

# WEEK EIGHT

## —Sunday—

*You turn darkness to day — and night to morning — Men laugh at such thoughts but it is only because they do not know you — I gladly now will worship you.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“If I say, ‘Let only darkness cover me, and the light about me be night,’ even the darkness is not dark to thee, the night is bright as the day; for darkness is as light with thee”* (Psa. 139:11,12). How often indeed have I said these words of the psalmist. How often have all men wanted to “crawl in a hole and pull it in after them”? “Let me go somewhere and get lost, disappear.” In marriage this is called “desertion” — in personal life it is called “escape.” You let us know in these two verses that there really is no hiding from you — and we might add — from ourselves. You are saying something even more important: *“There is no darkness with you”!* Praise your name forever!

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*Just for me.* Dear Lord, if all I received from these verses was a knowledge of omniscience and omnipotence apart from a knowledge that you are love and goodness, I would cry out against you and curse you to your face! You are only telling me this to help me not to hide from myself. I cannot hide from you, but I *can* hide from men and from myself. You want me to work and worship in the night and the light. Oh, praise your lovely name and your eternal all-present person! Even when my senses tell me nothing of your presence, you are present. “Could my heart but see Creation (and all of life) as God sees it — from within: See his grace behind its beauty; see his will behind its force; see the flame of life shoot upward when the April days begin; see the wave of life rush outward from its eternal source” — I would no longer have a desire to hide. (Edmond G. A. Holmes)

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

The reasons for hiding are guilt and fear. Your perfect love casts out my fear. It is not my perfect love, for I do not have it. It is also your perfect love that removes my guilt! Oh, wonder of all wonders, I need not hide! I can freely and openly show you all the sores of my leprous heart. You are not repulsed — you do not say, “Too bad, how sorry I am for you.” You alone can do something for me. My Savior is known for touching lepers! My Lord reaches out to touch blind eyes and deaf ears. Even my sin, my blindness, my dull hearing. Somehow, beyond my poor understanding in the touch of forgiveness is also the touch of wholeness.

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Some day the silver cord will break,  
And I no more as now shall sing;  
But oh, the joy when I shall wake  
Within the palace of the King!  
And I shall see Him face to face,  
And tell the story — Saved by grace;  
And I shall see Him face to face,  
And tell the story — Saved by grace.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>39</sup>He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.”

<sup>40</sup>But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup>He took her by the hand and said to her, “*Talitha koun!*” (which means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). <sup>42</sup>Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. <sup>43</sup>He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat. —Mark 5:39-43, NIV

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What a wondrous record is this! How unusual are the words and actions of our Lord. He first confronts everyone with the fact of death in the daughter. Not all the mourners were of the family of the ruler; some of them were paid for mourning. Their pay depended on the child being dead — no wonder they laughed at the words of Jesus: "The child is not dead but asleep." They misunderstood his words. He said Lazarus was asleep but meant he was dead. Why did Jesus use such an expression? Was it because in death a person does indeed look as if someone could come and awaken them from their sleep?

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How tender and thoughtful are the actions and words of Jesus. All those who were not personally involved were put out. Jesus wanted Peter, James and John to learn of his deity and humanity from what he was about to do. Dear Lord, how I want to be a silent observer of all that is happening inside the home of Jairus. Let me look as closely as I can so as to catch every blessed message there is here: (1) They moved into the room where the dead body had been laid out. I do believe there has never been a gathering around the body of a loved one who has died in the Lord but that our Lord was also present. (2) He took her by the hand — and a cold dead hand it was — or was it? Not when Jesus touched it. (3) He spoke to her in a most loving manner — "Little girl, get up"! How beautifully poignant is all of this to me.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for Jesus' rebuke of those who grieve when he is present. (2) Thank you for the totally believable situation described by all three writers. (3) Thank you that with Jesus there is no death. (4) Thank you that Jesus does not want those present who will not understand. (5) Thank you that we can be present to understand and worship him. (6) Thank you for the personal interest in each of us given us by our Lord. (7) Thank you for the food taken by the little girl — evidence that she was completely restored.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat." Eating, sleeping, walking, talking — all the very common pursuits of life were a real part of the Lord's concern. The humanness of the One who came as God is such an attractive quality. Several things were accomplished in this little gesture: (1) The completeness of the healing would be apparent. She was not weak and sick but well and strong. (2) It would give the parents and loved ones something they could

do for their daughter. They all must have felt so very helpless in the presence of death. (3) It would place the little girl back in the mainstream of life and would remove some of the embarrassment that must have been a part of so much attention. How very thoughtful and kind was our Lord.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In this astonishing miracle I can find much reason for prayer: (1) My Lord was full of wonderful surprises. I want to receive from him today. (2) Jesus, the Lord of life steps into the presence of death — how typical of his presence in us today. In the above statements I ask your perception. (3) What a kind, tender gesture it was for my Lord to take the mother and father with him into the presence of the dead. What they saw and heard they never forgot. Etch this scene upon my heart! (4) I wonder why Jesus did not call her by name? Is it not because he wanted all girls of this age to relate? (5) The miracles of Jesus were always so totally believable — she didn't get better; "she stood up and walked around." Lord, I believe. (6) Mark recorded this miracle that I might learn and believe — and teach it to others — fulfill your purpose in me.

