

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Sunday—

*I am forgiven; I have been forgiven; I shall be forgiven. In the closet of prayer is where I claim such a gift!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Forgiver:* This is your major work and characteristic. How I praise you that this is so! How many people have you forgiven? There are billions of people upon the earth — no two just alike and not even one that does not need forgiveness.

*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

Forgiver of myself! of my sins and basic selfishness. How I want to be clean and pure before your presence. How gladly do I confess my sins to obtain your cleansing. I must forgive as I have been forgiven.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Oh, dear Lord, why should I want to hide my sins? I want to confess them and rid myself of them. Cleanse and remove and restore. Dear Lord, I do rejoice in forgiveness, but I do not hesitate to freely, openly confess my sin and need! Thank you for accepting me!

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
There a precious fountain  
Free to all — a healing stream,  
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Near the cross I'll watch and wait,  
Hoping, trusting ever,  
'Til I reach the golden strand

Just beyond the river.  
In the cross, in the cross,  
Be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>32</sup>All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions were his own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was with them all. <sup>34</sup>There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup>and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. —Acts 4:32-35, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How glorious to read of your involvement with your children! To read that "all believers were one in heart and mind" is a total amazement. We have terrible trouble in this very area. We need today the same motivation — it is the risen Lord — it is the power Person of the Holy Spirit — it is the wonder of the Messiah concept. Has our King come? Has our deliverer arrived? Has he spoken to us? Dear God you know I am telling you just *how* much these verses say to me.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I mix the direction of my worship. Dear Lord, I want it all to be of you. How can I truly say that nothing I possess is mine, but I have all things common with my fellow believers? What an all-consuming, all-powerful love swept across the hearts of the Christians in Jerusalem! What about my town? Telling and sharing

truly *does* impress people — nay, it demonstrates our love and faith in you!

*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 desire to be one in heart (emotions) and mind (intellect). (2) The possibility of unity among believers. (3) My risen, living Lord. (4) Every possession I have and can share. (5) Men who can administer means. (6) The joy and blessedness of giving.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

How I want to deeply meditate upon these verses. *Much power in testifying — much grace in lives and giving.* Peter and John, James and Andrew and all of the other eight could say they saw the Lord after his passion. No wonder there was so much *power* behind their words! Have I seen the Lord today? Have you? Jesus is alive whether we can see him or not. He *is* speaking to me — not only through his word, the New Testament, but in all it means to my life and yours. The *power* is twofold: (1) What we say, but more powerfully, (2) what it means to us that is reflected in our total demeanor. Much unearned favor of the Lord was with them and worked through them! Dear God, may it be so today!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What a beautiful area for requests: (1) Let me give my heart and mind to you. (2) Let me give my heart and mind to others. (3) Release my hold on my possessions when others are in need. (4) Open my heart to receive the full impact of my Lord's resurrection. (5) I want to continue steadfastly in the apostles' teaching — grant me wisdom. (6) How can I meet the needs of the hungry of the world today? (7) How can I relate physical and spiritual needs?

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

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

Surely I need to hear your voice in this text: (1) "Believers can be of one heart and one mind today." (2) "I want the unity of believers." (3) "The world will never care how much you believe until they see how much you care."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Namibia (Southwest Africa)* — Points for prayer: (1) *The political future of Namibia* calls for believing prayer. Pray for a peaceful settlement fair to all Namibians, and for a government that will uphold

Christian values. (2) *Namibia is one of Africa's most Christianized lands*, yet biblical truth and true spirituality are in short supply. Christian leaders need prayer that they stand for the gospel rather than ideologies or sectional interests. Only Christians can adequately bridge the tensions and hatreds that divide the diverse ethnic groups. Pray for a deep spiritual revival. (3) *Leadership training.* The major seminary in the country has been much influenced by Black and Liberation theology to the spiritual impoverishment of students passing out into the ministry. Several smaller Bible schools make a stronger evangelical stand.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O Worship the King, all glorious above,  
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Monday—

*Cleanliness is NOT next to godliness — it is godliness! You are the omnipotent cleanser. This is a new quality as an expression of yourself.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Cleanser:* You do keep a balance in this total universe — to keep man clean is one immense task.

