughts — how are these entities used? For you? For *things*?

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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

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

HIS WORD

³⁴Some in the crowd shouted one thing and some another, and since the commander could not get at the truth because of the uproar, he ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. ³⁵When Paul reached the steps, the violence of the mob was so great he had to be carried by the soldiers. ³⁶The crowd that followed kept shouting, “Away with him!”

³⁷As the soldiers were about to take Paul into the barracks, he asked the commander, “May I say something to you?”

“Do you speak Greek?” he replied. ³⁸“Aren’t you the Egyptian who started a revolt and led four thousand terrorists out into the desert some time ago?”

³⁹Paul answered, “I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city. Please let me speak to the people.” —Acts 21:34-39, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

We cannot but admire the commander Claudius

Lysias. He has a most difficult task. How did you view the scene unfolding before us? Does the reasonable, helpful ministry of such men go unnoticed? No, no! We can read of another army officer and know that you had a great interest in his daily conduct (Acts 10:1ff.). The two areas of your particular interest were prayer and giving, but the whole effort to be responsible was not forgotten or ignored. How good to affirm that in you, of you and before you all men live and move and have their being. How many men have come and gone on the scene of life! All the crowd, all the Roman army is gone and millions of others like them are gone, but not from your memory.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How concerned Paul was for your name — to speak for your Son. To tell his own people the real meaning of their scriptures, but most of all, how God had spoken to him. Do I have such an overwhelming desire to let all men know of you? Particularly, do I have such a desire to let all men know that there need not be this terrible religious confusion in which we live? Paul was looking for and sensitive to the opportunities. Men do and will misunderstand and misrepresent — no bother — the word *must* get out! I am ready to gladly give my life for this goal. Paul's body must have been crying out in pain, but his heart was crying out in love. The voice of love was louder than the voice of pain.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you, oh, thank you: (1) For a commander in the Roman army who wanted "the truth" on any subject. I do verily believe there are commanders in the U.S. army who look for the same thing. (2) For the fact that the cry and desire of the crowd does not always prevail. (3) For Paul's dedicated knowledge — all he knew was dedicated to the One he knew. (4) For law and order that has overcome unnumbered terrorist attacks. (5) For Paul's citizenship — it saved his life here and hereafter. (6) For the hope that "springs eternal" in the human heart — that in spite of many futile efforts this one will succeed. (7) For the Aramaic language we can study today and read as Paul read.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... a citizen of no ordinary city." To Paul and the commander (although it appears the commander was not listening — or maybe he did not know) this meant Paul was a Roman citizen for this was the privilege of some cities in the Roman empire. To us it means we "are free born" too. Our city is in heaven.

It has eternal foundations — its builder and planner (architect) is God. We are just strangers and sojourners in this earth. Anyone from another country talks about it to anyone who will listen to him. Everything is compared with "the old country." Should not this be our interest and attitude? Nothing here can compare with the beauty and wonder we will see and experience "over there." What excitement and anticipation wells up within us to be "at home with the Lord."

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

No doubt Paul had much about which to pray — so do we: (1) Keep me listening to your voice of truth from your word. (2) In the face of the rejection of men let me read again of your acceptance of me. (3) I want to appreciate more fully Paul's willingness to suffer for you. (4) Give me the creative courage in the face of opposition I see here. (5) Open my eyes to the influence of one well placed testimony. (6) How often is mistaken identity a real problem — may men always know who you are! (7) May my heavenly citizenship be as important to me as it should.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

There is much you can say to me in these verses: (1) "The voices of men will always hinder the reception of the truth." (2) "Help can and does come from very unexpected sources." (3) "You will often be mistaken for someone or something other than you are."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Medical Workers. The evangelizing and discipling of medical workers. Because more people pass through the hospitals of the world than through its churches, the IHCF seeks to win for Christ and train medical personnel — doctors, dentists, nurses, para-medicals, etc. — to share their faith with those whom they serve medically. Pray for: (1) *The conversion to Christ* of many members of the healing team. (2) *The witness of Christians* in the healing team to be both wise and bold to patients and colleagues. (3) *Christian medical workers serving in hazardous circumstances.* Communist takeovers mean the closing of churches, but not of hospitals — hence the strategic value of this work.

