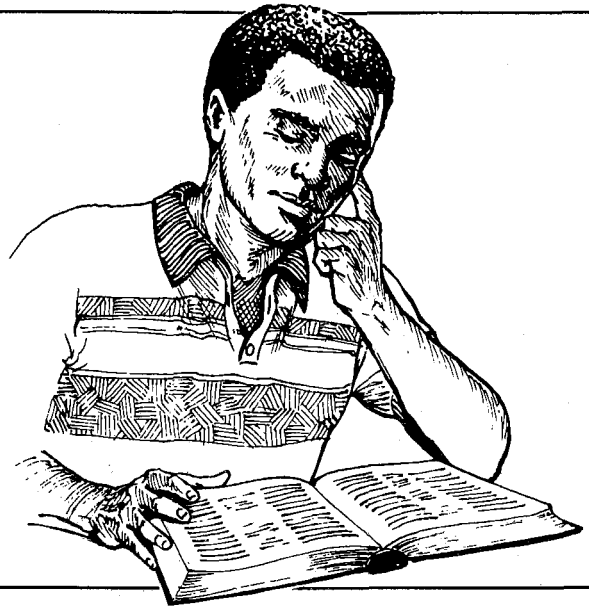


WEEK ONE

—Sunday—

You are even now guarding and delivering — it is a joy to worship you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Let those who love the Lord hate evil, for he guards the lives of the faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name” (Psa. 97:10-12). Dear Lord there always seems to be a new and different way to say praise to your name! If I love you I will HATE EVIL — not dislike it — or ignore it — but HATE IT! I want to develop a deep resentment — a holy antipathy for all that is contrary to your way. How much evil I have escaped because of your goodness and mercy only heaven will reveal. Your guard has kept me from many a scar and hurt from the evil one — and I am glad!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

How I do want to come under the blood and righteousness of my Lord that I may lift my heart in praise and joy. It would be easy to be depressed each day — I do not make it in the battle with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes or the pride of life. But when I remember the uprightness is inside of you I am full of joy. Imputed righteousness — forgiveness and acceptableness by grace through faith is the only way I have to lift up my heart in praise and declare my holiness — I have NONE of my own it is *all* of you. But once I accept such goodness there does arise with the psalmist the claims of protection and deliverance from my foes. Bless your wonderful name!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God?

CONFESSION OF SIN

The old axiom that man is not good enough or smart enough to be saved by anything but grace is so eternally true! Forgive me for being so easily deceived and discouraged by Satan. I must remember to

develop my hatred of evil — to *abhor* that which is evil! “. . . whatever is *true* (i.e. equal with reality as you define it) whatever is *noble* (i.e. that which lifts up and elevates the human spirit) whatever is *right* (i.e. that which fulfills the truth in life) whatever is *pure* (i.e. whole and lasting or eternal in value) whatever is *lovely* (*ah, what a word!* — holds out beauty in itself — a thing of beauty is a joy forever) whatever is *admirable* (i.e. we can talk about with good thoughts and describe your own qualities about it), if anything is *excellent* (i.e. holds the highest qualities of development in itself) or *praiseworthy*” — how good, good, good it is to speak of the good about others and yourself.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

True-hearted, whole-hearted, Savior all-glorious!
Take Thy great power and reign there alone,
Over our wills and affections victorious,
Freely surrendered and wholly Thine own.
Peal out the watchword! silence it never!
Song of our spirits, rejoicing and free;
Peal out the watchword! loyal forever,
King of our lives, by Thy grace we will be.

HIS WORD

⁸Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us,”

⁹Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ¹²I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these,

because I am going to the Father. ¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." —*John 14:8-14, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

We intentionally overlap a few verses here to help us better receive the full impact of this blessed passage! In what wonderful sense could Jesus say that he was "in the Father"? He was saying that if God came to walk among men he would do and say just as our blessed Lord did! His life — his teaching — his miracles were but the outward expression of the Father in him. He did not do these things of himself, it was God in him doing it. Then to reverse the expression: the Father came in the presence of the Son as the Son came in the person of the Father. This is almost too much for our finite minds to assimilate! Jesus referred to the words he spoke as "the work of the Father" — doubtless referring to the source of the words. A careful examination of the miracles of Jesus would indicate the real divine source of his words and works.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Jesus intended for his work to be carried out after he left and went back to the Father. Wonder of wonders! He intended for his apostles and we his disciples to complete and complement what he did! The one requisite for doing his works was that "we have faith in him." It does seem easy for us to "have faith in him." Our faith must be a living union with him — not just a mental assent but a whole hearted confidence in his presence and person in us and with us in the person of the Holy Spirit. I do so truly believe the "greater works" are those of raising the dead in trespasses and sins — healing the sick of heart and mind — the release from Satan's bondage of those who are presently bound. Bless your wonderful name — give me a few more days to do this!

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the sufficiency of seeing yourself in your Son. (2) Thank you that the self-revelation of Jesus was gradual for his disciples — as it is for me. (3) Thank you that I can believe that in him dwelt all the fullness of the godhead bodily (Col. 1:19). (4) Thank you that all the fullness of the Son dwelt in the Father. (5) Thank you that the Father dwelling in me is such an example of just how it is possible for two spirit beings to be present at the same time in the same place. (6) Thank you for the wonderful evidence of the miracles of Jesus. (7) Thank you for the "greater works" you can and do perform in the world today through your servants.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so the Son may bring glory to the Father." The intertwining of the three parties mentioned here are all a part of