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

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

Speak to me: (1) "Many will never believe — some will never doubt." (2) "Perhaps you fit neither category." (3) "These things are written so that you might believe."

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Arabian (Persian) Gulf States* — Point for prayer; *Christian missions* — long years of pioneering work by the U.S. through medical and educational work has opened the lands for other missions. There are now about 80 Protestant missionaries serving the Lord. Most are using medical evangelism to reach the hearts of the people. There are now about 9 medical centers run by missions, and in all there is complete freedom to evangelize the patients. There is a critical need for dedicated Christian workers (especially men) to use the many opportunities. This is a wonderful opening for Arab missionaries. Pray for the health of missionaries working in this very hot and often humid climate. Pray for eternal fruit in a field that is unusually hard and discouraging.

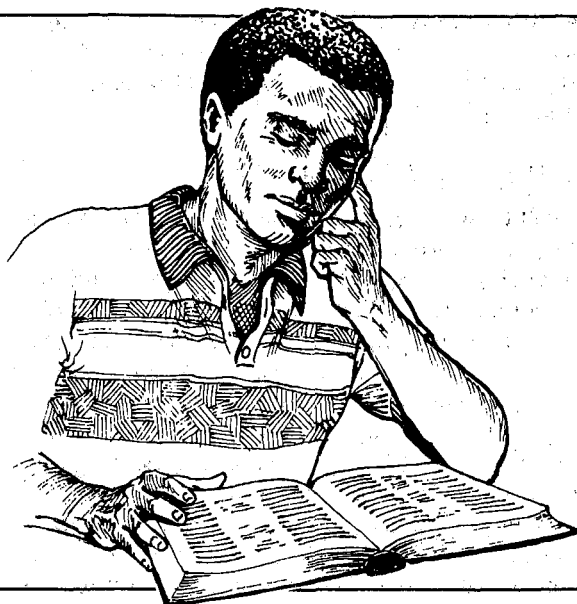
## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe  
On this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown Him Lord of all,  
To Him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

# WEEK EIGHT

## —Monday—

*How perfectly did you form us and knit us together — We are fearfully and wonderfully made — Open our eyes that we may see and appreciate your creation in us and about us.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“For thou didst form my inward parts, thou didst knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise thee, for thou art fearful and wonderful. Wonderful are thy works! Thou knowest me right well; . . .”* (Psa. 139:13,14).

These precious words have been available for man’s reading for more than 2,500 years. You set the laws of growth in operation and such laws carry out your will whether you are around or not. Like a machine on an assembly line. No, no, no! This is *not* the meaning of this text. You are in the act of creation all over again each time a child is formed in the womb of his mother. Like a weaver at a loom, like an artisan in his shop, like a doctor at work on the most delicate of an operation, so you are involved in the creation of every unborn child.

*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 qualities of yourself for which I praise you relate to your creative abilities. I have found some lovely words from one who worshiped you long ago. I want to make these words of *Andrew Fuller* mine. In your creation of man I am full of awe and wonder: “Man: how poor, yet how rich, how abject yet how august. Man: how complicated, how wonderful in your highest creation. How passing all wonder is the One who made him such. You have mingled such strange extremes of different natures, all marvelously mixed. How helpless, yet immortal, how like an insect yet infinite, as humble as a worm, yet a god — I tremble to consider your creation. Our life contains a thousand springs, and dies if one be gone: strange that a harp of a thousand strings should keep in tune so long.”

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Lord, I believe you have not left one man since you began your marvelous creation in the womb of his mother. It is not only the body that receives your concern, but the man himself. You are “the Father of the spirits of all men” (Num. 16:22; Heb. 12:5-8). Since this is true I claim your concern in the struggles of my every day. I am indeed full of fear or awe and wonder, but I also believe you know me so much better than I know myself. It is a relatively simple thing for me to confess my stupid mistakes. I hide nothing from 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

Christ, the blessed One, gives to all,  
Wonderful words of Life;  
Sinner, list to the loving call,  
Wonderful words of Life.  
All so freely given,  
Wooing us to Heaven:  
Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of Life.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of Life.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>27</sup>As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”

<sup>28</sup>When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

“Yes, Lord,” they replied.

<sup>29</sup>Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith it will be done to you”; <sup>30</sup>and their sight

was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." <sup>31</sup>But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

—*Matthew 9:27-31, NIV*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How well these two men represent all of us today! The blind men had to depend on what others saw of the miraculous work of your Son. They were indeed those who not having seen yet believed. How abundant then must have been the evidence for their faith! They reached the obvious conclusion that even a blind man could see: Jesus was the Christ or "the Son of David." Our Lord apparently ignores these men and goes indoors. Why? Is it because such a proclamation was dangerous? This was Galilee where opposition to Romans was strong! Why did Jesus ask these men such an obvious question? i.e., wasn't it evident that they already had faith? Was it because he wanted them to examine their own heart? Jesus didn't want them to only repeat a popular opinion.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

*Just for me.* Ultimately each of us must meet Jesus all by himself. Our Lord wants to know from our own heart: "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" It is one thing to accept him in public; it is quite another to probe our own conscience and confess our personal faith in him. My dear Lord is ever asking me each day: "Do you believe I am able to help you teach this class?" "Do you believe I am able to solve the problem you have with this man or that woman?" "Do you believe I can supply the means of meeting this obligation or that?" Over the years it has indeed been done "according to my faith" — at the same time, more often it has been according to his mercy. Dear Lord, today I feel like asking you to again open my eyes to all you have for me.

### READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for those who did not see yet believed. (2) Thank you for their persistence and boldness of faith. (3) Thank you for the personal encounter arranged by our Lord. (4) Thank you that Jesus will not let our faith stand on what others believe. (5) Thank you for the wonderful personal touch of my Lord in the blind areas of my life. (6) Thank you for the power of faith. (7) Thank you that my Lord always knew what he was doing and when it should be done.

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"See that no one knows about this." When Jesus had told the demoniac that he was to tell all he had done for him these words could sound strange. It obviously had to do with the region. In Gadara there was no danger of making him king, but in Galilee it was a different matter. Galilee was a hotbed of revolt against the Roman rule. In the mind of the patriotic Jew in Galilee the appearance of the Messiah was the

appearance of the deliverance from the Roman occupation. It would appear that even these blind men had a twisted view of his Lordship. When Jesus warned them sternly they should have heeded him. Their direct disobedience says something about their attitude. Their own predisposition toward the kind of rule the Messiah would bring was so strong they could not hear the words of Jesus.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these two blind men we can represent the whole human race: (1) All men must follow him in order to see — I am one of them. (2) It is indeed mercy that we need. (3) An acknowledgement of his deity is so important. How gladly I give it! (4) A personal encounter must be present to give us our sight! I bow before you — I open my ears. (5) A total confidence in his willingness and ability is essential — I have no question here. (6) "According to your faith will it be done to you." Faith comes by hearing and believing your word. What an opportunity we have for faith — may I take it! (7) Why was Jesus so stern in his command that no one know of what was done? I do want to know when to be silent.

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

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

I am in constant need of healing for the eyes of my heart: (1) "In following me you will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (2) "Total trust opens your eyes." (3) "It is time to tell everyone about the One who healed you."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Arabian (Persian) Gulf States* — Points for prayer: (1) *Christian Radio* — reception from Seychelles is now quite good. Pray that the daily Arabic broadcasts may bear fruit in the hearts of many. (2) *Christian literature* — there are little Christian bookstores in Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi that are performing valuable service.

*Israel* — Population: 4,300,000. Points for prayer: (1) *The Jews in Israel* are more resistant to the Gospel than those of the Dispersion. Pray for this hardness to be removed. Pray for the removal of social and legal barriers to their conversion. (2) *Pray for the peace of Israel* and for all Arab and Israeli leaders in this critical time that there may be an equitable peace with justice for all peoples.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

# WEEK EIGHT

## —Tuesday—

*I bow before your omniscience as a child before a very wise father. I marvel at your abilities. Nothing man has made can compare — we are indeed your children.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Thou knowest me right well; my frame was not hidden from thee; when I was being made in secret intricately wrought in the depths of the earth”* (Psa. 139:14b,15). It is with real happiness I come to praise you this day. The various facets of your omniscience are here under constant consideration. I can truly never exhaust the possibilities of relationship. I do open my heart in praise for your knowledge of my deepest needs. To say “thou knowest me right well,” seems a real understatement. When we remember it is your knowledge we know “right well” means every and all relationships of life. The term “frame” is a poetic description of the whole person. Even when to men’s eyes all was hidden and too intricate to be defined and far away in the depths of the earth it was to you known “right well.” Praise your name. It is comforting to rest in your absolute knowledge of my deepest needs.

*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 marvel is the human body! What a marvel is *my* human body. Just the thought of what keeps me a resident in this house is worthy of praise and meditation. I know when you want me to separate from this tabernacle I shall leave. But while I am here, what is it that keeps me here? We know that the body is dead when we leave it, but why do we remain? It would be easy to say that the health of the body insures occupancy, but we all know persons whose health has fled but they remain. The house in which we live is so intricate that the most complicated of human machinery seems monstrously awkward in comparison. Just the movements and capabilities of the human eye is a testimony to your creative genius a million miles beyond human achievement.

