

WEEK TWO

—Sunday—

In your Son — in your Word I find continuing delight! Freedom! Freedom is mine. Your law is fulfilled in your Son! I bow to lose myself in you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“I walk in freedom wherever I will, because I have studied thy precepts. I will speak of thy instructions before kings and will not be ashamed; in thy commandments I find continuing delight. I love them with all my heart” (Psa. 119:45-47). What a profound statement of truth is in the promise of freedom! The words of your dear Son come immediately to mind. “you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” In every situation of life we can move confidently — in every changing circumstance of life we can walk with a sure step. Praise your name for the liberating experience we find in studying your word! I have tested this concept enough to know how true it is. Dear Father, how we long to have your word honored and accepted by the heads of countries. If there is any way at all I can cause this to happen I am ready.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I am not worshiping your book; I am worshiping you. I am not in love with ink on paper; I am in love with the meaning of yourself as seen in what you have said. Having said this I at the same time can enter into the expression of the psalmist with the most exuberance possible! “In thy commandments I find continuing delight”; indeed, indeed I do! If you can give me enough days I purpose to examine every word of your book in the closet of prayer. I have no greater need or delight! I have thought through the words of the Old Testament in more than thirty years of classes, but dear Lord, such was but a preparation of meditation on your commandments.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

A paraphrase in the negative could easily say what I want to in confession of my sin. I walk in bondage in every relationship of life because I have neglected the study of thy precepts. I mean that my bondage is a result of my neglect of daily study of your precepts. I am ashamed to mention my interest in the Bible to almost anyone. I am intimidated by those in high places and somehow my mouth and heart are closed. I know why: it is because I am not current in my meditation on yourself and your Son as found in your word. Forgive me! I already know what the Bible says and I am bored! It is because I have been deceived — I shall never exhaust the precious treasure of your word! Break the apathy of indifference and open my heart to receive with meekness your life-changing word! Forgive me and renew my mind!

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

The Lord is my Shepherd, no want shall I know;
I feed in green pastures, safe-folded I rest;
He leadeth my soul where the still waters flow,
Restores me when wand’ring, redeems when oppressed;
Restores me when wand’ring, redeems when oppressed.

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

HIS WORD

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and

teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

²¹“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²²But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

²³“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. —*Matthew 5:17-24, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It does seem redundant to read the words of your blessed Son back to you. But as you know it is a means of praise and wonder. I surely am on holy ground as I read the words of his sermon on the mount. Jesus did not come to repeal or ruin the law but to fulfill it. The law must remain in effect so it can be the standard against which those will be judged who will not accept your leniency through faith in your Son.

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 do not have the time or space to worship you through all these verses. I do praise you for the unalloyed joy I find in my Lord's fulfillment of the law for me. (1) My Lord fulfilled the law's purpose to demonstrate the standard of righteousness by showing himself to be the perfect man and all that you had in mind when you gave the law. Once the law was kept and we can identify with the one who kept it, the law can also be fulfilled in me. Praise your name! (2) My Lord fulfilled the law's purpose to declare the exceeding sinfulness of sin by living as a man above sin, thus condemning all sin that men commit and dissolving all the rationalizations they (we) offer to justify their (our) sinning.

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 that the law has been fulfilled in him — since I am *in him* it is also fulfilled in me! (2) Thank you that all things necessary for my salvation have been accomplished by my Lord. (3) Thank you that there is no escape from the guilt of disobedience — such guilt can drive us to yourself. (4) Thank you for One who was himself all he taught others. (5) Thank you for the *exceeding* righteousness I find in my Lord.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... leave there your gift before the altar, and go thy way, first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.” Does our Lord expect us to have a friendly good will toward all with whom we associate? This is exactly what our Lord expects. There are persons who for several reasons become a source of irritation to us. What shall we do with them? These are the very ones of whom we are speaking. There need be no ill will in your heart. Hopefully there will be none in the heart of our brother, but at least in our heart we have freely forgiven him. My Lord is saying to me that resentment and grudges cannot be present if I am truly to worship you. We must give up our hatred or resentment of our brother or our attempted worship.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How can I receive the fulfillment of the law and the prophets? (1) Relate me to the meaning of the law's fulfillment. (2) I want to see with my heart the One of whom all the prophets spoke. (3) Has all been accomplished in your Son? (4) I want to be taught by Jesus to keep your law. (5) Show me the true motives behind my service for you and others. (6) I do want to right now let heaven rule in my life. (7) Rule from the throne of my heart.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Deliver me from being just religious — speak to my conscience! (1) “Claim your citizen's rights in my kingdom.” (2) “Your rights are found in me and my words.” (3) “Teach men my words and be called by myself great in the kingdom.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Taiwan — Point for prayer: *Missions* — There are now about 863 missionaries in the land. There are many openings for new missionaries in evangelism, church planting, and inspiring of believers to action, but national believers are increasingly shouldering the leadership, administration and burden of the work.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I love Thy Kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The church our blessed Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