this promise. How could the answer of the prayer of the disciples enable the Son to bring glory to the Father? The three are so inseparable to have one is to have the other. What a wonderful example of trinity — of the disciples of the Son and of the Father. We are sure the Holy Spirit is not at all separate from this promise. There was going to be a need in the next 40 or 50 years for special powers to be manifest to lend confirmation to the momentous promises of our Lord. The unqualified promise of 14:14 has always intrigued me: "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What a passage for requests: (1) I have been a long time in the task of intercessory prayer — I have only begun to enter its doorway — "lead me higher up and further in." (2) Jesus walked and talked constantly conscious of the Father in him and he in the Father — how I would like to understand far more of what this means. (3) The work of the Father was in the form of speaking words — how eternally important are your words — may I learn them in my heart! (4) Jesus said the Father was *living* in Jesus — Jesus can and does live in me. Keep me as aware of this as was my Lord. (5) People can see evidence of his living in us — it is *your words* that give this evidence — dear Lord, increase them! (6) Oh for the "greater works" to be done in my life — lead me into such works. (7) It is a solid comfort to talk to you as alive with the living Father — praise your name!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in these verses: (1) ". . . at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves." (2) "Your task is to bring glory to the Son." (3) "Whatever glory goes to you apart from the Son is worthless."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Finland — Point for prayer: *Praise God for the awakenings and revivals over the past 200 years with a strong emphasis on prayer, repentance and confession.* The last revival occurred during the 1960s. Present interest in spiritual things could lead to revival again. May expectancy result in it happening — for the blessing of the world! There is a steady but slow increase in the number of active Christians.

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.

WEEK ONE

—Monday—

If you were not in control of this earth all would be lost — I want you to control my life.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

The 97th Psalm seems neglected in the various expressions by men of praise and worship. This is not as it should be. There are numerous areas for praise: (1) *“The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; the distant shores rejoice.”* (2) *“ . . . righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.”* (3) *“His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.”* (4) *“The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.”* (5) *“For you, O Lord, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.”* (Psalm 97:1,2b,4,6,9) Surely there is much — very much for which to praise you in these verses!

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

As for me there are at least four ways or reasons for praising you. (1) It is a good thing a beneficent God rules this world, there would be nothing but chaos and confusion in this world if some other being were in charge of this universe. (2) Righteousness and justice are your ideal — and to man in your mercy they are imputed — without them there would be no world. (3) The lightning that streaks across the sky in a thunder storm is but the physical evidence of your ability to instantly strike at any place at any time that needs your judgment — no wonder men tremble. (4) One day there will be a declaration for all to see of your vindication — all your acts were righteous and all peoples above and beneath shall see your true character.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How very often is your reign reiterated in the Psalms. The government of a theocracy is behind all these

figures of speech. We who live in a democracy have a most difficult time relating with real personal meaning to such a rule. However it is not difficult to identify with my King of Glory — my living reigning Lord. I want in my heart of hearts to rejoice at his rule in and through me! Job discovered the incongruity of arguing with you. Who has been your counselor? Surely not myself! Forgive me for ever entertaining such a thought. I am glad to acknowledge that the light of your word lights up the meaning and purpose to life and gives meaning to all the dark places of this world — if not here, hereafter!

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

Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter;
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me
After Thy will,
While I am waiting,
Yielded and still.

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

HIS WORD

¹⁵“If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will realize that I am in the Father and you are in me, and I am in you.” — *John 15:14-20, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Ah, dear Lord, you do speak so plainly and eloquently to me. I do love you — how is it then I am all hesitant in obeying what you command? Break down all resistance to your will in my life, in my mind, in my will, in my emotions. May I give myself wholly to you! Could I under a separate list itemize all you have commanded me? The first request of Jesus upon his return to heaven was to send “another Counselor” — he being the first great Counselor. He was with them for such a short time. What wonderful encouragement it must have been to hear him say of the coming Counselor that he would be with them forever.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

The other Counselor has another name. He is to be called — and is called “*the Spirit of truth*” the very breath of reality is the Holy Spirit! He is the source of all reality. The more we know him the more we know reality. “The world” is all that is contrary to and opposite from reality — it is but illusion. We can see and know the truth — the Other Counselor because he has come in the person of his Son. Of course the Holy Spirit himself was present — but was observable in the Person of Jesus. He (i.e. Jesus) lived with them and after Pentecost would live in them in the person of the Holy Spirit. How lonesome they would feel when he left them — take heart! “I will not leave you as orphans: I will in the person of the Holy Spirit come to 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 I can over and over again treasure these precious words to my heart and obey every nuance I can find in each one. (2) The world never has seen him — when they do it will be eternally too late — thank you that each day I can open your word and see you all over again. (3) Thank you for the promise of the resurrection — and of the coming of the Spirit. (4) Because he lives I shall never die — I shall *always* live! (6) God is a Spirit — at his resurrection the disciples would know he was indeed Spirit — and therefore a part of the very nature of the Father himself. (7) Thank you, oh thank you, for the promise that we are in you (as we think your thoughts and do your will) and you are in us in the person of the Holy Spirit — Praise your wonderful name!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... *you are in me, and I am in you.*” Our Lord was thinking in particular of the day of Pentecost and onward. On that day a wonderful realization will occur — in a new, and as yet at that time, unrealized sense they would know that Jesus was in union with the Father — we in union with our Lord — and wonder of wonders — *he is in us!* We are not discussing some ecstatic sensation — these are always a consequence

and not a cause. In a very wonderful sense we can accept but not explain *he lives in us!* Since we are spirit beings this is a very real relationship. The human spirit communicates through the five senses hence we must expect the same means of communication through the Holy Spirit. When I think his thoughts — will (or obey) his will — I can inevitably expect to feel his emotions.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How I do want to express just as many meaningful expressions as at all possible in the little time and space here allotted. (1) Dear, dear Lord, there is NOTHING I want more than to hear your commands and obey them. (2) How utterly wonderful to have the promise of the other Counselor forever! (3) It is beyond human words to know we have the original source of *truth* — even the spirit of truth! (4) Ah, that more and more of the world would learn of him! I want to be a little source of such communication. (5) Blessed Lord, I do not feel like an orphan! You are my Lord, God is my Father — thousands of Christians are my brothers and sisters — heaven is my home. (6) Oh, thank you, thank you for this terse promise of eternal life with you. (7) Enlarge my realization of your presence in me.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in a most meaningful manner through these verses: (1) “To the extent you see me and know me you accept me.” (Read this carefully.) (2) “Isn’t it wonderful to be a joint-heir with your Lord?” (3) “There is no need to talk or pray or sing about my presence with you unless you obey.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

