

# WEEK TWO

## —Monday—

*If all the earth has reason to shout for joy why are we downcast, oh, my brothers and sisters?*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his (and not we ourselves); we are his people, the sheep of his pasture”* (Psa. 100:1-3). Since all the earth has benefited from his creative hand it is only right that all the earth should with loud praise shout for joy. How totally removed is this attitude from what we hear from the peoples of this earth! We serve a happy God — we worship a cheerful Lord. Gladness and delight are altogether fitting expressions of our service. In all our service to him there should be an optimism and gladness.

*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

It is a privilege to enter the portals of praise through the words of this Psalm. How songs and hymns of joy lift our hearts. You are saying here that considering what you have done for us and your own nature such songs are very appropriate! Praise your name! We are neither divine nor the source of creation. What does this do with the assertion of being a “self-made man”? This is blasphemy of the very worst kind. Natural selection and creation have utterly nothing in common. I am glad to be the result of your thought and love. I am delighted to own you as my King and Father. I want to gather around your feet as one sheep among the flock to look up to you for direction and sustenance.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

There have been many times when the shouts heard from my lips were not those of joy. How loudly do we sometimes complain. What a terrible sin! At least

in this land of plenty it is — forgive me. I have been glad many times — but there are too many times when I acted as my own god and forgot your love. How often I have (sometimes secretly) congratulated myself on some accomplishment of mine. What a serious sin this is! I am trying to learn — teach me! Forgive me. One day you will return to claim your property. What a price you paid for us! We are yours. Sheep are stupid — so am I if I am not ready to be led and fed of yourself. Help me.

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>18</sup>“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup>If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. <sup>20</sup>Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. <sup>21</sup>They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. <sup>22</sup>If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. <sup>23</sup>He who hates me hates my Father as well.” —John 15:18-23, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Jesus in this section wants to relate his disciples to the world in which they lived. There are three basic relationships in this whole chapter: (1) to our Lord, 1-11;

(2) to each other, 12-17; (3) to the world, 18-27. How shall we live before "this world"? We are thinking of all persons and powers contrary to our Lord's teaching. They will not be neutral! The world will communicate animosity! If such has not happened to us we might have serious cause to wonder if it is because we belong to the world! There is a long list of references to show the examples of hatred to our Lord, i.e. in the gospels. There is an equally long list in Acts to show the fulfillment of his promise in the lives of his servants.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I really do become concerned that it is quite possible that little by little we have adopted the attitude of the world in which we live. Instead of being taken out of the world it has become a part of us. "Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (II Tim. 3:12). Has our world changed so much since Paul's words to Timothy that we now live in a Christian environment? We do not believe it has. Have we withdrawn into our own society so we have no contact with the world? Leaven cannot work unless it is in the lump. Do the people of America have excuse for their sin? *The ONE factor to determine our standing is teaching and preaching the word — we can have neither persecution nor converts without it!*

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

### READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for this revelation that dislike and hatred from some people is not a strange thing. (2) Thank you that I have the record to read of just how hatred was expressed toward our Lord. (3) Thank you that you have called me both a friend and a servant — I want to be both! (4) Thank you that teaching must be obeyed to be effective — may I be my own best convert to your teaching. (5) Thank you for the remarkable statement that Jesus spoke to the Jews through their prophets — revelation equals responsibility. (6) Thank you for the fact that some men will believe and some men disbelieve — I need not be surprised when it happens now.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"He who hates me hates my Father as well." "Hatred and love" — not anything in between — was the definition of my Lord's relationship with me and my relationship with him. The Pharisees thought they could claim God for their Father and yet consider Jesus as demon-possessed. This was impossible! These words are a tacit admission of our Lord's equality with the Father. There is no way you can separate the Father and the Son — if you love one you love the other, if you hate one you hate the other. There is no

way we can reduce Jesus to a lower position than incarnate deity!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In our Lord's use of his fan in separating the wheat from the chaff I want him to fan my own heart: (1) What is our Lord's definition of "the world" — I want to learn more and more of what he meant. (2) In just what way or manner has my Lord "chosen me" out of the world? Open my understanding. (3) Persecution comes because of a rejection of your authority as seen in my life — why are people so neutral with me? (4) In all places in the world surely men in America have had opportunity to hear your Son — what shall I tell them about such an opportunity? (5) What excuses do men use today for their sin? Give me your wisdom to see through them.

