

WEEK TWELVE

—Sunday—

Of all the happy times in life the happiest can be in personal worship. Let it happen.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Joy: You are joy itself, the source of all joy, the reason for all happiness, the ultimate of spontaneity! Brightness — all this and 10,000 things more that all say, “praise and wonder” to me but only express a part of your total person. Joy unspeakable and full of your whole self!

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

Joy for me — to me — through me. Oh, praise and peace and joy — this is mine! Jesus said, “I have come that your joy may be perfected!” My joy is in him my dear, wonderful Lord. My happiness is full and complete in him. Apart from him there is no life at all.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Oh, how I want to admit to sin. I want to tell everyone against whom I have sinned. He alone knows why I do this or that against him — so he can help me — not only with forgiveness but with understanding and inward strength to overcome. Dear Savior, forgive me and illumine my mind as I read your word.

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

“There shall be showers of blessing”:
This is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing,

Sent from the Savior above.
Showers of blessing,
Showers of blessing we need:
Mercy-drops round us are falling,
But for the showers we plead.

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

HIS WORD

⁷Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong.

⁸He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

¹¹While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade. —Acts 3:7-11, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear God, take me by the right hand and raise me up. I need to be healed! Your word is so precious to me! How I do appreciate the careful detail in this account: “right hand,” “feet and ankles,” “walking,” and “jumping,” and “praising,” “wonder” and “amazement.” Each word carries more and different meaning to the whole beautiful record. “Instant” is another word I like — “all” the people saw him — no question about your miracles! I too am filled with wonder and amazement. Dear God, help me to come running to you and your healing power.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I have read these words several hundred times, but I read them all over again because I *love* your word. I

love the *One* they describe! Dear Lord, I now come with the excitement of the one resurrected from "death in trespasses and sins" to walk and jump and praise before you! I want to share with others — most especially with those who understand *my joy*! The healing was no end in itself, i.e., a primary end, so I am not just saved primarily to enjoy it, but to share it.

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

So easy to do: (1) For Peter and John who stopped and touched and raised. (2) For the total supernatural quality of the healing. (3) For the first steps of a new man! what wonder! (4) For the first time in the Temple — he could now see what was on the inside. (5) For all the people in the Temple — one day I shall see them and ask them about what they saw. (6) For the unnamed beggar himself — I want one day to know him and his name. (7) For Paula Nash who spent time and talent to give us a lovely painting to help us see and relate!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

A meditation on Acts 1:13-15. Two thoughts stand out in this text for meditation: (1) All can and should continue steadfastly in prayer. Our requests, indeed our total praying should be very much like theirs. In light of the momentous event about to take place, what thoughts ascended in prayer? Tender gratitude that our Lord was going to meet their need in sending "The Other Comforter." How could our needs be better met than with the "Other Jesus"? Eager anticipation of an experience they had not before known — but it would all be good and full of meaning and purpose. Is not this possible for me today? As I ask, as I knock, as I seek, he has already promised "good things" for me and you. (2) Business transactions — i.e. the mundane affairs of this life (such as filling the office of Judas) are also a part of serving God. "Whatever you do in word or in deed do all in the name (or with the authority) of the Lord Jesus — giving thanks to God our Father" (Col. 3:17).

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In your word you speak to me — but it also moves me to speak to you: (1) Lead me to someone today I can help. (2) May I see those in need as you do. (3) Help me to remember that joy and delight can express true worship. (4) Does anyone register wonder or amazement at my spiritual healing? (5) Open my mind and will to your joy! (6) What can I use today to attract people to your Son? (7) How close should new converts relate to me?

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

There are some definite messages here for me: (1) "Do something for me and I'll do something for you." (2) "The physical does lead to the eternal." (3) "Misplaced praise is to be expected — but not encouraged."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Monaco — Points for prayer: (1) *No open evangelism is permitted*, and the evangelical presence is very small in the Protestant community. The local residents and wealthy tourists need to hear the gospel. (2) *Trans World Radio's base is here*, and from Monaco 800 programs a week in 34 languages are broadcast on powerful medium and short wave transmitters. The broadcasts to "closed" Muslim and Communist lands are a unique and fruitful means of ministry in evangelism and church planting.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I have found a friend in Jesus,
He's everything to me,
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul;
The Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see
All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.
In sorrow, He's my comfort, in trouble He's my stay,
He tells me every care on Him to roll;
He's the Lily of the Valley,
the Bright and Morning Star,
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.

