

# WEEK ONE

## —Sunday—

*He is our refuge and the One who makes us whole — Let's worship him!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in princes”* (Psa. 118:8,9). What a charming thought! “To take refuge in the Lord!” You are a refuge for the whole man, i.e., we can find protection for our mind in you. To think your thoughts is to bring a calmness of thought we cannot find anywhere else. We can find a bulwark of strength for our family in you. As we read together what you have said to each of us we sense a strength with each other and a love for each other we just do not have until we find it in you! What a refuge you are for the emotional chaos that fills our land! Man offers a refuge — indeed this seems to be his strongest emphasis — we could better label it “escapism.”

*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 what you mean to me in this very quality! “Rock of ages, let me hide myself in you.” These words do indeed describe my desire and pursuit. All my confidence in what man can offer has ended in disappointment. It is just that it is not in man to direct his own steps, to say nothing of anyone else. My acknowledgement of need is not the same as the satisfaction of that need. Dear Lord, I do want to spend much more time in my refuge. I am so glad my refuge is not a place but a person, and an omnipresent, omnipotent Person!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

All the above has been an expression of my spirit. At the same time, I can just as truly confess I have time after time put confidence in men and yes, princes. I

am learning, but it is a slow process. I am so glad you not only understand me, but directed the example of One who “did not trust himself to man for he knew what was in man” (John 2:24,25). My Lord found his daily refuge in you. How wonderful to be able to say we have never been disappointed in Jesus! In a very real sense confession becomes a means of strength since it propels me back to my only refuge — your dear self! I hide nothing, I want to repent deeply enough to change. Cleanse me from all my unwillingness!

*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

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Save me from its guilt and pow'r.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>9</sup>Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, <sup>10</sup>and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”

<sup>11</sup>He said to them, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? <sup>12</sup>How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” —Matthew 12:9-12, NIV

**3** Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. <sup>2</sup>Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. <sup>3</sup>Jesus said to the man with the

shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone."  
 "Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. —Mark 3:1-4, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

My Father, why did your Son go into the synagogue? He knew this was the very arena of conflict with the wild beasts who came only to wait for an occasion to devour him. He went there because that is where your word was read and some men worshiped you. Indeed, Jesus went there to worship you in public as he worshiped you in private. Was the man with the withered hand "planted" there by the Pharisees? He seems to be very well known. His physical problem was easily seen. How wonderfully complete and full of life is your Son's answer to the accusing question: (1) *As to morality*: Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath? Is healing good? Is it lawful to save life? Is healing saving life? (2) *As to value*: Would you help a sheep on the Sabbath? Is man worth as much as a sheep — then shall I help this man? Thank you for such a courageous all-wise Savior!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

"They were silent." Dear Lord, how often I have found myself here! I have been answered but I do not translate the answer into my life! Forgive, forgive me! Long held traditions are not easily given up, but we *can* change, we *must* change if Jesus is to be Lord. I can be so much like the scholars of the law. God wants me above and beyond *everything* else to show mercy and *meet* the needs of man. Open my heart through the words of my Lord: "How much more valuable is a man than a sheep?" I want to answer that question: (1) Only man is conscious of himself and will carry that consciousness throughout eternity. (2) Only man can sin — an animal cannot — therefore only man can be lost and only man can be, and must be saved. (3) Only man will live eternally and therefore only the salvation of man has eternal value — this could not be said of a sheep.

*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 my Lord's example of the need for public worship. (2) Thank you Jesus was ready to face his accusers on their own ground. (3) Thank you that the closer we watch Jesus the better he looks. (4) Thank you for the eternal good Jesus came to give. (5) Thank you that my owner saved his sheep. (6) Thank you Jesus never did any of his miracles in such a way they could be doubted.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" Our Lord had

already plainly indicated that it was not a matter of law; it was a question of mercy. The question should read: "Is it merciful to heal on the Sabbath?" The need of man seems to be eclipsed by the question of law. Is it lawful to plot against an innocent man's life on the Sabbath? Is it right to hate and criticize on the Sabbath? These are all questions much more to the point. The seriousness of the situation is increased by the fact that Jesus knew their motives. The application of law is the whole point at issue. Our Lord's answer is "we shall apply it in mercy and love, with a desire to meet human need." Dear Lord, may we accept your word.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How much like the man here described do we all feel from time to time. (1) I want to bring all my needs to you in worship. (2) I know I operate far below the level you want me to — heal my withered efforts. (3) As this man looked with expectation and then joy upon your Son, help me to see him. (4) Make me deaf to all but the words of your Son as they relate to my need. (5) I want to remember who has the answers to the tough questions of life.