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

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

Jesus was speaking these words just a few hours before his suffering and death — how important it was to hear them! (1) "Rejection by men is a compliment — i.e. when they also reject me." (2) "In no relationship in this world is my servant greater than his Master." (3) "There will be some who will obey your word."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*East Germany* — Points for prayer: (1) *Since 1978 there has been much more freedom for Christians than in any other East European state. However, ceaseless and often subtle anti-religious propaganda has had an impact, and there has been a steady decline in membership of nearly all churches.* (2) *East Germany is the only "Protestant" country in Eastern Europe.* Praise the Lord that the state authorities have been forced to come to terms with the strength of the Protestant presence — even to the extent of publicly celebrating the 500-year commemoration of the birth of Luther! Yet the traumatic effects of the Church coming to terms with the new political realities have also brought a cleansing and healthy re-examination of structures. Pray for revival.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I stand amazed in the presence  
Of Jesus the Nazarene,  
And wonder how He could love me,  
A sinner, condemned, unclean.  
How marvelous! how wonderful!  
And my song shall ever be:  
How marvelous! how wonderful  
Is my Savior's love for me!

# WEEK TWO

## —Tuesday—

*You are essential goodness —  
everlasting faithfulness — total love.  
How easy it is to worship you!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations”* (Psa. 100:5). The words of Charles Spurgeon are so much like and yet better than what I want to say that I will share them with our readers: *“‘For the Lord is good.’* This sums up his character and contains a mass of reasons for praise. He is good, gracious, kind, bountiful, loving: yea God is love. He who does not praise the good is not good himself. The kind of praise inculcated in this Psalm, i.e. that of joy and gladness, is most fitly urged upon us by an argument from the goodness of God. *‘His love endures forever.’* . . . towards his own people love is still more conspicuously displayed; it has been theirs from all eternity, and shall be theirs world without end.” (*The Treasury of David*, Vol. IV, p. 399)

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I need to express my praise as these qualities of yourself relate particularly to me. In only a few words the psalmist has said of yourself: (1) *You are good;* (2) *you are everlasting love;* (3) *you are total faithfulness through all generations.* Just here I want to expand on your faithfulness. In another work I was delighted to spend several months separating from your word one thousand promises you made and kept. I have, then, good reason to agree that down through five millenia and for innumerable generations you have been faithful. Should you not send your Son back for another five thousand years there will not be one generation who could cast one doubt upon one word of your covenant with us. Praise your name!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

In introspection of my heart there is almost a complete antithesis: (1) I am not *good* — to say I am is to

die and deceive myself. (2) My love endures about as long as it does not make me uncomfortable in some area of human relationship. Dear Lord, you know — forgive me and perfect what you have begun in me. (3) My faithfulness in some areas of life is about like my love — when I am not called upon to discipline myself I can be faithful — what a contradiction of terms — dear Lord, forgive! Most of us have at least two generations to whom we can show our faith by our works. Dear Lord, I purpose to do so! Help me.

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father!  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not:  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.  
Great is Thy faithfulness,  
Great is Thy faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

### HIS WORD

<sup>24</sup>“If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup>But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’ <sup>26</sup>“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me; <sup>27</sup>but you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.” —John 15:24-27, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Why would anyone hate our Lord because of his miracles? “The world” was most clearly seen in the lives of the Jewish nation — and in particular the religious leaders who refused to accept the obvious

evidence of his deity in his "mighty works." It has always moved me to read that people became violent or excited when they met and knew our Lord. He upset folk! They hated him or they loved him. The hatred toward our Lord was a fulfillment of prophecy. Since the Jews knew the context of Psalm 35:19 and 69:4 they would easily be able to see how baseless was their hatred and rejection.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

