

# WEEK THREE

## —Sunday—

*Eternal life is mine! Because I believe in all you are in your Son I shall never die! How joyously do I worship you!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“In the course of my life he broke my strength; he cut short my days. So I said: ‘Do not take me away, O my God, in the midst of my days; your years go on through all generations. In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end’ ”* (Psa. 102:23-27). The purpose of this expression is to praise you for yourself! How many men and women of twenty — thirty — forty years have for one cause or another died in the strength of their years? From the lips of all who knew them arose the words “why?” If you are God there is no need to ask. If you are not God there is no answer needed.

*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 will do me a great deal of good to separate the qualities of yourself from these verses: (1) The strength of man as well as the length of his life is in your hands. (2) You need not reveal your reasons for acting — you are sovereign. (3) You do listen and are touched with the requests of your children — since we have only the generation of which we are a part we ask that we might make as full use of it as possible — you consider and weigh such a request. (4) A beautiful statement is made by the psalmist as to your creative power — to which I gladly assent — (nothing else makes any sense at all!) (5) Even this world is wearing out — getting old — will be changed and discarded for a new heaven and a new earth. (6) Forever are you the same wonderful Person I see in the face of Jesus!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

It is easy for me to be frustrated by interruptions — even *your* interruptions. It is also easy to imagine I have much more strength than I really have — or attribute my strength to myself instead of the true source which is your own dear self. How do I know how many days have been allotted to me? The plain fact is I do not! How easy or natural it is to plead for mercy when we so obviously deserve justice. I do not deserve any of the days I have already received. I lack only seven of the threescore and ten granted to man. If you choose to give a few more, fine — if not, it will be “very far better.” If the world itself is to wear out why should I worry about this body? Forgive me for doing so!

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,  
And it told Thy love to me;  
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,  
And be closer drawn to Thee.

### HIS WORD

<sup>25</sup>“Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father.

<sup>26</sup>In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. <sup>27</sup>No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup>I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus’ disciples said, “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. <sup>30</sup>Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”

<sup>31</sup>“You believe at last!” Jesus answered. <sup>32</sup>“But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

<sup>33</sup>“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” —*John 16:25-33, NIV*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How plainly he did speak through the lips of his apostles in the fifth book of the New Covenant! How we do need to read and reread Luke’s account of our Lord. In the day of which our Lord here speaks they will be able to communicate directly to you through your ascended Son who at that time will act as an intercessor at your right hand. How I long for and reach out to be loved of yourself. I can here claim on the words of your Son such love. Can I dare say that you love me because I first loved your Son. This love is of such a personal nature as not to be compared with the love you already have for all men — it is a family love — a Father’s heart for his child — oh, praise your wonderful name!

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I must again and again remind myself that it is an act of the will to believe you (i.e. Jesus) came from yourself. He came in such a beguiling manner that it was easy and is even now easy to miss who he is. For such a short, short time was he here! For even a shorter time did he seem to want us to know who he was. But two thousand years of history have all been impregnated with the fact of his coming. The clear record of who he was and what he said is ever before us. And yet there are billions of precious eternal people who never heard — and will never hear — billions more who have died having not one chance to hear. And whose fault is that? It is mine — dear God, it is mine and millions like me! If you will give me ten more years I shall do something to change it.

### READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that you my Lord know all things and need no one to counsel you or ask you questions — how I want an acceptance of that quality of Lordship! (2) Thank you I can say in guarded tones, “I believe at last”! (3) Thank you that if all of us leave you your cause will not fail — you have ways beyond our most creative imagination to accomplish your work with or without us. (4) Thank you that in you and only in you I can have peace — not will have — but now have — PEACE! (5) I expect in this world just what you have promised: “trouble” — and more trouble. (6) Thank you I can always — always — always “be of good cheer” — you have given me a new heart! (7) Thank you my Lord always is the conqueror and never the conquered — I am more than a conqueror through him who loves me!

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“But take heart! I have overcome the world.” My blessed Lord is always saying the unexpected. Just when one would imagine a sigh of defeat there is the triumphant shout of victory! “But take heart!” Since

I just had a heart attack and a quadruple bypass heart surgery I can relate to these poor disciples who were about to lose heart. My Lord is on the side of triumph beckoning us to the hills of victory. Blessed be his holy name. It truly, truly is *only* our confidence in our Lord’s total control and rule over all things that can give us the assurance he wants to give us. He has a knowledge of all things and all men and in this sense the world is under his control and not *vice versa*.