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

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As the man with the withered hand listened to your Son, so do I: (1) "It is always lawful to help in the limitations of life." (2) "I can make you whole — stretch out your hand." (3) "How very valuable is one person."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Sri Lanka (Ceylon) — Population: 16,400,000. Growth rate — 2.1%. People per sq. km. — 216. Point for prayer: The land is very poorly evangelized and much prejudice and misunderstanding about the Gospel must be broken down. The colonial powers suppressed national culture and language and imposed national forms of Christianity in the past. Independence has brought in a backlash against Christianity and a "revival" of Buddhism. Pray for the evangelizing of this needy land.*

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
 Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
 Angels descending, bring from above  
 Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.  
 This is my story, this is my song,  
 Praising my Saviour all the day long;  
 This is my story, this is my song,  
 Praising my Saviour all the day long.

# WEEK ONE

## —Monday—

*He is my strength and my song! Keep me humble-minded that I may continue to sing.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. Hark, glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: ‘The right hand of the Lord does valiantly, . . .’ ”* (Psa. 118:14,15). What was sung so long ago — possibly in the temple has now become the expression of every Christian heart. At least such expressions of confidence and praise should arise from every one who is your son or daughter. It is my purpose to lift from these verses those qualities of yourself for which all men can praise you. (1) In you all men can find strength — indeed if any strength is to be found for the heart, it is in you. (2) There are so many qualities in yourself that exactly meet man’s needs we spontaneously burst into songs of praise. (3) We can all enjoy personal salvation — deliverance from all our enemies.

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*Just for me.* Dear Lord, I have no strength at all without you. I have no intellectual strength without your thoughts. Indeed, I would not even have the capacity of thought itself without sharing your likeness. The thoughts of man are like garbage compared with your knowledge. There is much good in the thoughts of men and all such good comes directly or indirectly from you. I am neither unwilling nor unable to read and assimilate the thoughts of men — I have just lost interest. The grandeur of your mind and its expressions have taken me captive! I have no moral strength without you — to will is present but to do that which is good, right or moral is just not there. Only as you move me, or I am willing to be moved by you, do I fulfill one of my least desires to do good! Praise your strength, you have indeed become my song!

*How do you personally relate to the strength of God, and God who is our strength? Speak it out or*

*write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

It will be easy to confess my sin in this realm. Whereas “the Lord is my strength” I at the same time find myself often turning to man or myself for resources. I praise you that I am learning — very often I can sing with the song writer: “My strength indeed is small.” That I should lean upon this broken staff at all is one of the mysteries of my iniquity. Forgive me! Out of this tattered tent should arise the glad song of victory. Instead too often are heard the laments of selfishness. Dear Lord, forgive me! To repeat my sins in prayer after I have confessed them is no value whatsoever. I am glad to cast them at your feet, or to cast them into the fountain filled with blood — to forget them; I know you do. Praise your wonderful grace!

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I need Thee ev’ry hour,  
Stay Thou near by;  
Temptations lose their pow’r  
When Thou art nigh.  
I need Thee, O I need Thee;  
Ev’ry hour I need Thee!  
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee!

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>13</sup>Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. <sup>14</sup>But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus. —Matthew 12:13,14, NIV

<sup>5</sup>He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. <sup>6</sup>Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus. —*Mark 3:5,6, NIV*

<sup>10</sup>He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored. <sup>11</sup>But they were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus. —*Luke 6:10,11, NIV*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Father, I hesitate to express myself on your behalf. Indeed such is presumption of the worst sort. I only want to tell you how much your word means to me as I try to read it from your perspective. Was it really necessary to confront these religious leaders head on? I know it was; I am only trying to think through the circumstance. Talk about minimal human effort! The healing by your Son was just that. What "work" was there in pronouncing four words "stretch out your hand"? This was not the first encounter with these men. I need to remember this as I respond to their rejection of my Lord: (1) He had exposed their greed and love of money in cleansing the temple. (2) He had plainly said he was the Messiah in the Nazareth synagogue. (3) He forgave sins. (4) He ate with tax collectors and other sinners. (5) He did not keep their fast days. (6) He ignored their rules for Sabbath observance. (7) He claimed equality with God. They had had it! They had abundant evidence pointing to just one conclusion.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How do I really respond to him? I want to read the account of Mark for myself. It is in his words I best see myself. Does my Lord ever look at me in "anger and deeply distressed"? I'm very sure he does. I look at my own attitudes and actions with the same response. However, right there the comparison becomes a contrast. I do leave my confrontation with you not to plot how I might further grieve you, but how I might "put to death" the thoughts of my heart and the deeds of my body. I want to more and more count myself crucified with your Son — I want to affirm "it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."

