

WEEK TEN

—Sunday—

Grace describes your attitude toward me and your strength within me. I gladly enter this time of worship to receive your grace!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Grace: Oh, wonder of wonders! God is full of unearned favor! All the earth and the heaven of the heavens is his handiwork — and they owe him all they have and are. He has freely given us all things — this is his very nature and how I praise him that such is true. We do not deserve it but he is love and that love is expressed in giving — all is undeserved — grace upon grace.

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

Grace to me! for me — in me — oh, the beauty of it all! How I love him. I can surely confess my own unworthiness. I am the object and example of his nature in eternal goodness undeserved! I want to respond adequately to all he is in this the grandest of his qualities. We are saved by grace — kept by grace and debtors of grace. Bless and worship him forever!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Oh, how I need a guard upon my lips. Why, oh, why do I speak when I should be silent? It is because of what is in man — out of my heart comes the words — cleanse my heart — deeply cleanse and purify. “Stealing” — I have not been tempted to take possessions — but taking that which belongs to another of praise or credit — or recognition — Dear Lord, make me pure within!

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

'Tis the blessed hour of prayer,
when our hearts lowly bend,
And we gather to Jesus,
our Savior and Friend;
If we come to Him in faith,
His protection to share,
What a balm for the weary!
O how sweet to be there!
Blessed hour of prayer,
Blessed hour of prayer;
What a balm for the weary!
O how sweet to be there!

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

HIS WORD

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. —Acts 1:12, NIV

³⁰Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book, ³¹but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. —John 20:30,31, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Oh, how expectant they were as they returned from Olivet to Jerusalem. Dear God, I want to be just that open to your coming again as I move toward the New Jerusalem. How far is it to the New Jerusalem? Only you know — but I am excited — humbled — full of wonder. Such humble men you used to establish the church — the “called ones” — of your Son. I take courage that you could and can and will use me.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

The marvelous signs Jesus did have convinced me — I

am saved. I have nothing but amazement when I read the whole record of the gospel of John. I do believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of your very self! I claim the new life of heaven he has given me. In the presence of his learners he did all the signs or miracles recorded by John — may I again and again stand with them and behold and wonder and believe and live!

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

It would seem I can never thank you enough — I know such is true: (1) I thank you for Jerusalem and all it has meant and does mean through all these centuries to millions of people. (2) That there is yet a little chain of hills one of which is Olivet where our Lord ascended — there is a real physical, geographical place from which he left for your house. (3) It is really not very far at all to the New Jerusalem when we consider time in the light of eternity. (4) There are hundreds of other miracles I can ask John about when I get to see him in heaven.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Gather around the family circle and answer five questions. We will only give a brief answer — you read the questions: (1) Our Lord asked them to meet him in Galilee. He has asked us to meet him at his table of remembrance. (2) Teach them — baptize them — teach them again — accept by faith his presence. (3) To be baptized or clothed in the Holy Spirit. (4) He ascended into the sky — what a wonder and amazement — even now he is alive praying for us before God. (5) That we might believe and live eternally in heaven.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

We let these requests arise from the text itself! (1) I want to journey to the New Jerusalem with the apostles' eager anticipation. (2) From where I am today I want to move toward you conscious of your presence. (3) Dear Lord, help me to read again the advertisement of your deity. (4) Help me to be a real learner. (5) Do I appreciate what it means to read a book 2,000 years old? I *want* to. (6) I want to make Jesus king in my home and school. (7) Help me to understand "eternal life."

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Out of these two texts he says to me: (1) "Return to your job with joy and hope!" (2) "Reread the gospel of John." (3) "Believing produces life or death. Which will it be?"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Malaysia — Points for prayer: (1) *The Muslim half of the population* has been politically and socially divided through an extremist minority pressing for radical Islamic reforms. This has brought stress to the whole country, an acceleration of Muslim missionary activities among non-Muslims and also discriminatory legislation and actions against non-Muslims. Pray for inter-racial harmony and true freedom of religion. (2) *A creeping erosion of freedom of religion by the Muslim authorities* has limited Christian activities and outreach. Many Chinese, Indian and tribal Christians have been over-intimidated by the turn of events.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Face to face with Christ, my Savior,
Face to face — what will it be?
When with rapture I behold Him,
Jesus Christ who died for me,
Face to face I shall behold Him,
Far beyond the starry sky;
Face to face in all His glory,
I shall see Him by and by!