The book of Acts is an historical fulfillment of the promises made in these verses. Both as related to the persecution and the coming "Counselor." The Holy Spirit spoke through the apostles and others as recorded in Luke's second treatise. He came to operate through the words of those men to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:7,8). It is such a comfort to know that the Holy Spirit has not left; he is here yet to do his work of conviction as we preach his word to the world. The Holy Spirit's work was to return to the minds of the apostles all that Jesus had taught them — even from the beginning of their work with him.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the tremendous evidential nature of the miracles of my Lord. (2) Thank you for this new definition of sin: *rejecting the evidence of truth*. (3) Thank you that we have the priceless privilege of seeing again and again through the four gospels the miracles of our Lord that we might believe. (4) Thank you that there never will be a reason why we should do anything but love him with all our hearts. (5) Thank you for the wonderful present Counselor who lives in our hearts. (6) Thank you for the meaning of every name given to the Holy Spirit — in particular, "the Spirit of truth." (7) Thank you for the wonder of being able to testify on behalf of my Lord.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... but you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning." Many of us have been with Jesus much longer than the three and a half years the apostles were with him. If this was a good reason for testifying then we are without excuse for not doing so. Of course these twelve men were to have the incredible help of the Holy Spirit in returning to their minds all our Lord had taught them. We have the Holy Spirit resident in our bodies as his temple and all the words necessary to furnish us unto every good work. Why then do so many of us fail to testify of him as seen in the Acts account. The answer is obvious: we do not have a close enough relationship with him.

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I am truly moved to prayer in what I have just expressed in meditation before you: (1) Deliver me from the greatest sin: disbelief! (2) Clear my mind in your Son's definition of hatred, i.e., as related to belief. (3) Show me each of your miracles all over again. (4) May I label as from the devil all thought of resistance of your will in my life. (5) Help me to accumulate reason after reason for believing. (6) Thank you for the blessed "Counselor" who was sent by yourself and your Son — I am glad to read his testimony — increase my appetite.

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

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

Speak to me in the hushed tones of your last hours through these words: (1) "I am still doing among men what no one else could ever do." (2) "Satan's biggest business is doubt." (3) "My word is the light to dispel the darkness of doubt."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*East Germany* — Points for prayer: (1) *Pastors are subjected to many pressures by the state*. Compromise is easy, but many have come to a personal commitment to the Lord. Many younger pastors seek to go to West Germany, and the government encourages the exodus. Pray for the pastors who remain that they may be stable and faithful to the Lord and their flocks. (2) *The Church has gained the legal right to exist, evangelize and administer its wide range of institutions after years of intense pressures*. Pray that this hard-won battle may not be lost again through compromise with the state.

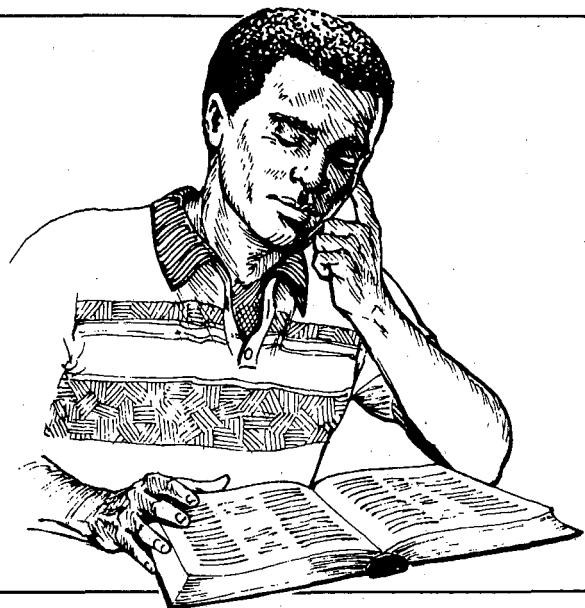
### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I will sing of my Redeemer  
And His wondrous love to me;  
On the cruel cross He suffered  
From the curse to set me free.  
Sing, O sing of my Redeemer,  
With His blood He purchased me;  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
Paid the debt and made me free.

# WEEK TWO

## —Wednesday—

*It is mind-expanding to lift up qualities of your hatred of sin and worship your whole Person!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Men of perverse heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with evil. Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure”* (Psa. 101:4,5). This is the resolute Psalm of David as he pledges himself to you, perhaps in the beginning of his reign. No wonder he is called “a man after your own heart.” The qualities David looked for in those who would help him in his court are those found in yourself. We shall look at the antitheses of the negative qualities here and come up with those qualities in yourself you want to see in us — and for which we can truly lift our hearts in praise.

