

WEEK SEVEN

—Sunday—

Your purpose for me is full of your love for me — and it will be fulfilled. I am full of praise for this fact. No storm ever ever takes you by surprise!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; thy steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of thy hands” (Psa. 138:8). What an assurance! “Being confident of this very thing that he who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6). This is one of the most encouraging qualities we have considered. Our Lord specializes in “follow through.” Very simply expressed: his purpose for me is to bring honor to his Son and himself. This can be done in personal conduct. It can also be done through teaching others. I believe God is at work fulfilling a purpose for every life. We cannot always see just how this life or that one brought honor to him, but if it is our sincere intent to do so he will see to it such is accomplished. “None will ever be able to say of our Lord, ‘He was not able to finish.’”

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Just for me. This beautiful poem appears in Graham Scroggie’s book, *Psalms*.

“The work which His goodness began,
The arm of His strength will complete.
His promise is yea and amen,
And never was forfeited yet.” (p. 37)

Praise your name! How I rejoice to affirm this of your purpose in my life. My earnest desire has been — and is more so today: to teach and preach your word — most of all to *communicate* by teaching your own love and eternal goodness. I want to hold before all men the beauty of my wonderful Lord.

How do you personally relate to the follow through of God, and God who completes all he began? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

As I consider all the chaff amid a little wheat the

words of *J. W. Burgon* — quoted by *Graham Scroggie* — surely speak to my heart. He said: “His creating hands formed our souls at the beginning; His nail-pierced hands redeemed them at Calvary; His glorified hands will hold our souls fast and not let them go forever. Unto His hands let us commend our spirits, sure that even though the works of our hands have made void the works of His hands, yet His hands will again make perfect all that our hands have made.”

It is a rare joy to be able to speak to many people over many years. Only you can know how much wood, hay and stubble are mixed with the gold and silver. I can see more of dross than I care to admit to anyone but yourself. Dear Lord, forgive.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Only faintly now I see Him,
With the darkling veil between,
But a blessed day is coming,
When His glory shall be seen.
Face to face I shall behold Him,
Far beyond the starry sky;
Face to face in all His glory,
I shall see Him by and by!

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

HIS WORD

³⁵That day when evening came, he said to the disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” ³⁶Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care

if we drown?" — *Mark 4:35-38, NIV*
 Read also *Matthew 8:18,23,24; Luke 8:22-23.*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What a privilege it is to take up your word and expect you to be looking over my shoulder as I read it. A better figure would be for me to kneel before your throne of grace and spread out these precious words before you and ask you to open my heart as I meditate upon each word. What a long strenuous day your Son had! But perhaps no longer or more strenuous than many other days — we would not know from him as no complaint was registered. He left the crowd behind. All of us must ultimately do this. In the midst of a very busy schedule he "left the crowd behind." Does this say anything to me? Indeed it does.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I really never succeed in separating these two expressions. What I read to you I read to myself and what I read to myself I read to you. At the same time, I am glad for the two approaches to you in prayer. Jesus was in the same boat from which he taught the parables. I have been in several fishing boats — they all had the strong smell of fish. What a place to sleep! But when one is tired — as our Lord was, one sleeps. The Sea of Galilee is 60-70-80 feet deep in the area where they were. The squall was indeed furious. Swells twenty or thirty feet high would not be uncommon. With the wind lashing the water the plight of the disciples was desperate. How well does this describe my own need. It is not always that we are so in need, but it *does* happen. The storm did and did not affect Jesus.

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 wonderful evidence of the humanity of my Lord. (2) Thank you that it was Jesus' choice to "go over to the other side." (3) Thank you for the example of retirement as well as involvement set by my Lord. (4) Thank you that Jesus made use of the very common items of life for his eternal purposes. (5) Thank you for the lesson that neither Jesus nor the disciples were immune from the storm. (6) Thank you for the reality and severity of the danger. (7) Thank you for the calm of my Lord in the midst of the storm.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion." How remarkably casual and natural are the miracles of our Lord! Did Jesus know there would be a storm when he requested that they sail to the other side of the lake? Did he also know that he would be tired and

would fall asleep? Was he actually anticipating the marvelous miracle he was to perform? This account could be read as a very ordinary narrative with a sequence of events not at all unlike what would have happened to anyone. Even the sleeping would have occurred to someone who was totally exhausted. The point is that God is at work in our lives amid the very ordinary routine of day by day living. God is not excited, nor seeking for the sensational. But at the same time he is not unaware or unprepared to save us either in or out of our peril.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

The holy awe that filled the hearts of the disciples should be ours as we attempt to pray from this text: (1) When the evening of my life comes I want to hear his words: "Let us go over to the other side." (2) On this sea of life I do want to be sure you are with me in the boat, even now I call upon you. (3) Even when Jesus was in the boat a furious squall yet fell upon them. May I not be surprised if such happens to me. (4) All seems so natural in this incident and yet it was all in the plan of your Son. I believe all of my life is so planned by you. Increase my faith. (5) How I do want to hear the voice of your Son in every troubled circumstance: "Peace, be still." (6) Thank you for this powerful example — teach me from it just who Jesus is.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