France — Point for prayer: *France is a mission field.* This is the opinion both of Catholics and Evangelicals alike — though this suggestion would horrify most French. One of the world’s most cultured and sophisticated nations is reaping the barren fruits of 200 years of eularization. Barriers to the gospel are many — intellectualism, rationalism, widespread involvement in the occult, individualism and a nodding acquaintance with institutional Catholicism. These must be broken down by fervent prayer. France is not only needy, but also hardened to the gospel.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name!

Let angels prostrate fall!

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all;

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all.

WEEK ONE

—Tuesday—

Light and joy are mine from your presence. I gladly enter into worship!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name” (Psa. 97:11,12). What a dear expression of praise and joy! How easy it is to make it mine! Light is shed upon the righteous — light and more light is shed upon me as I walk in the light as he is in the light — indeed as he *is* the light — the *only* light — the whole light of my world! When I hold back nothing — when I hide nothing then there is within me a deep wonderful joy I am glad to attribute to you! Your commandments are all surely not grievous — your will is the fulfillment of all that is lovely and beautiful!

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

This is the one solitary pursuit of my life — it has not always been so — but you have led me down a path that has opened into such a place. To make your attributes the *summum bonum* of life is such a noble fulfilling goal. To rejoice in anyone — or anything — is to be able to carefully consider all the qualities of that person or thing and to do so with a positive response. Such indeed is my estimate of yourself — as seen in the face of your dear Son! To even now know that in this moment I am: (1) Just as if I had never sinned; (2) I have been set aside to belong exclusively to you; (3) I have been bought with a price far above all the wealth of all the world; (4) I have been taken as a miserable misshapen child of hell and adopted and transformed into your likeness — is more than I can at all express in words of joy!

CONFESSION OF SIN

Since there is such light that I shall never, never exhaust it nor properly appreciate it how is it I am so often content to live in the semidarkness of my own selfish desires — dear Lord — it seems almost more

than you could forgive. There is no way — no way at all I can claim a righteousness by obedience to your laws — I do not even know them well enough to define what motives I should use in obedience. My heart is NOT upright — it is turned away — and bowed down — and away from you! Lord, Lord, forgive me for my joy which is so often related to what is of this earth, earthly — of this life, temporal — of this flesh, fleshly. Forgive me — there is no joy in it.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Under His wings, what a refuge in sorrow!
How the heart yearningly turns to His rest!
Often when earth has no balm for my healing,
There I find comfort, and there I am blest.
Under His wings, under His wings,
Who from His love can sever?
Under His wings my soul shall abide,
Safely abide forever.

HIS WORD

²¹“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

²²Then Judas (not Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

²³Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.” —John 14:21-24, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It shall not be at all difficult to decide who loves my dear Lord. “Whoever has my commandments and obeys them, *he it is* (or ‘*he is the one*’) who loves me.” I have developed a real love relationship with

you — but it is not always based upon this principle! I am the loser — I purpose to change this! Behind this statement is this tremendous promise:

“He . . . will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” It is possible to make every positive or negative assertion of yourself a command and obey it — at least this is my present desire. I want to know experientially that you both love me and in some special way will show yourself to me! Such shall be my pursuit!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I have mixed the objective with the subjective in what I want for myself. I have also projected what you want for all men. I want to affirm again and again that I love you. I want to obey every command I can read from your lips. I claim the inexpressible blessing of being loved of your Father and my Father. In some special sense beyond your usual love for me you will love me. I know not how — or why — except I want to give myself to you. In just what wonderful or humble, observable or unobservable way will you show yourself to me? I know you kept this promise in the incredible resurrection appearance to your apostles. But this is a promise I claim for myself and look day by day for its repeated fulfillment — blessed be your name!

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) Oh thank you that your commands are ours to have and to keep. (2) Thank you that you would not ask us to keep your commandments if we could not do it. (3) Thank you your greatness, your beauty, your authority, your love all become such powerful incentives for obeying you. (4) That I can be assured by your very Son that you love me, i.e. *personally love me* is a source of thanks I cannot express. (5) Your love for me has given me life — indeed has given all the reason there is to life! Thank you. (6) Thank you that I can expect to look for the ways and places you will show yourself to me today. (7) Thank you for the much more meaningful thoughts you have given me in the study of this text.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“. . . and I too will love him and show myself to him.” What a glorious promise! The book of Acts is a running commentary on the fulfillment of this promise. Peter and John were thrown in prison. On the day following before the Sanhedrin Council the rulers were amazed and marvelled at their boldness and wisdom. Jesus had kept his promise. He loved them and did indeed manifest himself to them and through them in the person of the Holy Spirit. The twelve were beaten but departed from the presence of the council rejoicing that they were accounted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of our Lord. He once

again kept his promise. We could cite many other examples in Acts. But we are writing the twenty-ninth chapter in the promise fulfilled in our own lives. There are so very many wonderful ways he manifests his presence with us today. I want to look for them and praise him for each one!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

It will be a positive joy to make requests from these verses: (1) In the small areas of life give me wisdom in relating your word. (2) I want to love not only in word, but in deed and truth — help me! (3) The love of yourself has preceded and succeeded my love — what a wonder — keep my heart sensitive that I might love you more. (4) How good it is to know that even now my living Lord looks on me with love. (5) You have said love is doing so if you love me you will be — and are — doing something in me, with me, for me! Praise your name. (6) Thank you for the thousand ways you have already shown yourself to me — in the problem before me — show yourself to me! (7) Forgive me for all my selfish presumption — I deserve nothing.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in these four precious verses: (1) “My commands are in my teachings — learn them and teach them to others.” (2) “The indwelling of both myself and my Son results from an intimate acceptance of my teaching.” (3) “Your body can be and should be my home.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

France — Point for prayer: The unreached minorities:
a) *The large Portuguese, Spanish and Italian communities* are more receptive than in their native lands. They have generally not adapted well to French society, but few believers evangelize them in their own language. b) *Jews.* France has the largest Jewish community in Europe with 400,000 in Paris alone. There are a few small groups of believers. c) *The North Africans* number 2,200,000. They often congregate in urban ghettos. The vast majority are Muslims. Few have been evangelized, and many are antagonized by the racism of “Christians.”