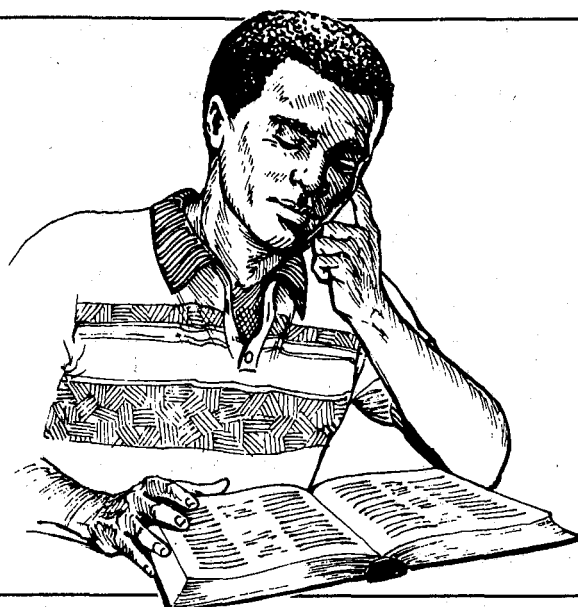
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

WEEK FIVE

—Tuesday—

My sufficiency is in you. I am glad to enter this relationship and renew my sufficiency.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Jah — The Independent One (Exodus 15:2; Isa. 12:2; 38:11; Psa. 46:1) — the eternal One, the self-existing One — the same as “I am that I am.” How awesome a thought to know One who is totally apart from all else and everyone else. One who is sufficient unto himself. Man attempts this in attitude and action, but really never achieves it. Man must have fellowship with his fellow creatures to be complete — most of all man must have fellowship with you to find rest unto his soul. Man was not created because you had a need, but once man was created he met a need. Man was created for companionship and fellowship with you. It is a solace to our inward being to worship Someone who needs nothing and yet finds joy in my fellowship.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

The Independent One for me. He is an everlasting refuge and defense. “He himself is not tempted with evil” for he has no need that is not already supplied. This is *only one* aspect of his nature. If such were the only quality I would find you quite foreboding and so separate from me that I could only hide in despair. Your separateness and independence is for my protection and defense. Here is One whom Satan cannot tempt — One whom the devil must fear. I rush to this Rock of Ages to hide myself in him. You love me and understand me and only long to comfort and help me.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is easy to say that I have often played God and found myself woefully lacking. I am not at all sufficient unto myself. In any area of life I come up very short: (1) My intelligence is like a little child, and not a very bright little child. (2) My moral strength is as water in consistency — the track record is so spotty it

beggars description. (3) My social conduct is not at all perfect. In all these areas and several others I need forgiveness and how I want to hurry into the arms of One who will make up my lack! It is a sin to “*despise authority*.” When I want my own way and insist on doing it myself, I have sinned in a serious manner. Dear God, I plead guilty and want to truly repent.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.
How marvelous! how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! how wonderful!
Is my Savior's love for me!

HIS WORD

⁴⁰Having received the commander's permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. When they were all silent, he said to them in Aramaic:

22 “Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense.”

²When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet.

Then Paul said: ³“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.

⁴I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, ⁵as also the high priest and all the council can testify. I even obtained letters from them to their brothers in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶“About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. ⁷I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’

⁸“ ‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked.

“I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. “My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.” —Acts 21:40-22:9, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I know you have no problem in understanding what to us are “foreign” languages. The commander understood Greek — we do not know that he followed the words of Paul in the Aramaic language. It was the language of the Old Testament scriptures — one that these zealous Jews so much appreciated. I want to hear him all over again — with you I want to listen: Paul is reaching out to the crowd — nay, you are reaching out through him. Paul is sincere as he addresses them as “brothers and fathers” — (your sons).