(1) "I am never indifferent to your need." (2) "I can handle any situation." (3) "All things are now being held together by the word of my power."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Egypt — Point for prayer: *The Christian witness among university students* is encouraging. There is now a group in every faculty of Egypt's four big university complexes; even in the Al Azhar Muslim University where Muslim missionaries are trained. Pray that these believers may find open hearts among the 300,000 students and win them in the relative freedom found there. Pray for the building up of these believers in the Lord for future usefulness in service.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

There is never a cross so heavy,
 There is never a weight of woe,
 But that Jesus will help to carry
 Because He loveth so.

Wonderful, wonderful Jesus,
 In the heart He implanteth a song:
 A song of deliv'rance, of courage, of strength,
 In the heart He implanteth a song.

WEEK SEVEN

—Monday—

I am encouraged — and full of wonder at your great personal interest in each of us. None of us will drown while you are in the boat!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“O Lord, thou hast searched me and known me! Thou knowest when I sit down and when I rise up; thou discernest my thoughts from afar” (Psa. 139:1,2). How true is the beautiful statement from the heart of David. You *know* all men in a deeper more personal manner than they know themselves. David is no doubt referring to all the experiences of his early life. Dear Lord, how closely did you follow the rise and fall of King David! But I believe you have searched the lives of *all* men and see every one when they sit down and when they rise up. There is not a thought that enters the mind of one man anywhere without your knowledge. Even though the enormity of this concept has just struck me it has been your capacity from eternity!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Just for me. I know I shall be in this psalm for several days in an attempt to praise you adequately. Ah, I shall never succeed in such a pursuit! But it is with genuine delight I attempt such an expression. It is so comforting and reassuring to know you have made and are making a detailed search of my deceptive heart. I am so glad you now have your findings and are relating them to my conduct during this day. Praise you for such an interest! Since you know me so much better than I know myself I am glad to turn over the throne of my heart to you. I believe if I meditate upon your word you will speak to me about the areas of my need that you see as you search my heart. Praise your glorious name for such personal help!

How do you personally relate to the search of God, and God who knows all?

CONFESSION OF SIN

Why should I ever want to hide from you, or ignore

you, or deny you? It is always because I am afraid. I am afraid of my guilt so I hide. I am afraid of my willful ignorance, therefore, I ignore you. I am afraid of the consequence of disobedience, therefore, I deny your presence. I now know I need not be afraid — you are love! (not indulgent nothingness). I do not fear to show you my sin for you want to bind up the hurt and pour on the oil of healing. I need not feel awkward in the presence of all knowledge — you teach me with no condescension — with deep personal interest in my growth. Most of all, I need not be intimidated by my disobedience — you gladly forgive with the very real motivation that I sin no more! 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

O noblest Brow and dearest,
In other days the world
All feared when Thou appearedst;
What shame on Thee is hurled!
How art Thou pale with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn;
How does that visage languish,
Which once was bright as morn!

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

HIS WORD

²⁴The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we’re going to drown!”

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.

²⁵“Where is your faith?” he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another,

“Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.” —Luke 8:24,25, NIV

Read also Matthew 8:25-27; Mark 4:38b-41.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Oh dear Father, I am full of hesitancy as I attempt to read this text from heaven's perspective. Many of the men in the boats were seasoned fishermen. I am so glad you included more than one boat so there would be many who could testify as to this marvelous evidence of his deity. How typical this whole circumstance is. Did the disciples imagine the ship would sink and they would drown when the commander of heaven and earth was on board? The question is really out of place — in that desperate hour they were not thinking, they were acting. And yet our Lord expected them to think. He expected them to exercise their faith.

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 want to ask (and answer) with the disciples: "Who is this?" or "What kind of man is this?" — "even the winds and the water obey him." Jesus is asking me how long my faith will last. He is not asking about the quantity of my faith — as if I could have some faith but not enough. He asks me where my faith has gone? "How is it your faith has disappeared?" In this circumstance it would have been a trusting reliance upon the One asleep in the boat. He knew what he was doing even if we didn't. He knew also what he was doing when he spoke those strange words "Quiet! Be still." As many, many times as I have read this I really never will understand fully the power and majesty of your dear Son and my Lord.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the very real danger present. (2) Thank you for the confidence of the disciples in Jesus — that he could do something. (3) Thank you for the rebuke of my Lord — it reaches me. (4) Thank you for the incredible power seen in the action of Jesus. (5) Thank you for the response of the disciples to his miracle — may I sustain such an attitude. (6) Thank you that even today Jesus has "all authority." (7) Thank you for his patience.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him." How revealing is the statement of the disciples: (1) It reveals their participation in a miracle. There were three boats with several men in each boat. These men were many of them fishermen who had been on this same water many times. (2) It reveals our Lord's dual interest: his compassion and his deity. Deity without compassion would not help man. It is only in One who is personally concerned about man's