WEEK TWELVE

—Monday—

There is more to be gained in understanding in prayer than in any other pursuit. I gladly enter in!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Intelligence: Total understanding — what an amazing quality! and yet to think less would be to worship One who was less than God himself. How wonderfully encouraging it is to be the son, yet the slave of a Father who knows *all*.

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

Intelligence is the one quality of man that separates him from the animals. To be able to reason, to know God knows my needs because he shares them. He totally understands them. This by itself is almost beyond my grasp. How I truly praise him, praise you for yourself!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

To consider the awesome fact that God is absolute intelligence could be intimidating, except that he is total love as well as intelligence. So I am actually greatly encouraged. I openly confess because there is no hiding. I totally confess because there is nothing overlooked. But I am just as totally forgiven! Bless his holy, glorious, name! In no way could I adequately express my joy.

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

Ere you left your room this morning,
Did you think to pray?
In the name of Christ our Savior,
Did you sue for loving favor,

As a shield today?

Oh, how praying rests the weary!
Prayer will change the night to day;
So in sorrow and in gladness,
Don't forget to pray.

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

HIS WORD

¹²When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this." —Acts 3:12-15, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How good to see your action in human affairs. You are interested in men walking. But you are much more interested in their purpose for walking. Your power — oh, your power enables each of us to walk. In you we live and move and have our being. Your nature, manifest in your works of healing is such an encouragement to all of us. How we want to accept and appreciate the glory (character or estimate) you give of your holy servant Jesus — even your dear Son. Oh dear God, may I never, never repeat the tragic choice of those who called out for Barabbas.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

There I am in the crowd. I'm listening to Peter preach. I share the privilege of living in the generation when my Savior came to earth. There I am again!

Can it be? It is so! I'm crying for his death. If we had no sin he would not have died. It was my sin that nailed him there. But I stand in the crowd at the cross and apply the words of my dear Lord to my heart. "You do not know what you are doing," Bless the Lord, I'm also in the company who saw him "after his passion" — alive forevermore!

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

Thanksgiving seems so appropriate: (1) For the superhuman change in Peter — confident and humble. The living Lord did it. (2) John is there too — thoughtful and strong — thank you for the complement he is to Peter and Peter to him. (3) Thank you that this grafted branch can be a part of the heritage of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (4) How could I ever say thank you for "the Servant" of Isaiah — fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth? (5) I cannot — I hesitate — I am full of amazement — but I share the prison cell of Barabbas — my Lord died for me and in my place! "Thank you" is not at all enough.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Let us think deeply on three observations: (1) Peter and John were going to the Temple at the hour of prayer. What a blessed sweet hour of prayer it can be. But sweet or not, we can go to it — we are the better for it. (2) He was lame from birth — so are we — since the birth of sin in our hearts. He was carried daily by his friends — our friends do us a favor by carrying us where they go — i.e., if they are Christians. If not, it is only a beggar's place. He was laid daily at such a place. "Life is so daily" but in the midst of it Jesus comes! (3) They looked intently at him. Oh, may we do the same for those outside God's Temple of worship today. Look at them with deep understanding and compassion.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I want to ask from close contact with your word: (1) How can I point men away from me to you? (2) Help me to appreciate more fully your power. (3) Do I really know of what godliness consists? (4) What particular quality of our Lord is seen in this healing? (5) Please keep me reminded that evil men hate the light. (6) Deepen my appreciation of just how holy and how righteous is my Lord. (7) Make him the author of my life today.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak Lord — thy servant heareth: (1) "There is

nothing as important as telling the good news." (2) "Follow the example of Peter." (3) "Jesus sees you now!"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mongolia — Points for prayer: (1) *After 60 years of atheistic teaching* little but superstitious remnants of the old religion remain. Pray that the spiritual void may be filled by the Lord Jesus Christ. (2) *One of the least evangelized countries in the world.* Pray it open for the gospel. In this century there has been long-term mission work only in Inner Mongolia, which is part of the People's Republic of China. (3) *Pray for a current translation of the Mongolian New Testament* to be made available; some portions are already in print. The script of several older translations is no longer in use and those translations are little understood today.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

The name of Jesus is so sweet,
I love its music to repeat;
It makes my joys full and complete,
The precious name of Jesus.
"Jesus," oh, how sweet the name!
"Jesus," ev'ry day the same;
"Jesus," let all saints proclaim
Its worthy praise forever.