*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 direct unassuming manner our Lord used in healing this man. (2) Thank you for the wonderful clear evidence of deity in this healing. (3) Thank you for the joy that must have flooded the heart of the healed. (4) Thank you for my Lord's concern for everyone present in the synagogue. (5) Thank you my Lord is always clear and pure in his call for

acceptance or rejection. (6) Thank you for the completeness and permanence of the healing. (7) Thank you I can reverse the response of these religious leaders in my response to this miracle.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, . . ." What was it that so deeply distressed my Lord? It was their stubbornness, but in what areas? (1) They were stubborn about mercy — Jesus healed the man to show mercy. These men hardened their heart at his joy of being healed. (2) They stubbornly rejected this clear evidence of the supernatural. They are about to decide Jesus is in league with Satan. (3) They stubbornly refused to admit the human authority for their traditions.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the heart and words of your Son I find reasons to pray: (1) I want to become angry with my stubbornness before you do. (2) Melt my resistance — all resistance to you. (3) Open my inner ear to every word you speak. (4) Keep me always aware that you will not do what you expect me to do. (5) Keep me expecting complete answers to all my prayers. (6) May I expect negative responses to those who do not understand. (7) Remember, oh my soul, that no one can destroy Jesus!

*Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.*

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak Lord, thy servant heareth: (1) "Fear not the wrath of men — I didn't." (2) "No man can do more than I permit." (3) "All the plans of man are under my control."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Sri Lanka (Ceylon) — Point for prayer: (1) A greater openness to the Gospel has been evident in recent years. The lessening of resentments against the West and the growing economic privations of the land have made people more ready to listen to the Good News. Literature is in great demand and people are being won thereby.*

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Come, Thou Incarnate Word,  
Gird on Thy mighty sword,  
Our prayer attend:  
Come and Thy people bless,  
And give Thy word success:  
Spirit of holiness,  
On us descend.

# WEEK ONE

## —Tuesday—

*This is indeed the day the Lord has made — It is better when we pray — I am glad to do it!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it”* Psa. 118:22-24). This is a messianic psalm and full of meaning and for that reason I want to hold up the qualities of these three verses and praise you for each one: (1) Your dear Son has become the cornerstone of all of life. I remember that measurements for the whole building were taken from the cornerstone. The whole building was right because the cornerstone was right. However, (2) the stone was rejected by the builders. Dear Lord, there are various ways of rejecting you. When we do not know the measurements as related to the cornerstone, we cannot and will not build our house as you want it. I do not want to repeat the sin of those who rejected him.

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*Just for me.* My basic problem is that I want to design and build the house, but when that happens who gets the credit? It is only when we are willing to let you build the house that we can say, “This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.” I want to praise you that you have such a vital interest in every life that you want to be the architect. I believe the blueprint for every life is in your word. I also believe that a meditation on your word, both day and night is an essential prerequisite to applying in life what we learn in our meditation. I am confident that the construction of life preceded by those two steps becomes the house the Lord has made. Such building is done one day at a time. Let me say and mean — “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

*How do you personally relate to the house of God, and God who is the builder? Speak it out or*

*write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

How altogether too obvious is our sin as related to these beautiful verses: (1) Every day is a test as to whether I will accept or reject the Cornerstone for that day. If I rush into the day without meditation and prayer, how could it be anything but a disaster? (2) If my admiration and love for my Lord is not fresh and new for each day I cannot use the term “marvelous” with any meaning at all. (3) If I am not thoughtful in the major choices of this day how could I possibly say “This is the day the Lord has made”? I want to so condition my heart that my response is automatic. However, such conditioning is a daily, even hourly, practice. Forgive me, dear Lord, for not enjoying your fellowship.

*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

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
 Forgive our foolish ways!  
 Reclothe us in our rightful mind;  
 In purer lives Thy service find,  
 In deeper rev’rence, praise.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>12</sup>One of those days Jesus went out into the hills to pray, and spent the night praying to God. <sup>13</sup>When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he designated apostles: <sup>14</sup>Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, <sup>15</sup>Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, <sup>16</sup>Judas son of James, and Judas

**Iscariot, who became a traitor.** — Luke 6:12-16, NIV  
Read also Matthew 10:1-6 and Mark 3:13-19.

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Since your Son spent all night in prayer over his choice of the twelve it behooves us to spend at least a few minutes in as careful an understanding as we can. My primary purpose is praise and adoration. Why should Jesus spend all night praying to you? How we want to hear him pray — how we wish we knew what he said. But if we did, would we understand? Probably not. He must have reviewed all the disciples by name and need. The twelve were chosen the next morning because they were already chosen the night before. Jesus knew how poorly prepared they were; he must equip them. He gave them power and direction. His purpose in calling the twelve was not just to send them out but that they might first be with him.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