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

(1) *Sincerity and truth* are the opposites of deceit and perverseness. (2) *Goodness and light* are the opposites of greed and evil. (3) *Honest open praise* of our neighbor (or all those who deserve it) is the opposite of slandering in secret. (4) *Humble demonstration* of your goodness and mercy is the other side of haughtiness and pride. In all these qualities I see lived out in your Son that I know also are in you I praise and adore you. Never can you vary from meaning all you say and saying all you mean. Your intervention in my life is always and ever an expression of your goodness to me and an attempt to open my eyes to your light. You have been so generous in your praise of our value to you — can we do less for our neighbors? Dear Lord, you do humble me by your mercy toward me!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Lord I am not worthy to serve in your court. As King David shut out those who are here described so must I confess to the following sins: (1) I have been

perverse toward those who love me — and therefore to yourself. (2) I have allowed pride to cloud the truth and left less or more than the truth in the minds of those who heard me — but you heard it first. (3) I have repeated bad news about not only my neighbors but my brothers and sisters in your family. (4) I have looked down upon those caught in some sin of which I am not guilty. In all these areas and others like them I am blood guilty. Forgive, forgive me! I am glad all confessed sin is in the past and with you is forgotten.

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;  
I want Thee forever to live in my soul.  
Break down every idol, cast out every foe—  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow—  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

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

### HIS WORD

**16** “All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. <sup>2</sup>They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think that he is offering a service to God. <sup>3</sup>They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. <sup>4</sup>I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you. <sup>5</sup>“Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup>Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief.” —John 16:1-6, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The tenor of our Lord’s thought changes in this chapter from *admonition* as in chapter fifteen to *prediction*. He wants to prepare his disciples for what

will happen after he leaves. Persecution of social and religious rejection is just now appearing on the horizon. Jesus is specific: *“They will put you out of the synagogue.”* What happened to the man born blind (John 9:22,23) will happen to many of you. The words of Paul in Acts 26:9 immediately come to mind: *“I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth.”* He was convinced for religious reasons and felt he was indeed performing a service to you. How tenderly thoughtful was our Lord in these words of warning.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

By hearing and heeding your word we could be well prepared for not only every good work but forearmed to face opposition. It is a little hard for me to relate to the kind of excommunication here described when our lives have been surrounded by acceptance not rejection. My Lord was hurt because his followers were more concerned with what was going to happen to them than what he had said about himself. How typical this is of each of us. How is the body of Christ progressing should be our *first* concern and then what happens to us as individuals. As in our Lord's case the questions the apostles asked related to their own interests. Dear Lord, forgive our selfishness!

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

### READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that always and ever my Lord's interest was in the welfare of someone else — what an example! (2) Thank you the gospel related to social relationships — indeed all of life. (3) Thank you for the deep meaning in the word “know” as related to you and your Son. (4) Thank you your Son is now with us even to the end of this age. (5) Thank you for the tender feelings of my Lord — which could be hurt, even as our own. (6) Thank you that Jesus even now sees and reads the thoughts and intents of our hearts. (7) Thank you for my Lord's continual ministry of intercession for me at your right hand.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*“Because I said these things you are all filled with grief.”* Jesus was upset (is that the right word?) that the apostles were so preoccupied with what was going to happen to them that they forgot what he said would happen to himself. This surely is typical of our overriding attitude. But he will not criticize them for their lack of understanding. He was so in love with the desire to communicate the will of his Father and so in love with these men who would share this will with the world that all else became secondary — any personal affront was eclipsed in his love.

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these six verses there are requests that I can make my own: (1) Dear Lord, keep my heart in focus so my heart may not be led astray. (2) Somehow prepare my heart to receive whatever persecution you have for me. (3) Keep me aware of the ease and comfort of our life compared to the lives of these men. (4) Open my heart that I might pray with my Lord, “forgive them, they know not what they do.” (5) Thank you for your personal presence in the person of the Holy Spirit. (6) How I want the same overpowering interest in heaven that filled the life of my Lord.

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

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

Speak to me, Lord, thy servant heareth: (1) “You need never, never be led astray once you love me and my word.” (2) “I have said that persecution is a blessing — and I mean it.” (3) “Guard carefully what causes your grief or joy — in these your values of life are seen.”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*West Germany* — Points for prayer: (1) *Germany's spiritual restoration* — trust God for it! Humanism and destructive criticism of the Bible in the 19th century enfeebled the churches; compromise by many Christians during Hitler's Nazi tyranny and post-war paternalism and permissiveness has further eroded the witness of the Church in society. (2) *The spiritual poverty* is highlighted by massive defections from organized Christianity (withdrawals from Protestant churches average about 113 annually). The only major growth in church attendances is in national and foreign sects. Especially poor in evangelical witness is predominantly Protestant north Germany and Berlin, and the urban areas.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Take the name of Jesus with you,  
Child of sorrow and of woe.  
It will joy and comfort give you,  
Take it then where'er you go.  
Precious name, O how sweet!  
Hope of earth and joy of heaven,  
Precious name, O how sweet—  
Hope of earth and joy of heaven.