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

What has changed me? It has been — and continues to be — a personal encounter with the living Christ! Such an encounter is *not* without the word — indeed all I know of you issues from what you have said through the nine writers of the New Testament, and the several more of the Old Testament. But it is apart from the word — for the application is apart, i.e., does not automatically happen to all who read or hear this blessed story. It is the Spirit who gives life to the letter — it is the Holy Spirit who through the word enlivens the word to bring conviction of sin — righteousness — (his righteousness and my lack of it) and judgment — there is no automatic result.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you for: (1) Paul’s defense — in it I see myself! (2) The wonderful education of Paul — which both helped and hindered him. (3) The total zeal of Paul — even to death. (4) The use of the precious term “brothers” — to each other and to our blessed Lord. (5) The interesting time you chose to reveal yourself at high noon — not hidden — out where all could see and know.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.” It would be most instructive if we knew in what tone of voice Paul said this. Was he sad? Was he regretting this fact? Was he disappointed? To his companions something had happened but they could not define it. We could ask these men with Saul and they would tell you of the unusual light. If the light continued as long as the voice, it must have been for two or three minutes. (Please read all the words our Lord spoke to Saul as in 9:1ff.; 22:9,10; 26:12ff.) Why did the Lord arrange it this way? So we could exercise faith in his power. Either we believe Saul as a reliable witness or we do

not.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As Paul speaks to the crowd from the steps of the tower of Antonia he moves me to pray: (1) May I be as ready to speak on any and all occasions as was Paul. (2) How I want to know the heart language of those to whom I speak. (3) Humble my spirit until I can love those who hate me. (4) Give me admiration for the capacity of dedication since this is what you can use. (5) Keep me aware that it is very possible to be sincerely wrong. (6) May I see my Lord in the bright light of his power and love as I read your word. (7) I want to believe in my heart of hearts that to serve men is to serve you — to hurt men is to hurt you.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Having ears to hear let me hear! (1) “All men are potential brothers and sisters.” (2) “The new birth is the one most important preparation for service.” (3) “I am alive and sensitive in the lives and bodies of men and women.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Missionary Aviation What an essential means for evangelism and church growth the Christian “air force” has become! In many areas access is difficult by any other means. There are about 476 aircraft in 48 lands that are used to transport Christian workers, supplies, hospital patients and aid. Without this service, ministries would be slowed or stopped. Many mission agencies have their own aircraft, but others exist solely for the purpose of serving churches and missions.

Points for prayer: (1) *Missionary Aviation Fellowship*, which is unique and deserving of special prayer as the pioneer of this ministry and the largest agency, with four branches operating in over 22 countries, flying over 30,000 hours per year. JAARS (Jungle Aviation and Radio Service), is a vital component of SIL’s Bible translation ministry in 11 lands. (2) *The supply of all needs*. Although the overall savings in time and finance are enormous, this is high-tech ministry and costly for both the operators and users.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Come Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount—I’m fixed upon it—
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

WEEK FIVE

—Wednesday—

There will never be a time when you do not love me. I gladly renew this truth in worship before you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Jehovah — the Eternal, Ever-Loving One. This is the name most often used concerning yourself in the Old Testament. I do want to try to lift up my heart to you as the Great Eternal One! You who inhabit eternity! You have no beginning and no end — the self-existent One! How many men upon the earth realize just who you are? Less than half — of those who do, how many know of the reality of your Being? So very few! This does not change your Being. There never will be a day or a night when you do not love all men with a love that cannot stop. For just one man, I want to fall down before you in praise and deep gratitude!

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Jehovah — *Eternal* — *Ever-Loving One* for me! I take great strength from your strength — I find everlasting value in my life because of your Eternal Life. I want to be much more loving — and much more longsuffering in my love because of the exhaustless ever-loving attitude you have toward me. There are so many times, places and people where I acted as if there was no eternal heaven or eternal hell — as if there was no wonderfully loving God who cared enough to send his Son to die for my sins. Dear God, you did not change because I did. I came back to you and found you just as I left you. The Eternal, Ever-Loving One. Praise your name!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

What I have just prayed is part of my confession of sin. How many hundreds of times have I confessed my sin to you? Does it not get monotonous? Not if my sin is fresh — not if my sin is new — not if my guilt is current! Indeed it is. Oh, eternal One I shall be so glad to one day inhabit eternity with you where I shall be removed from sin, where Satan has been taken out of the environment of man. Right now I

want to open up my heart and fully, freely confess my sin and need. Forgive me. I am so glad your forgiveness is like yourself — eternal.

“Haughty eyes” — It is almost humorous to see puny man looking down on one another, or worse yet, looking down upon what you have done or said or are. Forgive us — forgive me.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Be not dismayed whate’er betide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath His wings of love abide,
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.

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

HIS WORD

¹⁰“ ‘What shall I do, Lord,’ I asked.