WEEK TWO

—Monday—

I have indeed thought upon the course of my life. I come now to your word and your throne for an answer.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“I have thought much about the course of my life and always turned back to thy instructions. I have never delayed but always made haste to keep thy commandments. . . . At midnight I rise to give thee thanks for the justice of thy decrees” (Psa. 119:59, 60,62). How full of meaning are these words of the song writer of long ago. How many thousands upon thousands of men and women can say: “I have thought much about the course of my life”? What shall it be that directs my paths? Where shall I find point and purpose to my living? If we cannot find a reason for life in your word we shall not find it! How I want to testify that in the “dead ends of life” I have never delayed but always made haste to keep thy commandments. There really is no option that makes sense. Thank you for your wonderful Son revealed in your word.

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. I have now lived past the “three score” and I am living out the “ten.” In these years — and even now — I consider the direction and reason for my life. I find no meaning at all apart from your word! Can we find value in our children — indeed we can if they find life in you and your Son. They are indeed an extension of ourselves, separate and valuable for themselves, but what is there for them without your precepts? What shall we leave in the lives of others that lives after we have moved to another life? The more I think on these matters, the more I want to praise you for your truth that abides forever! An investment with eternal dividends! Praise your name as revealed in your word.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Perhaps the first confession would be that verse 62 of this psalm does not apply to me. When has it been that I awoke at midnight and arose to thank you for your self-revelation found in the Bible? If I did it, I can’t remember it. What would produce such a nocturnal response? If I was meditating upon the words and meaning of your book just before I retired, such a response might be expected. What we do in our leisure hours does indicate what is in our heart. Dear Lord, forgive me! I could right now choose to change my leisure habits. Is there nothing in your book to fascinate me? Is there nothing I could read that would hold my interest? Dear Lord, I am trying to be as honest with you as I can. (I already know you see the intents of my heart.) Forgive me, I repent!

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

A shade by day, defence by night,
A shelter in the time of storm;
No fears alarm, no foes afright,
A shelter in the time of storm.
Oh, Jesus is the Rock in a weary land,
A weary land, a weary land;
Oh, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land,
A shelter in the time of storm.

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

HIS WORD

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say that anyone that looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes

you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to commit adultery, and anyone who marries a woman so divorced commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. —Matthew 5:27-37, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Of all the sections of your word this is the one where it would be so easy to leave the real purpose of these words and launch into a commentary comment on the meaning. My purpose here is to read your word to you in an expression of praise and attempt as much as possible to receive with meekness your engrafted word that is able to save my whole life. The problem of adultery has been with society from the beginning of Satan’s work. To stop it in the individual heart is to stop it in society. Dear Lord, I am that individual! I want to receive the censure and purifying your Son brings to me.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Just for me. What can save me from the all-pervasive sexuality of this day? Here are the commitments I make to receive this salvation: (1) I want to read all over again and again what you have said about this subject. I Cor. 6:9-20; 10:1-13; chapters 5 and 7 of I Corinthians; I Thess. 4:3-8; Heb. 13:4. I want these words to sink into my conscience. I claim the promise of II Peter 1:3,4. (2) I want to be so constantly in love with you that I cannot, I do not love the world. I believe this is exactly what I John 2:15,16 says to me. “The intelligent choice to love all of the opposite sex even as God loves them destroys the power of lust.” (3) I want to get a good look at hell and realize that no lustful desire is worth the price attached. I John 3:3 tells me the hope of heaven makes me pure.

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 your clear unambiguous statement: you shall not commit adultery. (2) Thank you for the opportunity of stopping adultery where it begins. (3) Thank you for the drastic measures my Lord spelled out in stopping lust. (4) Thank you that what seem

severe and unusual measures by men are not considered so by you. (5) Thank you for your clear teaching on divorce. (6) Thank you you are just as severe with divorce as with lust. (7) Thank you for the wonderful motivation you have given me for telling the truth.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Let your yes be yes and your no, no; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” Man is such a strange creature; when he wants to impress one of his fellow creatures he adds emphasis to his affirmations or denials, when all the while there is a strange possibility that he is not telling the truth. If the heart is basically false, dishonest or unjust the mouth cannot but reveal that condition. Such a man must resort to oaths to guarantee his affirmations, for how else can he make up for his generally-known lack of integrity?