# WEEK TWO

## —Thursday—

*My confidence in you exceeds my understanding. How glad I am to trust your integrity!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry for help come to you. Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly”* (Psa. 102:1,2). In this expression of praise I want to lift up those attributes of yourself suggested in these verses: (1) Your ear is *always* and *ever* open to my prayer. How gloriously comforting this is to me. To hear with understanding is one thing — but to hear with sympathetic interest to help is quite something else! (2) An acknowledgement of your Lordship is essential to any prayer with meaning. (3) When I pray for help I pray to the One who knows the kind of help I need. I do not know — *you* do. (4) There have been many times when indifference and deafness seem to be your response to my prayers. Such has been my response to a spoiled child or when silence would say much more than words.

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

My distress is your distress — no hurt is mine that is not also shared by you. It is such a real comfort to know this and affirm it real often. I envision yourself like a very wise and kind physician leaning over my bed looking into my eyes and saying in tones so full of sympathy and understanding: “It is all right — I know, I understand — be not afraid.” The anxious call of the psalmist need not have been given — your ear is open — all my words are heard. As to whether there will be a quick answer is based on a one-sided argument. I have what seems to me an urgency — “answer me quickly.” Sometimes it is true and the answer comes — but full many a time it is only a stress which we need. It is better that we wait.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Surely there would be no problem in confessing our own failures to pray to you when we should or in call-

ing on you when such is but a cry of selfishness. Forgive me. I could help myself when too many times I have called on you. I am glad to say there have been very few times I felt removed from you — your face has not been hidden — I have not always read aright your expression but you have not been hidden. I take great comfort in a knowledge that you know my distress and are doing all possible to help me. Your ear is ever open — you are not distracted with others who clamor for your attention at the same time. Forgive me for doubting in any way your total interest!

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Earthly pleasures vainly call me;  
I would be like Jesus;  
Nothing worldly shall enthrall me;  
I would be like Jesus.  
Be like Jesus, this my song,  
In the home and in the throng;  
Be like Jesus, all day long!  
I would be like Jesus.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>5</sup>“Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup>Because I have said these things you are filled with grief. <sup>7</sup>But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment; <sup>9</sup>in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.” —John 16:5-11, NIV

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It was the very best thing that could ever happen to the disciples for our Lord to depart this planet since his going was contingent upon the coming of the "Counselor." Jesus in cooperation with the Father would and did send the Holy Spirit. His work was to "convict the world." Conviction in this instance is a matter of producing a sense of guilt. Their guilt would become apparent to them through him in three areas: (1) sin; (2) righteousness; (3) judgment. Then reasons are given for producing guilt in each of these areas: (1) Men who are not Christians when they hear the gospel as they did on Pentecost (which is a classic example of the fulfillment of this promise) are held guilty for not accepting Jesus as their Messiah.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I do want to enter personally into this transaction: (2) "In regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer." The connection between going to the Father and not seeing him any more is not immediately apparent. When he was alive on this earth men could see the perfect example of righteousness and he could and did forgive men and declare them righteous. But now he is in heaven and has left only one way to be righteous and that is to accept and obey the gospel as they did on Pentecost. "They then that received his word were baptized" and we might add "were declared righteous." (3) The prince of this world has been put on trial and has been found guilty and condemned. We can stand in our Lord at judgment under no condemnation — such is surely not true of this world!

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

## READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that the Great Counselor has come and I need not be afraid again. (2) Praise your name for the constant promise of the convicting work of the Holy Spirit every time the good news is preached. (3) Thank you for the promise you will help me to — nay you will convict the world of the awful sin of not accepting your Son for whom he truly was. (4) Thank you there is only *one way* to be righteous with you — through our living Lord as our advocate! (5) Thank you I need not fear the judgment — it is past and settled at Calvary! (6) Thank you that the prince of this world need have no hold on me at all — the Son has made me free indeed!