“ ‘Get up,’ the Lord said, ‘and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.’ ¹¹My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

¹²“A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. ¹³He stood beside me and said ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very moment I was able to see him.

¹⁴“Then he said, ‘The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. ¹⁵You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’

¹⁷“When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸and saw the Lord speaking. ‘Quick!’ he said to me. ‘Leave Jerusalem

immediately, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'

¹⁹" 'Lord,' I replied, 'these men know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. ²⁰And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.'

²¹"Then the Lord said to me, 'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.' "

²²The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, "Rid the earth of him! He's not fit to live!" — *Acts 22:10-22, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is good to remember what you *didn't* say to Saul as well as what you did say. Surely the most remarkable fact is that you did not tell him what to do to be saved. This wonderful task was given to a disciple — not a preacher — not an elder — not even an apostle, but to just a humble, unknown learner of our Lord. It surely seems here that Jesus is speaking with demanding authority. "What it has been assigned for you to do." I hear you Lord! I hear you! We do know some things about the disciple who spoke to Saul: (1) He was a devout observer of the law. (2) He was highly respected by all the Jews living in Damascus.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

What a message Ananias had for Saul! Here is Saul's assignment: (1) God has chosen you to know his will. Evidently for salvation and service. (2) To see the Righteous One. I place myself — as much as possible — in the place of Saul. I have received my inward spiritual sight. I believe you have chosen me through the good news, as you have all others who will respond to your voice through the preaching. I have seen the only one who is righteous. I am delighted that he has decided to give me his righteousness.

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 Saul's wonderful question: "What shall I do, Lord?" (2) Thank you that we tell men what to do to be saved. (3) Thank you that each of us are in a different sense — but nonetheless real — "a chosen vessel." (4) Thank you for the wonder and meaning of Christian baptism. (5) Thank you for Paul's prayer life — what an example and pattern for me. (6) Thank you for Stephen and his testimony — it was God's goad in Saul's heart. (7) Thank you for the courage of Paul in telling the truth even when he knew it meant rejection and imprisonment.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... the blood of your martyr Stephen." The term

martyr could also be translated "witness." Our Lord told the apostles they would be his witnesses — and each one of them was called upon to give their lives for their testimony. Stephen's blood — like that of Abel, cries from the ground. What does it say? (1) I loved the truth of salvation more than my life. We can say that and not die a violent death. We all give our lives for something. (2) I did not run from a difficult situation. I did not ask for it, but once I was in it, I did not run from it.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What a great effort Paul put forth to reach his beloved fellow kinsmen — in what he said there are many petitions: (1) I want to remember you do not tell men what to do to be saved — I do! (2) Keep my eyes closed to this world — but open to your world. (3) May I remember that I am chosen to do a work no one else can do. (4) Thank you that I can see your blessed "Righteous One" any time I am willing to look. (5) Make me a witness of what I have seen and heard from you. (6) I know some men will not hear your word — show me who they are. (7) Remind me of all the associations in my past that can become your goad to my conscience.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these several verses there are several messages to me: (1) "Day by day it will be told you from my word what I want you to do." (2) "You are the only witness I have in several places." (3) "Some men will never understand, but many will."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Missionary Navy A number of missions use ships for a wide variety of Christian ministries. Among these are: (1) *Operation Mobilisation's* *MV Doulos* and *MV Logos* with up to 450 crew and personnel at any one time involved in evangelism, ministry to Christians and literature distribution in ports around the world. (2) *YWAM's* *MV Anastasis* with up to 600 serving the Lord at any one time. A wide variety of ministries are based on the ship — schools of evangelism, discipleship training, evangelism, a university, and an aid ministry in areas of disaster or need. (3) *Small boat outreach* which is vital for many small island and coastal communities in the Pacific, Caribbean and Indonesia.

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.