WEEK TEN

—Monday—

Kindness — expressed in so many little, but important ways! This is my portion from you. Speak to me again as I bow before you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Mercy: Mercy is unearned, unmerited personal kindness — how often has such described your dealing with me? 10,000 times 10,000! Mercy is a quality constant — with all the world and all creatures below it will finally be shown that mercy was given in every case. When all the facts are in for proper evaluation, it will be mercy we see and for which we will praise you throughout an endless eternity — not of constraint but gladly.

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

Mercy for me, to me, how infallibly true this is. I have been so unworthy of your goodness and love to me — I have earned wrath and received mercy — by thy goodness lead me to a change of mind. To not respond in deep joy would be a sad admission of need — but even there wrath would be mixed with mercy. Dear God, how I love you for this quality. How often we do need mercy!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gossip: Confession is an attitude as well as an act. In specific, I have a temptation here and sin here. I need forgiveness — and claim it — praise your name for freedom and cleanness. What a wonder and joy through being washed — I can be moved to stop it by a knowledge of how far reaching is the effect of such a sin.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit;
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

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

HIS WORD

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. —Acts 1:12,13a, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How thoughtful it was for our Lord to appear for forty days after his resurrection. I wish I could have been present in every one of the appearances — and in a sense I can be! I have the clear imperishable record of each appearance. I can look and look at the ascension of my Lord as represented by the artist — and this helps — but only your presence in person in heaven will answer all my questions.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I wonder what the eleven talked about as they walked through the gate of the city? What is John saying to Peter — James to Andrew? They must have shared again and again the wonder and expectation found in the promise of the soon-coming baptism in the Holy Spirit. Up the familiar stairs into the room — was it the same room of the last supper? Is that John Mark and Mary on the porch? Oh, dear Savior, I love you and want to serve you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

It will be easy to read these two verses with thanksgiving: (1) Thank you dear Lord that you kept your word about your death, resurrection and ascension — every word came to pass even as you said. (2) Thank you for the very humanness of this whole account — wonder — doubt — personal exchange — walking — visiting — and yet in the very presence of deity! (3) For the upper room — the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark — the place of the last supper — the place for prayer.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Has the Lord ever appeared to me over a period of forty days: one month and nine or ten days? Why not set an appointment with him every four days during forty days? Review his appearances and write out your expression of worship on each of these days. Let's see what could happen in renewed love and faith. Start on a Lord's day early in the morning — go with the women to the tomb — prepared to anoint his body only to be startled and overjoyed that the tomb is open and empty — there is an angel there! Read Mark 16:9-14; Luke 24:11-31 and John 20:1-11 and 21:4-23 and meet him all over again!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

If my requests come directly from your word and reflect its intent I *know* you will answer. I do want to so ask of you. (1) Help me just for today to walk conscious you are "with me always." (2) Make me aware of my limitations and your provisions. I am so much like the twelve. (3) May I find an "upper room" where I can often go to wait before you. (4) Help me to be like Peter: quick to repent. (5) May I be like John: full of love. (6) I want to be like James: faithful till death. (7) Oh, to be like Andrew and bring someone to Jesus.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