*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

My cleanser — praise your name! I am glad to claim your cleansing. How good to be clean! To know inward forgiveness is a great gift! Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

How I do want to be honest and candid! To be open and clean before you! As I look over the list of sins in your word I am impressed with how many do have at least partial application to me. Dear God, forgive.

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

O Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me,  
My Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
If Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me,  
The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
The tempting sounds I hear;

My foes are ever near me,  
Around me and within;  
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,  
And shield my soul from sin.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>36</sup>Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), <sup>37</sup> sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

**5** Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. <sup>2</sup>With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

<sup>3</sup>Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? <sup>4</sup>Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God." —Acts 4:36-5:4, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What a good man is Barnabas! To sell a field with no other thought than the good it could do for someone else is indeed a wonderful example. How I thank you for the preservation down through all these ages (2,000 years) of the lovely record. I am just as glad you have so carefully kept the account of Ananias and Sapphira. I need and want to read and believe it all over again. Dear Lord, how good to have your estimate of the seriousness of a lie. Forgive me!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

To read this record and alternately take the place of

each of these persons is an awesome experience — for I can (and do) stand in the sandals of Barnabas, Peter, Ananias, Sapphira, the rest of the apostles, and any other persons present. Dear Lord, may I examine before you all thoughts that bid for action — it could be that Satan is talking to me — but I have *your* written word — I want to inscribe every word of it on my mind and will and conscience.

*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 shall I thank you through this text? (1) For Joseph the encourager — may I today be like him. (2) For money and what it can mean for your work in this world. (3) For hypocrites — or hypocrisy — as they and it display the contrast between truth and error. (4) For the marvelous power of choice — oh, how awesome it is. (5) For the living, real Holy Spirit. (6) That what we have of material means is indeed ours and at our disposal. (7) That you are right this moment listening and seeing and knowing — in all I do you *are* present.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

What meditation shall we have on this meaningful text? How to distinguish the thoughts of God from the thoughts of Satan. (1) When *anything* we think is contrary to the Bible it is from the evil one. (2) When a thought is selfish — when a thought is prideful — when a thought exalts me and mine — it is from beneath. (3) When we must conceal and hide and become devious it is of Satan. (4) When we hesitate to do the obvious right and good thing to meet a human need we could be listening to the devil. (5) When the praise comes to us and not to God Satan is behind it.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

It is so easy to pretend — give me the courage to be candid. (1) Give me a godly fear that leads to repentance. (2) Guard me from the love of money. (3) Show me over again that no one deceives the Holy Spirit. (4) Help me to include you as a silent listener in all my conversation. (5) Open my heart to the real world of the Spirit. (6) I am glad I want to tell the truth — increase my desire. (7) May I have a clear, clean conscience if this is my last day.

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

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

May I hear what the Spirit through his Word is saying to me: (1) “Your appointment with death has already been made.” (2) “There is another very real world

right on the other side of your last heartbeat.” (3) “Try yourself, not the Holy Spirit.”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Nauru* — Points for prayer: (1) *The wealth of Nauruans* contrasts markedly with the relative poverty of surrounding island states. Materialism has sapped the people of spiritual concern. Church life is at a low ebb. There are few evangelical believers. (2) *The immigrant phosphate workers* — Chinese, Tuvalu and Kiribati islanders — need to hear the gospel, for few of them know the Lord.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing,  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing cease them from distressing,  
Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Tuesday—

*To bow before One, even yourself and know that Jesus was the express image of your person moves me to worship like no other thing.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Christ-like:* How attractive is this quality! What great assurance — what personalness — what hope. All that attracts me or “all men” to my Lord, attracts to you. Wonder of all wonders! God became man! To praise you is a joy and delight since you are just like the one who is all in all to me!

*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

Christ-like to me! I cannot — or do not — separate these qualities. Oh, dear God! You are full of wisdom — love — tenderness — peace — purpose — all because you are just like Jesus! Just like my dear, wonderful Savior! Praise your eternal self!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

How unworthy I am to be your son, but since I have nothing to hide, nothing to gain but cleanness — forgive. If you only forgave on the basis of performance there would be little hope for anyone. Bless your name, you forgive, cleanse and forget — just because we need it!

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

O Master, let me walk with Thee  
In lowly paths of service free;  
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear  
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Teach me Thy patience: still with Thee  
In closer, dearer company,  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
In trust that triumphs over wrong.  
In hope that sends a shining ray  
Far down the future's broadening way,  
In peace that only Thou canst give,  
With Thee, O Master, let me live.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>5</sup>When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. <sup>6</sup>Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. <sup>7</sup>About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup>Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?” “Yes,” she said, “that is the price.”