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.
I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

WEEK ONE

—Wednesday—

We enter the King's palace and presence! How glad we are to praise you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn — shout for joy before the Lord, the King” (Psa. 98:4-6). How appropriate are these words when we have for many days and months reviewed his greatness and goodness! How totally meaningless they are when we have been long at the shrines of this world! It will be so wonderfully good to one glad day enter fully into the praise of the angelic beings and give our whole heart and voice to praise before you. If four and twenty elders and an unnumbered multitude can fall down before you in adoration why should we do less?

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

It would seem I of all men am most fortunate! I can set aside time to burst into jubilant song with music! I can but push a button or turn a switch and the whole atmosphere is filled with words and music unto your holy name! As in a coronation of a conquering king so do our hearts fairly burst with joy and praise. Dear Lord, in my own life I have so much for which to shout for joy! I do wonder just what the occasion was that promoted such an expression of happiness from the psalmist. There is no heading to indicate. It could well be “. . . a sort of coronation hymn, officially proclaiming the conquering Messiah as Monarch. . . .” This fits well with my thoughts of yourself!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God?

CONFESSION OF SIN

How many times have I been in the totally opposite frame of mind? There have been loud exclamations of disappointment and disagreement. There has been the

music of Ashdod and Baal. Instruments of music have been used and heard for the stupidity and meaninglessness of this passing scene. Dear God, forgive! How I trust and purpose that all such trivia and sin are in the past — at least forgiven and forgotten by yourself. How I do want to make the words of the song writer mine: “Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne. Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee. And hail Him as thy matchless King thro’ all eternity.”

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Crown Him the Lord of heav’n,
One with the Father known,
And the blest Spirit, thro’ Him giv’n
From yonder glorious throne!
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity.

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

HIS WORD

²⁵“All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” —John 14:25-27, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It would seem our dear Lord was very loath to leave his disciples. He knows it is in his last hours — but he says “good bye” several times. This is one of them. How very much he had spoken while with them! How

much could they remember? So very little! And what they did remember was out of sequence and with the wrong emphasis. But there was an answer to this very large need! Both our Lord and the Father would jointly send the Counselor, the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33). When he (not "it") came he would be an inward teacher they would not be able to ignore. The Holy Spirit would add to the knowledge they had received from our Lord and would bring back to their remembrance in the right order with the right emphasis all our Lord had taught them. What a wonderful provision!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It is with the "peace" Jesus promises I can relate. There are several aspects of his peace I want to treasure in my heart. He is my peace with yourself. In him I am reconciled and there is a deep settled tranquility of spirit that guards my thoughts. He has given me a peaceful outlook on all things. When I am under your control and in your hands there is no need for anxiety of any kind. He rules over all and all is right with the world! I.e. my world. I can be a peacemaker with others. There is nothing I do that will help more in human relations than to see a reconciliation to those of my dear ones whose hearts are sometimes so very troubled. The world has no real peace to give. It is worse than useless to seek peace from anyone but the great Prince of Peace!

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 we have the very words you spoke through the writers who were eyewitnesses of your majesty. (2) Thank you for the personal love and heartbeat I feel in these words: "while still with you." (3) Thank you for the confident complete provision my Lord made in the sending of the Holy Spirit. (4) Thank you the Holy Spirit came with all the authority of the Lord himself. (5) Thank you that the Holy Spirit was the graduate course teacher. (6) Even if they kill the body — torture the mind — they cannot kill the indestructible eternal Spirit! Praise your name! (7) Thank you for the rest under his yoke!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." It seems to me of real interest to notice the same word for "afraid" used here in the negative sense is used many times in a positive sense when related to yourself. My Lord is saying that the awe or overwhelming fear we have toward you should never be related to man or circumstance. This does not say something about the proper attitude we should have toward yourself. What heartening words these are when they come from the One who has all power —

all authority. Jesus sees behind and ahead of all the terrible persecution about to come upon his "little flock." We can trust him — believe him — love him. Do not be afraid!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

These are verses I do not want to leave — I want to stay and pause in prayer for much longer than the time I have: (1) I am delighted beyond words to have the words your dear Son spoke to us. (2) How difficult it was for Jesus to say "good bye" to those he loved so well — but he promised to see them again — and so he has — praise his wonderful presence! (3) Thank you, thank you for "the Counselor": one who stands beside to encourage and help. I claim his presence and help even now. (4) What a meaning there is in his name "Holy" — i.e. perfect — absolute perfection — enlarge my understanding and appreciation. (5) The term "Spirit" refers to the essential nature of reality. You are Spirit — we are created in your image or spirit. Keep me more and more aware of this truth. (6) How glad I am that the Holy Spirit fulfilled his purpose and taught the apostles in the very words I am presently reading. Give me a deep hunger to digest these words.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me once again through these blessed verses: (1) "If you are upset by circumstances you have not understood my peace." (2) "Why do you expect peace in or of this world? Peace is in your heart from me." (3) "Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

France — Point for prayer: The influential Roman Catholic Church is in turmoil with many tensions among the conservative traditionalists, liberals, modernists, radicals, and the charismatic movement. The latter has opened the hearts of many to the truths of God's Word and the acceptance of the need to be born-again. Pray that many may be won to the Lord.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O spread the tidings 'round wherever man is found,
Wherever human hearts and human woes abound;
Let every Christian tongue proclaim the joyful sound:
The Comforter has come!
The Comforter has come, the Comforter has come!
The Holy Ghost from Heaven,
the Father's promise given;
O spread the tidings 'round wherever man is found—
The Comforter has come!