*How do you personally relate to the knowledge of God, and God who knows our frame?*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

If I am so important to you that such thought and care is devoted to my creation, how is it that you are not *much* more important to me? How sad beyond words is our preoccupation with the house in which we live. We are so concerned about the place that we have forgotten the person — not to even mention the Creator. Dear Lord, forgive me! Even worse it is to proceed in my life as if I was responsible for the creation of myself and all about me. The basic sin of man is to “play God.” We all know what we think when one of our children begins to play daddy or mother. It can be a source of amusement as long as they are not teenagers or older. My dear Father Creator, I want to read your rules and accept your personal help in implementing 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

Lord Jesus, look down from Thy throne in the skies,  
And help me to make a complete sacrifice;  
I give up myself, and whatever I know,  
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Whiter than snow, yes whiter than snow;  
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>32</sup>While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus.  
<sup>33</sup>And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been dumb spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.”  
<sup>34</sup>But the Pharisees said, “It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons.” —Matthew 9:32-34, NIV

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It would seem that right after leaving the house of Jairus this incident occurred. Was this a response to the testimony of the two blind men? Did the multitude know of this hard case and bring him to Jesus as a test? Dear Lord, I wish I knew. There is something wonderfully intriguing about this man: (1) He was not insane — the whole multitude and all who knew him could say this. But there *was* something other than madness that troubled him. *It was a demon.* (2) He was not physically unable to speak, i.e., his vocal chords were present and operative. There was something else that hindered him. *It was a demon.* (3) The whole crowd knew he was demon-possessed — the Pharisees agreed to this. Most of all, our Lord so identified his problem. I do want to try as much as possible to project myself into the circumstances of this text.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

*Just for me.* This encounter in the spirit world has serious lessons for me. It is so easy to not hear and to become dull of hearing. How I need to be reminded over and over again that Satan is real today. There are demons abroad in the land *now*. Real genuine spirit beings under the control of Satan do even *now* attack us and vie for our attention and interest. We *are not* saying that men are today possessed and held under demon power. At least demons have no such influence in the lives of Christians. The important emphasis must not be with our association with demons but with our Lord. Do we feel our personal need of him? If we do we will come to him often and in the same attitude as this poor man who could not speak.

## READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the compassion of someone for the poor possessed man. (2) Thank you that the miracles of Jesus did accomplish their purpose in some lives. (3) Thank you for my Lord's present power over Satan today. (4) Thank you for the character of the miracle — it could not be denied by anyone. (5) Thank you for the superior quality of this miracle — better than anything anyone had seen. (6) Thank you for the cumulative effect the continuous miracles of Jesus was having. (7) Thank you that even the Pharisees associated our Lord's work with the spirit world.

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*"Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."* We might add: or in any place else. Let's get a few things straight about who Jesus really is. He is, in human form, the visible image of the invisible Father. He is high above everything in creation, and, as a matter of fact, he made everything in the whole universe. The whole spirit world as well as the material world was made by him for his own use. He existed before

everything he made and he still keeps it together. He's also the head of his spiritual body, the family. He created physical life; he created the new forever life — from death — and as we share that life with him, the whole universe will see that he is the true "Supreme Commander." In that human body was all the nature and power of the living God. The Father then took all that perfection and crucified him for every being in the dying universe to live in him. And we who were his enemies and in our minds hated him and were going our own way have been welcomed into his own family.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Casting out a demon evokes thoughts for prayer: (1) Why are the organs of sense affected by demons? Deliver me from demonic attack even now. (2) It is good to see the disciples relating men beyond human help to my Lord. I carry one of these same kind to you now in prayer. (3) I wonder what were the first words of this man? The power of speech is such a blessing — may I use it to praise you! (4) The crowd was *amazed* — did it go any further? It does with me — deepen my awareness. (5) How is it that the greatest of great events is somehow overlooked? Lest I become only one of the crowd may I take the place of the man who was delivered.

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

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

Speak to me through these verses that I might speak for you. (1) "Until men are brought to me Satan has hindered their speech." (2) "The crowd is still waiting to praise me for my power through my Son." (3) "Do you really care that men are attacked by Satanic powers? Then show your concern."

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Israel* — Point for prayer: *The legal position* is not helpful to believers or missions among the Jews. It is not allowed to see the conversion of a young person without the written permission of the parents. The legal position of a Jew who becomes a Christian is very difficult. It is hard for the Protestant Churches to gain government recognition.

## 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.

# WEEK EIGHT

## —Wednesday—

*It is a high privilege to bow before One who knew all my days before I arrived. This is too great a thought for me — But I can marvel and rejoice in it — as I do right now.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Thy eyes beheld my unformed substance; in thy book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them”* (Psa. 139:16). Your creative genius and omnipotence are beautifully seen in this unusual verse. You see me as no one else ever has or could. Intent and intentional is your observation. It is easy for man to define the elements out of which our bodies are made — these are the same as those in the soil beneath our feet. “Dust thou art” is a scientific fact. But before there was a sculpture in the hand of the artist there was a picture in his mind, there was a desire in his heart. All the elements of man’s whole being were recorded as well as every day he would live upon this earth. (This is not an easy verse for translation — dear Lord, is this what you are saying?)

*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.* Your wonderful intimate personal interests in me are most clearly stated. How I rejoice in your involvement in my life while I was still in the womb of my mother. When you sent spirit into the embryo of the unformed fetus you knew the reaction or response of the union of spirit and that genetic combination. In your book was written a full description of myself before I was even born. The number of days of my life were also there recorded. All of this is a total amazement to me; I stand back with my head and heart bowed before you in praise and wonder.