<sup>9</sup>Peter said to her, “How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.”

<sup>10</sup>At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. And the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.  
—Acts 5:5-10, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How glad I am that our lying is not so punished today! May great awe and reverence grip me and hold me as I stand in that crowd and look for a long time at what happened that day in Jerusalem. You have given such graphic details of this incident that I'm sure we are to lay it to heart. I feel like Sapphira — i.e., I really do not know what happened — I can read it and see it, but the reality occurred in the spirit world.

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

**READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF**

What do Ananias and Sapphira know now? They have been in the world of the unseen for almost two thousand years — in torment and anguish and remorse! Oh, oh, terrible, terrible thought! and yet according to Luke 16:19-31 it is true! My Lord, my Lord, keep me clean and ready, but full of joy and peace. Dear Lord, help me, help me to guard my lips — may they only speak what is true and faithful to you. Dear God, you need no test to prove your faithfulness to 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 for: (1) Peter's holy courage and wisdom — really from you — but not without Peter's willingness. (2) The group effort in worship and learning — the pallbearers probably never forgot! (3) The clear record to produce wonder and belief in my heart. (4) Peter's words to Sapphira — the last words she ever heard. (5) The example of the seriousness of lying. (6) Your personal interest in truth. (7) The fact that I can die to sin not in it.

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

**READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION**

*"How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord?"* Of course we would never do such a thing — or would we? Every time we question one word of the Spirit's word, i.e. the Bible, we are tempted in this same area. If we do not decide this side of death that God has said what he meant and meant what he said we will find it out too late. Every time we decide that God has not heard our prayers we tread dangerously in the same area. How much better to trust him completely.

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

**READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS**

I want to ask as you would ask: (1) May I be ready for your great day of equity? (2) How can great fear seize the church today? (3) Am I right in believing only the apostles performed miraculous signs up till this time? (4) Dear Lord, I want to know the whole and true purpose of healings. (5) Why not be healed by someone else but Peter? (6) How could "all" be healed? (7) In what way were people "tormented" by demons?

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

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

Speak to me from these few verses: (1) "If men will not believe the apostles and prophets, there is no other message." (2) "Discipline can help the church."

(3) "It is possible to have the same salvation today they had in Jerusalem."

**INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD**

*Nepal* — Point for prayer: *Praise for the growth of the Church in Nepal.* For years witness among Nepalis was only possible in North India, but in 1951 the land opened a little for the gospel. In 1960 there were about 25 baptized believers; in 1985 this has grown to around 25,000. Most of the growth is in the last 10 years. In some places whole villages have come to Christ, in others whole families. There are nearly 400 larger or smaller worshipping groups scattered across the country and in all of the major ethnic groups. Most are linked to the *Nepal Christian Fellowship*, an umbrella fellowship for a wide variety of groups.

**SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD**

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!

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Wednesday—

*All I have and am belongs to you — you have just let me use what I call mine. I want to learn more about this quality in worship.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Owner:* You are the original owner of all that is or ever will be! You own everything because you created it, and in man's case you bought him — all twice belong to you. How I enjoy talking to such a Prominent Person! To think you want me to commune with you!

*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

Naught have I gotten but what I received — grace has bestowed it since I believed! Blessed be your eternal power — wisdom — knowledge — purpose — and to know I *belong to you!* This is a most comforting thought. Dear God, help me to let you manage your property.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

I guess all sin is but a basic denial of the right of ownership — or at least an ignoring of it. Dear God, I *know* you can do so much better than I can, but I am just unwilling to let you have your way. Forgive me! Help me! Purify me, clear my record!

*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

Open my eyes, that I may see  
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
That shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now, I wait for Thee,

Ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

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

### HIS WORD

Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

<sup>11</sup>Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

<sup>12</sup>The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>13</sup>No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. <sup>14</sup>Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. <sup>15</sup>As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. <sup>16</sup>Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. —Acts 5:10b-16, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How exciting and full of life are these words. How amazed and awe struck are the people of the city of Jerusalem. How I want to be "seized" by joy and fear — what a procession of healing is taking place! What wonderful respect and high regard is accorded the believers. How rapidly did the body of your dear Son grow! The little phrase "they were healed every one" or "all of them were healed" strikes me. How good that you helped in such a marvelous manner!