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these blessed closing verses of chapter sixteen there is much to learn — and much about which we can lift our voices in prayer: (1) The time has come and the veil of ambiguity has dropped off; may I be as ready to receive plainly as you are to speak plainly to me. (2) What a joy to know that the frightful limitations of the flesh do not now at all relate to my Lord. (3) What a reassurance the words of the apostles concerning his omniscience were to Jesus — this is what indicates our total acceptance of him today. I want to give it to him. (4) Give me that deep settled tranquil peace my Lord left for all his disciples.

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

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

I am alive today so you can speak to me through these verses — sensitize my hearing. (1) “You believe when you believe I know all things — and only then.” (2) “Peace is found in a person not a circumstance.” (3) “You can always be of good courage when your courage is in my strength.”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Guadaloupe and Martinique* — Points for prayer: (1) *The evident spiritual need is highlighted* by the breakdown in family life, widespread occultism, secular propaganda in schools and the marked growth of sects. Catholicism is a traditional veneer for most. (2) *The outlying dependencies* are less evangelized.

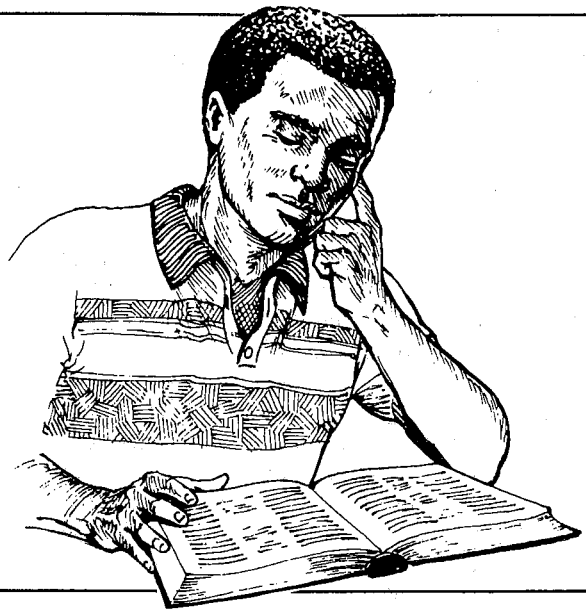
### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I gladly take my stand:  
The shadow of a mighty rock  
Within a weary land,  
A home within the wilderness,  
A rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontide heat  
And the burden of the day.

# WEEK THREE

## —Monday—

*You are the very essence of satisfaction.  
What a privilege is mine to worship  
you!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases; he redeems my life from the pit and crowns me with love and compassion. He satisfies my desires with good things, so that my youth is renewed like the eagles”* (Psa. 103:1-5). This is such a blessed text it is almost an embarrassment to separate the great from the wonderful. But shall we but list some of his qualities here: (1) He deserves our total concentration — praise from our “inmost being.” (2) His intentions toward us are always good — and we should make a real effort to remember each one. (3) *All* my sins and all my imperfections can be and are handled by him.

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

How I want to give life to the letters of these words! (4) I have been to the “pits” of life more than once. There are inevitable circumstances that throw us into a dark mood or we begin to feel sorry for ourselves. He has already bought my right to be delivered from such pits. Praise his glorious name! (5) He has placed a crown of love and compassion upon my head — it took him a long time to thus “crown” me — the rule we have in life is through love and compassion — we influence others by these two qualities — only when we have fully received from him we can give to others. (6) It is quite remarkable to read of God’s constant interest in his satisfying our desires. He wants me to make the grand discovery that my desires can be satisfied with “good things.”

### CONFESSION OF SIN

(1) I shall begin at the last or the seventh quality for which I can expect to praise your dear self: “. . . so that my youth is renewed like the eagles.” This quality of this bird is unique. (How I would like to discuss

it.) Just here I am to say that a certain type of tiredness is from the spirit and not the body. Apathy, boredom and tiredness are by-products of seeking to satisfy ourselves with the rot of this world instead of the “good things” of yourself. Dear Lord, forgive. (2) An abandonment of praise is not easy to give — but it would surely seem anything less than this is less than you deserve. (3) It is easy to buy the line of the world that somehow God has it in for us and is really *not* good. (4) What a temptation it is to hide our sins and diseases — or to ignore them. He wants to forgive and heal! (5) Dear Lord, when I begin to feel depressed help me to remember with how dear a price my joy was bought!

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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

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

### HIS WORD

**17** After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup>For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup>Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”

—John 17:1-5, NIV

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

To open this chapter is like entering the holy of holies in the relationship of our Lord with his Father. It has been well said: "there is not one conditional sentence in this whole chapter." In these verses our Lord prays for himself. He is going to also pray for his "sent ones" and for the world. Just here we hardly seem prepared to enter fully into the meaning of his words. It is good to read here of the physical expression: "he lifted up his eyes to heaven. . . ." What an encouragement for us to do the same thing! *The hour* had arrived! The hour of not only his death, but his burial, resurrection and coronation at the Father's right hand. This was the glory of the Son — i.e. in the consequence of his obedience unto death.