WEEK ONE

—Thursday—

All the created world is called upon to worship you — our worship is easily spontaneous!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Let the sea resound, and all that is in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity” (Psa. 98:7-9). More than three hundred years ago C.H. Spurgeon wrote such a beautiful description of these verses we cannot but make his words ours. “The sea is his, let it praise its Maker. Within and upon its bosom it bears a wealth of goodness, why should it be denied a place in the orchestra of nature? Its deep bass will excellently suit the mystery of the divine glory. The land should be in harmony with the ocean. Its mountains and plains, cities and villages, should prolong the voice of jubilee which welcomes the Lord of all.” (*THE TREASURY OF DAVID* Vol IV — pp. 374, 375.)

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

The quotation above continues with these words — most precious for the needs of my heart: “Still music such as made the stars twinkle with their soft kind eyes suited his first coming at Bethlehem, but his second advent calls for trumpets, for he is a judge; and for all earth’s acclamations, for he has put on his royal splendour. The rule of Christ is the joy of nature. All things bless his throne, yea, and the very coming of it. As the dawn sets the earth weeping for joy at the rising of the sun, till the dew drops stand in her eyes, so should the approach of Jesus’ (coming) make all nations glad. . . . Our souls faint with delight at the sound of thine approaching chariots, and can only cry, ‘Come quickly, Even so come quickly Lord Jesus!’ ” (*Ibid.*)

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is a jolt to come down to earth after such an exalted flight into the rare atmosphere of spiritual ecstasy! If he judges me with the righteous conduct I see exemplified by your Son I have no hope at all. If he gives me my “fair dues” I shall burn forever in hell! He will indeed judge “the world” in righteousness, and “the peoples” — i.e. “the nations with equity” but his children will be judged for their works not their sins. We have already passed out of death and judgment into life and grace — oh, the exceeding wonder of redeeming grace! This gives me incentive to holiness not indulgence — dear Lord keep my heart tender!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them His very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary,
And suffered and died alone.
How marvelous! how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! how wonderful
Is my Savior’s love for me!

HIS WORD

²⁸“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. ³⁰I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, ³¹but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. “Come now; let us leave.” —*John 14:28-31, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

If they were listening they would have heard him say several times he was looking forward to a return to his Father. How much did they understand about his return to them in the person of the Holy Spirit? Even after he had repeatedly made such a promise it was so vague and meaningless to them. From our own perspective it is such a wonderful promise! Or is it? Do we believe our dear Lord has returned in the presence of the Holy Spirit who even this moment resides in our bodies? Jesus surely conditioned many things on "love." "If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father. . . ." He refers to his release from the confinement and limitations of this world — in this sense only was the Father greater than the Son.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

These dear sad bitter-sweet words of my Lord fall like a melody from heaven upon my heart. It has happened and *I do believe!* Judas had done his work and was now leading the Roman soldiers, temple police and members of the Sanhedrin — the prince of this world — or Satan — was really the leader of the whole group. What elaborate preparations these men made to capture just one humble non-violent man. They came with swords and sticks, with lanterns, torches and weapons. How deceived and blind they all were! Satan had no claim on Jesus — as the NIV text states "has no hold on me." But Jesus is going to willingly give himself to these men that the world might know what real love and obedience are — not that the world would admit if they did see it.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the total self-realization of just who he was and what was happening as seen in my Lord. (2) Thank you that we are today the dwelling place of yourself and your Son in the Spirit. (3) Thank you for the clear definition of the self-humiliation of the One who existed in the form of God — yet humbled himself that we might be exalted. (4) How much longer was it my Lord spoke to his followers? Ten minutes? Fifteen minutes? Long enough to give the content of chapters 15, 16 and 17? Thank you for whatever time was spent — we have some of his precious words. (5) Thank you Jesus was free from sin as a perfect sin offering for me.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

" . . . but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me." Jesus was himself the best demonstration of what real love meant. He said over and over again: "If you love me you will keep my commandments." He is here to live out before his disciples and the world just what this involved. The Father had given commandment that he must lay down his life as a ransom for the world. It was not easy — it was not appreciated — it was not understood — but it must be done. Even those for whom it was done knew

neither what he did nor what they did. The world has learned since, at least to some extent, just how much he loved. Oh, how we should enter more fully into such love!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Read again these words of commitment and bow in prayer: (1) We know so much more all that was involved in your promise to leave and come again — turn me again to my first love. (2) Paul said "to die is gain" — he was glad about going to the Father — I want this to be a living reality with me. (3) How much greater will be the eternal world with the Father — keep me eager to go there. (4) The fulfillment of prophecy in the life of my Lord is such convincing evidence of his deity — keep this ever in the front of my mind. (5) I am delighted that you can and do speak to us while this life and this world shall last — I want to really listen. (6) Deliver me today from overbearing temptations. (7) If Satan has no claim or hold on me he cannot touch me — only in and through yourself can this be possible.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Continue to speak to me in these blessed words: (1) "Satan has no more hold on you than you permit him to." (2) "I have returned in the Person of the Holy Spirit and now live in my temple — even your body." (3) "Follow my example of obedient love — there is no other kind."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

French Guiana — Point for prayer: *This long-neglected land, with its diverse peoples, has only been partially evangelized by evangelicals.* Among the many challenges are these peoples: a) *The Amerindian tribes* — never has any work been established among the inland tribes, but Christians of these tribes in Suriname and Brazil have made evangelistic forays. Pray for the Arawak 250, Emerillon 100, Oyapi 100, Palikur 120, and Wayana 250. b) The nominally Catholic *Caribs* 1,400. c) The inland settlements of largely animistic *Bush Negroes* 2,000. d) The *Chinese*. A small outreach by Suriname Chinese Christians has begun.