*How do you personally relate to the foreknowledge of God, and God who knew us before we were born? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

How often do I think these thoughts? Dear Lord, you know it is not as often as it should be! How aware

am I that all of my life is in your hands? How fragile and temporary is my life. In the same breath I can say my life is full of your very self! That I should spend so much time and thought on your house and neglect both the occupant and the Maker is one of the mysteries of the evil one. Dear Lord, deliver me! Open the eyes of my heart! Since my days are numbered and limited, give me the grace and chastening to use them as one who knows at least from whence they came!

*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

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.

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

### HIS WORD

Jesus left there and went to his home town, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup>When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. *Mark 6:1,2a, NIV*  
<sup>54</sup>Coming to his home town, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” —*Matthew 13:54, NIV*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Amazement of all amazements! The young boy who grew up in the carpenter’s shop and lived with us for years is now become a popular teacher and miracle

worker! When our Lord returned, followed by his twelve apostles and possibly other disciples, what a commotion must have occurred in Nazareth. His brothers and sisters no doubt crowded around him and were full of questions. What poignancy must have filled the heart of his mother. He must have stayed a day or two before the Sabbath day arrived and then he went to the synagogue service. What a rare privilege it was to hear him teach. What profound thoughts were presented that Sabbath day in the little synagogue in Nazareth!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

*Just for me.* Have I become so familiar with Jesus that I like those in his hometown really do not know him? It *is* possible. Dear Lord, forgive me. Why did Jesus return to his home? Was it to give his friends and relatives and all the townsfolk one last chance? I believe it was. How easy it is to allow unrelated matters to deafen our ears and close our eyes! There was no question as to the amazing wisdom by which he taught. There was no denying the multiplied miracles he had performed throughout Galilee. No one said a word about sinless conduct. And yet — he was only the carpenter's son; we knew his mother, brothers and sisters. They knew him and they did not know him. How is it with me?

*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 our Lord that followed him even to Nazareth. (2) Thank you for his devoted followers who came with him. (3) Thank you for all of the tender associations that must have crowded his mind as he again walked the streets of the city. (4) Thank you for the unknown renewal of acquaintances that must have occurred before the Sabbath. (5) Thank you for Jesus' wisdom in placing his two visits to Nazareth nine months apart. (6) Thank you for my Lord's custom of attending the public services. (7) Thank you that I can be amazed all over again at the wisdom of my Lord.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*“. . . and many who heard him were amazed.”* This is on a home town level. We wonder if Joseph or his brothers were present. Somehow they could not overcome the familiarity of previous association. Even their amazement was superficial. Is it at all possible that we have become so familiar with the records of his life that we too are only mildly amazed? Were the men in the synagogue in Nazareth really listening when he spoke? Did they *really* know him? The very thing they claimed is what they did not have. They knew his family, i.e., by name and where they lived,

but they had not taken the time to really get acquainted with our Lord. It takes time and undivided attention to learn from him or about him. Surely he merits a priority of time and thought.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I want to be a silent observer in that synagogue and be led to prayer: (1) Dear Lord, I would like to make all my associates a welcome committee for you. (2) How can I better make you feel “at home” in me? (3) Isn't it too bad we do not have what he taught that day in the synagogue — perhaps we do in the rest of the record. (4) I want the amazement that filled the hearts of these people. (5) I ask in faith for the wisdom I so sorely need in teaching your word today. (6) I want to examine the miracles of my Lord again that I might learn all there is of his deity. (7) Did those who asked about the source of his wisdom and power ever get an answer?

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

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

Speak to me through your Son: (1) “I am still teaching those who will listen.” (2) “You now know the answer to their question.” (3) “Accept in your conscience what I am saying to you.”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Israel* — Point for prayer: *The Hebrew Christians* are considered almost traitors to their nation, and suffer ostracism and some discrimination from other Jews. There are about four Hebrew assemblies that meet on an interdenominational basis, and some other believers that fellowship with some of the many small mission groups. Some of the latter are all too ready to “sponsor” promising believers — often not for the best motives. Pray for the planting of strong independent churches all over the country.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Come, Thou Almighty King,  
 Help us Thy name to sing,  
 Help us to praise.  
 Father, all glorious,  
 O'er all victorious,  
 Come, and reign over us,  
 Ancient of Days.



# WEEK EIGHT

## —Thursday—

*“How precious indeed are your thoughts! How vast is the sum of them!” How intricate — how full of purpose! But only those who want to believe see any of these qualities — I gladly believe — life has no meaning without you.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“How precious to me are thy thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. When I awake, I am still with thee. (Were I to come to the end I would still be with thee.)”* (Psa. 139:17,18). It is with eager anticipation I enter your presence. I am so glad to be able to express praise for all you have said in your word. And yet such words are only the smallest fraction of your thoughts. When we take time and thought to concentrate on any branch of your creative genius we are startled at the intelligence behind such design and purpose. But when we refer to your thoughts concerning our lives it is then we must prostrate ourselves before you in silent amazement!