*Just for me.* I can identify with each of these men. (1) *Peter or Simon who is called Peter.* I identify so closely because I, like Peter, say too many things I need to retract. (2) *Andrew his brother.* I do have a deep desire to bring men to my Lord, and I thank you for it. (3) *James the son of Zebedee.* Here is one of the “sons of thunder.” Energy and vigor have been mine ever since I can remember. May I be as willing a martyr, or witness as James. (4) *John his brother.* How I want the same vigorous love and commitment I see in John. (5) *Philip of Bethsaida.* I like the beautiful challenge of our Lord’s appeal to Philip in John 6:6 “to prove him.” Dear Lord, I want to be like him. (6) *Bartholomew or possibly Nathanael.* “The Israelite in whom there was no guile.” (7) *Thomas Didymus.* I want his proven faith expressed in the words: “My Lord and my God.” (8) *Matthew the publican.* This man never ceased to wonder what God’s grace could do with a tax collector. (9) *James, the son of Alphaeus.* Possibly the cousin of our Lord, one who shared his personal fellowship often. (10) *Thaddaeus or Judas.* Jesus had two apostles named Judas. (1) *Simon the Zealot.* Here is a super patriot in company with a tax collector. (12) *Judas Iscariot,* who also betrayed him.

*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 Peter the first to open the door of salvation. (2) Thank you for Andrew who was first to tell his brother of our Lord. (3) Thank you for James who gave his life away for Jesus. (4) Thank you for the fisherman who became the apostle of love. (5) Thank you for Philip who brought others to Jesus. (6) Thank you for Nathanael of transparent sincerity. (7) Thank you for the publican who was called to tell others.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“. . . and spent the night praying to God.” Unless there was some overwhelming burden upon our heart it would seem an impossibility to actually spend a whole night in prayer. What would we say that would fill up six or eight hours? It was no problem for our Lord. If he prayed for each of the twelve in detail he would only spend 40 minutes each in an eight hour prayer vigil. When these men were going to be the foundation upon which his whole work was to be built 40 minutes apiece would not be unusual. Considering the enormity of the need, all night hardly seems long enough.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

If your dear Son could spend all night in prayer, surely there must be much about which I can pray: (1) How I do want to learn more and more about the prayer-life of my Lord — help me. (2) Give me the energy of communion with you. (3) How I want the power of intercessory prayer — enlighten me. (4) Give me boldness like Peter. (5) How I need the love as taught by John. (6) The practical lessons in obedience as written by James are a real need in my life. (7) What a need there is in my life for the guilelessness of Philip. (8) Oh that I might know your word as Matthew did.

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

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In the lives of these twelve men you can say so much to me: (1) “I can use the temperaments and talents of all men — if they are willing.” (2) “Not all men named Judas were bad.” (3) “Do you pray for those who learn from you?”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Sri Lanka (Ceylon) — Point for prayer: Missions — entry is very difficult. There are an estimated 90 missionaries. Pray that they may have a fruitful and strategic influence in this needy land.*

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

# WEEK ONE

## —Wednesday—

*We were created to worship you — we are most fulfilled when we do. Keep me from distractions.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“With my whole heart I seek thee; let me not wander from thy commandments! I have laid up thy word in my heart, that I might not sin against thee”* (Psa. 119:10,11). The attributes of yourself are not at all explicit in these verses, but there are several implicit qualities for me, and all men extol before your throne; (1) You want us to worship you. We were created to worship you, and eagerly do I respond to this quality. (2) You deserve an undivided attention from man. The whole total being of man should focus on you. How gladly do I take up such a practice — I want to give you all my heart. (3) Man has lost you, i.e., in the sense of awareness, we must seek you to find you — you are not lost; we are. Our Lord described you as the waiting father. Praise your 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

*Just for me.* You and your word are inseparable. There is no way I can seek you apart from your commandments. When I wander from a careful meditation upon your word I wander from you. The “laying up of your word in my heart” includes several relationships: (1) I know my heart refers to my inward being — my mind, will, emotions and conscience. To “lay up” your word would include memory work — which is a wonderful form of meditation. (2) This is a decision before it is anything — I must decide to give a time, a place, energy, concentration to this practice. I shall never do it without a priority decision. (3) Sinning is directly related to your word. Sin is indeed “the transgression of your law” (I John 3:4). I want to so saturate my whole being with your word that my brain is washed, my will is overcome, my emotions are tuned and my conscience is educated. I do want to seek you with my whole heart.

*How do you personally relate to the law of*

*God, and God who is the law giver? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

If you do, why is it you fail to do it? I refer in soliloquy to my strong desire to overcome sin and not being overcome by it. Dear Lord, I shall never be anything but a sinner, but I am not discouraged. To be anything else but a sinner I would need to know everything and do it. If I reached that place you would have another job. I say this in tragic jest. Forgive me. But you do expect improvement, or growth, and so do I. As I read verse twelve of this blessed 119th Psalm I find a beautiful answer to my deep need: “Blessed be thou, O Lord; teach me thy statutes.” Man (including myself) has been very unsuccessful in teaching me. You can do it! I want to pause before the author of your word and let him implant it in my heart.

*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

His banner over us is love,  
Our sword the Word of God;  
We tread the road the saints above  
With shouts of triumph trod.  
By faith, they like a whirlwind's breath,  
Swept on o'er ev'ry field;  
The faith by which they conquered death  
Is still our shining shield.  
Faith is the victory!  
Faith is the victory!  
Oh, glorious victory,  
That overcomes the world.