WEEK FIVE

—Thursday—

We are “your workmanship” — but you are not finished with us. Fashion me just today as you want me.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“O come, let us worship and kneel before *Jehovah Our Maker*” (Psa. 95:6; Eph. 2:22). There is so much in this word: This is a reference to your work after creation. As Paul says in Eph. 2:10 “We are his *workmanship*.” It is common knowledge that the Greek term here is the one from whom we have the English word “poem.” How wonderful to know you are at work composing poems of each life. You are in the business of making something beautiful out of each person. Poetry has such an appeal — it touches us more deeply than any other form of expression. What if man refuses to yield to you? Paul’s expression has reference to all Christians not all men.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Dear God, I want to be so pliable in your hand that you can fashion a poem in the clay that is me. This surely gives a new reason for loving poetry. “Could my heart but see Creation as God sees it — from within: See His grace behind its beauty, see his will behind its force; see the flame of life shoot upward when the April days begin; see the wane of life rush outward from its pure eternal source” (*Edmond G.A. Holmes*). What is here said so beautifully of physical creation is far more meaningfully said of the new creation. My loving, all-wise, all-powerful Potter, Artist, Poet, I yield myself gladly to you. Write another stanza of my life.

How do you personally relate to the poetry of God, and God who is “Jehovah Our Maker”? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

We have such a strong aversion to poor poetry — what is sometimes called “doggerel.” Why is this true? Because such is a reflection on the Great Poet. All our efforts to wax poetic are but the yapping of a mongrel compared to the beauty of your heart expressed in life. Dear God, forgive my stupid expression! Help me to quietly yield to your use in what you

want to say through me today.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Break Thou the bread of life,
Dear Lord, to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves
Beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee,
O living Word.

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

HIS WORD

²³As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, ²⁴the commander ordered Paul to be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and questioned in order to find out why the people were shouting like this. ²⁵As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, “Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn’t even been found guilty?”

²⁶When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it. “What are you going to do?” he asked. “This man is a Roman citizen.”

²⁷The commander went to Paul and asked, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?”

“Yes, I am,” he answered.

²⁸Then the commander said, “I had to pay a big price for my citizenship.”

“But I was born a citizen,” Paul replied.

²⁹Those who were about to question him withdrew immediately. The commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains. — *Acts 22:23-29, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What impact will the cries of the mob make upon you? I’m sure you can hear them yet. No doubt there

have been many since who cried out equal blasphemy! How loud are some men in their blatant rejection of eternal life. Then there is the larger group represented by the army commander. He is more confused than ever. He thought Paul was an Egyptian. He turns out to be a Greek-speaking Jew. When he lets him speak he talks Aramaic. Now he finds a man of influence on his hands whom all men seem to hate. When he proceeds to do the one thing he believes will loosen his tongue, he finds he is a Roman citizen. He, like a multitude today, is confused.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How easy this is to do: (1) When it is right — and when is it not right to “claim your rights”? How I have struggled with this principle — I’m sure that in Paul we have an example of what should be done. (2) How open and honest is Paul under any and all conditions. So must I be regardless of the price. (3) Honesty and openness always honor the one we serve and ultimately it honors all. (4) I believe there are officials in our own government who could be strongly influenced for you if there were only someone like Paul to tell them. Dear Lord, if you want me for this task, here am I.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for even an army barracks (the Tower of Antonia) where protection and rest can be found. (2) Thank you that Paul was willing, but not anxious, to receive a flogging — he had had several. (3) Thank you for all the rights of a Roman citizen — many of them transferred into rights as American citizens. (4) Thank you that a sense of justice does prevail in the most unlikely places. (5) Thank you that I can be a prisoner to King Jesus. (6) Thank you for all the rights of a citizen of the heavenly country. (7) Thank you that one day *all* injustice will be put into balance.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... *I was born a citizen.*” I was born a citizen of America. What a priceless privilege! I have also been to 28 countries and I have seen how much more Americans have of everything. Of everything but gratitude. I found many people in India or Burma who have much more appreciation of what God has given them than the average American has for the hundred-fold God has given him. All of which demonstrates in loving example the truth of our Lord’s words: “A man’s life (or happiness) does not consist in the abundance of what he has.” At the same time, neither does a man’s life consist in forgetting or ignoring what he has. A man’s real happiness is found in living on this earth in whatever country we are a citizen in just the same way my Lord did who was a citizen of the eternal country called heaven. Our Lord could have said He also represented “no ordi-