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*"... the prince of this world now stands condemned."* Praise the Lord! How above human words of praise is this glorious FACT! The prince of this world has already come before the bar of justice

and been condemned! There is NOTHING he can hold against me since my Lord has taken my place as "sin for me" — he his own self carried my sins in his own body on the tree. The Holy Spirit through his spokesmen can tell this to the whole world and offer freedom and release! What awful condemnation falls upon the man outside the acceptance of the glad tidings! Daily, hourly, even momentarily I want to claim my position of "no condemnation in Christ Jesus."

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these verses there are enough requests to keep us in prayer before you all day long: (1) Thank you for the beautiful check and balance in you going and the coming of the Other Comforter. (2) Thank you for *always* thinking of us and putting our needs "up front" in your concerns. (3) Thank you that there is *no doubt* whatsoever that the Holy Spirit will and does perform his office work. (4) Thank you that guilt can become a very spiritual helpful entity. (5) Thank you for the definition of the greatest of sin: "disbelief." (6) Thank you that only in your Son can I find righteousness — a righteousness which he pleads at your right hand right now for me! (7) Thank you I can spit in the face of Satan which even now I do!

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

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

Speak to me ever so personally in these verses: (1) "The Great Counselor has come — you will be the most stupid of all men not to listen to him." (2) "You are as righteous as my Son because you share his righteousness." (3) "You have utterly NOTHING to fear in the prince of this world — he has been and is condemned."

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Greece — Point for prayer: Europe's first country to be evangelized (Acts 16:10), yet today it has the smallest evangelical community in the continent after Albania and Malta. Some reckon that there are only 10,000 Greek Evangelicals. A large minority of Evangelicals are expatriates in US forces, etc. The Macedonian call is just as valid today.*

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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



# WEEK TWO

## —Friday—

*I worship you as my eternal King — my everlasting Father — praise is surely due your name.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“For my days vanish like smoke; . . . But you, O Lord, sit enthroned forever; . . . My heart is blighted and withered like grass; . . . your renown endures through all generations. . . . I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins. . . . For her (Zion’s) stones are dear to your servants, her very dust moves them to pity”* (Psa. 102:3a,12a,4a,12b,6,14). In these poignant contrasts we can see your eternal omnipotence and man’s frail temporariness: (1) I appear like smoke in the atmosphere — it is not noticed since it has been seen before so often — and all know that it will soon be gone — there might be an unusual formation or fragrance to this puff or that but it is only smoke and will soon be gone and forgotten to appear no more. (2) You in absolute contrast are permanent — enthroned — not floating but established — not moving but stationary — not a part of the environment but in control of it.

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

My literal heart — that blood pump in my chest has become blighted and withered and non-functional — as temporary as the grass of the field. What is true in the physical sense is also true in the emotional and mental sense — i.e. if I live long enough. What little contribution I have made to this generation is not known by most of it and soon forgotten by the rest. No matter — no matter — that is NOT the point or purpose of man’s existence. We are to bring glory to *your* name not ours. It is *your* renown for which I am exceedingly jealous! I do so want more than one generation to know of your greatness — I shall do all I can to make it so!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

In what way could I be compared to a “desert owl” — like “an owl among the ruins”? An owl is a nighttime bird — one who is carnivorous and lives by the

death of others. He is a lonely creature. Already I see myself in several qualities. Far too much of my life is lived in the shadow. It is in secret I plan and think and sometimes watch and scheme to take advantage of the opportune moment — and not always to your advantage. Dear Lord forgive! It is in building the eternal city of Zion from the living stones of men and women you have an interest. Yea, every particle of dust is of great concern to you. Dear Lord, I know you can transform this owl into a dove and make me a sacrifice upon the altar of your service. Do it Lord!

*What personal sins do you want to confess?*

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold,  
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,  
Points to the Refuge, the Mighty Cross.  
Grace, grace, God’s grace,  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God’s grace,  
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

### HIS WORD

<sup>12</sup>“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup>But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup>He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. <sup>15</sup>All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

<sup>16</sup>“In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

<sup>17</sup>Some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father?’” <sup>18</sup>They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.” — *John*

*16:12-18, NIV*

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Ah, what a promise beyond all promises! "He will guide you into all truth." All that Jesus did not have time or occasion to tell his apostles the Spirit of truth would accomplish. These men had assimilated about all they could of what Jesus had to teach them. Even the Holy Counselor would not give them all the information at one time — it would be as they needed it and were willing to assimilate it. The Holy Spirit was never, never obtrusive — i.e. calling attention to himself. There is utterly *no doubt* as to the *Person* here involved. Our Lord was not discussing some interpersonal force but a very real Divine intelligent Spirit Being. Even when the noun "Spirit" is in the neuter gender the pronoun "he" and "him" is used throughout. The Holy Spirit is to: *speaks; hears; tells; predicts; makes known.*