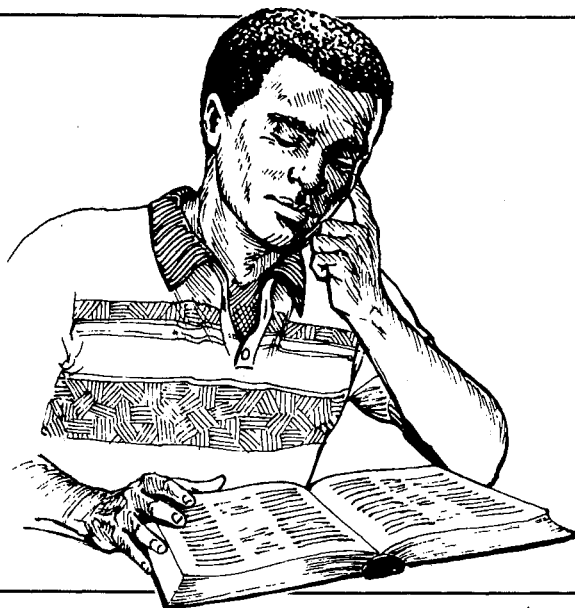
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I've found a friend, O such a friend!
He loved me ere I knew Him;
He drew me with the cords of love,
And thus he bound me to Him.
And 'round my heart still closely twine
Those ties which naught can sever,
For I am His, and He is mine,
Forever and forever.

WEEK ONE

—Friday—

The happiest — the most important time of any day is the time of giving you exclusive “single-eye” attention!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. Great is the Lord in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. Let them praise your great and awesome name — he is holy” (Psa. 99:1-3). This is a statement of truth — here is the glimpse behind the veil. If the nations of the earth could but see beyond, behind the physical and into the spirit world they would indeed tremble! One day — the day when time shall be no more — they will faint with fear and call for the mountains to fall upon them. Just now the saints (made holy by his blood) can also tremble with wonder and joy! Great is our Lord who even now rules over present day Zion his church!

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I get such a thrill of happiness from worshipping you I wonder that I do not spend most of my time doing it! I do not have any conception of the appearance of the cherubim — but I know those inspired craftsmen who made the ark of the covenant did. For me he yet sits enthroned in the Shekinah glory between the wings of the cherubim over the mercy seat. He reigns there through the blood of the eternal covenant. He reigns not only as my king, but my priest and prophet — blessed be his name! Like the three score elders who assemble to cry “holy, holy, holy” so I want to praise your great and awesome name.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How sad it is that we spend so much of our interest and energy raking muck! Or so it might seem to us after such an expression of praise and worship. But I want to remember my Lord was born in a stable, and

spent years and years and years in a carpenter’s shop. When he did begin his “spiritual” life he had to live from the gifts of others. What he says to me is that a stinking stable is holy because of who is there. A carpenter’s shop is a cathedral when he works there. All of life is holy because he is in it. Or not holy because he is not in it. Forgive my stupid separation of the sacred and the secular!

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

In garments glorious He will come,
To open wide the door;
And I shall enter my heavenly home,
To dwell forevermore.
Out of the ivory palaces,
Into a world of woe,
Only His great eternal love
Made my Savior go.

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

HIS WORD

15 “I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he trims clean so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” —John 15:1-4, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How slowly and carefully I want to see and see again each word in this text! We believe Jesus is yet in the upper room and the fruit of the vine is still on the Passover table. They have just heard him identify his

blood with the content of the cup. He now identifies himself as the vine — the real vine, the only genuine vine. There is no other way to receive the care of the Father or bear fruit in life unless you are a part of the vine. Jesus is here honoring the Father by his constant reference to him. There are just two kinds of branches in the vine. Those who bear fruit and those who do not. If salvation is being baptized into Christ it is most difficult for me to understand how one could be “in Christ” or “in the vine” and not be saved.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

There are no fruitless branches that remain in the vine. If they do not bear fruit they are cut off. “He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit.” The other branches all bear fruit — more fruit and much fruit. The fruit of the indwelling Christ is the fruit of the indwelling Spirit— “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Gal. 5:22). We are also reminded that the fruit of a grape vine is more grapes. The fruit in the life of a Christian is the harvest of more Christians. Jesus came “to seek and save the lost” — the early Christians increased in number daily. How can we excuse our fruitlessness in either area? We can’t! The apostles had been trimmed — or cleansed — we do so sorely need to respond just now!

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 evaluation of how the apostles would receive his word — “you are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you” — or perhaps we should say our Lord’s confidence in how the Holy Spirit would give life to the letter. (2) Thank you that it is possible to remain in you and your word to remain in us. (3) Thank you for the shocking fact that if we do not remain in you, you will not remain in us. (4) Thank you that I am learning more each day as to just what is involved in “remaining in you.” (5) Thank you that I do feel more and more at home in you in this world.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” “Remaining” in your Son is not accomplished by saying it, or by assuming it is so in some mystical automatic manner. As we are to soon learn from his own lips it relates directly to just how much his words “remain” in us. It is possible to hear certain words and never forget them, or to hear millions of words and forget them all. The attitude of the listener makes the difference. There is really only *one* attitude involved. *Just how important are these words to you?* If it is a matter of life or death we listen and learn and remember — *it is just that important.*