nary city” — it is called the new Jerusalem — the city four square!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Paul had been beaten many times — but if he could avoid it he did. I find requests in his action: (1) How tame are all my efforts to serve you when compared with Paul — move me to more meaningful effort. (2) Move me to ask questions that probe motives. (3) How glad I am to claim the rights of my heavenly citizenship. (4) Etch upon my heart these words: “There is therefore *now* no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1). (5) Do I know what it means to be “born free” by the new birth? Help me! (6) My Lord said of Lazarus, and the commander must have said of Paul, “loose him and let him go” — speak these words to my heart. (7) Even though Paul was still in jail he was the most liberated man there.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me through these verses: (1) “Four walls and iron bars is not the only prison.” (2) “Use whatever means possible to give the gospel a hearing.” (3) “A very large price has been paid for your eternal citizenship.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Christian Radio and Television — Points for prayer: (1) *Agencies specializing in programming and broadcasting.* There were 1,450 Christian radio and TV stations worldwide in 1980; the number is now larger. There are over 13 major Protestant interdenominational agencies with international outreach — the largest being FEBC in the Far East, TWR with 750 missionaries in five continents and broadcasting in 75 languages, WRMF (Voice of the Andes, and missionary radio pioneer) in Ecuador, FEBA in Seychelles, ELWA (SIM) in Liberia, IBRA in Europe, etc. The USSR is the major nation for international broadcasting, with 310 hours of broadcasting Communist propaganda daily, but the 893 hours transmitted daily by Christian stations exceeds it by far — though with less transmitting power. (2) *The listeners.* There are 1,200 radio receivers in the world and, potentially, most of the world’s population could have access to a set. It is estimated that there were 960 million regular listeners to Christian broadcasts in 1980.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

WEEK FIVE

—Friday—

It is such a blessing to be able to renew my relationship with you every day. It is your very nature to renew me — I do so need it!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Jehovah-Jireh — “The Lord will provide, or the Lord will see” (Gen. 22:14). “. . . His *pre-vision* means His *provision*” (Lockyer). Bless your name which includes so very, very much! How well does this name describe my relationship to you! Surely this would be my testimony for the past 71 years. You saw my need and moved to meet it. Let me try to list the ways — I shall only mention those which have as much application to others as they do to myself: (1) Parents who loved me and provided food, shelter and clothes. They also gave me love. You provided through them. (2) A school system — teachers who no doubt were under paid and gave unselfishly of themselves — but actually it was your pre-vision that worked through this provision. We would have no such free school system without faith moving our founding fathers.

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

Jehovah-Jireh to me. I have combined the two concepts for this day and this name How glad I am to express my praise and thanksgiving to you. (3) You provided me companions of a moral upright kind — the simple joys of childhood were surely mine. I did not mingle with thieves or drug users, or immoral people. I was not religious — I had little or no faith in you — but your dearest prevision gave me this provision. (4) You gave me associations that led to my salvation — for which I shall never cease to thank you and shout for joy — hallelujah! You did indeed show me the lamb slain from the foundation of the world — just for me!

How do you personally relate to the provisions of God, and God who is Jehovah-Jireh for me?

CONFESSION OF SIN

That I should ever forget or become indifferent to your wonderful provision would be — and is, the sin

of all sins! Forgive me. How gloriously you have provided in the work you have given me to do! Dear God, I have taken the credit when it all belonged to you. Forgive me! I have been, and am now delighted to teach, preach, write, but most of all to evangelize and make learners of your wonderful self! Too much emphasis has been placed on physical appearance of books — buildings — etc., forgive me! Standing and status among men has at times been my sin — forgive me! Dear God, I freely confess that all I am and have is from you and that not of myself — it is your gift!

“Insult on insult.” Have I ever thought injury or hurt or disappointment came from you and returned in kind? Yes. Oh, what blindness — what total selfishness. Forgive me.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

“Give me thy heart,” says the Father above,
No gift so precious to Him as our love,
Softly He whispers wherever thou art,
“Gratefully trust me, and give me thy heart.”
“Give me thy heart,
Give me thy heart.”
Hear the soft whisper, wherever thou art;
From this dark world He would draw thee apart,
Speaking so tenderly,
“Give me thy heart.”

HIS WORD

³⁰The next day, since the commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them.

23 Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, “My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day.” ²At this the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth. ³Then Paul said to him,

"God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!"

"Those who were standing near Paul said, 'You dare to insult God's high priest?'"