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*Just for me.* It would seem David was in a dream, or he thought of himself as dreaming and in the dream he was capable of counting your thoughts. Even if somehow he succeeded in this impossible endeavor when he awoke he would yet be in the presence of an equal number. To remember that God expends immeasurable energy in one single concept! The whole galaxy and millions like the one of which we are a part are all for man's enjoyment. The vast complexity of the earth is here to exercise and expand the spirit of man. How costly and how valuable are your thoughts; how precious is your perpetual attention.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

That you should think of me so often and I should think of you so seldom is a sin of giant magnitude! It would be impossible to convince my dear wife that I

loved her if my thoughts were never upon her welfare or were never expressed in deeds or words. Dear Lord, in this one area I find the solution for all my needs! To return the concern you have for me is to relate you to all of my life all the time. How powerful are your words: “. . . his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law (and the Lawmaker) he meditates day and night.”

*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

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>54</sup>Coming to his home town, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. <sup>55</sup>“Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? <sup>56</sup>Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” <sup>57</sup>And they took offense at him.

But Jesus said to them, “Only in his home town and in his own house is a prophet without honor.”

<sup>58</sup>And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith. —Matthew 13:54-58, NIV

“Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! <sup>3</sup>Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joses, Judas

and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" and they took offense at him.

<sup>4</sup>Jesus said to them, "Only in his home town, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." <sup>5</sup>He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.

<sup>6</sup>And he was amazed at their lack of faith. —Mark 6:2b-6a, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What a privilege beyond privileges to read these words in your presence. Here I see and sense the response men gave to your dear Son. If this passage touches my heart I know you are even more involved. Wasn't the answer to their question obvious? Our Lord's wisdom was so superior to anything they had heard before that heaven must be its source. The mighty miracles were of such a nature and were so numerous that no one could miss their origin — or could they? Perhaps it was your Son's insistence that they accept or reject — honor or refuse to honor him, Dear Lord, you are speaking to me in these words. Give me the faith to accept his Lordship.

*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 is a strange circumstance: Those who should have known him best — and even thought they did — did not. Did Jesus discuss his mighty works? There were thousands to testify to the truthfulness of his words. At least they should have seen God behind the words he spoke. The teachings of my Lord are so superior to all the words of men that only a contrast appears as we relate them. It strikes me again and again how very common were the names used here. How many men were called James in the days of our Lord? We have four such persons in the New Testament accounts. Joseph and Simon and Judas are also very ordinary names. Perhaps we lose him as they did in the humbleness of the package for God's gift.

*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 heaven's wisdom in the life and words of my Lord. (2) Thank you for the fact that Jesus was indeed the adopted son of a carpenter. (3) Thank you for the patient consistent example of Mary. (4) Thank you for the epistle of James that teaches me that faith that does not act — even as James had when he lived with Jesus — is of no value. (5) Thank you for the epistle of Jude that teaches me to "contend for the faith" — which is hardly what Jude did until after the resurrection. (6) Thank you for the unnamed sisters of my Lord — I would like to believe they accepted him as so many do today. (7) Thank you that your prophet can have today the honor he did not have in Nazareth.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*"And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief."* What a sad commentary on human nature! Until or unless someone fits into our presupposition we will not accept him. It needs to be emphasized here that our Lord expected the Nazarenes to believe on him before and without the miracles. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing of the words of Christ." It does cause us to wonder why he did *any* mighty works in his home town if such unbelief prevailed. There are always a few that will believe. Praise God for those few persons who had the courage to believe against popular opinion.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How could those who were "his own" take offense at him? (1) How humble an estimate: "the carpenter's son." He was and he wasn't — help me to understand both concepts. (2) My Lord was one of the crowd — an ordinary citizen of Nazareth. Dear Lord, I want to be like him. (3) How I wish I could have shared a meal or two in the home of Mary and Joseph. It is wonderful to consider that Jesus can share every meal with me! (4) I want to read again the words of James and Jude (Judas) the half-brothers of my Lord. I want to get behind the words of the writers. (5) I would like to know the names of the sisters of Jesus. I believe I have met some. Keep me aware of his definition of just who are his relatives.

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

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

You did not have the ears or the hearts of those in Nazareth — but you have mine — speak to me: (1) "Faith both precedes and succeeds signs." (2) "The principle still holds for some teachers and preachers today."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Israel — Point for prayer: The Arab believers have some fine, lively fellowships in Jerusalem and Galilee with a considerable outreach. Pray for their witness in the present difficult political situation. Pray for a greater outreach to the less evangelized West Bank, and especially the 350,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Pray for closer links between the Hebrew and Arab believers.*

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

# WEEK EIGHT

## —Friday—

*How good it is to ask you — from my heart to search me — try me to forgive me! You can heal every hurt, every need — I bow before you just now and ask that it might happen to me.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting”* (Psa. 139:23,24). Dear Lord, I make the words of the poet James Montgomery my prayer to you: Searcher of hearts, to thee are known The inmost secrets of my breast; At home, abroad, in crowds, alone, Thou mark’st my rising and my rest, My thoughts far off, through every maze, Source, stream, and issue — all my ways. What I say of myself I say for all. It is one awesome thought to invite you to so search me! Requested or not such is your power and prerogative.