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Evidently the memories of these men was to be given a supernatural instantaneous recall via the Counselor. What a charming promise are these words: "In a little while you will see me no more (when he was taken and crucified and buried), and then after a little while (only a little less than three days) and you will see me again"! How sad to say the very thing they should have treasured the most they did not understand. I have no way of knowing how large or small was my Lord's disappointment in their lack of understanding. But being a poor disciple of the Teacher I can sense he must have marvelled at their lack of perception.

## READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the total truth into which these men were led by the Holy Spirit — we are even now reading such truth! (2) Thank you that we are given clear instruction NOT to bring honor to the Holy Spirit. (3) Thank you that we can bring glory or honor to your Son through what the Holy Spirit has given to us. (4) Thank you that we are jointly owned by yourself and your Son. (5) Thank you that we know what was involved in the wonderful promise of "a little while and you will see me." (6) Thank you that what was then promise when made by our Lord has now become history.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not understand what he is saying." There were two senses in which this little phrase could be taken. It could refer to "the little while" he would be in the grave and they would see him in his several post-resurrection appearances. Or it could refer to his coming in the Person of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. In a much more glorious way they would see him again. How sad that the apostles really never appreciated either appearance until after it happened. For all the

courage and bravado of each and any of these men they so little grasped all he meant when he spoke. Men have been struggling with some of his sayings ever since he left to go back to the Father — so perhaps we should be much more charitable in our criticisms.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN PETITIONS OF THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that the Holy Spirit did speak all our Lord did not have the occasion to speak while he was here. (2) It is wonderful to have in permanent form "all the truth" into which our Lord wanted to guide these men. (3) Thank you for fisherman John, one of those who were so led. (4) John could surely testify that the Counselor kept his promise of revealing "what is yet to come" as he gave him the revelation on the isle of Patmos — thank you. (5) Thank you for the wonderfully enlarged character study we have of our Lord through the work of the Holy Spirit — as found in the four gospels. (6) For my living Lord at your right hand I am eternally grateful!

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

Pause before him and his word and he will speak to your heart: (1) "To bring honor to anyone but myself is frustrating the work of the Holy Spirit." (2) "In a little while (as compared with eternity) you will see me." (3) "Focusing your heart's eyes on this world shuts out all view of myself."

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Greece — Point for prayer: The last decade has brought increasing liberty to preach the gospel, and a decline in the hold of traditional Orthodoxy over the people, but in 1984 several evangelical leaders were sentenced to a period of imprisonment for "proselytization."*

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

"Man of Sorrows!" what a name  
For the Son of God who came  
Ruined sinners to reclaim! . . .  
Bearing shame and scoffing rude,  
In my place condemned He stood,  
Sealed my pardon with His blood; . . .  
Guilty, vile and helpless we,  
Spotless Lamb of God was He;  
Full atonement! Can it be? . . .  
Lifted up was He to die,  
"It is finished," was His cry;  
Now in heaven exalted high, . . .  
When He comes, our glorious King,  
All His ransomed home to bring,  
Then anew this song we'll sing,  
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

# WEEK TWO

## —Saturday—

*I love you because you are always the same — full of love and concern for me. Not because I deserve you, but because I need you!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*‘My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass. . . . He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea. Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord: the Lord looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death’* (Psa. 102:11, 17-20). How easy it will be to praise. In praise to your person I stand out in stark contrast! All my days — however many — are like the few hours — the brief hours of the twilight before dark. In the early days of a week the grass is green and flourishing, but come by to look at the same field at the end of the week and it is withered and lifeless. But you are not so!