"Paul replied, 'Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: 'Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.' " — *Acts 22:30-23:5, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How shall we go into the meeting of Paul with the Sanhedrin Council? You have known every man there since he was a small boy. Paul was sincere and child-like. He had indeed turned around and had become as transparent as a child in his faith. But there is another issue involved here: Paul is saying he contrasts with these men. His conscience is clear and theirs has festered, rotted and died. They are even as our Savior described them, white-washed tombs full of all manner of corruption. I hope I have represented the circumstance as it truly was. Forgive me where I am wrong.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How would I react to this same type of treatment? Surely I would need the wisdom that comes down from above. But there would not be time to ask for such wisdom in such a circumstance. In many such times the wisdom we need comes from within as a spontaneous response of the Holy Spirit to the human spirit. Paul was seeking understanding and acceptance on behalf of our Lord. Was Paul struck on the mouth? The text does not say if he was or wasn't. Paul's instant reaction is as if he were struck. The command of the high priest was a slap in the face. We believe Paul. He simply did not know the man who spoke was the high priest. His words of description were accurate. Dear Lord, I do not know how I would have reacted. I am too weak and selfish.

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

I gladly do this: (1) Thank you for the sincere concern of Claudius Lysias to find out just who Paul was and what he had done. (2) Thank you for Paul's straightforward expression of honesty and sincerity. (3) Thank you that the encounter was out in the open where the issues could be defined. (4) Thank you that both participants appealed to the law — it only points up the total inadequacy of law to settle any dispute. (5) Thank you for Paul's humility in admitting he was wrong. (6) Thank you that above it all and through it all the great judge of all men was a very interested participant. (7) Thank you for Luke's inspired account that includes all details.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people." If this was a regulation of ancient Israel (and it was), how much more could it relate to a nation, a large share of which professes acceptance of our Lord? Speaking evil we take in the sense in which it is used here. No good is accompanied by accusation against leaders. A constant effort of this type of action can erode confidence and end in anarchy.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

If ever prayer was appropriate it was as Paul spoke to the Sanhedrin. (1) May I be as ready to stand before the judgment seat of my Lord. (2) How could I ever say, "I have fulfilled my duty to God"? (3) Dear Lord, I want to educate my conscience by your word. (4) Why did the high priest want Paul struck on the mouth? (5) Open my heart to be able to answer everyone as I should. (6) I know how destructive criticism can be — guard my mouth!

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Your word speaks to me today: (1) "Speak the truth in love, but speak the truth." (2) "Expect misunderstanding, but do not seek it." (3) "Give honor to whom honor is due."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Christian Radio and Television — Points for prayer:
(1) *Effective cooperation* between radio agencies; there has often been too much competitiveness in the past. Three of the major agencies have committed themselves to cooperate in research and broadcasting to make the gospel available to every person on earth in a language they can understand by the year 2000. Christian programs are now broadcast in 103 or more languages, but there are 271 languages with over one million speakers. Pray that this goal may be reached.
(2) *Good reception in target areas.* The wave bands are increasingly crowded. More and more powerful transmitters are needed to shout down competing stations. Much technical skill is needed to transmit effectively. Jamming by Communist states is an ever-present problem. Short programs in minority languages of closed countries are hard to publicize.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Praise ye the Father! for His loving kindness,
Tenderly cares He for His erring children;
Praise Him, ye angels, praise Him in the heavens,
Praise ye Jehovah!

WEEK FIVE

—Saturday—

"Lead on O King eternal, the day of march has come." Make it so in me!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Lord of hosts (Isa. 1:24). There are many hosts of whom you are Lord. All the angels are your hosts. I cannot imagine what commands are given to and carried out by these angelic beings. Surely this is indeed another whole world. May your will be done today in my life as it is done by those hosts of heaven who obey you there.

You are Lord of the hosts of demons — Satan and all his servants know that one day (in man's terms) they will all be cast into the eternal lake of fire. If we can read such a promise in your word, then such information is not unknown to our adversary and his host. How wonderfully encouraging this is to every one of your present children.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Lord of hosts for me. Dear God, how poorly I do sometimes express my praise! Forgive me for being so terribly inadequate. At the same time I am determined to praise you. I need to, I want to, I will! You are Lord of the host of the spirits of just men made perfect. All those who have departed the body are presently under your Lordship. It must be an exhilarating experience to worship you and serve you in the world of the spirit. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are not dead — you are *not* the God of the dead but of the living. What an immense host of individual living beings inhabit eternity with you.