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

## HIS WORD

<sup>7</sup>Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. <sup>8</sup>When they heard all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. <sup>9</sup>Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. <sup>10</sup>For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. <sup>11</sup>Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." <sup>12</sup>But he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was. —*Mark 3:7-12, NIV*

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

As you observed the popularity of your Son what did you think? How empty was the praise some gave to him! The healer was forgotten almost as soon as the healing was completed. How incredibly sad this was. Why did he heal them when he knew they would soon forget him? He knew — as you did — that some would not forget. That some would have a delayed reaction to what happened. The real answer is twofold: He healed the multitude because he had compassion upon them; he was touched with the feeling of their infirmities. He healed them because in these miracles they could see his deity. How delighted I am to see yourself moving among that vast multitude reaching out to heal and help everyone.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It will not be difficult to identify with several who followed him, from Galilee or with some of those from Judea or Jerusalem. Like those from the lovely countryside of Galilee I have heard him and seen him before. But there is something about him — I just cannot stay away; I want to hear more, I want to see him again and again. As many times as I have read the gospels (and I could not count them) I yet read them this morning with new eyes — eyes he opened, as if I had never read them before. Some who came to him from Judea or Jerusalem came home skeptical to see if indeed it was all true, i.e., what they had heard. I want to go back and tell everyone the half has never yet been told.

*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 planned work of my Lord; it helps me plan my work. (2) Thank you for the learners who followed him; may I be one of them. (3) Thank you for everyone in that multitude; each of them known and important to you. (4) Thank you for the service his disciples could be to him them; he needs us today. (5) Thank you there was no one who could not be healed. (6) Thank you for the constant consistent response of demons; they always fell down

and worshiped him. What does this say to us? (7) Thank you that I can right here and right now fall down and praise and worship him.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was." Instructions to demons! Who would hear the news of his Messiahship from demons? Perhaps it was at the occasion of the large crowd that he wanted the demons silent. Could it be that the demons would publish abroad in the spirit world his fame? There was one obvious reason he wanted the demons not to speak of who he was: It came from the wrong source — the message is inseparably associated with the messenger. This was also true with the demon-possessed girl in Philippi (Acts 16:16-18).

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Even my Lord had problems with crowds and those who did not understand. I want to ask help as I read of his work: (1) I do need wisdom in knowing when it is best to say "no" and move on. (2) When shall I cease to help? — there were times when Jesus did and times when he didn't. (3) Help me to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy that your son would be preached to the Gentiles. (4) Give me the meek and lowly attitude of my Lord. (5) May all my speeches have my Lord's purposes behind them. (6) How I need the grace to cultivate faith through your word in the hearts of hearers. (7) Keep me aware that Jesus alone is the hope of the world.

*Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.*

## READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these verses speak to me: (1) "My Lord had no unsuccessful attempts at healing." (2) "Demons know who Jesus is." (3) "There is a time for preaching and there is a time to not preach."

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Sri Lanka (Ceylon) — Point for prayer: The Protestant Church is one of the weakest and most nominal in Asia. Few know about the new birth. Non-Bible-believing theological colleges and literature have not produced committed Christians or soul-winning evangelists. Church union is seen as a better solution than a vital personal union of individuals with the Lord.*

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.



# WEEK ONE

## —Thursday—

*You can no more be separated from your word than I from my words. Both tell of the heart. In you and in your word is my hope.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“In the way of thy testimonies I delight as much as in riches. I will meditate on thy precepts, and fix my eyes on thy ways. I will delight in thy statutes; I will not forget thy word”* (Psa. 119:14-16). I realize this whole psalm is devoted to the meaning and beauty of your law — or your word. But since a man’s word is but the outward expression of the man himself, to appreciate one is to appreciate the other. It will be my delight for the next several weeks to hold up one quality after another of yourself as related to your word and praise you: (1) The meaning and purpose and value of your word is much better than the meaning, value and purpose of *all riches*. One life saved here to usefulness and unselfish service and then to the eternal joys of heaven is a clear testimony of the truth of the statement.

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*Just for me.* (In these expressions of praise the generic and specific merge.) (2) Praise you that your precepts are such that they merit meditation. Praise you that they are written in such a manner that all men can meditate upon them. After a thousand attempts to probe the depths of what you have written there is yet much more to explore. (3) I am so very, very thankful for eyesight, but more than that for the ability to understand — for what men call intelligence — which is in truth your own image in man. It would do but little good to fix my eyes on your ways if I could not discern them. (4) Praise your name that I do have a deep excitement about investigating every word of your statutes. I have been so wonderfully helped in the efforts I have given to this blessed pursuit!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

The last little phrase of these verses “stabs me awake”! “I will not forget thy word.” How is it I have such a lapse of memory? i.e., I only remember your word *sometimes*, but not all the time? The answer is obvious enough: memory is programmed. We precondition our memory to function under specific conditions at specified times. My sin is that I have not programmed my memory and conscience via my will to include your word. Your word is left in my subconscious and is not brought forward to the self-consciousness thus I forget your word. Meditation upon the meaning of your word both day and night will solve this problem — called sin!