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

You are speaking to me through these verses: (1) "My word is so detailed and accurate you can accept it for what it says." (2) "You must accept all the limitations of men today as I did with the twelve." (3) "Sometimes waiting is a command."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Malaysia — Points for prayer: (1) Pray that: a) Believers may humbly, lovingly, but firmly stand for their heavenly right to proclaim the gospel. b) Christians may obey God rather than man, even if this may mean discomfort or material loss. c) There may be unity among churches in common matters affecting

the practice and propagation of religion in the multiracial and multireligious Malaysian context. The Christian Federation of Malaysia formed in 1984 may help in this. (2) *Malay is now the only national language*, and all education is in this medium. This has forced non-Malay speaking congregations to adapt, Christian literature to be written in Malay, and the Bible to be translated and printed in modern Malay. Pray that this may help non-Malay Christians to make a greater impact on the unreached Malay people. The transition has been difficult for Christians, but presents great opportunity for the gospel. (3) *Leadership training* is of added importance as the missionary force declines.

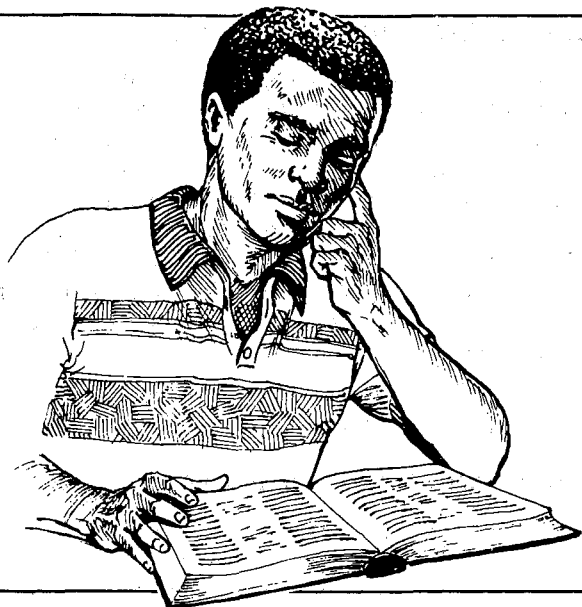
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Fairest Lord Jesus! Ruler of all nature!
O Thou of God and man the Son!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown!

WEEK TEN

—Tuesday—

What is absolute — total kindness? Ah, it is yourself! It is also such an encouragement. I want to learn in the closet what I express in public!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Kindness: To contemplate yourself as total kindness is such a beautiful thought! Kindness is much like mercy: it is meeting human need wherever you find it. How fully does this describe what you do every day for everyone! Your thoughtful kindness is giving rain — fruitful seasons — the beauty of flowers, birds and insects — the compassion of a mother — the warmth of the sunshine; then when the kindness of God our Savior appeared in the person of your Son we all knew the ultimate of thoughtful mercy.

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

Kindness to me — such a surprise and delight is your kindness. When I deserve justice you offer me kindness. Praise your glorious name — your goodness is to give me opportunity to recognize the source of all those good gifts and so begin to live soberly, righteously and in the presence of yourself. Dear God, I do so respond. May I be as kind to others as you are to me.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Of all my sins the sin of unkindness is at the same time both the easiest and the most difficult to confess. It is easy to admit I have been thoughtlessly, selfishly unkind — it is more than difficult to tell why. My life has been cast in the midst of those who love me — in the center of an abundance of good things — why, oh why, should I ever be selfish and mean? Forgive me — but open my eyes to a deeper need: to stay humble-minded.

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

Abide with me, fast falls the even tide,
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

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

HIS WORD

Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) — *Acts 1:13b-15, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Oh, to look into the faces of these eleven men and to know you were able to use them in spite of all their imperfections (sins). Each of them was precious and important to you. These men gave themselves to prayer, continued steadfastly in prayer — what does this mean? Prayer was such an important part of their life. Dear God, dear God, I want it to be so with me!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

In prayer and worship I come to read these words — ignite them, let them burn into my heart. All of these persons were steadfast in prayer, i.e. with energy and purpose. May I so pray — I do commit myself to so pray! How much Mary had to pray about! How much

our Lord's brothers (whether in the flesh or Spirit) had to pray about! How much I have about which to pray.