plight we can find hope. (3) Most of all it reveals the authority of Jesus. When he was to say later "all authority has been given to me" (Matt. 28:18) it is to such occurrences as this he could refer for confirmation. We are glad to bow before him in acceptance of such Lordship.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As our Lord awoke to the request of the disciples we want to awaken to the prayer possibilities of this text: (1) Keep me aware you are always aware of my needs. (2) I want to relate to the name "Master" in my relationship with you. (3) Rebuke the forces of the evil one in my life. (4) I must trust totally in you — I have no other help. (5) Where is my faith today? Is it in things and people or in him? (6) I need the capacity of fear and amazement in relation to the Person of my Lord. (7) I am glad for the promise that one day all the storms of life will be over and he will be Lord of all. May this thought calm today's squall.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In the midst of the storm speak to me: (1) "I am always ready to help you — you need but ask in faith." (2) "My rebuke can often be a blessing." (3) "The One who commands the elements is Lord of them — and of all men."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Egypt — Points for prayer: (1) *Missions* — there are only about 27 agencies with 150 missionaries serving in the land. There are now more opportunities for the entry of expatriate Christians for service than for many years. Pray for workers. Pray also for the growth of the missionary vision of the Christians in Egypt. Missionaries from Egypt would be more acceptable than Western missionaries in many Muslim lands. The greatest limitation is not the willingness of believers, but the difficulty of supporting them financially when they do. (2) *Christian literature* is freely printed and sold. Many Christian groups have moved their literature ministries from war-torn Lebanon to Egypt. There are many Christian Bookstores (10 in Cairo). Pray for the effective use of this literature, and also for the raising up of more local believers who are able to write suitable evangelistic and teaching materials.

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 SEVEN

—Tuesday—

You are way ahead of us — a long space down the path of life. Evil spirits are no problem for you. I take great courage in trusting you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Thou searchest out my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways” (Psa. 139:3). It is my constant purpose to look beneath these words of your book to yourself. How more than marvelous are the qualities. I see in this one verse: (1) You are a seeking, searching God. This presupposes a strong desire for and a personal interest in the one being sought. You never tire or fail in your search. Praise your name. (2) You have a plan for me — and all men — after you find us. If we are only conscious of being found then all will be well — dear Lord, open my eyes! (3) You really are only trying to get my attention. I was only lost from myself — you knew all my ways before the search began.

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. Praise you for your wonderful interest in my life, in my person. During the day as I travel along the track of my waking hours, you are there to watch my feet and read my thoughts. You are there to take a closer and greater interest in all I do and think than anyone else. Nay, you have a greater interest in my performance than I do. And at night when I give myself to rest you are there. Oh, that I might further develop the capacity to sense your presence! I know the more I think your thoughts as found in your word the more real or tangible is my relationship with you. Keep me always aware that nothing is of little interest to you. You are concerned about “all my ways.”

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Lord, as I write my praise for you and to you I sometimes have a sense of separation of the ideal

from the real. I freely confess that my high goals are missed by a country mile. But dear Lord, I know you do not want me to alter my desire. The more I give myself to your ideals the closer I will be to fulfillment. I am not what you want me to be, and not what I want to be, but praise your name I am not what I used to be. Since you are acquainted with all my ways you know what the graph looks like if my path were marked out on a chart. In this time with you I want to lay at your feet all my failures — and they are many. I am glad, glad to get rid of them! Take them — forgive them — forget them.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

O tell of His might, and sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

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

HIS WORD

²⁸When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. ²⁹“What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”

³⁰Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. ³¹The demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.”

³²He said to them, “Go!” So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water.

—Matthew 8:28-32, NIV

Read also Mark 5:1-13 and Luke 8:26-33.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What a desparate situation met our Lord when he stepped out of the boat. It would seem he moves from one crisis to another. Praise his dear name he is well able to handle any and all of them. There is so much in this incident I want to learn. Most of all just now I want to praise you — confess my need of you and seek to worship you. Demon-possession is such a sad and serious influence of the evil one. I am impressed over and over again how appropriate are all your ways. The demon possessed lived in the place of death and decay. There was no hesitancy on the part of demons to worship our Lord. They called him: "Son of the Most High God" — and indeed he is!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