WEEK TWELVE

—Tuesday—

You are already complete — but I am not. I find relaxed peace and energy in your presence.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Lonesome: How encouraging to know that God *wants* me. You have created *me* in your own image and I share your nature. You have put me here to commune with you. You long after me, with an everlasting love. Love that is not expressed is really not love.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I am delighted to be the object of your love. Your love is expressed by all your bounties. It is difficult to separate the two thoughts of your lonesomeness for me and my lonesomeness for you. I love you in return. I *want* you, *need* you, *desire* you, *embrace* you to my heart (mind, emotions, conscience). I am so, so lonesome without you! I worship before you in praise.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I *am* a sinner. I do now need forgiveness. There is no day, no hour, no minute when I do not need your cleansing blood! But there must be a progress in conduct. How I long to be whole in my in-depth attitude! Oh, dear Savior, I love you and seek your forgiveness!

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

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling;
All Thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

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

HIS WORD

“. . . saying that his Christ would suffer. ¹⁹Repent then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you — even Jesus. ²¹He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. ²²For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. ²³Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.’

²⁴“Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. ²⁵And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ ²⁶When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.” —Acts 3:18b-26, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Oh, dear God! How I want to tell you what your word means to me. By faith the man was healed and made strong — the faith of Peter and John in your interest and involvement in needs of the religious but lost. I know you have the same interest today. The same faith will also fulfill your interest today. To act in ignorance and at the same time in fulfillment of prophecy is an amazement. But so is the wonder of your word and power.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Times of refreshing can and will come — and even now come from your presence. As I turn from my sins and change the outer fringes and the inner center of my mind, I am refreshed. Oh, dear God, I do indeed change my mind.

He must stay in heaven until a certain time. You know the time of his coming. I do not. But I even now cry from my heart 'Maranatha!' What is the word in the presence of the angels of light?

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 open is your word here for this exercise: (1) That our ignorance does not hinder or prevent your word from finding fulfillment. (2) That your goodness is such a strong incentive for repentance. (3) That times of refreshing can and do come from your presence. (4) That you will send my Lord the second time as surely as you sent him the first time. (5) How beautifully like Moses is my Lord! (6) That I can and do hear and hearken to your prophet and my Lord. (7) Thank you for your present blessing.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"For nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). For no word from God shall be void of power. (1) Thank you, that you have spoken. (2) In written, permanent form. (3) All your words are equal in source and fulfillment. (4) You can and do speak. (5) No emptiness or failure in yourself or your word. (6) Your power through yourself and your word is invincible. (7) The total encouragement I feel from this verse.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How I want my petitions to be your petitions: (1) Did the lame man have any faith? (2) Wasn't it the gift of faith exercised by Peter that healed him? (3) Let Jesus work through me for "greater works" today. (4) How can I act in ignorance and yet be responsible? (5) Help me to repent all over again. (6) Give me the seasons of refreshing. (7) I want the blessing of turning from my sins.

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

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

In these verses what do you say to me? (1) "Find out how Jesus is like Moses and teach it." (2) "I want all the peoples of the earth to be blessed." (3) "If you do not listen you will be cut off."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mongolia — Points for prayer: (1) *Pray for other unreached peoples:* a) *The Kazakhs* 72,000, were largely Muslim. b) *The Chinese* 6,000 or more. c) *The Russians* 200,000, generally live in special areas and camps and come from all over the USSR. Believers are not selected for such service. (2) *Christian radio broadcasts in Halh Mongolian* — there are none at present, pray that they may become a reality. Many Mongolians can speak Russian — pray for broadcasts in that language beamed to the region.