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

How easy this is to do: (1) For Peter and John — *action and thought*; (2) James and Andrew — *judgment and evangelism*; (3) Philip and Thomas — *sincerity and caution*; (4) Matthew and Bartholomew — *Jewishness and the unknown*; (5) James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot — *the fisherman and the patriot*; (6) Judas the son of James — not all men named Judas were Iscariot. Thank you for blessed Mary, our Lord's brothers, thank you for the unnamed one he added.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers." What an important meeting this was! For what did these men and women pray? It has always been difficult for me to believe they prayed for what Jesus had promised them — i.e. the baptism in the Holy Spirit (1:5). To pray for a promise reflects on the integrity of the One who made the promise and the faith of those to whom the promise was made. All were sure something wonderfully unusual was about to happen and they wanted to be ready for it. I believe we have surely sold *"the women and Mary the mother of Jesus"* short — they prayed — they waited — they followed — they believed — when many others did not.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How I do *want* to make my requests the fulfillment of your desire for me: (1) Make me as bold as Peter. (2) Make me as deeply repentant as Peter. (3) Give me the holy wonder and love for you that filled the heart of John. (4) James, our Lord's brother (not the James of the text), became a believer who worked — who produced — I want to be like him. (5) Andrew, an unselfish, sharing man — oh, to be like him! (6) Philip saw God in Jesus — so may I. (7) All of these men learned from your Son — I am his disciple — teach me Lord!

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Just as if he had pronounced the words, I listen from the text — speak Lord, thy servant heareth: (1) "If these men could believe and give their lives — and

they did! for what are you waiting?" (2) "Accept gladly the service and work of women — your Lord did!" (3) "Learn all you can from Mary the mother of Jesus."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Maldives — Points for prayer: (1) *Are the Maldivians the least evangelized people on earth?* There are no Scriptures available, no Christian radio programs, there have never been any resident missionaries, and there are no known Maldivian Christians on the islands. (2) *There is a deep suspicion of Christianity* which has been enhanced by tactless actions of Christians in the past. Pray for the removal of prejudices, and for the true message of Christ to be heard and understood. (3) *There are a few expatriate Christians residing in the country* as professionals or supervising aid programs. Some have a personal faith; pray that they may earn opportunities to tactfully share it.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Down at the cross where my Savior died,
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried;
There to my heart was the blood applied;
Glory to His name.
Glory to His name, Glory to His name;
There to my heart was the blood applied;
Glory to His name.

WEEK TEN

—Wednesday—

“Patience” — what a beautiful word. How much I need it! Only you can create this capacity in me — I wait and worship in your presence.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Patience or longsuffering. I was in camp yesterday and *my* longsuffering patience was tested as to time and place for devotion. I praise your name I was able to meet with you — not as I wished — but during the day I praised you and indeed, in you I live and move and have my very being. Your patience with me is a wonder to behold. Your longsuffering with all mankind calls forth praise.

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

Patience for myself and your love to me for all the most poor ways — sinful — selfish ways I have insulted your goodness — indeed — I am saved by your patience. Blessed be your name!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

To be truly, honestly, deeply *humble* in spirit — “poor in Spirit” is my goal in life. I do want to open up to you in sincere gut-level admission of my need — to be washed — cleansed — made whiter than snow! To be clean from the *inside*. Blessed be your name. I claim your newness.

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

Break Thou the bread of life,
Dear Lord to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves
Beside the sea;

Beyond the sacred page
I seek Thee Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee,
O Living Word.

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

HIS WORD

¹⁶and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus — ¹⁷he was one of our number and shared in this ministry.” ¹⁸(With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is Field of Blood.)

²⁰“For,” said Peter, “it is written in the book of Psalms,

“ ‘May his place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in it,’

and,

“ ‘May another take his place of leadership.’