In so many ways you speak to me in these words! In so many ways I want to express my praise and worship to you. (1) I know I am attacked by demons — I know I am not possessed by them. I know you alone can protect me and give me deliverance. (2) The efforts of men will not avail. So many men have tried so many things to alleviate the ills of humanity. We have with us the record of such unsuccessful efforts. (3) Pigs are good companions for Satan's servants. Living on an animal level is all that is left this side of the bottomless pit. Dear Lord, keep my eyes open to the option.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the willingness of our Lord to face Satan in his most violent form: (2) Thank you that "greater is he who is in me than he who is in the world" (I John 4:4). (3) Thank you for the clear lesson that men under Satan's control are not at all happy. (4) Thank you that we can live among life and light and hope. (5) Thank you that I know Someone who can command sin and evil to depart. (6) Thank you that Jesus considered one man worth more than many pigs. (7) Thank you for the wonderful results from this encounter.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him." The first question about demon possession is "How did the demons get into this man?" It could be expressed in other words: "What did he do or become that he opened himself up to these evil spirits?" It would be easy to say that he was so willing to give himself to the lust of the eyes — to the pride of life that finally Satan had total possession of such a one. However both sin and man are much more complex than such an explanation. It

is more than interesting to notice that our Lord never rebukes man (or woman) for their sinfulness. It is always the demon or demons who are addressed and condemned. We are not trying to exonerate the possessed, but we are trying to understand as much as we can about the circumstance. In no instance do we have Christians possessed by demons.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What wonderful lessons of prayer are in this unusual incident: (1) I wonder if I meet any demon possessed men today? Not having the ability to discern spirits I cannot say. (2) Why were these men near the tombs? (3) I do fully expect an answer to these questions one day. (4) In the spirit world there was no question as to who Jesus was. Why are men so unwilling today? (5) Evidently demons are limited in their understanding — at least they did not know the result of entering the swine. (6) In these realms of the spirit teach me the truth. (7) How dull of hearing were the people of the city — open my ears to truly hear what you are saying to me.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

(1) "There are yet men who think more of money than people." (2) "There is a wonderful deliverance for all who will accept Jesus as Lord." (3) "There were two men who would look back on this day as their greatest gain."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Arabian (Persian) Gulf States — Population: 2,520,000. Points for prayer: (1) This area is a strategic bridgehead for the Gospel — pray for a continued open door for Christian work. A strong Arab Church here could affect the whole Middle East, for few countries in the area do not have some of their nationals working here. (2) There are several lands that do not permit Christian work at all or among the local people. Pray that expatriate workers in these lands may shine for Jesus.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

WEEK SEVEN

—Wednesday—

How beautiful is this expression: "Thou dost beset me behind and before, and layest thy hand upon my head." I need nothing more!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"Even before a word is on my tongue, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou dost beset me behind and before, and layest thy hand upon me" (Psa. 139:4,5). How delightfully good it is to come before you this day in praise of these lovely qualities of yourself! You are reading my mind and the minds of all men. The most sophisticated computer would not compare at all with such a capacity. Even as I write this — even now as I form these words in my mind before they appear on the paper you know them. Before the tongue pronounces them you have recorded them. When I remain aware of your nature I do not react to this quality as spying on mankind — rather as a total interest of a living loving heavenly father.

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. What a verse beyond description is Psalm 139:5! You are ahead of me searching out the hard places and smoothing them out for my feet. You are behind me gathering up the loose ends to weave a pattern of meaning out of what has happened. You are at present giving me immediate direction for my life. "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me." The words of Henry Ward Beecher are so full of meaning: "Before men we stand as opaque beehives. They see the thoughts go in and out of us, but what work they do inside of a man they cannot tell. Before God we are as glass beehives, and all that our thoughts are doing within us he perfectly sees and undertands." Dear Lord, it is an awesome but true comparison!

How do you personally relate to God's total knowledge of each one of us?

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is easy to pretend, but with you there is no

pretense! You know my thoughts in the split second before they are transferred from my mind to the pen. You say the words before my tongue can form them. The unexpressed thoughts are also known by you. Such knowledge is surely beyond my grasp, but you are teaching me so much by your Omniscience and your Omnipresence. You are teaching me *honesty!* I do not at all want to record on this page the thoughts that have formed in my mind — but then I need not — for you read them before they are expressed. At the same time, I also know to find forgiveness I *must* pronounce them. I *must* take full responsibility for my sin. Indeed I do! I also claim your cleansing freedom.

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 consecrated cross I'll bear,
Till death shall set me free,
And then go home my crown to wear,
For there's a crown for me.

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

HIS WORD

³⁴When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, ³⁵and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ³⁶Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. ³⁷Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, say-

ing,³⁹ "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him. —*Luke 8:34-39, NIV*