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

These revisions of the ten commandments move me to ask for help: (1) How can I prevent the lustful look? (2) I want to see every woman as a precious person not a sex symbol. (3) My look need not enter my imagination — keep me aware of this. (4) Give me courage to perform the drastic mental surgery here suggested. (5) I know you want my whole self — I want to give it. (6) I am so glad for the wife you gave me — I want to give my whole self to her. (7) It is so easy for me to over emphasize — deliver me — I want my “yes to be simply ‘yes.’ ”

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Emphasize all over again the depth of these words: (1) “Bring every thought into my captivity.” (2) “Bring your mate often to me in prayer.” (3) “Hold your emotions up to me that I might heal them.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Taiwan — Point for prayer: *Literature work is now extensive.* There are plans to penetrate the secular book market with Christian books as well as publishing new books translated from other languages and encouraging local writers.

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 TWO

—Tuesday—

Your words "are the theme of my life wherever I make my home." Jesus came to live out the reality of this blessed thought — I worship him — and yourself.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"Thy statutes are the theme of my song (or wonderful to me) wherever I make my home. In the night I remember thy name, O Lord, and dwell upon thy law. . . . With all my heart I have tried to please thee; fulfill thy promise and be gracious to me" (Psa. 119:54,55,58). What marvelous qualities of yourself are found in these verses! (1) Your word (which is but an expression of yourself) is such that it makes me want to sing, i.e., there is happiness in the meaning of your word. (2) Your word is of such substance it produces a theme — your word has continuing meaning in it. (3) No environment need hinder my song. Your word produces my environment. (4) If I meditate upon your word for a period of the day you will bring it to mind at night. In all these ways and more you are active in my life. 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. I have related the above praise to myself — only because what is true for me can be, and should be true of all men. I continue the attributes of yourself I see in this text. (5) At night I can quietly absorb the meaning of what you have said, i.e., "meditate upon your word," or "dwell upon your law." I am not reading rules and regulations; I am reveling in revelation that has life and hope and peace for my troubled heart. (6) You prompt a desire in me to please you. I would not do it only out of fear; if I did I would not be so happy about it. The text says it exactly as I do it: "I have tried to please you." I'm delighted to include the last quality. (7) "Fulfill thy promise and be gracious to me." I claim your un-earned favor!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Much of my praise has been admixed with confession. At the same time, it will be good to delineate the specifics of my failures to be forgiven and to be reminded again how totally dependent I am upon you. (1) Whereas I could sing your praises everyday, I fail to do so because I simply do not spend adequate thought on your word. (2) The theme of my life is yourself, but I feel like I am just learning how to make them true. (3) I have been (or allowed myself to be) overcome with the environment. Forgive me. (4) Night time is a period of real need — I am tired and vulnerable — thank you for speaking to this need. (5) I have not meditated on your word at night — not at all as I could — I am glad to respond to what you are saying here. (6) I am not always filled with a desire to please you, but I want to be. (7) I do indeed claim your grace. Thank you for your mercy!

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

Take the world, but give me Jesus,
All its joys are but a name;
But His love abideth ever,
Thro' eternal years the same.
Oh, the height and depth of mercy!
Oh, the length and breadth of love!
Oh, the fullness of redemption,
Pledge of endless life above!

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

HIS WORD

³⁸"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' ³⁹But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak

as well, ⁴¹If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴²Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³‘You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. —Matthew 5:38-48, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, who is sufficient to receive the application of your Son’s words to his interpersonal relationships? Non-resistance in personal problems. You are speaking to me in the four examples of my Lord: (1) In personal insults of a physical or verbal nature: “Whosoever smiteth thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.” (2) In litigation over trifles (which includes personal property): “If any man would go to law with thee, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.” Considering how valuable the coat and cloak were in my Lord’s day such would include equally valuable items with me. (3) When I am pressed into service I do not want to give I must hear my Lord speak to me: “. . . Whosoever shall compel thee to go one mile, go with him two.” (4) Most of all, when asked for a gift or a loan “return good for evil by intelligent liberality.”

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

These words speak so powerfully to my heart. *On verse 44:* “. . . this word *enemy* covers the whole realm of those who oppose: personal antagonists, business competitors, political opponents, social rivals.” *On verse 45:* “The honest man, whose conscience has been stabbed by Christ’s message and who feels keenly his own imperfection, will be reminded that God did truly bless him even in his sinfulness. Such a disciple will be motivated to bless and help men, especially his enemies, loving them as God first loved him.” Dear Lord, this is my desire and prayer.

Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you there is a way to remove the desire for personal retaliation. (2) Thank you that I now know love and good will are more important than personal property. (3) Thank you that it is not necessary to determine if a person deserves the gift before I give it. (4) Thank you I can actually return good for evil — Lord help me to *do it!*

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Be perfect therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” If our Lord knew we could not keep the law of Moses, and he did, then what *does* he mean by asking us to “be perfect”? “He who loves like the heavenly Father loves, is thoroughly equipped to grow into absolute perfection. He who loves, needs no other rules or standards, for he will always act in the best interest of his neighbor, friend or enemy. To love consistently is to be perfect.” One translation of I John 2:5 is “Whoever practices obedience to his message really has a perfect love of God in his heart.” We are indebted to Harold Fowler for the thoughts in the above. “Laws are but the muscles of love, given to punish those who are unable or unwilling to be governed directly by love” (*ibid*).

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

These words of my Lord on non-resistance and love call for the following requests: (1) What real spiritual value is there in non-resistance? (2) I want to make real practical application of these words — lead me into a situation where this can happen. (3) When am I being taken advantage of? I really need heaven’s wisdom in answering this question. (4) Who are the enemies for whom I shall pray? (5) How can I express my love for those who hate me? (6) I want the perfection my Lord asked of me. (7) In all the above areas I do expect your answer as I am willing to perceive it and receive it.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

You surely have much to say to me in these verses: (1) “Do not resist an evil person.” (2) “Love your enemies.” (3) “Pray for those who persecute you.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Taiwan — Point for prayer: *Between 1945 and 1960* there was great growth in the church — both due to the influx of Christians and many experienced Christian workers at the fall of the Mainland, and also a remarkable people movement among the mountain tribes. Growth has slowed due to increasing materialism, the over-dependence of many of the smaller churches on overseas funds and failure to teach and mobilize the church members for outreach and personal evangelism. The need of the Church today is for systematic Bible teaching and revival to bring unity and zeal for outreach.

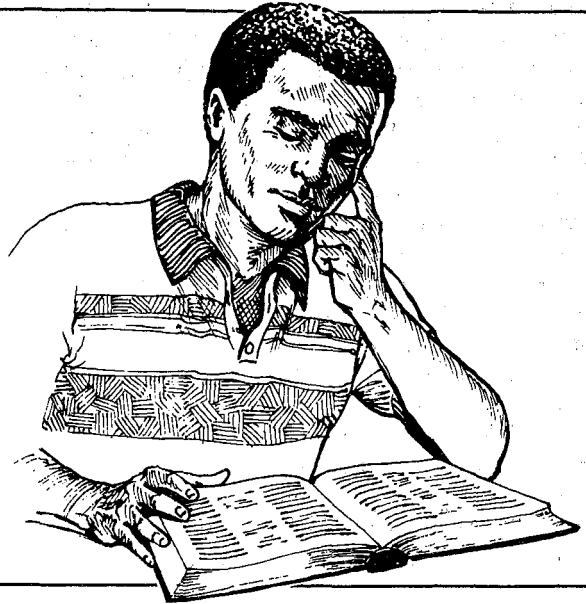
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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 TWO

—Wednesday—

You — and you alone are all I have in life — you are so kind to me! I am glad to enter the privacy of the closet and worship you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Thou, Lord art all I have; I have promised to keep thy word . . . Thou hast shown thy servant much kindness, fulfilling thy word, O Lord. Give me insight, give me knowledge, for I put my trust in thy commandments” (Psa. 119:57,65,66). All praise is a form of testimony when it comes from the heart.

What did the psalmist mean when he said, you were all he had? Dear Lord, this is so literally true in the lives of all men. All we have in the capacity to understand is from you. All we have in the use of this marvelous capacity is found in your word. Life would make no sense without your word — there would be no point to intelligence without your word.

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. I am “thy servant” of verse 65. You have been so kind to me that I am simply overcome. You have promised over and over again to be kind to me, and yet when your promise is fulfilled I am surprised, delighted all over again! Because of my guilt I do not expect kindness. I so easily forget my guilt is only a hedge to lead me to you. How I rejoice to read the promise in verse 66 that you promise me insight if I only ask, and oh, how I do ask! Insight I receive as equal to wisdom. I read and claim your promise in James 1:5,6 as well as in this verse.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

My desires and dreams are not matched with reality. But more and more I see one merged with the other. At the same time, It would be easy to be despondent over the difference. A replay of the activities of one day, or one week, would give lie to the claim that:

“Thou art all I have” — or would it? “Man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart.” Dear Lord, at the best, with the most one could say for attitude and performance I am miserably short. Forgive me. Sin is like the refuse of daily living — we surely have a large amount of it to get rid of.