You are the Lord of the host of your people alive on this earth today! How good it would be to see all of them at the same time — and to know each one as individuals.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Are you the Lord of the host of thoughts that course through my mind in just one day? Every thought

should be, can be brought under your Lordship. What of the host of choices I must make for this day? How can you be Lord of them? If my will is submitted to your will then my choices will be yours. It is so easy to say, Dear God, forgive me. I am not hiding anything from you. I do want my thoughts and decisions to be yours.

"Immodesty" — This is usually associated with women. But men can also be very immodest. In so many ways we are full of self and pride. Immodest in words — immodest in dress — immodest in not preferring others before self. Dear Lord of hosts, forgive me.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise:
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!

HIS WORD

⁶Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. I stand on trial because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead." ⁷When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. ⁸(The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.)

⁹There was a great uproar, and some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up and argued vigorously. "We find nothing wrong with this man," they said. "What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" ¹⁰The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him

away from them by force and bring him into the barracks. — *Acts 23:6-10, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, what was the purpose of Paul's actions and words in this text? It is so obvious to you — so elementary — but with me — I struggle over it! Dear Lord, I know you were present when the examination took place. Was Paul using a ruse; a foil to escape what could have been at the best another beating? So it seems to me. Am I right? These men were capable of murder — as we shall see later. Did Paul know this and use this ancient controversy between Pharisees and Sadducees to protect himself from their wrath?

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I read this text for myself — as your sword to divide the thoughts and intents of my own heart! I have felt often like a Pharisee and the son of a Pharisee. I have felt this way — why? Because I have prayed more, taught more, preached more, because I have written more, traveled more or given more than other men — or especially than those I see and know about me. So what? So you Pharisee! You hypocrite! You worst of sinners! To be seen of men is to lose your eternal reward! Dear God, I love you and want to know you!

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

This is a most pleasant task: (1) Thank you for Paul's daring wisdom in setting the Pharisees against the Sadducees. (2) Thank you for Paul's heritage, all of which he used for the advantage of the gospel. (3) Thank you for the wonderful hope of the resurrection of the dead. (4) Thank you that the only dead thing about me is my body — when I separate from this body it will be dead — I won't. (5) Thank you for the presence of ministering angels — present right now — right here helping me in ways best known to them and you. (6) Thank you that the spirit world is the real world — into which world I will move right on the other side of my last heart beat!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"We find nothing wrong with this man." Dear Lord, that this could always be our reputation! It was what those who examined him said of my Lord. The words of the governor of Judea are so poignant: "I find no fault in Him." The comparison between Paul's examination and that of our Savior is most striking. (1) There was nothing wrong in either's understanding of the scriptures and in perfect agreement with each other. (2) There was nothing wrong with their relationship to the fading glory of temple worship — both worship in spirit and truth. (3) There was nothing

wrong with their understanding of the place of the law — one came to fulfill it and Paul proclaimed such was fulfilled.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Paul set two groups against each other and escaped, but he needed prayer: (1) Give me the wisdom to be as wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove. (2) I want to be known as just a Christian — separate me from all party spirit. (3) Keep my hope of the resurrection burning brightly. (4) Send your ministering spirits to aid me today. (5) I want to be totally in submission to you as the Father of my spirit. (6) Deliver me from violent men.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I know you have much to tell me from this text: (1) "There are Pharisees and Sadducees today — beware." (2) "Let the dead bury the dead — publish the good news." (3) "There are lessons I am teaching in all opposition."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Relief and Aid Ministries — Points for prayer: (1) *That the generous giving by Christians to aid programs be wisely used.* Prestige projects, lack of long-term strategy, inefficient communications, self-seeking bureaucracies, etc., can gobble up vast sums of money with little material or spiritual benefit to the sufferers. (2) *For those who administer the aid and resettlement programs.* Many agencies have sprung up to channel the giving of Evangelicals — there are over 100 such in North America. Pray for the provision of the right personnel, a balance between physical and spiritual needs, and for evangelism and church planting to be furthered. Praise the Lord that where care and tact has been exercised, and a loving Christian testimony shared, there has been a harvest of souls in a number of countries. (3) *For the right balance in giving.* Christian donors need to be guided by the Lord rather than by their emotional response to physical suffering. The famine of the Word of God is a far more serious problem than that of food in Africa today.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

To God be the glory — great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the Life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory — great things He hath done.