*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

Thro’ days of toil when heart doth fail,  
God will take care of you;  
When dangers fierce your path assail,  
God will take care of you.  
God will take care of you,  
Thro’ 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

<sup>15</sup>Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick,  
<sup>16</sup>warning them not to tell who he was. <sup>17</sup>This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:  
<sup>18</sup>“Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him,  
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

<sup>19</sup>He will not quarrel or cry out;  
no one will hear his voice in the streets.

<sup>20</sup>A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,  
till he leads justice to victory.

<sup>21</sup>In his name the nations will put their hope." —*Matthew 12:15-21, NIV*

*Read also Luke 6:17-19.*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is with our Lord's use of Isaiah 42:1-4 I want to particularly praise you. Indeed, my Lord, I want to observe what kind of servant you have chosen for yourself. What is affirmed of this servant of yourself goes infinitely beyond anything to which the prophet was ever called, or of which man was ever capable. He is indeed and in a unique sense "your beloved." He pleased you well. He pleases me beyond all words! You put your Spirit upon him in the sense of anointing him (Acts 10:38). From beginning to end the Holy Spirit empowered his ministry. Dear Father, how I love to read of the direction and inspiration your Spirit gave to the ministry of your Son.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Whereas I tried in the above words to identify your perspective I want in these brief words to identify with him and love him to the extent that I can be like him: (1) He will not argue and shout. My dear Lord did so much without fanfare and rabble-rousing. "He does not seek his own, therefore denies himself; he brings what commends itself; therefore requires no trumpeting." How unlike some of our efforts! (2) He will never crush the weak nor destroy the smallest amount of faith. (3) He will not stop until he has won the victory, making justice to triumph. He will indeed be (and is) the hope of the world!

*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 poignant name "Servant" — how well does this describe him. (2) Thank you for the assurance that servanthood is your choice. (3) Thank you for the fullness of your Spirit who was present in my Lord. (4) Thank you that his ministry has reached to this one needy Gentile. (5) Thank you for the example of silent success seen in my Savior.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"And in his name shall the Gentiles hope." Just one Gentile can say that without him there is no hope. I would find no hope for our family because without my Lord's instructions for interpersonal relationships we would be at one another's throats. Without Jesus' words about the life to come "in my father's house"

there would be no hope for those who have lived to the three score and ten and beyond. Without my Lord and his presence in me and with me any job would be meaningless. The hope of our neighborhood is in my Lord. How easy it is to find fault with others. Only Jesus can show me how to live alongside others in peace and love.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

This remarkable statement of the healing ministry of Jesus moves me to pray: (1) How I want to stand day by day with him and hear his words. (2) Make me a fisher of men. (3) Open my inner ear that you might truly be my teacher. (4) Heal me of the disease of blindness and deafness as related to your word. (5) I am indeed troubled by demons — I want my Lord to rebuke them. (6) How I want to draw near enough to touch you and be touched by you.

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

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

There are so many things you could teach me: (1) "Not everyone really ever heard all I spoke and taught — you have much more than any one of them did," (2) "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (3) "I can heal all hearts who come to me."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Sri Lanka (Ceylon) — Point for prayer: Evangelistic outreach is, however, more noticeable now than for many years. Bible believing groups inside and outside the churches are now more aggressively reaching out. Efforts are now being made to win the university students. Since the nationalization of all schools, Christian teachers have been making an impact in government schools. Yet all these are but small beginnings.*

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Beyond my highest joy  
I prize her heavenly ways,  
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,  
Her hymns of love and praise.

# WEEK ONE

## —Friday—

*I like the Psalmist am a sojourner on earth — hide not your word from me — I need it so much! In it is life forever more.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live and observe thy word. Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. I am a sojourner on earth; hide not thy commandments from me! (Psa. 119:17-19).* Such blessed attributes of yourself for which I can praise you! (1) Your desire to supply all my needs, all the needs of all men. We should lift our hearts in deep gratitude every morning we open our eyes. (2) We are your voluntary slaves — we are “your servants.” In a most practical factual sense we are all your servants, whether we acknowledge it or not. You have created the entire environment — personal and public in which we live. (3) Indeed, you have given us “life and breath.”