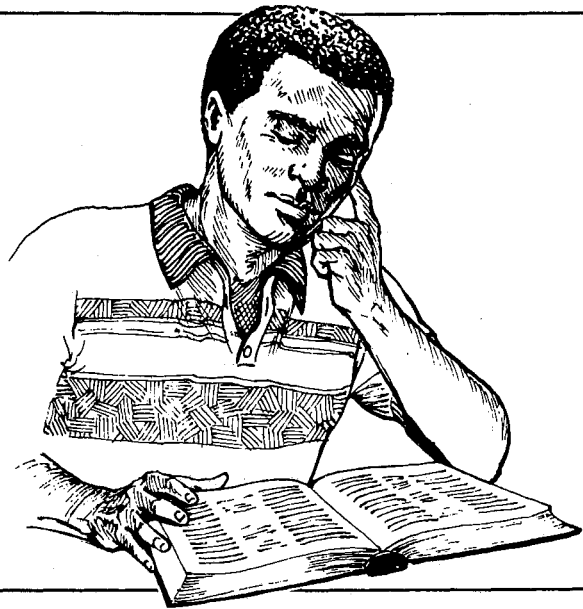
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Christ has for sin atonement made,
What a wonderful Savior!
We are redeemed! the price is paid!
What a wonderful Savior!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Jesus!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Lord!
He gives me overcoming power,
What a wonderful Savior!
And triumph in each trying hour!
What a wonderful Savior!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Jesus!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Lord!

WEEK TWELVE

—Wednesday—

As a sheep in your pasture and under your care I cast myself before you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Shepherd: How easy it is to praise you for being a shepherd — shepherd of love — of total care and concern for me. How I need — how I accept your love and care for my life!

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

Your pastures are green and your waters are still and your food is nourishing. I gladly accept your love and oversight. I sit at the table prepared in the presence of my enemies. I long to enter your eternal fold.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Oh, dear shepherd, how often does this sheep go astray — how welcome is your voice that calls me back to your care and love! I want to be healed of my self-inflicted wounds. Dear Lord, forgive — cleanse me of my sin — but purify 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

More holiness give me,
More striving within;
More patience in suff'ring,
More sorrow for sin;
More faith in my Savior,
More sense of His care;
More joy in His service,
More purpose in prayer.

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

HIS WORD

4 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ²They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand. ⁵The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. ⁷They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" —Acts 4:1-7, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How gladly do I read again these words. Honor and thanks to you for causing them to be written. They are and have been such a source of blessing to so many for so long — too bad — oh, sad beyond words, that this word is not known to more. Dear God, give me the courage and wisdom to do what I can to tell these religious persons of our day of the resurrection of your Son.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Teaching and preaching are linked with the same action. Dear God, give me the power and privilege to do the same thing today! Jesus will raise *me* from the dead — indeed all that sleep in the dust shall arise! (i.e., the bodies). "So in Christ all shall be made alive." Praise your wonderful name! Many that heard the word believed! — I believe if more heard, more would believe. Oh, dear Lord, move me, enable me to make such possible!

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 I thank you for: (1) Religious people who have a disposition to listen. (2) The power to think and speak your thoughts and words. (3) In Jesus we will be raised to live forever in heaven. (4) Jail is no disgrace if it is for him — it is an open door and not a closed one. (5) The 5,000 who could hear and accept today if we would tell them. (6) The historical accuracy of the account — names, places, etc. (7) “By what power or by what authority” do we do anything and everything?

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

By what power have you done this? (1) Not the power of education for they were unlearned and ignorant. (2) Not by the power of personal moral courage because they fled and denied him but a few days earlier. (3) Not by the power of personal ambition, for they had everything to lose and nothing to gain by their actions. (4) Not by the power of money — silver and gold; they had none.

It was by the power of: (1) The resurrected Christ — he was alive and this news was so exciting and important it *must* be told. (2) It was by the power and person of the Holy Spirit of God. He enabled them when they trusted him. (3) It was by the power of love and concern that men would hear. (4) It was by the power of the spoken word.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I am asking you out of your word — I claim your promises: (1) Reveal to me if I am in any way like these religious bigots. (2) How I want to proclaim the same message today — help me! (3) Open my mind as to the prominence of the resurrection in preaching. (4) Help me with the boldness I lack and want. (5) I do pray for my brothers in jail now for their faith. (6) How I want to make my intercession intelligent — help me! (7) How can I reach men today?