*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 just as reverent and full of wonder as those in the city on that day — both types of fear are

seen here — reverent and judgmental. I am glad to say I come as a penitent child. How I long for the same kind of turning to the Lord as witnessed in Jerusalem. It does seem significant that miracles were done “by the hands of the apostles” — but the purpose was accomplished.

*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, dear Lord: (1) For power and direction you give to all of life. (2) That you are interested in my body as well as my heart. (3) For the respect you can develop in the hearts of unbelievers for the good news. (4) That multitudes today can be and should be “added to the Lord.” (5) That we together make up “the Lord” (his body) on this earth. (6) For the deep respect people have for men who love you. (7) That evil spirits are subject to you.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Gather around his word and let him speak: (1) Dear Lord, we do not have a greater need than unity for today — one heart and one soul and one in material needs to help others — one in belief. (2) Needs can be met in any group anywhere — this is a startling statement, but it is true. (3) Joseph, a man of means, gave his means to you. (4) That I am not the body, but only a temporary resident — my house is not here and surely not in torment! (5) That there are laws by which we can live. (6) That such action happens today only spiritually and not physically.

What meditation will we do on this text? “The feet of the young men are at the door.” It may be several years from now — it may be today — but someone will come and carry out your body and mine. May I believe it as deeply and personally as did Sapphira! It is appointed unto me — the appointment has already been made — I simply do not know the date — help me to so live this day as if the hour was in it for my departure — indeed I have a strong desire to depart this body and be at home with the Lord, which will be very far better!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

We are indeed moved to prayer requests in the face of this text: (1) Give me such young men who will serve in difficult situations. (2) Help me to remember that all that is buried is the body. (3) Lead our local body of believers into “great fear” (reverence). (4) May we so live and work that unbelievers will respect us. (5) Stop people from joining a religious club. (6) Dear Lord, add to our number through our witness for you. (7) May all our preachers be as humble as Peter.

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

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

Dear Lord, if ever our ears were open it is now — speak to us through these verses: (1) “I want your whole attention all the time.” (2) “I can — and do — work through all types of circumstances.” (3) “There is no limit to what I can do when men love me and worship me.”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Nepal* — Points for prayer: (1) *The political situation is tense and potentially explosive.* Pray for peace and enough freedom for the gospel to allow the whole land to be evangelized as soon as possible. (2) *Persecution has been intense at times.* In 1985 there were 50 Christians awaiting trial, and some were in prison for infringing the anti-conversion laws. Those who profess Christ are liable to one year in prison, and those who baptize them six years. Some Christians have recanted under pressure; many others have become more fervent and bold. Pray for valiant believers who risk all for the sake of the gospel as itinerant preachers, teachers and literature evangelists. Pray also for those who are suffering for their faith.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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.



# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Thursday—

*To be totally satisfied — or to be filled with all of your fullness is one rare opportunity. It is mine just now!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Filler:* He is the fullness of all things and he himself fills all things — for of his fullness we have all received — grace for grace — or grace upon grace. How I praise you, dear Lord, that this word so adequately describes you. In you were all filled and you are our fullness!

*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

Filler for me! I truly, truly find my fullness in him! He is before all things and in him all things hold together — in him is the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form. How beautiful he is to me — praise his glorious person!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

To confess to such a one is no chore — nor need I hesitate — but opening my heart — all my mind — my total will, the depth of my affection, I give myself to you dear, wonderful Savior! Clean me up, wash me and I shall be whole!

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Nearer, still nearer, close to Thy heart,  
 Draw me, my Savior, so precious Thou art;  
 Fold me, O fold me close to Thy breast,  
 Shelter me safe in that "Haven of Rest,"  
 Shelter me safe in that "Haven of Rest."  
 Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring,

Naught as an offering to Jesus my King;  
 Only my sinful, now contrite heart,  
 Grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart,  
 Grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>17</sup>Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. <sup>18</sup>They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors to the jail and brought them out. <sup>20</sup>Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of the new life." <sup>21</sup>At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told. —Acts 5:17-21a, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How gladly I take up your word to tell you what it means to me and how much I appreciate what you have said and are saying to me. The opposition to your Son's body is most serious — all twelve apostles in prison — what beauty and surprise in the sudden appearance of the angel! Oh, dear Father, how I do want to tell the people of this town "the full message of this new life." How I admire and respect those men who laid their lives on the line for you.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Let's not be surprised today if jealousy becomes a large part of the opposition we face. Greed and covetousness and jealousy all form a real part of the opposition to your cause today. Wonder — praise — adoration for the ministry of your angels. I know they have not died since that day when one of them appeared in the prison cell in Jerusalem. The "full message" of the new life and hope in our Lord is so much needed today.

### READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you; (1) For disbelievers who can be answered — and some become believers. (2) That no prison can hold the light and love of our Lord. (3) For the new daybreak of every day — a prototype of the eternal daybreak of heaven. (4) That we can teach the people the same wonderful message. (5) For a place, oh, so many places for teaching people today. We need, dear God, we *need* to be reminded that the people taught were interested unbelievers.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“An angel (messenger) of the Lord” — (1) Night has no hindrance for him — the angels that minister to me can do it at night as well as the bright daytime — praise and thanksgiving — this is a real assurance to me. (2) He can open doors shut and barred by man — no physical, mental or psychological door can stand in his way. If he wants to open the doors, they will be opened! (3) We can stand in the very place where we were defeated and win! (4) How good — so good — to begin each day with you. Today I can do the same thing they did: teach. Oh, that I could teach unbelievers as well as believers!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What requests come from this jail experience of the apostles? (1) Forgive me, Lord, for complaining when I have freedom. (2) May I check my motives today — am I jealous? (3) How can I be more and more aware of the presence of angels? (4) Open my heart to catch the full meaning of the expression: “new life.” (5) Can I ever catch the full impact of meeting in Herod’s temple? I want to try. (6) Give me wisdom to teach what the apostles taught. (7) I am glad to use daybreak each day to worship you — help me to guard it for you.

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

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

Here is what you say to me through your word: (1) “Do not expect present-day Sadducees to change.” (2) “Angels are still opening prison doors.” (3) “Go and stand in my presence and teach the people all the words of this new life.”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Netherlands* — Points for prayer: (1) *Netherlands* has a great history of struggle for religious liberty, and of revival, ministry to refugees and suffering for the Word of God. The younger generation is generally free-thinking, churchless, and more concerned with horizontal than vertical issues. The land has gained a reputation for drugs and loose living. Pray for

revival. Praise God for a growing awareness for church renewal. (2) *The Catholic Church* has a strong liberal element that has had worldwide influence, and which has caused great strain on relationships with the Pope. Numerical decline has accelerated over the past 10 years. Pray that the independence and spirit of enquiry among the Dutch may be harnessed by the Holy Spirit in a return to vital biblical Christianity for the blessing of the world.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I have a song I love to sing,  
 Since I have been redeemed,  
 Of my Redeemer, Savior, King,  
 Since I have been redeemed,  
 Since I have been redeemed,  
 Since I have been redeemed,  
 I will glory in His name;  
 Since I have been redeemed,  
 I will glory in my Savior’s name.

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Friday—

*When our wants are your desires for us we are both satisfied. This I want to happen as I worship you!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Satisfying:* How could I more adequately describe your total character? The completion of all the material universe — the fulfillment of every need is due to your creative power. All of life is a result of your meeting our needs. You satisfy in the realm of the spirit — the heart — the emotions — the body. Praise to you, you do indeed, in every way, for everything — satisfy!

*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

To me you are total satisfaction. I can not even imagine a need you could not meet! For my purpose — hope — peace — strength — for my home — wife — children — you are the source for satisfaction in every situation. Wholeness is the result of trusting you to satisfy! How I want to *increase* my trust. A deep awareness that all things fit together is my response to your satisfying nature. Praise your name.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Could I be guilty of lying? This is no question — I am guilty of lying — to misrepresent the facts is a lie! No one wants to admit to lying — but I do — I want to be clean, forgiven. Dear God, behind most (if not all) the lies I have told is pride — dear Lord, forgive me! Lift this burden from my heart. I confess other sins to you also — wash me and I shall be brighter 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

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
Much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Thy folds prepare:  
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>21</sup>At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin — the full assembly of the elders of Israel — and sent to jail for the apostles. <sup>22</sup>But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, <sup>23</sup>“We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” <sup>24</sup>On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this. <sup>25</sup>Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.” <sup>26</sup>At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them. — *Acts 5:21-26, NIV*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

That your leaders could be mistreated and thrown in jail is indeed an amazement! They were thrown in jail, but they were not kept there! How exciting it is to never know what you have ready next — different! We puzzle and wonder, but have no explanation ever for the most elementary actions of yourself! I want to remain full of wonder and expectant amazement.