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

“Give me thy heart,” says the Savior of men,
Calling in mercy again and again;
“Turn now from sin, and from evil depart,
Have I not died for thee? 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.”

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

HIS WORD

“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁵“But when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ⁶When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray

to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹“This is how you should pray:

“ ‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

¹⁰your kingdom come,
your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us today our daily bread.

¹²Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’

¹⁴For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. — *Matthew 6:1-14, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, there could be no passage of scripture that strikes closer to my heart than this one. What a struggle I have with my motives! If I worry about what men say or think about this righteous act or that one then I know I am wrong. It is with your good pleasure and approval I must concern myself. Dear Lord, as you know my motives so you judge me. It is a small matter to be judged of men. It is good to be able to give to the needs of men with no fanfare or recognition. Praise you that such is possible today. I have wondered *much* and *often* about the publication of these prayers I am even now writing. I know just two things about them: (1) Without either writing or speaking audibly there is no way I can keep my mind on what I am doing. (2) My desire is to help others in the one most important area of life which is prayer. If I can be of help in the development of personal worship I want to do it. We all learn better by a model. If those reading these lines have been able to see how you have led me and directed my wayward mind to your throne I shall be glad, very glad.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Just for me. It does occur to me that writing or speaking in prayer would eliminate vain repetitions, i.e., if we are sincere. My particular concern just here is to pray the prayer my Lord here taught his disciples. Just as if I had never before prayed these lovely words let me say them again with all the meaning I can put into them.

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 that there is a wonderful exciting reward reserved in heaven for me. (2) Thank you for the privilege and joy of giving especially to those who

do not know who gave. (3) Thank you for the “recompense” from yourself promised to those who give. (4) Thank you for the life-changing experience of praying to you “in secret,” i.e., with total sincerity. (5) Thank you that you know my needs and meet many of them without my request.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” Back of all action is God. He either directly or ultimately controls everything. This request is based squarely upon such a truth. James tells us not to attribute temptation to God (James 1:13-15). I Corinthians tells us that no temptation will appear in our experience without a way out or through. This is a prayer to not lead us into an overbearing situation where instead of growing stronger we are overcome. What a blessed request this is! God knows we are no match for the evil one, our Lord reminds us we can ask him to so arrange the circumstances of our daily life that we will be delivered from the power of Satan. This is no insurance against chastening — “whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth” (Heb. 12:6-8), but it is a promise that if we ask he will rescue all of us from what could be an impossible situation.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I have good reason to pray over my acts of righteousness: (1) Keep my expressions of worship hidden from men. (2) Increase my desire and capacity to give to the needy. (3) Open my eyes to see your rewards for me. (4) Deliver me from praying in any way to be seen of men. (5) Wherever I go give me a prayer room. (6) “Hallowed by your name.” (7) May your will be done by my willingness this day in my eating and speaking.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I can think of no more important words from you to me than these: (1) “I will give you your daily bread.” (2) “Forgive as you want to be forgiven.” (3) “If you ask I will deliver you from the evil one.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Taiwan — Point for prayer: *The witness to students* — the 300,000 university students are probably the most open section of the community now. Many churches have student centers that are well used.

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 TWO

—Thursday—

Your hands have moulded my spirit — me — you had a particular plan when you did this, you want me NOT my money — I want you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The law thou hast ordained means more to me than a fortune in gold and silver. Thy hands moulded me and made me what I am; show me how I may learn thy commandments” (Psa. 119:72,73). If Solomon wrote this psalm he could speak from experience — to him we could refer for a real example of one who had a fortune in gold and silver. We could even relate this to David as an example. But for us who have never had anything close to a fortune in gold and silver, and have never been all that taken up in the value and beauty of your word, how could we offer anything but an inexperienced opinion? Dear Lord, we do have more than opinion! We have Jesus’ own words. He who was rich beyond our wildest imagination said: “A man’s happiness, satisfaction, or ‘life’ does not consist in gold and silver (or the abundance of the things he can buy).”

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. If I had to make a choice between one or the other, I do not believe there would be a problem. It is trying to have both that causes no end of problems: We like to think that a fortune in gold and silver would be the means of advancing your cause. If we are not in love with our Lord and his word now we will not be in love with him and his word when we have the gold and silver. The basic problem is how do I use what I have to honor your rule in my life? Dear Lord, I want to impress these words upon my deepest consciousness: *“Thy hands moulded me and made me what I am.”* This happened historically in Adam — it happened spiritually through the second Adam and my acceptance of his free gift. Dear Lord, it is happening *personally* by my learning from you as you teach me from your commandments.