Read also Mark 5:14-20; Matthew 8:33,34.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Each time I approach you and your word and attempt to relate this to you I am stopped at the enormity of the work. At the same time, I am drawn irresistibly to attempt it. The herdsmen became spontaneous evangelists! How I wonder what portion of this incident they emphasized? Was it Jesus' power? Was it the man who was demon possessed? Was it the loss of their pigs? Whatever it was it was told in such a manner that the people of the town had to come and see for themselves. How much more there is in this for each of us.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Just for me. The people of the country of the Gerasenes saw and didn't see: (1) They saw a man seated at Jesus' feet clothed and in his right mind. (2) They perhaps saw the dead bodies of 2,000 hogs floating in the lake. (3) They saw the amazement on the faces of the herdsmen. But then they really didn't see: (1) The man behind the miracle, i.e., the real purpose for which the miracle was performed. (2) They didn't see the value of the one man as compared with 2,000 pigs. (3) They couldn't see the conflict of emotions that struggled in the hearts of the herdsmen. Perhaps some of them ultimately became Christians. At least we know some of the earliest churches were in this area.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the obvious supernatural nature of the incident. (2) Thank you that no one can really be neutral in the presence of my Lord. (3) Thank you for the fact that clothing and sanity are associated here with being whole. (4) Thank you for the fear or awe that took hold of the hearts of these people — it no doubt led some of them to an acceptance of our Lord's deity. (5) Thank you that the power of Jesus was so obviously supernatural that it left no room for doubt. (6) Thank you for the wonderful word of our Lord to the man who was healed: "Return home and tell how much God has done for you."

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him." What a precious example this man was! Our Lord actually felt this man would serve him better by *not* following him. This man was so well known in his town that his deliverance would have a real effect on so many people. Evidently this deliverance was more than just the removal of evil. There was *much* our Lord had done

for him. We want to try to enlarge on his words and mention several things our Lord did for him (and us): (1) Our Lord delivered this man from terrible loneliness. He had made his home among the tombs. We can hardly consider a more separated cut-off experience. (2) Jesus delivered him from rejection by God and men. He was delivering him into the warmth of others who also would accept our Lord. (3) He delivered him from helplessness and a purposeless existence into a life of everlasting meaning. No wonder he got all excited and told everyone that Jesus Christ is King!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Suppose I was in the crowd of that day — I came out to see and returned home to pray: (1) It was more than remarkable to see the wild man well. I want to know the One who made him so well. (2) What are the owners of the pigs worried about? Are not men of more value than many pigs? (3) I do not blame the man who was delivered — he wanted to go with Jesus — I would too. Send him my way again. (4) I am going to leave this place and follow him — I must hear what he says — I must be with him — direct my steps. (5) Does my family really know what great things you have done for me?

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Thank you for what you have already said to me in this record — speak to me again: (1) "You have been delivered from eternal punishment — what does that mean to you?" (2) "My Son did not send the demons into the pigs — it was by his permission — but their choice." (3) "Superstition and reverence are not the same."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Arabian (Persian) Gulf States — Point for prayer: *Unreached peoples* — specific mention must be made of the following: *Local Arabs* — very few have been clearly presented with the claims of the Gospel. *Baluchis* from Pakistan are many, but there are no Christian workers available to witness to these Muslim people in their own language. *Iranians* — very few of these Muslim people are Christian and little is done to win them for the Lord.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus is all the world to me,
My Friend in trials sore;
I go to Him for blessings,
and He gives them o'er and o'er.
He sends the sunshine and the rain,
He sends the harvest's golden grain;
Sunshine and rain, harvest of grain,
He's my Friend.

WEEK SEVEN

—Thursday—

Your omnipresence is one amazing — powerful — comforting quality! — and yet I need your forgiveness. I bow before you with my need!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Wither shall I go from thy Spirit? Wither flee from thy presence?” (Psa. 139:7). Here I am before you again full of amazement at this single attribute of yourself! *Your omnipresence!* There are surely mixed emotions clamoring for expression as I contemplate this quality. (1) I am full of wonder that you have such a capacity. There is utterly nowhere that is apart from your presence. (2) We feel unclean and unworthy since we know you are holy and altogether worthy. (3) We feel exposed because we know you are seeing us as spirit beings and read our inmost thoughts. (4) We cry for forgiveness and cleansing for we want to remain before you in worship. (5) I am totally fascinated and want to stay here to learn all I can of your essential being.

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 more I consider myself as standing in your presence the worse I feel. It is only as I turn the eyes of my heart to you that my sorrow turns to joy. Let me respond personally to the burning words of this verse: (1) I do indeed feel like the psalmist David! David ran from Saul and really could never find a hiding place without your help. So it is with me. Unless you hide me in the cross of your dear Son — unless I find protection in his blood and righteousness I will be running frantically for cover all my life. (2) I am glad you have startled me out of my comfortable home and made me aware of yourself as the eternal king of all. This was the experience of David. He would never have appreciated the throne of Israel without the realization that Saul was seeking his life. You have sought my life to make me a king and a priest with you!

How do you personally relate to the pursuit of God, and God who wants to make us a king? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Confession can be self-defeating if all that happens is an admission of my own failures and inabilities. Renewal along with the acceptance of forgiveness *must* be a part of my confession. Dear Lord, I am expressing the deepest thoughts of my heart in this prayer (it is redundant to say so). David had to look beyond his fleeing and beyond the fact he could not escape. David hid in the midst of a battle against his enemies. It is in the midst of the battle I shall find fulfillment. I have not changed the fact of your omnipresence, or of my weakness and vulnerability, but I have found release from the terrible tension of introspection. At the same time, I freely confess my hourly need of forgiveness. I claim your interest and investment in me! Make me all over new just now!