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in these words: (1) “You are not as willing to suffer as you should be!” (2) “Belief comes by hearing — speak out.” (3) “Go to religious people first.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Morocco — Points for prayer: (1) *Islam has so completely replaced Christianity that little remains of a once large church.* Pride in Morocco’s glorious past as a center of civilization and Islamic learning, and prejudice against the truths of Scripture are barriers to the acceptance of the gospel. 80% of the population

have had no contact at all with the gospel. Pray for individual hearts — and the entire nation — to be opened for messengers of the Cross. (2) *Praise God for a new and unprecedented level of interest in the gospel.* Yet every advance is bitterly contested by the enemy, and every possible obstacle to the witness of national and foreign believers is exploited.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I’m standing on the promises of God.

WEEK TWELVE

—Thursday—

It is our privilege to sanctify at least our hour with you. Gladly do I do it!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Sanctification: Dear God, how you do set people aside for your work. All that you do is sanctified — blessed be your name — what a wonder you are. You are much more a sanctification than anything else. All you have done is holy and pure and right and unique.

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

Sanctification of myself. How I need you and want you to set me aside as a servant of yours. I want to be a vessel for use — whatever honor comes from this, let it be in the good works as a praise to you — even as my Lord has said.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

How easy it is to confess to you my sin. I do so in plain words. I am deeply sorry for my sin — not only so, I honestly purpose to forsake them! Dear Lord, help me! Cleanse me! I accept your forgiveness.

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

More love to Thee, O Christ,
 More love to Thee!
 Hear Thou the prayer I make
 On bended knee;
 This is my earnest plea:
 More love, O Christ to Thee,
 More love to Thee!
 More love to Thee!

HIS WORD

⁷They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?”

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and everyone in Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you completely healed. ¹¹He is “ ‘The stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’

¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

¹³When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁵So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. — *Acts 4:7-15, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How interesting it will be dear Lord when I can inquire personally about so many men that have crossed the canvas of time. What ever happened to Annas and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all the other men of the high priest’s family? I know you know and this is enough. Peter and John I expect to meet and talk with.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Dear God, I want to see my salvation fulfilled in Him — even in your dear Son. He is my capstone — my hope — my door — my peace — my courage and

boldness. Bless and adore his dear name! Oh, how I want to be so often personally with you that men will see reflected your presence in 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

Thank you: (1) For every day as a judgment day. We will decide issues today that will not appear again. (2) The power in the name of our Lord — to save and forgive and bring joy. (3) Acts of kindness — in all the past (but for today is there one act for me?). (4) Jesus is alive, and even now sees me and knows me, loves me. (5) The capstone of all history. (6) What unschooled and ordinary men can do. (7) That I can this very day, right now be with Jesus.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Dear Lord, you know and I know these thoughts are fleeting and sometimes not at all profound. I want to wonder and praise in the thought of *trials before men* — we all have them every day. We threaten one another's interests and are brought into conflict. How shall we react? Perhaps Peter and John are saying something to us such as: (1) They were first of all "filled with the Holy Spirit" — filled with the power and name (authority) of the "Other Jesus." (2) They emphasized the good or the kindness done. (3) They gave all credit for all good to the One to whom it is due. (4) They did not ignore the problem — were ready to lay their lives on the line.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How good it is to relate my requests to your unchanging word: (1) Am I to expect any better treatment from religious leaders today? (2) Perhaps all those who accept my Lord are my brothers — is this true? (3) What trophies of your triumph can I show to all men? (4) How can I convince men of the reality of my Lord's salvation? (5) I want Jesus to be the capstone of my life — help me! (6) Give this ordinary man extraordinary courage from yourself. (7) How can I establish a closer fellowship with my Lord?