How do you personally relate to the molding of God, and God who is the Potter? Speak it out or

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

In the realm of law it is not difficult to feel very, very guilty. We can fill up the page or the air with rationalizations, or justification, or excuses, but when it has all been said the guilt remains.

It seems there is more in this one psalm than I had ever imagined. But without your grace and mercy there is nothing here — nothing but guilt. It is only when I regard your work in me as a continuing, never ending, process that I can enter the reality of the values here discerned. I try (I only try) to be as open and honest with you as I possibly can; my sin is a true embarrassment to me. I have marked this in two or three places just yesterday. Dear God, if you are not in the process of teaching me your commandments (even through my failures), I have no hope at all. But I know you are! Praise your name! My admiration for your law grows every day!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine,
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

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

HIS WORD

¹⁶“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only

to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²²“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! —Matthew 6:16-23, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, there is so much to assimilate in these verses I am embarrassed to give only a superficial consideration to them. As I see them there are three areas in which you are speaking to my heart: (1) *Fasting* (vss. 16-18). (2) *Treasures* (vss. 19-21). (3) *Personal dedication* (vss. 22-24). How I do want to open my ears and eyes to hear and see all you have for me. It is my deepest desire to be open to receive with meekness your word.

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 receive to my whole self these words: “Put your trust in God alone! Put your whole confidence in things eternal, for only they are permanent. Concentrate your attention and service upon God and his promises, since double-mindedness is a really impossible course. It brings on unnecessary worries and draws the attention away from God. Real faith is able to concentrate upon God’s rule and provisions and accept life as a matter of course, living one day at a time” (Fowler).

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 provision of fasting — I know I need it. (2) Thank you for all three of these provisions for worship: (a) alms, (b) prayer and (c) fasting. I want and need them all. (3) Thank you that you are ever vigilant to see and meet my need. (4) Thank you for the identity of real treasure. (5) Thank you for the clear statement that focus of attention and interest produces either light or darkness.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“You cannot serve God and Mammon.” Our Lord is not talking about God or money, he is talking about God and money. He is saying we cannot serve both of them at the same time. We can serve money or we can serve God, but it is impossible to give adequate service to both at the same time. The service suggested

here is that of a slave — it is the giving of one’s self to a master. There are several reasons besides the one basic reason just cited. (1) Money and God have different goals — one is selfless service; the other is selfishness. (2) Money and God have different motivations — one asks to walk by sight, the other by faith. (3) They have different fulfillment — one is of the earth and the other is eternal. (4) They have different effect on those who serve — one produces contentment and the other anxiety.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I find no passage of scripture more full of potential for petitions: (1) Enable me to forgive as I want to be forgiven. (2) Give me the courage to claim the forgiveness you promise. (3) Lead me into a practical use of the instructions on fasting. (4) Open my eyes to the real reward from fasting. (5) How I do want to know how to store up treasures in heaven. (6) Enlarge my understanding of the real value of heaven’s treasures. (7) Having my whole body full of light is such an attractive thought — develop my point of view that this might happen.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What do you say to me in these words? (1) “Forgiveness of others from the heart is much more than a good idea — it is essential!” (2) “I assume my disciples will fast.” (3) “You can and should accumulate treasures in the eternal world.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Taiwan — Point for prayer: *The Protestant Church* today is stronger among the Mandarin speakers, but weaker among the Hoklo, and very weak among the Hakka. There are fine national leaders of maturity and many Bible Schools and Seminaries training workers for the churches. Greatest growth is seen among the two larger indigenous Chinese Churches because of a high degree of loyalty to the Lord and their fellowship and the involvement of the whole membership in outreach.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing,
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing cease them from distressing,
Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.

WEEK TWO

—Friday—

Since you are my Father you both blessed me and corrected me — I am so glad for this kind of personal interest! I am worth more than many sparrows.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Those who fear thee shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in thy word. I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that in faithfulness thou hast afflicted me” (Psa. 119:74,75). As I appear before your throne of grace and affirm the statement of the psalmist, I at the same time must remember that: “Thou Lord, seest me.” Dear Lord, I have hoped in your word — I do hope in your word — but you know how woefully short all my best efforts are. What quality of yourself do I see in these two verses? There are two attributes for which I praise you and all men can praise you: (1) *Hope*. Only in you as revealed in your word is there hope. How empty and meaningless is life without this quality. (2) *Chastening*. Because you love me, and all men, you interrupt our selfishness to let us know there is something more in life than sex, food and money.