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*Just for me.* The psalmist is to say over and over again that our whole purpose in living is to “observe” your word. Indeed it is! What point or purpose is there in life without your word? (4) You can and will give us wisdom as we read your will. Applications and meanings that escaped us before will now appear as if by divine intention — which is exactly what is happening. Bless your holy name! Thank you! (5) You are aware of the brevity of our life — of the fact that we are but pilgrims and we need news from home. How wondrously good you are!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

There is no point to my repeated confession of failure unless there is with it a repeated sincere desire to repent. Such I offer you. How I *do* want to change. In the daily routine I can inject meditation and

memorization of your word. You have already dealt very bountifully with your servant — to what purpose? “That I might live and observe your word.” There is nothing monotonous in reading your word again if I want to — and I do! If my eyes were opened (i.e., the eyes of my heart) and I did not have before me your law what would be the purpose of seeing? — life means nothing without your explanation. Dear Lord, I affirm this because of my need! Forgive my attachments to this city which has no foundation — to this country that will not abide.

*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

Sweetly echo the gospel call,  
Wonderful words of Life;  
Offer pardon and peace to all,  
Wonderful words of Life.  
Jesus, only Savior,  
Sanctify forever:  
Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of Life.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of Life.

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

### HIS WORD

**5** Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup>and he began to teach them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for

righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of  
righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute  
you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you  
because of me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, because great is  
your reward in heaven, for in the same way they  
persecuted the prophets who were before you. —*Mat-  
thew 5:1-12, NIV*

*Read also Luke 6:20-26.*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The best I can do in reading these beautiful words to you is to read with prayerful thought a paragraph of the first seven verses into which is written the meaning: "How well off are you who know that you are poor in Spiritual things, as well as materially (Luke 6:20): the kingdom of God is yours! How blest are those who know what sorrow means, because they are in a position to receive consolation and courage! Happy are those of a gentle spirit, who claim nothing of their own rights, for the whole earth will belong to them! Blessed are you who are hungering and thirsting for that character which is God's own righteousness: you shall be fully satisfied!"

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Happy are those whose hearts are pure, those who are completely sincere, for they shall see God. Happy are those who work to produce peace in human society, peace between God and man and peace with man himself; these will be known as God's sons. How blest are they who have suffered persecution for the cause of righteousness! The kingdom of God belongs to such as they. Indeed what happiness will be yours when men hate you and turn you out of their company, when you suffer insults and persecution, when they slander you and despise all you stand for, because you are loyal to the Son of Man.

### READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the assurance that I can be blessed or happy. (2) Thank you for the promise of your concern in my dependence upon others for my support. (3) Thank you for the privilege of repentance — of real godly sorrow. (4) Thank you for the solid assurance you will and do strengthen my weaknesses through my sorrow.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"But alas for you who are rich, for you are in little position to receive further comfort" (Luke 6:24). It seems incongruous to bemoan the fate of the rich. It would seem this is the whole pursuit of the whole world. But then our Lord looks at things as they are and *not* as they seem. The comfort riches afford are all the rich will receive. Many rich find no consolation in their possessions. Others seem to enjoy their luxury. But if this life is but the smallest infinitesimal fraction of the life to come, i.e., by comparison of time to eternity, and riches do not count at all in the world to come, then the comfort found here is small indeed.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Here is the "blessed life" — how I need to pray about it: (1) Poverty of spirit is what I want and need. (2) Break my spirit that I might let you rule. (3) Convict my heart of the reality of sin that I might seek and find your forgiveness. (4) How I want a yielded attitude in every relationship of life. (5) I do want to enter the full inheritance of meekness. (6) Deepen my hunger — increase my thirst for your righteousness. (7) Lead me to some one who hurts that I may show mercy.

*Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.*

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

How these words can penetrate my heart if I will let them: (1) "The pure in heart will see me — no one else." (2) "My sons make peace and pursue peace." (3) "It can be a good thing to be persecuted."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Republic of the Maldives* — Population: 177,000. 220 small coral islands 600 km. east of Sri Lanka. Point for prayer: *There are no Maldivian Christians* — the only totally unevangelized nation in Asia. No Christian propaganda is permitted, for Christianity is abhorred by the people. Pray for these people in their sin and need — it would appear that their major hobby is immorality.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

# WEEK ONE

## —Saturday—

*You can not teach those who do not want to be taught — but there is no end to what you can teach to those who want to know. I bow before you.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Teach me, O Lord, the way set out in thy statutes, and in keeping them I shall find my reward. Give me the insight to obey thy law and to keep it with all my heart; make me walk in the path of thy commandments, for that is my desire”* (Psa. 119:33-35). Dear Lord, in these brief verses are all the cooperative principles of the fulfillment of your will in the lives of your servants. How marvelous are your ways! The one quality of yourself I see in these verses is “Great wisdom.” I immediately think of Paul’s words: “You must work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you, inspiring both the will and the deed, for his own chosen purpose” (Philippians 2:12,13). Together we will get it done. What is your part; what is my part? They are so much a part of each other we cannot separate them. Praise you for such unexcelled wisdom!