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

You are speaking — am I listening? (1) "I will be just as near to you as you are to me." (2) "Men will have nothing to say against you if you do good." (3) "Men are plotting now how to silence my witness."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Morocco — Points for prayer: (1) The government

*refuses to recognize the legality or even the existence of an indigenous Moroccan Church. For individuals who become followers of Christ, this lays them open to charges of treachery, illegal contacts with foreign organizations, and to prison sentences for not adhering to Islamic practices such as the fast month of Ramadan. For church groups it is very difficult to find meeting places or arrange Christian marriages and burials. Pray for the king and those in authority, and for a radical change of policy that will give greater freedom to Christians. (2) *The Church in Morocco is becoming a reality.* Growth has been slow, but the momentum has picked up. There are possibly 1,000 believers and eight cities in which Christians gather in little groups.*

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Golden harps are sounding,
Angel voices ring,
Pearly gates are opened,
Opened for the King;
Christ the King of glory,
Jesus King of love,
Is gone up in triumph
To His throne above.
All His work is ended,
Joyful we sing;
Jesus hath ascended;
Glory to our King!

WEEK TWELVE

—Friday—

Since you have redeemed us we no longer belong to ourselves. I bow before my blessed Redeemer in praise and wonder.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Redeemer: “O blessed Redeemer, how precious Thou art.” This is more than a song; it is the eternal truth. The amazing fact is you have paid the ransom price and brought us back to yourself. Blessed be your name forever — my redeemer — but also the world’s redeemer. What a price you have paid! How I do appreciate it!

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

You are *my* redeemer — my ransom from sin and bondage. I am deeply moved with the cost involved! O holy Redeemer, how precious you are to me! It is the wonder of ten million galaxies that you should take the form of man and pour out your blood for my redemption.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Surely my deepest need is redemption and to be forgiven. I need to freely confess all my need and to be made clean. I do confess to One who knows and loves and heals. Dear God, forgive! To be open and free with you — I name and label my sin and accept the remission.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

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

HIS WORD

¹⁶“What are we going to do to these men?” they asked. “Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

¹⁸Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. ²⁰For we cannot help speaking what we have seen and heard.”

²¹After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. ²²For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old. —Acts 4:16-22, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

“What are we going to do with these men?” You surely must have been pleased when Peter and John caught the fire of love and zeal. What deep humility it took for these ordinary men to become such extraordinary slaves of King Jesus! Dear God, how I love the record of evangelism in this account. Oh! oh! that it might be repeated right here in our town. To speak to men and women in the name of Jesus is my desire — my commitment — my job. Is it right in the sight of God? in the sight of men? What have I seen and heard? Oh, speak and reveal yourself as I read your word.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

There is an open door in our town. I *want* to get your word in every home in *every* heart, in every life, in this town. If these men and women could fill Jerusalem, we surely can fill the place where I live. There *are* people here who will praise God for what is done. I have less reason than they did for not doing this. No one has commanded me not to do it. More want it than oppose it, what am I waiting for?

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

Thank you, thank you for: (1) The honesty (though forced) of the men in authority — it could easily be the same today. (2) The power of *his name*, his authority, his presence, his word, his total person. (3) The directness and clarity of the words of Peter and John. (4) Their willingness to back up their words with their lives. (5) People that have the capacity of praise and wonder now as then.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

The little leaven. Just two men, just two lives, just a poor beggar, just verbal expression — but leaven is total — all the leaven is leaven. Whenever Peter and John touched the lives of anyone they affected them. There was no time, no place, no one who touched Peter and John that was not infected with the leaven of joy and happiness. People were touched by the wondrous news that the Messiah had come! The lame man had a strong infection — he was incurably affected by the leaven of deliverance from sickness, boredom, meaninglessness, despondency.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Indeed I do want to ask everything according to your word: (1) How can I let everyone in my town know of your Son? (2) Am I in any way intimidated by my fear of men? (3) Do the laws of men today in any way oppose the laws of yourself? (4) I want to see more and hear more of your Son — help me! (5) How can such an act of your power happen today? (6) I am the man who was healed — increase my witness. (7) How would it feel to beg for years and years?