*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.* Only you can know my heart. When I feel I have discovered the last room in my heart I suddenly stumble on a door that opens to a whole undiscovered area. I want you to search me. I do not want one hurtful thing in my heart. There are three I can hurt — yourself, others or myself. David was so concerned that there be no rebellion in his heart against you as his king. This too is my concern. This is offered as a praise to the quality of your nature that immediately makes us introspective, i.e., your omniscience. Because of the great deceiver it is essential that we often refer to this quality of yourself.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

To praise you for your ability to know us better than we know ourselves is to confess our sins. I want to remember that unless there was something of value

there would be no search. It was a *son* who was lost. It was a *Son* who was sent to save. Both were precious to the Father — and the Father was the same in both examples.

When you do find wickedness or hurtfulness in me, what will you do with it? It is as if you had found the spot under the yoke that had hurt for so long — you now apply the healing balm and remove the hurt.

*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 blessed One, gives to all,  
Wonderful words of Life;  
Sinner, list to the loving call,  
Wonderful words of Life.  
All so freely given,  
Wooing us to Heaven;  
Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of Life.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of Life.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>35</sup>Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup>Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”  
—Matthew 9:35-38, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How delighted I am to read this word to you. I want

to see your dear Son as he trampled up the incline of this town or he walked down the hill to another village in Galilee. How many synagogues did he enter? I know not one is missing in your knowledge. Not one lesson was taught that has not been recorded in heaven. The good news of your rule in the lives of men was the message of your Son. How I want to receive such rule as *good news*. It is more than startling to read these words . . . "healing *every* disease and *every* infirmity." There were no impossible cases with him. Since Jesus is alive at your right hand and sees not the few people of the hills of Galilee but the whole wide teeming multitude of this world — and *he sees each one* — how *much more* do his words mean today, "sheep without a shepherd — harassed and helpless." Dear Lord, open my eyes!

*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 hesitate to read these words! I cannot bear to open my heart and receive them, but I must. Dear Lord, you have no one else today but each of us who love you: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." I am so glad Jesus described you as "the Lord of the harvest." It would seem from the way we act and think that we fancy ourselves the harvest Lord. You also described us with that powerful word: "*laborers*." Until we have taught someone we have not worked for you. Yes, yes, there are various ways of teaching, but teaching we *must* do. Unless we have watered what we have taught (or planted) we are not your laborers. There are times when we do indeed need to "dig around" the soil of the heart of those who have been planted and watered. Dear Father, I want to hear it again: "He that soweth bountifully shall reap bountifully." There are such wide needy fields. Open my heart and mouth!

*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 general and specific interest my Lord has in men. (2) Thank you that Jesus was a preacher. (3) Thank you that Jesus used the synagogue as a place of worship even when it was not "a house you built." (4) Thank you my Lord was also a teacher. (5) Thank you for the unlimited power of healing present in your Son. (6) Thank you that I can be a citizen of the kingdom he described. (7) Thank you I can be that laborer for which he asked us to pray.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"*Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest. . . .*" How beautifully unique are all the words of my Lord! Wouldn't it be much more natural to say: "Enter into the harvest field"? Why pray? Because our heavenly

Father is the only one we know who knows all about the total process of harvest. Another very large reason has to do with the harvester: If we put our labor with people on a divine level, i.e., we truly pray about it, the possibilities of our continuing and being fruitful are so much higher. Is the harvest still plentiful and are the laborers yet few? To ask is to answer. Both the harvest and the laborers are enlarged immeasurably and in both directions: we have four billion people on earth and so very few laborers. At the same time, the means of harvesting are so much more manageable. We now can reach every person on earth so much easier. There is also an equally greater need for prayer.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

This is indeed an all encompassing statement of his work. There is much to pray about in it: (1) Dear Lord, I do not believe it is your will that even one village in this world be without the teaching of your Son. How, oh, how, can I help? (2) Keep me always aware that what I have to offer is "good news of the kingdom." (3) How amazing that Jesus healed "*every disease and sickness*." This really says something about his compassion and power — open my heart to receive it. (4) Sheep are stupid animals — how like us — Gentle Shepherd, lead us, chasten us. (5) Dear Lord, I want to take up your solution for workers for your harvest. Teach me to really pray this prayer.

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

Since the workers are still so few I need to hear you in meeting this need, (1) "My compassion comes to men through you." (2) "If you pray I will send." (3) "The harvest is greater and whiter than it has ever been."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Israel* — Points for prayer: (1) *The hostile environment* for both Arab and Hebrew believers with limited opportunities for the future tempts many to leave the country. Many young people emigrate and the witness they could bear is lost. (2) *A large proportion of the Israelis have immigrated* from countries all over the world. Each group comes to Israel with its own language and culture and each must be reached with the Gospel in a meaningful way. Especially needy are the over 120,000 (often atheistic) Jews now coming from Russia, where they are suffering considerable persecution. Pray for the reaching of these *Immigrant Jews*.