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How many many requests fairly leap from these verses to our lips before your throne of grace: (1) Since you are the One and only source of life and fruitfulness I do want to learn more and more of how to remain in you. (2) Thank you for such a wonderful gardener — may I be ready to be pruned. (3) Awaken me, shock me into the reality of the possibility of being cut off. (4) If my love, joy or peace are not evident — and increasing — I should be concerned — yea, more than concerned. (5) Trim me clean so that I might bear more fruit. (6) Speak your word into my inner ear that I might remain clean. (7) Deliver me from assuming the role of fruit production — it is your work — not mine.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As you spoke to the twelve in these verses so speak to me: (1) “To the extent you remain in me I will remain in you.” (2) “The branch is and is not responsible for fruit.” (3) “There is no fruit at all apart from the vine — not some — but none!”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

French Polynesia — Points for prayer: (1) *Tahiti is a paradise gone tragically wrong.* Once a Christian nation, sending missionaries all over the Pacific, society is now collapsing through promiscuity, alcoholism, drug abuse and the breakdown of family life. Young people are frustrated and seeking answers in their confusion, but where are the fervent messengers of the gospel? No longer do Tahitian missionaries leave for other lands. (2) *Those with a vital personal faith are rare.* As a result, there is a reversion to the bondage of pagan occultism and a multiplication of syncretic and foreign sects — especially Mormons. Pray for a spiritual revolution to take place among the many nominal Catholic and Protestant Christians.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

“I am the vine and ye are the branches.”

Bear precious fruit for Jesus today;
Branches in Him no fruit ever bearing,
Jesus hath said, “He taketh away.”

“I am the vine and ye are the branches;

I am the vine, be faithful and true;

Ask what ye will, your prayer shall be granted,

The Father loved Me, so I have loved you.”

WEEK ONE

—Saturday—

I am full of eagerness as I see so many qualities of yourself that call out my worship!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The king is mighty, he loves justice — you have established equity; in Jacob you have done what is just and right. Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy” (Psa. 99:4,5). It is truly amazing how many qualities of yourself appear in almost every verse. In these two verses you are: (1) king; (2) mighty; (3) loving; (4) just; (5) fair; (6) right; (7) exalted; (8) sovereign; (9) holy. Where could we go to find a more blessed source of praise? Oh that all men would acknowledge you as the mighty king — the loving and just Father, as the wholly fair and righteous judge, as the exalted holy sovereign Lord. One day all men will so recognize you. I want to do so right here and right now.

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

Words do sometimes fail to express just what we want to say in praise to yourself. The song writer well said, “Oh worship the King all glorious above, and gratefully sing his wonderful love.” Indeed, “A mighty fortress is our God” — “Love divine, all loves excelling — joy of heaven to earth come down.” You are the very essence of justice and equity. In each of these attributes I want to find a personal application to my own needs — but most of all a real participation with the angelic beings who continually raise praises to your name!

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is not difficult to turn the coin over and see how very far short of reality are these characteristics of yourself in my own relationship. (1) Forgive me for asking you to abdicate your throne for some selfish expression of my own. (2) If you are almighty how is

it that I have any of my own? I do not — but I have believed the devil’s lie. (3) Forgive me for arguing about just how you do or do not express your love. (4) How often have I been tempted to say: “it is not fair” or “there is no equity in this”? Dear Lord forgive. (5) You are always right — your correctness is not dependent upon my understanding. Forgive me.

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

Just when I need Him, Jesus is near,
Just when I falter, just when I fear;
Ready to help me, ready to cheer,
Just when I need Him most.
Just when I need Him most,
Just when I need Him most;
Jesus is near to comfort and cheer,
Just when I need Him most.

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

HIS WORD

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” —John 15:5-8, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Why did Jesus repeat himself? Because his disciples did not hear him the first or second, or even the third time. Our Lord wanted these men to know beyond all doubt he was not talking in theory but in fact. He did

include others, even ourselves, but first of all he meant them: "you are the branches." We have discussed and thought and prayed over the meaning of abiding in him. But what will happen if we do not? Five things will happen: (1) The branch is thrown away — by the gardener. (2) The branch withers. (3) They are picked up — we could say "bundled up." (4) They are thrown into the fire. (5) They are burned. What an awesome prospect for fruitless branches, or non-productive church members!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Your word has never been sharper than it has in these past few days — I thank you for it! Now we are told plainly: "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." This is almost more than we are ready to receive! Of course the principle behind such a prayer-claim is obvious: if his word has become a veritable part of our minds we will not ask amiss — but always according to his will. At the same time the practical outworking of this principle requires the wisdom that comes down from above (James 1:5; 3:17). I am eager to make use of this blessed promise. Help me dear Lord!

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 reminder here that only in the vine is there life. (2) Thank you that all of us can find unity with each other as we abide together in the vine. (3) Thank you for the promise not only of fruit, but *much* fruit! (4) Thank you that Jesus spelled out so clearly the end of fruitless branches. (5) Thank you that no one needs to wither or be fruitless. (6) Thank you for your words which I do indeed want to remain in me. (7) Thank you for the opportunity to bring glory to the Father in our own lives.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." There are two wonderful thoughts in this verse: (1) Our fruit bearing reflects the character of yourself in us. The term "glory" refers to the essential nature of anything or anyone. In this case your very Self! The fruit evidently refers first of all to those qualities of character we find in you — such as: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness" — such virtues should develop in larger measure in us day by day. (2) Such a production of fruit will show we have really been learning from him. Dear Lord, I want to so learn and produce.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How these words of my Lord move me to pray: (1) I claim your promise — help my unbelief — I want to remain in you and bear an increasing likeness to yourself. (2) Since Jesus said it more than once I want to believe in my heart that apart from him I can do NOTHING. (3) It is your word that must be in me for me to remain in you and you in me — if not I will wither — deliver me! (4) I want to teach others who are very much in danger of withering — help me! (5) Make me more aware than ever that there is a fire of everlasting punishment awaiting many. (6) Just for today I want to frame a prayer in your will, i.e. in agreement with your word, and claim the answer!