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

You respond to my despondent (selfish?) cry — you will not consider our well-deserved temporary withered condition. How appropriate it would be to look with disdain upon such calls for help. But this is not your nature. The psalmist is so full of praise for your mercy that he wants all generations — even those yet to be created — to know you look with pity upon us — you with sympathetic tenderness view the plight of man. You hear and heed the groans of the prisoners and release those who are condemned to death. There is indeed a prison far more confining than those made with iron bars. There is a death far more fearsome than that facing all who live upon this earth. Praise your name!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

How often have I been tempted to sink down into the morass or bog of the depressed whose days are like the evening shadow and life seems to be withering away like the spring grass. What is the matter with me? Is my memory so short? Are my eyes so dim? He

has responded so often to my prayer — he even now responds far beyond anything that I can ask or think! Blessed be his holy name — forgive my weak willingness to do your will and my natural (made so by practice) penchant to listen to the great liar! When our Lord opened the scroll handed to him in the synagogue in Nazareth he might have well turned to this beautiful psalm of captives released and the dead made alive! Praise your wonderful power!

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>19</sup>Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? <sup>20</sup>I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. <sup>21</sup>A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. <sup>22</sup>So it is with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. <sup>23</sup>In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>24</sup>Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” —John 16:19-24, NIV

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Jesus was always ahead of his disciples in their thinking and in their need for him. He was at the same time always challenging them to think for themselves. It would have been a simple thing to tell them plainly he was speaking of his death and resurrection. But then he would have thrust himself into a maelstrom of opposition from his enemies and impulsive actions on the part of some overzealous disciples. The world would soon rejoice that they had at last rid themselves of this disturber of the death-like stupor. It was Friday and the world rejoiced — but Sunday is coming! The resurrection is just on the other side of the cross! His resurrection, he said, was much like the birth of a new life into the world — a little pain and a great joy for the new life!

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

“You will see me again and no one will take your joy away from you!” Dear Lord — how I treasure these words to my heart! *No one — no man — no demon — not Satan himself* can take this joy from me! Praise your name! The disciples must have been as full of questions as we are. But in that period after his resurrection and after the Holy Spirit came they would intuitively have the answers. If they were confused on any point they but need lift their hearts by or in the powerful name of Jesus and receive an answer. Ah, how sad, sad to live in the shadows when we can live in the bright sunlight of confident knowledge of *his will!* “Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

## READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the very human quality of grief my Lord expected to find in his disciples even after he had told them of his coming resurrection. (2) Thank you for the definition of real “joy” — a joy eternal because the cause and purpose was everlasting. (3) Thank you for the wonderful new child born again from the dead who is with us in this world until this world shall be no more! (4) May I be as expectant as the disciples just after his resurrection — i.e. that they might see him any time — any place. (5) How I do “ask in your name” or “by your authority” for several requests I believe are right in the center of your will. (6) Thank you that you promised “joy” as a result of believing prayer.

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*“Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”* I do wonder what the first request was made by these disciples in the name of our Lord. It undoubtedly related to the events just after his resurrection and perhaps before his ascension. Jesus by this time had secured their acceptance of his Lordship. Jesus imagined his Father as a Great Grand Benefactor who was only more than anxious to give whatever it was that would bless and benefit the lives of his

followers. The completeness of joy would be in the fulfillment of the eternal purposes of their Messiah. The Holy Spirit would bring to their remembrance what he had taught them and they could ask and receive and their joy would be full. How utterly far removed all this is from what the world offers as joy today.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these blessed words are requests for my life today: (1) I am so glad that these words, “in a little while you will see me,” can so beautifully relate to all of us. (2) Thank you for the promise that one day all grief will be turned to joy. (3) How I long to understand more fully these powerful words of my Lord — there really is little more to life than knowing what he said and telling it to others. (4) No one — utterly *no one* can take our joy — your joy from us. Thank you! (5) I ask in your name that your word in the most effective means possible will spread to all men of all the world in their own language. (6) It has been no time at all since he left — there is no time in his dimension — so we all shall see him just as if John had just laid down his pen.

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

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

As he spoke from his heart in the last few hours of his life speak to me as if each of us had but a few hours to life: (1) “There is *nothing*, utterly *nothing* in life that has meaning apart from me.” (2) “There is a land where all pain is forgotten in joy.” (3) “Your task today is to bring my joy to those who sorrow.”

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Greenland* — Points for prayer: (1) *The Danish community* is largely Lutheran, but few know the Savior in a personal way, and their lives are no witness to the Greenland majority. (2) *Greenlanders* are nominally Christian, but the breakdown of their traditional culture has had devastating effects. Immorality, alcoholism, apathy, mental illness and poverty are the result. Pray that they may experience the work of the Life-giving Spirit. The archaic Greenlandic Bible is being revised.

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.  
Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.