²¹Therefore it was necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.” —Acts 1:16-22, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The Holy Spirit spoke through the Scriptures as David wrote them. I do take great courage and strength from this thought! Judas was described long before he was born. Dear Lord, how could he do it? i.e. betray your Son? He was and is much like all of us. Our Lord called him and taught him and loved him. Judas prepared for his own death and burial. He sold your dear Son so cheaply — but for no less than we have sold him — time and again.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Judas fell headlong and opened up himself for all to see — a tragic, pathetic, unsightly spectacle. When I betray and sell out my Lord I am preparing the same kind of end for myself. What shall they call the record of my life? What shall men remember about me? Much more important, what will you say? Of Judas it was said — “May his place be deserted; let no one dwell in it — may another take his place of leadership” — may it never, never be so said of 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

Ten expressions of thanksgiving from this text: (1) For the wonderful Scriptures; (2) For David; (3) For the Holy Spirit; (4) For our Lord's patience and love with those who betrayed him; (5) For the law of sowing and reaping; (6) For the wonderful detail of fulfilled prophecy; (7) For outstanding sinners who warn us all; (8) That there are others to carry on when others betray and die; (9) For the preparation of every apostle; (10) That the apostles were all eyewitnesses of what they preached.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

The wonderful march of servants who remain faithful in spite of those who desert and leave. Notice: (1) The record from Genesis to Revelation is that God carries on if man does fail. Many have failed but neither the gates of death nor man's failure prevails against his “called out ones;” (2) We can hear and not hear, learn and not be taught, be loved and not return the love; (3) Gain at the expense of truth and suffer a terrible loss; (4) There *are* others who can take your place.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

These requests arise from your word: (1) I want your word to find fulfillment in my life. (2) I want my life to find fulfillment in your scriptures. (3) Dear Lord, deliver me from any form of betraying my Savior. (4) May I receive with joy the portion you have given me in your service. (5) Keep me aware that others will use what I leave when I die — for good or evil. (6) Keep me humble like a child. (7) Make me your witness today.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I open my heart — speak to me through your word: (1) “Another can and will take your place if you are faithless.” (2) “I have infinite patience — but there is

an end.” (3) “I could have changed Judas any time he was willing” — so it is with me!

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mali — Points for prayer: (1) *This land is wide open for the gospel*; missionaries are welcome, but the laborers are so few. For years there were only four Protestant missions. Other missions have entered since 1980, but this is still a needy pioneer field. (2) *The Sahel famine has been a major disaster. Famine relief given by Christians has brought an openness to the gospel and an increasing response.* Yet political change or Muslim pressure could alter this. Pray that present opportunities may not be lost by default. Pray for agencies involved in famine relief, that they may contribute both to the long-term well-being of the people and to the planting of churches.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

So precious is Jesus, my Savior, my King,
His praise all the day long with rapture I sing;
To Him in my weakness for strength I can cling,
For He is so precious to me,
For He is so precious to me,
For He is so precious to me;
'Tis Heaven below
My Redeemer to know,
For He is so precious to me.

WEEK TEN

—Thursday—

You are with me — yea, in me — even when I do not acknowledge it. But I want to sense your presence. My time in worship will help so much!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Presence: What an amazing quality to discuss! How much I want to enter fully into this attribute of yourself and appreciate more than ever before the fact that you are now present with me — in me — above me — before me — behind me — ahead of me — and what is true for me is true for all men. What a startling awesome fact! I want you to permeate all the atmosphere — all my being. As an invisible person you could be present and no one would know it — only those who sense, or are sensitive — are made aware of this reality. Only a few appreciate your presence.