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

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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

HIS WORD

²¹When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him. While he was by the lake, ²²one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet ²³and pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” —Mark 5:21-23, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What a beautiful scene greets our eyes as we read this text. Jesus is back in the district of Capernaum. Was there a conversation in the boat as they sailed the several miles? The progress across the lake was slower than now. I have had several conversations on the waters of this lovely Sea of Galilee. Is it possible to travel with him today and talk with him on the way? To ask is to answer. How I do want to open your word often today. I see the large crowd assemble on the shore even before he arrives. When Jesus steps on shore and begins to walk up from the lake a large crowd moves in around him. Dear Lord, I am in that crowd! While my Lord is still close to the shore a prominent man is pushing his way toward Jesus. Perhaps when several noticed who he was a way was opened for him that he might fall at Jesus' feet.

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 see the earnestness and longing on his face as he says: "My little daughter is dying!" It was for their physical needs the crowd came. Even this wealthy prominent man came for this purpose. The needs of men and women are for the whole person. Dear Lord, how easy it is in this culture of plenty to forget this. Somehow, dear Lord, help me to relate as my Savior did to these needs. Hear Jairus again: "Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." The presence, the touch of Jesus was so much needed. How tragic that I want to operate by remote control. Send me to people to touch them to share their burdens and thus fulfill the example of my Lord.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the popularity of my Lord — then and now. (2) Thank you that he is setting an example of ministering to man's whole need. (3) Thank you for the urgency found in paternal love. (4) Thank you that priorities become really clear in the face of life or death. (5) Thank you that Jesus is always ready and responsive. (6) Thank you that Jesus was so approachable. (7) Thank you for reminding me all over again of the real needs of real people.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." This could be the cry of every father in all the world who loves his daughter. Only our Lord has the answer for the sickness unto death. Jesus has no hands but our hands to do his work today. He has no feet, but our feet to walk in his way. He has no help, but our help to bring men to

his side. He has no voice but ours to tell men that he died. The whole world is to be won, one family at a time. It is friend to friend, father to daughter, husband to wife relationship or it will never happen. Dear Lord, may the need of the daughters of men and your love constrain us to allow you to express your love through us.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In this tender scene surely we can find areas for prayer: (1) Teach me that I might have the sensitive compassion Jesus gave to this synagogue ruler. (2) How is it that physical need always seems to take precedent? Perhaps because the needs of men are all homogenized. May I look on men through such a perspective. (3) It is good to fall at Jesus' feet with this ruler. I hope I can be as urgent as this one in my needs — help me. (4) We all either have a "little daughter" or had "a little daughter" — or know one — so we share with this man the urgency of his request. Will we learn the same lesson he did? I want to. (5) Jairus thought it was necessary for Jesus to touch his daughter to make her well. Only when we relate to Jesus in our conscience can he help us. I do want to so relate.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As I read of the ruler's prayer I want to hear you speak to me: (1) "There is no little child I do not know and love." (2) "Kneel before me, I love you." (3) "I go with all who come to me in need."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Arabian (Persian) Gulf States — Point for prayer: *The churches are growing* and a large number of Indians and Pakistanis are being won to the Lord. There are strong churches in Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and U.A.E. Most of the churches are composed of some local Arab believers and many of the immigrant minorities — Indian, European, Jordanian, etc. Pray that the unity of the Spirit may be maintained in all this diversity. Pray that these believers may have a clear testimony to the non-Christians around them.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory — great things He hath done.

WEEK SEVEN

—Friday—

Heaven is in another world — apart from and different than here. My spirit is also apart from and different than my body. You see each of us as individuals!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“If I ascend to heaven, thou art there. If I make my bed in Sheol, thou art there!” (Psa. 139:8). Such a lovely verse. There are several things said about you and all mankind in this one verse. (1) Heaven is apart from and different from this earth. Heaven is above for ascent is suggested. (2) Man can be separated from his body and yet retain his consciousness and identity. Sheol is the world of spirits or the unseen world after death. The psalmist is not suggesting an escape from God, he is only saying in poetic language that if he did want to escape he could not. Dear Lord, our escape is in you not apart from you! True freedom as well as unlimited understanding is in yourself — blessed be 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. My Father, it is a pleasure to appear before you — or to address you as the all pervasive One — you are everywhere at the same time. Your total Being is present right here right now. Such an awesome thought! I cannot run from you without running into you. For how many years have I loved the beautiful words of Francis Thompson:
 I fled Him, down the nights and down the day;
 I fled Him, down arches of the years;
 I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways
 Of my own mind; and in the midst of tears
 I hid from Him, and under running laughter
 Up vistaed hopes I sped;
 And shot, precipitated;
 Adown Titanic glooms of chasmed fears,
 From those strong Feet that followed, followed afar,
 But with unhurrying chase,
 And unperturbed pace,
 Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
 They beat, and a voice beat
 More instant than the Feet —
 “All things betray thee, who betrayest Me.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