### 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 EIGHT

## —Saturday—

*We have a strong, strong Deliverer! We have on our heads the helmet of salvation that can protect us from all hurt! I worship you!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“O Lord, my Lord, my strong deliverer, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle”* (Psa. 140:7). Every day is indeed a battle to be fought. The hand-to-hand combat of David’s day presents a very good metaphor in our fight with Satan and his forces. There is so much in this one verse descriptive of all you are and do for each of us each day: (1) The movements of our forces are under your control. We pause just now to ask for your strategy. We ask in confidence of your interest in our fight. We ask aware that the movement will seem to be our choice and our effort, but are aware all the time that *you are the deliverer*. (2) You are our armor-bearer. It was the task of David’s armor bearer to do this, i.e., to cover his king’s head in the battle. You can and do guard our thoughts and move both the will and the choice — praise your name — I claim such help for today’s battle.

*Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.*

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*Just for me*. As in the above expression I have become a large part of it. Even so there is so much more I want to say in praise of your presence in the thick of every encounter. (3) You make yourself responsible for a knowledge of the enemy’s moves. Surely I am no match for Satan. If even Michael the archangel did not want to personally encounter him (Jude 9,10) who am I to engage him in hand-to-hand combat? (4) You ask me to do all I can in the fight but recognize you are there deflecting Satan’s blows and covering me with your love and personal concern. Dear Lord, how I do hide behind this shield of faith! (5) What a mutual respect and love grows between the warrior and his armor-bearer. Yea, when I know who he is I gladly give him all the credit for every victory.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

It surely seems incongruous that in the midst of the promises of conquest we admit defeat! But such is the record of our life. We do not really lose *any* battle in which you are accepted as a companion in the fight! The only battles I have lost have been those I engaged in the loneliness of my own selfishness. The strategy of triumph is as clear as I could ever want it. (1) Admit I cannot win by myself. (2) Ask for your presence — claim and identify your presence when once I ask. (3) Confess my sin and failure. (4) Ask your forgiveness — essentially I am asking forgiveness for trying to fight alone. (5) Take up the sword of the Spirit and the shield of faith — fully aware of who fashioned the sword, and in whom my faith is placed. Help me, dear Lord.

*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 mighty fortress is our God,  
A bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
Doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and pow’r are great,  
And, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

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

### HIS WORD

**10** He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. <sup>6</sup>Go rather to the lost

sheep of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' <sup>8</sup>Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. <sup>9</sup>Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; <sup>10</sup>take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his keep.' —Matthew 10:1; 5-10, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What concern must have filled the hearts of these unlearned humble men! Was the authority Jesus gave them arbitrary? I do not believe it was! Are we aware of the total inclusiveness of his words: *every disease and (every) sickness*. It included *all manner of demons*. To even *raise the dead*! How did they relate to such words and such authority? How did they express the thought that these persons were lost sheep? — even if they were citizens of the twelve tribes of Israel? What hospitality must have been present! I want to walk with them.

*Please express your response to this powerful text.*

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

*These men were very ordinary!* We can therefore relate to them. We have been sent to the lost — we have a message — "the rule of God in the hearts of men is so very near!" Could I apply these words to the members of your present flock? Can I expect hospitality at their hands? I have surely been the recipient of such kindness. What credentials do we offer as to the truthfulness of our message? *Our example of your rule in our own hearts!* How freely — openly — uncomplainingly — do we give? Do we accept your standard or criteria of giving?

*It is so important that you pause in his presence and write or speak your response to him.*

### READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for Peter, James, John and Andrew — all of them the first disciples he called — and all of them very poor weak men — commercial fishermen. My father and grandfather were just such men as are ten thousand other very ordinary men and women. (2) Thank you that my dear Lord practically *forced* them into believing him and putting their whole trust in him! (3) Thank you for the record of their success — the confirmation of his authority! — help me to receive it as it was given and apply it to my acceptance of the authority of my Lord via the twelve! (4) Thank you for the united record of this account by the gospel writers.

*Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude.*

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*"Freely you have received, freely give."* How wonderfully true this is! For us in the USA we have *so freely received!* I want to pause and absorb this into my in-

ner heart! How freely and fully have I received your word! — how freely have I given it? Ah, dear Lord, forgive! What I say here for myself I say for all members of your Son's body here in America! What will happen if we do not freely give? We are the loser! Help us all dear Lord!

*Pause — wait — think — then express your praise or thanks.*

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

(1) I want to tell of your rule for the hearts of men. *Why* is it so difficult to do it? Please open my understanding. (2) Why am I so worried about money where your servants were told not to give it a thought? What missing ingredient is here? (3) Am I really worthy of my being supported by others? Enable me, dear Lord!

*Right here add your own personal requests.*

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

(1) "Is your heart open or are you acting only on impulse?" (2) "If you will let me I can change you." (3) "I love you — I can and will use you."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Israel* — Point for prayer: *Israel needs more men and women who humbly and simply live for Jesus* and witness personally to the very many who have not responded to the Gospel. Pray for all groups seeking to help and encourage the national believers in this ministry of personal evangelism and distribution of literature. There are surprisingly few Christians doing this and the opportunities for this ministry are many.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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