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

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

Speak to me, Lord: (1) “Men will not always be convinced even by the best evidence.” (2) “Most men will be convinced — keep on telling the story.” (3) “There are men just waiting for your word of healing.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mozambique — Point for prayer: *Mozambique has never known religious freedom.* Protestants were severely limited in their outreach, and sometimes persecuted, in the time of the Portuguese rule. Persecution of all Christians was particularly severe after independence and until 1982. Missionaries were expelled, Christian leaders intimidated and imprisoned, and many churches and institutions seized or destroyed. Discriminatory legislation was passed to limit Christian gatherings to recognized church buildings and prevent evangelism. Since 1982, the military and economic situation has brought an easing of the pressures and made Mozambique more open to the gospel than ever before. Praise God for this, but pray for complete religious freedom and peace for this tormented land.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

WEEK TWELVE

—Saturday—

It would seem the all-inclusive name is savior, and yet it is meaningless until we know how lost we are without him. Here is a rare opportunity to thank him!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Savior: How good to call you by this name. Angels so described you. All that is valuable and has any meaning in this whole world is the object or trophy of your salvation. You have saved us all — most have just never heard of your offer.

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

How easy it is to relate to your work in men. I have been saved from a life of frustration and emptiness to one of true joy and peace and eternal purpose. These are much more than mere words on paper. Joy in your presence and person — peace with you and all others — eternal purpose in what I do: teaching, writing, speaking — without you, there would be nothing. Indeed you have saved me!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

This is an admission — a tragic admission that at times I do not want to be saved! Most of the time it is because I do not know how lost I am. But there are other sad days when I am unwilling to change my mind in a way that will alter my conduct. Dear God, save me from this selfishness! Your salvation is *from* my sins — but it is also *to* your happiness!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

My Jesus I love Thee,
I know Thou art mine,

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

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

HIS WORD

²³On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ²⁴When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

“Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

²⁵You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

“ ‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.’

²⁷Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” —Acts 4:23-30, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How easy it will be to praise you and wonder before you from this passage! I stand in the crowd to hear the exciting words of Peter and John. How encouraging and at the same time they are a cause of deep concern. How beautiful to find just the appropriate text for the situation. Men do only nothing without your knowledge. Men do not always do what you want, but they do nothing without your knowing it.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I want to be a real part of "their company." I acknowledge not only your sovereignty but your intimacy and your personal interest in the affairs of men. For today with the president and congress and with our local officials — in all the occurrences of our town. Dear God, in my own life "stretch out your hand to heal." If you consider whatever threats there are, I have no fear. You know my needs and have much good prepared for me.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) For all the varied lives that have made up your company — over the centuries. (2) That I can acknowledge your sovereignty now — creator of the heavens (fantastic!) and the earth and the sea and all in each — wow! (3) You inspired the Old Testament. David wrote and spoke through the Holy Spirit. (4) Jesus was and is your anointed One — the Messiah! (5) Men cannot successfully oppose you. (6) We can, by the Holy Spirit, speak the word with boldness.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Let's consider carefully these two thoughts: (1) Isn't it strange that the very men who should be glad were mad? The priests should have been the leaders in telling of their Messiah. The captain of the Temple never had better worshipers in his building. The Sadducees have now before them the most profound event in human history, but they were blind. (2) Many that heard the glad, good, life-giving word believed — 5,000 plus many others. Belief *does* come by hearing the word. This progress was planned by God, not man.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

There are so many requests in this text — I make them mine: (1) Open my heart and mouth in a word to my friends for you. (2) Direct me to those who will pray with me. (3) I believe you did indeed create the heaven, the earth, the sea and all in each. (4) Help me to find the fulfillment of your word in my daily life. (5) Lord, I want to pray for the governor of our state — for lesser officials — help me! (6) Consider the threats in my life. (7) Grant me the same boldness I see in this text.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Please visit me and let me open my heart to your word! (1) "I grant boldness in the speaking of my

word." (2) "I am looking upon all threats to your life." (3) "Honor my holy Servant Jesus."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Mozambique — Points for prayer: (1) *The long succession of political, military and natural calamities* has created a great hunger for reality and peace with God. Widespread responsiveness is evident, and churches are growing — in some areas dramatically. Pray that the spiritual needs may be met, and that the whole land may open up for the preaching of the gospel. Mozambique has the largest unreached population in Africa south of the equator. (2) *Christian leaders have been under great pressure to compromise their faith and their congregations* through intimidation and fear. The only recognized interdenominational body is the Christian Council of Mozambique, but not all members are evangelical. Pray for bold, clear, incisive leadership for each denomination.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word:
From Heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.