To suggest that I am not full of a deep sense of unworthiness as I consider your omnipresence — to say nothing of your omnipotence — would indeed be an absurdity! I fall before you like the four and twenty elders and cry “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.” Most of all and first of all I cry “Woe is me for I am undone.” “I am a sinful man O Lord!” I name my particular transgressions of your law. But my sin is one of my life style — sin has become a contagion — a cancer. I am glad to be this moment forgiven and declared “just as if I had never sinned,” but your forgiveness *must* include the next moment too. You must look upon me in grace at all times or there is no hope for me at all. I am glad you do! More than glad you do! Dear Lord, accept my poor stumbling words.

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

Christ the Lord is ris’n today, Alleluia!
 Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!
 Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
 Sing, ye heav’ns, and earth reply. Alleluia!

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

HIS WORD

²⁴So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him.

²⁵And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” ²⁹Immediately her bleeding stopped and she

felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

³¹"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' "

³²But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." —Mark 5:24-34, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Because of the length of this text it will be well enough for me to read it several times to you with thought for every word. Dear Lord, I do want all you say here to become a part of me.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Indeed, indeed! How beautifully typical is the experience of this woman. (1) Her request and contact with Jesus were parenthetical. It would seem that everyone is in a rush to go somewhere without us. How we can take heart that Jesus is never too busy to meet our need. (2) She had a problem that defied solution. For years she had tried unsuccessfully to solve it. This does so well describe our inward bleeding. (3) All men do is to make our problem worse and deplete our resources in their efforts to help. (4) The need will not decrease; it will increase. We shall and do grow worse and worse. (5) Someone told us about Jesus — nothing anyone could say could adequately describe his wondrous power. (6) She felt she *must* make some kind of *personal* contact with Jesus.

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 a large crowd is no problem with Jesus. (2) Thank you there are no impossible cases with Jesus. (3) Thank you for the ministry of suffering. (4) Thank you for the seriousness of the need — it moves me to act. (5) Thank you that we need not be conventional in our approach to our Lord.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace, and be freed from your suffering." It was the healing power of Jesus that freed her from her suffering. It was the miracle of healing accompanied through her contact with our Lord. But it was also her faith in what our Lord could do, and in particular just who

he was that set her free. Jesus was unable to heal in Nazareth (at least to the extent that he wanted to) because there were so few in his hometown who would accept his Messiahship. It is important to see that persons believed in him *before* the healing and the healing only became a visible evidence or confirmation of what they already believed. This dear woman believed Jesus was the Christ long before she touched him. Her healing settled her conviction for the rest of her life.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

It would seem the gospel accounts are almost a running commentary on how my Lord met human needs. This is such an encouragement to prayer: (1) This dear woman is only typical of all women who have some physical need — not one lives and hurts without my Lord's knowledge. How I do want to encourage such to talk to my Lord. (2) Whereas we all appreciate doctors and their help to us we also recognize their limitations. Help me to encourage doctors in their good work. (3) For the wonderful daring faith of this woman I come to you. (4) Feelings are *not* everything but they *are* something. I want to feel in my body the healing of my whole being by Jesus. (5) Jesus responded to a feeling in his body — he identified it with human need. He is presently also "touched" with our needs. How encouraging this is to me. I pause in wonder!

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As you found and spoke to the woman so I want to fall at your feet and hear you speak to me: (1) "I yet need to be told 'the whole truth' to make you whole." (2) "Freedom is acceptance of my Lordship." (3) "My eyes yet run to and fro over the whole earth to find someone like this woman."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Arabian (Persian) Gulf States — Point for prayer: Pray for new programs of *out reach* being started for more effective evangelism. Pray for the effective use of house visitation, literature and personal work to win Muslims. There is now considerable interest in Christianity among educated Arab young people.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

We would see Jesus, the great rock foundation,
Whereon our feet were set by sov'reign grace;
Nor life, nor death, with all their agitation,
Can thence remove us, if we see His face.

WEEK SEVEN

—Saturday—

“You have found us to set us free!” I continue to be amazed before your omnipresence and omnipotence! How wonderful to depend on your unerring direction in our lives! When we do not see — you do — when we do not understand — you do!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me and thy right hand shall hold me” (Psa. 139:9,10). Once again I stand back amazed. In this beautiful figure of speech the psalmist is sweeping up the expanse of the morning sunrise and like a bird he disappears in the burst of light on the horizon. He disappears from human sight, but when he arrives at that distant point in “the uttermost parts of the sea” there you are! It has been your presence that has charted his flight. Like a frightened bird in the hand of the owner so man finds himself. Here the figure must be left and the facts revealed: You hold us as intelligent beings capable of knowing how much you love us. You have found us to set us free!