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

Present for me. Dear God, this is one mind-staggering concept! That you as the almighty God are *here present!* I fall down before you like John of old. That you can see and hear and know totally all about me and be at the same time in me is such information I cannot assimilate. Will you make your presence known? Yes, yes, I could not write these words if you had not already told me you were present. I read it in your book. At the same time I want to practice your presence — I want to ask you to share my thoughts — every minute of the day — it can be done — I have thought that often about other things or people. Oh, present one, I love you!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

One of the sins of all sins! to ignore your presence — to live and talk and think just as if you were not always there. To not include you in my conversation — to not look your way to gain your nod of approval or frown of disapproval. To talk on and on to others

and fail to talk with you or about you. I know, I know you are interested in all I say and do and want to help (in areas I so much need your help) but I fail to ask or seek your face. Dear Lord, forgive me, forgive me! *Deceit* is sin. This sin strikes so close to my heart. Dear God, I want to be open and transparent before men. (I know I am always open and known to you.) I fear men and their frown more than yours — forgive me — penetrate my conscience deeply.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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

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

HIS WORD

²³So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." ²⁶Then they drew lots, and the lot fell to Matthias, so he was added to the eleven apostles.
—Acts 1:23-26, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How I praise you for your interest in "Joseph called Barsabbas" — also known as "Justus." I will one day meet him and talk with him and he with me. How could he be selected from among so many? How could each one yet be just as important? — but they were and are. Dear God, it is a sobering and

penetrating thought that "You know everyone's heart," and yet I know you do!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How I need to pray about the hearts of men today. I commit these to you. I can not and do not know men on the inside. The lot will fall upon someone. The particular job you have for me has fallen from your hold upon me. Dear God, may I as confidently as Matthias take up the tasks you have given for just this day!

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

I thank you: (1) For the ability to evaluate and decide; (2) For the friends and loved ones we can and do have in your service; (3) That it is *not* necessary to become jealous of others — your will is good for everyone. If we do not have this job we have a better one; (4) We can and should pray about the one the Lord wants for a job; (5) We can be confident God is at work in every changing circumstance of daily life.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

(1) The apostles felt a need and an opportunity to be continuously in the temple adoring and praising you. I feel the same need and opportunity. (2) Mary and our Lord's brothers — the women were praying — I identify with the brothers — who had doubts and fears about our Lord — but they came to commit their whole lives to him. (3) The words of the Psalm so graphically fulfilled in Judas — how awesome to see detailed, fulfilled prophecy! (4) We are responsible — (both positively and negatively) for the reactions of our decisions. Judas bought the field through the priests.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I have my own personal and family petitions — but these are from your desire for me: (1) May I not look down on Barsabbas because he was not chosen — there are many such men. (2) Help me to pray about all decisions. (3) Open my understanding to your knowledge of all men's hearts. (4) I want to believe your work will always be done — help me! (5) May I believe there are men going to hell every minute! (6) Direct me in my understanding of just how you work in human actions. (7) May I add to my acceptance everyone you add to your church.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

You are saying to me: (1) "There *are* qualifications for service." (2) "I hear prayer and know men." (3) "Men die — but God and his church live!"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mali — Point for prayer: *The unreached peoples of Mali*. Only three peoples are more than 1% Christian — Bobo (8% Protestant), Dogon (3.5%) and Minianka (2.4%). These are the least Muslim of Mali's peoples. Pray for: a) *The Bambara* are key people for the evangelization of the country, yet they are only 0.3% Protestant. There have been breakthroughs for the gospel since 1974, but follow up is an urgent need in the light of the activity of syncretic indigenous cults in the area. b) There have been the beginnings of a response with a few Christians among the *Maninka*, *Songhay* and *Senoufo*. c) Pioneer work among the *Soninke* and *Maure*, *Fulani* and *Senoufo* is being undertaken, often using rural clinics and development help as a means of contact. d) *Peoples not yet occupied by Christian workers* number 12.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I will sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me,
How He left His home in glory
For the cross of Calvary.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me,
Sing it with the saints in glory,
Gathered by the crystal sea.

WEEK TEN

—Friday—

Father is a welcome word to me! You gave me such a dear man for my Father. You ask me to call you Father. "Our Father" I hallow your name!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Father: You are the Father of all mankind. Not one person has ever been born on this earth until first you sent that person (spirit) into the genetic combination of the mother and father. What an awesome thought! All of us share your likeness. Praise your wonderful name — all of us, each of us in your image.