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 is both good and frightening that our lives are observed by others. It is good because we have opportunity to give life to all the lessons and sermons we have taught and preached. It is frightening because the *credibility gap* is sometimes rather large. Dear Lord, I do want to be my own best convert, my own best student. Even as I praise you for this privilege there are those who observe us and who also love us. They are as willing to accept us with our imperfections as you are. I take this to refer to the interpersonal living of the family and close friends. But even here, dear Father, I want to “hope” or “trust” in your word.

Could it be that I accept affliction as coming from you? You permit it if you do not immediately send it. You use it whatever its source. Praise your wonderful grace.

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

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is very easy to fall into the trap of self-pity, or morbid introspection. I have recognized such qualities as from the evil one. I reject them and ask for your help. In the same principle of accepting affliction in self-pity is the possibility of recognizing it as an expression of your love. In the option to self-loathing is the possibility of inward cleansing. Dear Lord, I ask for humility and freedom — praise your name — I find them both in my response to Calvary. Help me dear Lord, to be so busy meditating upon your word that there will be no time to wonder or worry about what men will see or say. In your personal interest in my needs you have afflicted me. I refer to whatever it is that hinders my plans.

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

Not a shadow can rise,
Not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear,
Not a sigh nor a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

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

HIS WORD

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at

the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

²⁷Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

²⁸“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. —*Matthew 6:25-34, NIV*

(Cf. *Luke 12:22-48*)

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is a rare opportunity we have to look every day at part of your word with a fresh perspective — just as if we had never seen it before. What a startling statement this verse appears! Do not worry! Do not be anxious; quit fretting! Ah, it is well enough to say, but a man must eat! That is the very point — life is not the pursuit of food. A man has to have clothes — no, he doesn't; if life is one constant effort to acquire clothes, life is not worth the living.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Dear Lord, it would be easy for me to “bow out” on this text. I could say plainly, “I do not worry” and to some extent this is true. But as you know my heart, there are several areas where such is not true. Do I give much more anxious thought than I should to what men think of what I said, wrote or did? Dear Lord, I'm guilty. Have I asked far too many times about how this or that project will eventuate? My Lord, how wrong I have been here! When will I take a good look at the track record of all my concern? What have I added by all my inquiries?

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 example of your care and interest in birds — such an example for me! (2) Thank you for the beauty of the lilies teaching me of your law and your mercy. (3) Thank you for the promise of clothes and food from my anxious response to what you have given me. (4) Thank you that you make these promises to your children — to those who trust you. (5) Thank you, thank you for the *One* principle that solves anxieties: “Seek first your rule in my life.”

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.” This is my Lord's way of saying, “Live one day at a time.” How wonderfully good to know he is also promising sufficient grace to cope with the trouble of that day. To borrow tomorrow's cares is real presumption — we do not know we will have tomorrow. When we learn to live one day at a time we can stop our worrying. Tomorrow really never exists — when it dawns, lo, it is today! If we anticipate problems for tomorrow along with the troubles of today we will have more than we are able to handle. How beautiful is the promise of Deuteronomy, “As thy days are so shall thy strength be” (Deuteronomy 33:25).

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Here is a gold mine of prayer requests: (1) Deliver me from the demands of anxiety — give me *your* peace. (2) Enlarge my understanding of the importance of being alive. (3) Open my eyes to see the birds of the air as you do. (4) I want to stand today beneath the cross of your Son and remember how much any one of us is worth to you. (5) I want wisdom to know the difference between trusting and fatalism.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in these beautiful words: (1) “Who has given you all you have to this present moment? Is it not even myself?” (2) “I know what you need and I will give it.” (3) “Seek first my rule in your heart and my direction in your conduct.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Taiwan — Point for prayer: *The Tribal Church* now claims 80% of the people and nearly half the Christians. In recent years there has been spiritual decline due to poverty, inadequate Bible teaching and ensuring of a personal relationship with the Lord for each Christian. The breakdown of tribal life has been speeded up by the drift of many to the cities and increasing education among the young people. Immorality among the youth, and inability of parents to control their children in a changing society have led to the loss of many young people.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread thro' all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

WEEK TWO

—Saturday—

You care and share in my embarrassment! What an amazing thought! When I ask for bread you will not give me a stone! I can leave all judgment in your hands!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Let me give my whole heart to thy statutes, so that I am not put to shame. I long with all my heart for thy deliverance, hoping for the fulfillment of thy word” (Psa. 119:80,81). Right here and right now I want to give my whole heart to you in praise for the qualities I see of yourself in these verses. (1) You care about my embarrassment. Indeed you do not want any man anywhere at anytime to be “put to shame.” (2) This verse is really discussing a positive action for man. You want man to be constantly fulfilled. (3) You are very much concerned that we be the victor instead of the victim — the overcomer instead of the overcome. Praise your name for such a promise! (4) Most of all you are immutable, i.e., you never change — your word is *always* fulfilled! This can be both joy and grief — unspeakable joy and grief beyond words.