*Please express your response to this text.*

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How I rejoice at the devotion of the twelve — at the troubled authorities — at the angel's service. Dear God, I want to believe that there is *no* circumstance of life out of which you cannot bring some good. I am confined and hindered so many times by Satan and circumstances. The purpose you have for me is to teach the lost. Dear God, help me to fulfill that purpose. I am today in my world — your "sent one."

*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

There is much here for which we can thank you: (1) For the accurate record preserved through centuries and centuries of time. (2) For the capacity and opportunity of visualizing these events in a most believable manner. (3) For freedom as compared with confinement — to be in jail is a miserable experience — how to appreciate fully what it means to come and go at choice. (4) You can deliver from any jail — indeed — our spirits cannot be bound. (5) The gospel would and does meet the needs of the average man.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*The prison they found empty!* What Satan thought would be a place or a way to confine and inhibit only proved to be an open door to new freedom. Such can be and is true of: (1) A financial crisis — God either delivers us out of it by supplying the means or through teaching us lessons we could not learn in any other way. (2) Lingering sickness — some confined people are the freest spirits we have on this earth — we are *not* the body — I repeat for clarity and emphasis, we are *not* the body. (3) Those in jail today — I have read their words of joy and praise and liberty of the human spirit — through the blessed Holy Spirit.

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

My prayer requests are surely provided by your word: (1) Help me to pray for the heads of religious bodies today. (2) I now ask your grace to truly love those who hate me. (3) Thank you for the surprises you hand out so often. (4) Opposition is nothing when your power is present — I claim this promise. (5) The apostles did not run from opposition. Teach me! (6) May I remember that people usually know more than we think they do. (7) May I remember what a powerful force fear is.

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

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

Speak Lord, thy servant heareth: (1) "Men's opposition is an opportunity for my power." (2) "I teach

better when I have men's attention." (3) "Support can come from the strangest places."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Netherlands Antilles* — Points for prayer: (1) *Openness to the gospel has not resulted in a great harvest.* Moral laxity, superstition and the growing marginal sects show how few understand the message of salvation. (2) *Evangelical witness has progressed slowly.* A vital, growing church in every island is a target for prayer. *The Evangelical Alliance Mission* has concentrated on evangelism and church planting among the Papiamento-speaking majority, and the 11 daughter churches are a large part of the evangelical witness. There are estimated to be 20 evangelical congregations on Aruba, but interdenominational rivalry is a major blot on the testimony of the Church. (3) *The whole Bible in Papiamento* has been translated by TEAM and the Bible Society. Little Christian literature is available in this language.

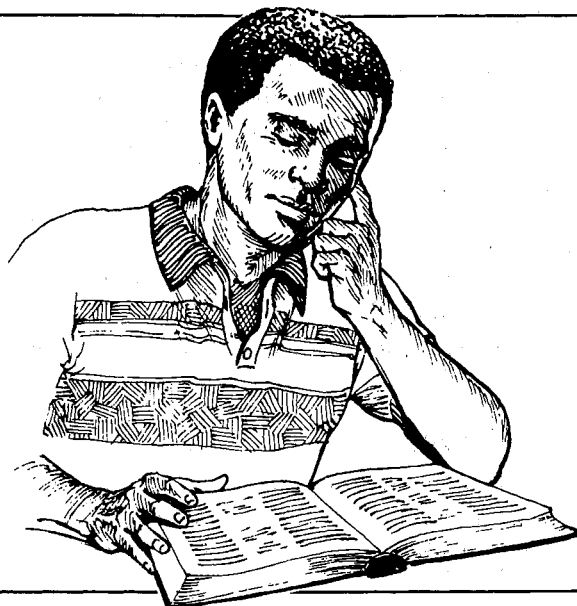
### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!  
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Saturday—

*I do not bow before the Bible — but I do bow before the author of it. Write its words upon my heart!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*Writer-Author:* How glad I am you are just what this name indicates — the author and writer (with 40 or more penmen) of the Bible, your word, your book! What an awesome thought! We have in our hands the book of which the great eternal God is the writer-author.