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

Father — to me! I am so glad to read of your qualities — to accept you and admit and welcome you into my house — i.e. my body. You have arrived in the person of the Holy Spirit! My Father who is not only in heaven but very much on earth and in myself — a father on a level and in qualities I so much need! Oh, bless your name.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Why do I fail? Why do I so obviously fail? Why do I allow pride and desire to direct my words and actions? Dear God, forgive. Through the wonderful intercessor at your right hand you do forgive. I am so glad to claim your cleansing; to be made whole; to be released. Oh, dear God, accept my praise.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I am Thine, O Lord,
I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;

But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

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

HIS WORD

²⁶On the day of firstfruits, when you present to the Lord an offering of new grain during the Feast of Weeks, hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. ²⁷Present a burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram and seven male lambs a year old as an aroma pleasing to the Lord. ²⁸With each bull there is to be a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil; with the ram two-tenths; ²⁹and with each of the seven lambs one-tenth. ³⁰Include one male goat to make atonement for you. —Numbers 28:26-30, NIV. Refer to Leviticus 23:15-22; Acts 2:1-21.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The day of thanksgiving is the day of Pentecost. How very thoughtful it was for you to set aside this day for that purpose. How meaningful are the objects for thanksgiving: harvest, i.e. your blessing and provision for man's physical needs — and the law the provision for man's spiritual needs.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

What a large offering was made — bulls — sheep — rams — goats — grain — fruit — oil — bread. It all belongs to you. This is only a representative expression of our gratitude and a clear recognition of your ownership. How I thank you for the more than adequate provision made for our food — both for the body and the spirit.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Surely this will be easy to do: (1) Thank you for the special days you have set aside to remind us. (2) The tangible items that we can touch and taste to reach our senses with your message. (3) For the fire of sacrifice that shows us the temporary nature of all physical blessings. (4) For the laws of harvest that constantly remind us just who provides for us. (5) For your law telling us just how wonderfully interested you are in every part of our life.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Pentecost means 50 — or “fifty days” — marking the time lapse from the Passover. Tradition has it that it was also fifty days from the exodus from Egypt at the first Passover till the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai. Be that as it may, it was but fifty days from the sacrifice of God’s Lamb to the coming of the Other Comforter. As the first fruit of the harvest was given in gratitude and in an acknowledgment of the source of all the harvest, so the day of Pentecost was and is the first fruit of God’s eternal harvest of the lives of men and women. Also a clear acknowledgment that all who gathered into his eternal garner will be of the same source and kind.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What shall I ask you as you speak to me about the day of Pentecost? (1) May I be willing to give those gifts which cost me much — even as the expensive animals were given. (2) I want to thank you with my substance. (3) Open my eyes to truly recognize all you have given me. (4) I want to be obedient to the law of the Spirit of life. (5) Break my heart that I might want to follow you. (6) Even rams and goats are given to you — I know there is hope for me. (7) Give me deep gratitude for all food as your gift.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What do you say to me in the purpose of Pentecost (i.e. in the Old Testament)? (1) “I want to be thanked for my gifts.” (2) “All you are and have comes from me.” (3) “Your place is to obey — not excuse yourself.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Malta — Points for prayer: (1) *Malta is possibly free Europe’s least evangelized land*, despite being probably the first nation to embrace the gospel — after Paul’s shipwreck on the island. Few have ever heard a clear presentation of the gospel and come to a living faith, although a high degree of religious devotion is shown by so many. (2) *Protestant activity among*

Maltese was illegal before 1964. There is still much opposition to the preaching of the gospel, and any activities of this kind are still undermined.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

A Friend I have, called Jesus,
Whose love is strong and true,
And never fails howe’er ’tis tried,
No matter what I do;
I’ve sinned against this love of His,
But when I knelt to pray,
Confessing all my guilt to Him,
The sin-clouds rolled away.
It’s just like Jesus to roll the clouds away,
It’s just like Jesus to keep me day by day,
It’s just like Jesus, all along the way,
It’s just like His great love.