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 seems so often that the words of the text were written just for me alone. My shame and embarrassment are all associated with one lack: the translation of your word into daily conduct. What I want above all is a consistency in conduct that will enable me to be the same at all times in all places with everyone. I am really asking for a fulfillment of your own nature in me! Somehow, dear Lord, I believe if I give my whole heart to you the whole time it will happen. Even as I say this I want to read again the verse that speaks of giving my whole heart to your statutes.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I can identify with the nation of Israel (or at least with the minority) who looked and longed for the

coming of the Messiah. As they expected the Christ to deliver them — as their sight grew dim with looking for the promise so does my heart long after the forming of Christ within me. This is my basic sin and greatest need. There seem to be two worlds: (1) The world of worship and meditation — of rejoicing in your presence. (2) The world of the daily routine duties of the day. Somehow my dear Lord was able to merge these two worlds until his life and attitudes were worship. It is for the forming of this one in my heart that I yearn.

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

He stood at my heart's door 'mid sunshine and rain,
And patiently waited an entrance to gain;
What shame that so long He entreated in vain,
For He is so precious to me.
For He is so precious to me,
For He is so precious to me;
'Tis heaven below my Redeemer to know,
For He is so precious to me.

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

HIS WORD

7 *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ²For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

³*“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ‘How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

6“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.

7“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

9“Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a snake? 11If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! 12In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. —Matthew 7:1-12, NIV
Read also Luke 6:37-42.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, how often I feel totally inadequate and full of presumption to attempt to read these words back to you and yet, once I begin I find in this an experience of purifying and enlightenment I could find nowhere else.

In this passage I want to know just who is included in these words. I believe he is talking to me. When I am unmerciful in my criticism of others he speaks to me. When I condemn on the basis of suspicion and surmises, I am guilty of judging as my Lord here describes it. When my motive for criticism has no help to offer the one criticized I am guilty. How easy it is to fall into the trap of smug self-righteousness!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Whereas I spoke for myself (and meant every word) it was the principle applicable to all I had in mind.

Here, dear Lord, speak just to my heart!

Fault finding is the sad admission of a sinful heart.

Do I have some secret joy in finding a failure in someone else I imagine is not found in me? Why am I ready to presume my brother or sister guilty before proper investigation? Isn't this the terrible sin my Lord is here condemning? *Harold Fowler* has said it, so well:

“To judge or criticize another is to put oneself in a position superior to, and removed from, the one he criticizes. But as long as we are men, we do not enjoy that privileged position. A critical spirit makes us hard, cruel and vindictive and, worse yet, quite convinced that we are indeed superior men.”

Dear Lord, forgive! My goodness is in you not myself!

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 that judgment has been taken out of my hands when it relates to motives. (2) Thank you for the lovely oil of gladness we have in these verses as related to interpersonal relationships. (3) Thank you

for the promise that men will reciprocate in kind. (4) Thank you that we need not be blind men, nor follow blind men.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” It would seem our Lord is saying that when the heart gets full enough it will spill over into the mouth. Not everything that comes into our mind is expressed with our mouth. It is only when the mind understands it, the will identifies or agrees with it, and the emotions are aroused by it that what has thus filled our heart comes out of our mouth. We are not suggesting that any long period of time is involved. If the subject is of such a nature that we are immediately made responsible for what we say, then no more time is necessary.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What a privilege to allow you to help me pray from these verses: (1) Guard my heart against criticism of my brother. (2) I do *not* know men's motives — keep me full of love. (3) Show me my own hypocrisy. (4) I do want to get the planks out of my own eye — help me. (5) Please enlighten my understanding as to just when I am casting pearls to pigs. (6) I am asking for heaven's wisdom in my praying. (7) How I want to apply the golden rule in my house to those I know the best.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

(1) “What you condemn in others may not be sin — please be careful.” (2) “Do you know how long your brother resisted temptation before he fell? Where is your spirit of gentleness?” (3) “Do not judge your brother by your own growth.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Taiwan — Needy areas and peoples: The 2 million Hakka speaking people need to be evangelized in their own language despite increasing use of Mandarin. They have no Bible and there are only about six missionaries.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
Come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people again:
Gladly for aye we adore Him.