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Writer-Author — to me it means I should learn — read and reread every word you have written — nothing, utterly nothing is more important than the Bible — it becomes *the* book for my understanding — my mind should be occupied with nothing else. Whenever I have a moment I need to be meditating upon it. I need to take many moments and give them gladly to a meditative reading of what the Eternal Creator has written!

*How do you personally relate to the writership-authorship of God, and God who is writer-author? Speak it out or write it out.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Confession must include the sad sinful fact that I have neglected to study his word to the extent I should. Never, never could I read or learn enough from your book. Stealing could be taking that which rightfully belongs to God and selfishly using it for myself — such as time with his word, or honor and praise from him to me! God forgive. Dear God, look into my deepest consciousness and cleanse me!

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

There's a stranger at the door,  
Let Him in;  
He has been there oft before,

Let Him in;  
Let Him in, ere He is gone,  
Let Him in, the Holy One,  
Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,  
Let Him in.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>27</sup>Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. <sup>28</sup>“We gave you strict orders, not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood.”

<sup>29</sup>Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men! <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead — whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. <sup>32</sup>We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

<sup>33</sup>When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. <sup>34</sup>But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. <sup>35</sup>Then he addressed them: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. <sup>36</sup>Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. <sup>37</sup>After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. <sup>38</sup>Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail, <sup>39</sup>But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.” —Acts 5:27-39, NIV

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How exciting to identify with you in what you are saying in this text. How almost humorous must be the serious way men assume authority and position. How good it must have been — yea, still is, to see the city of Jerusalem filled with the teaching of the resurrection and salvation! How good to hear Peter do what he was not at all willing or even able to do a few days before — the resurrection of your Son, the reality of his power over *all* opposition, human or spiritual, gave Peter such courage. What was true of Peter was true of them all!

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Has my Lord asked me (and others) to fill Joplin with the same message? Indeed he has! Are you going to do it? Yes, yes, to call on every home — to reach by word of mouth — in person — one on one — everyone. In the whole area there are 20,000 houses. A witnessing survey could take about 40 days. Dear God, we *will* do it. Nothing prevents us from calling *right now* on those I see every 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

Thank you for: (1) The Prince and Savior at God's right hand. (2) The forgiveness of sins. (3) God induced repentance. (4) The Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (5) The ignorance of sinful men — as in Gamaliel's case it works to the advantage of the cause. (6) The fact that the wrath of man has never, never worked the righteousness of God. (7) The cause of my Lord that cannot and will not be defeated.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*Fighting against God!* How can we do this today? How can I possibly do it and not even know it? (1) To oppose in any way any spread of the word of God (if we waited until all Bible publishers or evangelists agreed with us we would have a long wait). (2) To resist anyone who preaches repentance and the forgiveness of sins through our blessed Lord! (3) Acting hastily in any circumstance — especially when related to the denial of the spread of the good news.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I want to ask in the light of your word: (1) Give me wisdom to know the difference between what you want and what I want. (2) Dear Lord, I am asking for grace to obey you in all things. (3) I do want to speak your word even if men do not want to hear — help me! (4) I accept my Prince and Savior — increase my

willingness. (5) I do want to be able to identify false prophets — help me. (6) Are there wise men like Gamaliel today? Who? (7) Was Gamaliel's advice good? Does it apply today?

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

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

Speak to me from this text: (1) "You *must* obey me first." (2) "There is no forgiveness without repentance." (3) "Be careful you do not fight against me."

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*New Caledonia (Overseas Territory of France) —* Points for prayer: (1) *The political tensions* inevitably affect spiritual life and church growth. Pray for a wise solution to the territory's political turmoil; one that will also further the evangelization of this land with relatively few evangelical believers. Drunkenness, immorality and materialism are especially common among young people. (2) *The Protestant churches* though often liberal in theology, have a higher proportion of evangelicals than those in France. Pray for the witness of believers in difficult times — most villages and towns have no evangelical group.

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All glory, laud and honor  
To Thee, Redeemer, King,  
To Whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring!  
The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before Thee went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems  
Before Thee we present.