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in the depths of my spirit through these words: (1) "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." (2) "If you do not remain in me you will be withered and burned." (3) "This is only to my Father's glory — not yours."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Gabon — Points for prayer: (1) *Praise God for present freedom for the gospel*, but pray that the many years of neglect by evangelical missions may be made good. The great majority of the population has never been exposed to the life-changing gospel. (2) *Islam is the fastest growing religious group in the country*. The conversion of the president to Islam in 1973 initiated this growth. Many new mosques are now being built. Pray that the concern of believers at this development may stimulate vital and effective evangelism among Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

No one understands like Jesus,
He's a friend beyond compare;
Meet Him at the throne of mercy,
He is waiting for you there.

No one understands like Jesus,
When the days are dark and grim;
No one is so near, so dear as Jesus—
Cast your every care on Him.

WEEK TWO

—Sunday—

We are kings and priests! Gladly we claim your grace and gifts. We enter your courts with wonder and praise.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name; they called on the Lord and he answered them. He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; thy kept his statutes and decrees he gave them. O Lord our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds” (Psa. 99:6-8). Your qualities are seen here in relation to the men you used in your service. Moses like Melchizedek was a priest not of the line of his brother Aaron. We too are priests — but not of the law. You heard and honored them — you have promised the same for us. You are speaking to us today through your Son — how we need to heed him!

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

The basic attribute of a speaking and hearing God is the point of this text. How I do want to relate to you in these qualities! These three men related themselves and all they did to your “name” or authority. They were not perfect — each had his flaws — but each was a committed man. Each of these men could testify to your answer to their prayers. No doubt many heard from them what you did. They accepted the strange and wonderful way you chose to speak to them. You have chosen the most and final means of speaking to us today — even your Son! *May I hear him!* Thank you for this wonderful statement: “You were to Israel a forgiving God.”

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

There are areas in these verses where I very much need forgiveness: (1) I am a priest but I have sorely neglected my intercessory work — the very reason you called me into the priesthood — forgive me! (2) You have often appeared to me in an ordinary bush on fire

— but I have so often forgotten. (3) I have been pressured by people to make several golden calves — dear Lord, you know — forgive me. (4) It took you three attempts to get Samuel’s attention — it has been 3 times 30 for me — oh, forgive! (5) I have much more reason to keep the statutes and decrees that appear before me in black words on a white page — but I do not. (6) May I learn from the much deserved chastisement you are giving me (this verb is a continuing action verb).

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Jesus! the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest.

But what to those who find? Ah! this
Nor tongue nor pen can show,
The love of Jesus, what it is
None but His loved ones know.

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

HIS WORD

“As the father has loved me, so I have loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit

— fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.” —*John 15:9-17, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What an all-inclusive statement is contained in verse nine. Just how had the Father loved the Son? We agree with William Hendriksen that the Father’s love was: (1) pure; (2) whole hearted; (3) deep; (4) personal; (5) intelligent; (6) enduring; and we might add: (7) saving. In at least these seven ways our Lord loved his disciples. It would be most profitable to trace all seven of these qualities throughout the relationship our Lord had with his disciples that we might find the true pattern for our love for each other. Once again we are reminded that obedience is the best evidence of love. Love is not being. Being comes out of doing.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How can we reconcile the word “joy” with the context of these verses? The “joy” promised and given by our Lord to his disciples was based on their acceptance of his total Lordship. He had everything under control — they could implicitly trust him and *therefore* should be filled with his joy. Evidently some of his apostles were tuned in to this concept — but now they can cast their whole selves on his authority and their joy will be complete! Is love a command? Can we respond to such a motivation? Indeed we can when our Lord gives it! Most especially when he demonstrated such love in his own relationship with his disciples. What a wonderful word is the name “friends”! How I want to live it out!

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 Jesus confides in us as friends — I want to respect and honor this relationship. (2) Thank you for the divine intimacy that prevailed between the Father and the Son — the same nearness we can use as a pattern for our interpersonal relationships. (3) Thank you that you are even now through the preaching of the good news choosing men and women for yourself. (4) Thank you for this clear statement of *why* you have chosen us — to go and bear fruit. (5) Thank you I can seek and knock and ask to be enabled to bear fruit that will remain. (6) Thank you for once again promising an unqualified answer to our prayers if we “go and bear fruit — fruit that will last.”

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*This is my commandment: Love each other.*” We can decide to love — or not to love. Indeed such a choice is always made. It will be good to hear again just what love is: “Love is patient and kind; it is not

jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. Love is eternal.” (*Today’s English Version*) It would be an easy task to take every one of the qualities and see it lived out before us in the life of our Lord — praise his dear name! I want to keep your commandment — beginning with my wife.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

There is more than enough material here for prayer: (1) Give me very practical ways for today of remaining in your love. (2) I am glad there will be places today where I can obey your commandments — calm me down so I will see them. (3) Jesus set such an example of steadfast obedience — help me to walk in his steps. (4) There is nothing I want more than your joy in me! The happiness of obedience to your Lordship is really what I want. (5) I cannot love in all ways my Lord did — but I can sacrifice my interests to help others. (6) It is such an assurance to know you have chosen us — but for a purpose — fulfill it in me.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Renew my faith as I hear your words: (1) “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.” (2) “My commandment is this: love each other as I have loved you.” (3) “I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Gambia — Points for prayer: (1) *Islam is dominant*, yet the land remains open for the gospel. Pray for both freedom to proclaim the gospel and openness of heart for Muslims to receive it. Little effort was ever directed by the older churches at reaching the Muslim majority; the key people being the Mandingo, a people made famous by Alex Haley’s book *Roots*. There is only a handful of believers among them. (2) *The churches are largely nominal* and little credit to the gospel. Committed evangelical believers are very few indeed. Pray for a strong church to be raised up in the Gambia.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior hide,
'Til the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last!