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 want always to remember my purpose in coming before you. It is to praise you for one or more of your characteristics. Just here I praise you for your omnipresence and omnipotence. Your omniscience is also a part of my adoration. Such qualities are related to two needs of my life: (1) My need for guidance, “thy hand shall lead me.” Dear Lord, I hear you say to me that as I fly from your presence — aware or not, you are directing my flight. The unerring instincts you have created in birds is here a comparison of your constant interest and involvement in my life. (2) My need for comfort and protection, “thy right hand shall hold me.” In whatever circumstances — even *now* I can look up and know you are encircling me with your loving personal interest! Praise your name.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Surely it is not difficult to see who loses if I lose this sense of your presence. I have often taken the wings of the morning (or night) and have sought to dwell in the uttermost parts of someplace — anywhere but the place where I found myself. It wouldn't have been at all necessary if I had just awakened before I took flight. But how infinitely good you have been to me! Through all the wonderful means of grace, best known to you, you found me and awakened my heart to your love and concern. What a confession I must make! I have sinned — it was my sin that I wanted to be lost! Forgive me. Tell me again of your love and acceptance. I love you.

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

Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring,
Naught as an off'ring to Jesus my King;
Only my sinful, now contrite heart,
Grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart,
Grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart.

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

HIS WORD

³⁵While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher any more?”

³⁶Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, “Don't be afraid; just believe.”

³⁷He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. —Mark 5:35-38, NIV.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is so good to read this text in your presence. I can know several realities in this lovely passage: (1) We are reminded that this tragedy happened to "a synagogue ruler." We are sure he must have asked himself many times "Why me?" — of all people surely God would be especially merciful to such a leading servant of worship. (2) We are introduced to the blunt hard fact of death. This sentence is never easy to write or hear: "Your daughter (or mother, or father, or wife, or husband) is dead." (3) We are told that even Jesus could do nothing about this desperate situation. (How often have we felt the same way?) (4) We are shocked and amazed as we see the attitude and hear the words of our Lord. Jesus ignored the words of death and said: "Don't be afraid; just believe." Have I represented the whole situation as it is? I want to.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

(1) There *will* be a time when I must ask "Why me?" and I have an answer: "death came to all men." There are no exceptions. It is only in the choice of time that we have any variables. Whenever you decide my appointment has arrived I will be ready for the news. Indeed, from my viewpoint I have a great desire to depart the body and be at home with yourself. (2) I am so glad to know what death is: "To be absent from the body is to be at home with my Lord." (3) I want to be as blunt with those who came with the report of death as they were with the ruler. "Only Jesus — my teacher can do anything about this situation." I do believe — and even more than Jairus I believe. I *know* you will deliver all men from death even to die no more! Praise your wonderful name!

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the multiple testimony of the death of the daughter — it adds depth to the actions of my Lord. (2) Thank you for the note of finality and hopelessness we hear in the words: "Why bother the teacher any more?" It is just the contrast we need to appreciate the resurrection. (3) Thank you that our Lord ignores the pessimism of men. (4) Thank you for the assurance of Jesus that we need not fear death. (5) Thank you for the confidence Jesus placed in Peter, James and John — or was this the reason he asked them to accompany him? (6) Thank you for the obvious respect in which the ruler was held. (7) Thank you for the power of my Lord to turn tears to joy.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Don't be afraid; just believe." How full of applica-

tion these words are for any and all situations! When our Saviour speaks we listen and when he addresses our particular need we give him our total attention. However, in this situation it was not at all easy to turn the heart of the father from this scene of sorrow and death. He did have confidence in our Lord's power or he would never have left home to get him. While his daughter was sick, he felt there was hope, but now after she is dead what can be done? And yet there are the words of Jesus. How he does give us hope where there is no hope.

There are so many situations where we are afraid. When we open up his word and read what he has said we can hear our Lord say again to us: "Don't be afraid; just believe."

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Despair turns to hope and hope to life. How full of prayer possibilities. (1) My Lord was constantly interrupted — it didn't bother him — how I want to be like him. (2) Jesus had to ignore what seemed the obvious and the impossible. Show me where I should do the same. (3) In so many situations his words: "Don't be afraid; just believe" are sorely needed. When I face the death of a loved one; when there is a sharp disagreement with those near and dear; when a cherished plan has fallen through. (4) Why did Jesus want Peter, James and John with him? Perhaps they needed this reassurance. I am like them, I want to find strength from this experience.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As you spoke to the ruler, to your followers and even to the dead, speak to me through this text: (1) "What seems dead is only awaiting my coming for life." (2) "Fear not; only believe." (3) "I see and hear all the commotion of life."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Arabian (Persian) Gulf States — Point for prayer: *Pray for the Christians* who have gone to witness for Christ in a secular job. There are unlimited opportunities in this line for Western Christians where Western skills are so needed to develop these countries.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
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.