WEEK TEN

—Saturday—

How temporary are all things on this earth. To know Someone who will always be the same: the great God of Love! Gladly do I worship you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Eternal: You shall never change. There will never be a time when you do not live. This is a source of great strength and encouragement to me. Blessed be your name! There is no way I can truly encompass such a thought.

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

For me he ever liveth to make intercession. He is alive as an example of what will happen to me when I slip out of this house of clay. I am so glad to share his nature — “from everlasting to everlasting thou art God.” There will never be a time when I do not live and know and feel and rejoice in him! Wonder of all wonders. “He that believeth in me shall never die.” How I need this reality spelled out real often!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear God, I am truly sorry I have sinned. I am a sinner — I do harbor rebellion — I do not want to sin, but when I would do good, evil is present. The good (oh, so much of it) that I would, I do not get done — the evil that I would not — and there are so many and various ways that I do evil; some are more evident than others. Dear Lord, cleanse me. Wash me clean and I shall be whiter than snow!

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

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;

I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand.
Bread of Heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Bread of Heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.

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

HIS WORD

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. —Acts 2:1-4, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What an amazing experience! How intently the twelve are listening to “the sound of a violent wind from heaven.” Such a sound is filling the room where they are seated. Dear Lord, you surely act in unusual ways — in most dramatic sensational ways. Tongues of fire! Fire sitting on everyone! Speaking in languages no one has ever learned! Amazing. I too am confounded and bewildered! I, like those who first saw this, am overcome!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I know these apostles are being immersed in the Holy Spirit — I am totally impressed. I have a difficult time understanding all the implications of what is happening — the supernatural equipment needed to establish his “called out ones.” To suddenly be enabled to speak in a language before not known, to see fire, hear a wind, to be overwhelmed with a divine person — this is perplexing!

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Gladly do I do this: (1) The day was promised and the promise was kept. (2) The apostles were prepared through prayer for what happened. (3) The suddenness of all your important acts such as: creation, regeneration, immortalization. (4) The appeal to the senses of man do convince him of your presence and power. (5) That the Holy Spirit can work in and with and through men.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

I want to pause to think deeply upon the wonder of it all! (1) That Jesus would spend all night in prayer for leadership and come up with these twelve men. (2) That they would indeed "leave all" and follow him — no one was working or involved with "other things." (3) The Holy Spirit filled or baptized all, but not all responded in exactly the same way, i.e. Peter spoke with a different word choice than John. (4) That I can respond to the Holy Spirit in me.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Here is the purpose of Pentecost for the Apostles. How glad I am to see a number of requests here for me: (1) I want to accept the fact that you work through groups as well as individuals. (2) Help me to see you sometimes use very unusual approaches to speak to men. (3) You *do* communicate on a sensate level — I believe — help my unbelief. (4) Open my mind as to the real significance of the sound and fire. (5) May I have a real indelible definition of "tongues" as used here. (6) I want to truly know *why* the apostles needed these "tongues." (7) Why does anyone think this experience could or should be repeated?

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

My ears are open to your voice: (1) "I keep my promises to those for whom I made them." (2) "I can unite the diverse group of the twelve by my Spirit." (3) "I want to show my splendor to the unbeliever through men."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Martinique (Overseas Department of France) — Points for prayer: (1) *The evident spiritual need is highlighted* by the breakdown in family life, widespread occultism, secular propaganda in schools and the marked growth of sects. Catholicism is a traditional veneer for most. There is a small but active independence movement encouraged by Cuba which brings an urgency to the need to evangelize these islands (Guadeloupe as well as Martinique). (2) *There*

were hardly any born-again believers before 1946. Since then, church growth has been significant despite persecution in earlier years.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus is all the world to me,
My life, my joy, my all;
He is my strength from day to day,
Without Him I would fall.
When I am sad, to Him I go,
No other one can cheer me so;
When I am sad He makes me glad,
He's my Friend.

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.