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*Just for me.* It would surely seem that all these verses were especially written for me! Let me mark out my part and your part and marvel at the merging. *My part:* (1) Keeping your statutes. (2) Enjoying the reward of my obedience. (3) To obey thy law. (4) To keep it with all my heart. (5) To walk in the path of your commandments. (6) To fulfill my desire to walk in your path. *Your part:* (1) Teach me the way set out in your statutes. (2) Give me insight to obey thy law and to obey it with all my heart. (3) To make me walk in the path of thy commandments. How I do rejoice in the merging of my will in your will — in the “working in” as I “work out.” *The results are:* (1) I shall be taught by you through your word. (2) I shall keep or live out your word in my life. (3) I will have a subjective response of joy in this fulfillment. (4) I shall have insight needed to obey your word. (5) Your word will find expression in all of my heart. (6) My

desire to obey your commandments will find an answer.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

All of the above sounds so wonderful — and it is! How then is it so infrequently fulfilled in my life? It would be easy to say that I have not cooperated as I should. This is true but that is a superficial answer. The well-spring of motivation is in my love — my deep desire to do your will, and with it my strong love for your word. When I am ready to cultivate these qualities I will have all your power and strength flowing through me — *and not until and only when!* Dear Lord, I want to confess this basic sin. I have not taken the time and thought to give myself in love for your will as expressed in your word. This is a love for you, since it is impossible to separate what One says from the Person who says it. Forgive me and move me into a love relationship with you and your word.

*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

When sore trials came upon you,  
Did you think to pray?  
When your soul was bowed in sorrow,  
Balm of Gilead did you borrow,  
At the gates of day?  
Oh, how praying rests the weary!  
Prayer will change the night to day;  
So in sorrow and in gladness,  
Don’t forget to pray.

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

## HIS WORD

<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do men light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.  
—*Matthew 5:13-16, NIV*

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I have read these blessed words hundreds of times. But never have I read them with more meaning than just now. Never have I approached you in just the way I do this morning to try to think and pray through each word in your presence. Your dear Son selects such common and ordinary things to give meaning to his words. “Salt,” “Light,” “a bushel,” “a lamp.” And now the transfer! I am the salt; I am the light. I have a stand and a bushel. Speak to me, dear Lord! I am listening; my heart is open to you! I hear him say to me, “You are the world’s salt! You stand in the same relationship to the world as does salt to meat which is decomposing. But if the salt (*you and I*) becomes insipid or tasteless; how is its saltiness to be restored or the meat to be preserved? That is, if you lose your power to preserve from moral corruption, how could you restore that lost power?”

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

*Just for me.* Just here I want to apply every word I can from this passage to my own heart cry. Jesus tells me that I am a lamp lit by his fire to burn as a light in this dark world in which I live. There is a real problem in this responsibility. “. . . The museum of human history is quite cluttered with the wrecked lives of men and institutions who could not resist the temptation of self-glory.” What motives will save us from this peril? When once we see how truly *lost* the world is we will have “that courageous humility that makes us truly helpful to men without seeking our own glory.”

*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 it is my privilege to do what I can through living and preaching your word to preserve this rotten world from destruction. (2) Thank you that much is being done right here in our world even if there is very little “furious fanfare.” (3) Thank you I can be “a walking conscience” to bring your Son right into the evil society in which I live. (4) Thank you I am reminded over and again that “salt retains its value only if it maintains its distinctive character.”

(5) Thank you that I can truly believe that if I lose my saltiness the world will lose all hope.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“. . . that men may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” There are two sides to this coin: (1) That men would glorify us and not the Father. Isn’t it almost unavoidable? Men glorified Peter and John — men praised and worshiped Paul and Barnabas — not all men immediately thought of God following their healing from our Lord. Some men will refuse to transfer their praise even when they know better. (2) We can allow this problem to be used as an excuse for false modesty and never give ourselves to any “good works.” Men *must* see our good works if they are going to glorify you. The answer is not only in the source of the good works, but also in the manner in which they are done. Egocentric action is detectable.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these sometimes too familiar words I find real reasons for prayer: (1) I can give life and flavor to the part of the earth I affect — help me. (2) O thou, the source of all saltiness, keep me salty. (3) Show me today the good for which I was created. (4) Light my candle. (5) Put me on a hill. (6) Set me on a stand in your house. (7) Show men your good works through me.

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

## READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

How powerful will be your words in these verses. (1) “Keep near me — I’ll make you salty.” (2) “Keep near me — I’ll turn on your light.” (3) “I am a hill and I am the stand for your light.”

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Taiwan* — Population: 19,200,000. Growth rate — 1.9%. People per sq. km. — 533.  
Point for prayer: *The outstanding Christian testimony* in the will of the late Pres. Chiang Kai-Shek in 1975 gave fresh impetus to believers to evangelize among a more responsive people. Pray that this land may be fully evangelized while there is time. The growing power of Communist China may be used to occupy Taiwan.

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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