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

All that Jesus accomplished on the cross and in the open tomb would bring honor or glory to his Father. The authority that my Lord had over all flesh, i.e. in this particular connection, was that he died for all men. They were his by right of creation — but now by right of redemption. To be given "everlasting life" is one overwhelming thought. He has given us the life we now enjoy. He has prepared another world and life that will never end. The entrance into and realization of everlasting life is in an intimate knowledge of yourself and your Son. We can know something of that life, even now. The more we know of yourself here and now as manifested in your Son, the better prepared we shall be for the life to come.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that Jesus became on earth "the express image of the Father's substance." (2) Thank you that Jesus could and did say "mission accomplished" as related to his purpose in coming into this world. (Can we say as much?) (3) As Jesus anticipated his return to the full sharing of the nature of the Father so I thank you that we shall one day see him even as he is! (4) Thank you for the preexistence of my Lord as stated in "the glory I had with thee before the world existed." (5) Thank you that Jesus both looked forward to, and at the same time had to "endure" the cross — this helps me in my view of death.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*"And this is everlasting life, that they should know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou didst send."* We can know something of the wonders and beauties of heaven right here and right now. Heaven will be but an enlargement of the qualities of God in reality — in fact not in faith. The attractiveness of everlasting life — the purpose of this eternal world will be but to know what is only seen by faith. But we *can* read his word and believe it! We *can* become very much involved with him in this

world so as to be prepared for the one to come. The quality here ascribed to God as "the only true God" is very full of meaning. Any other concept of God than the one brought to us by Jesus our Lord is false. The only true God and true revelation of himself are right here in the Word we read.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As my Lord prayed he teaches me to pray: (1) Give me a deeper sense of reverence that I might with real meaning lift my eyes up to you. (2) How I want whatever honor I receive among men to bring honor to you. (3) "*The hour*" of my life was when I found you (you found me) as my Lord. May I discover that hour all over again this day. (4) Release me from the circumscribed limitations men have placed on your Son — he has power over *all men*. (5) Thank you for the incredible gift of eternal life — I want to enjoy it now — and tomorrow. (6) The qualities of your character were seen and shown again and again in my Lord. Keep my eyes open.

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

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

In these five beautiful verses speak to me again and again: (1) "You have a work to do for me that no one else can accomplish — do it." (2) "I am alive now at the Father's right hand all for the purpose of helping you." (3) "I am not finished with my work in this world until time is no more."

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Hong Kong* — Points for prayer: (1) *The countdown to 1997 dominates the thinking of Hong Kong citizens.* Non-Christians are being forced to realize that money is not everything and that their idols will not help them. Christians see that time is precious, spiritual preparation vital, and present opportunities for evangelism strategic. Pray for right priorities for Christians and a doubling in church membership by 1997. Pray for close fellowship between denominations; a greater unity is essential in the light of impending changes. (2) *Many Chinese are seeking to emigrate all over the world before 1997.* (NOTE: in the wake of the Tienanmen massacre in Beijing, this number is expected to increase.) This emigration could become a flood. Pray that many may find refuge in Jesus.

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

# WEEK THREE

## —Tuesday—

*From eternity to eternity you are God!  
How solid — how valuable! It is with  
happiness I enter worship.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children — with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts”* (Psa. 103:15-18). The contrast in comparison of man and yourself is frequent in the Psalms. It seems to all who live upon the earth that however long we live before you call us from this scene that it has been like the life of the grass or the flowers — just a little while. After the wind of death has blown over, other men of grass cannot remember where it was or who it was who so short a time before “flourished like a flower.”

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

But we are not forgotten — NOTHING that we are or that we did for you is lost. In the world to come we shall enter fully into life that is life indeed. We shall know clearly all that seemed so cloudy here. Our investment of your word in the lives of men and women is eternal. This is but a part of your everlasting love toward those who worship you. Dear Lord, count me in as one of those who attempts, as you enable me, to keep your covenant and obey your precepts. The quality here for which I wish to lift up my heart is your everlastingness. From eternity to eternity is another way of describing this attribute. There has never been a time when you did not exist and there never will be a time when you diminish in the slightest degree.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

It should be no task to confess freely that too much of my pursuits in life has been in areas as transitory

as grass — as fading as the flower. Forgive me — but keep reminding me of what lasts. Forgive me for attempting to do something that will be remembered among men — i.e. for myself. Unless my life is lost in your life there is nothing to remember. How eternally grateful I am for your love. How strongly do I count on this quality of yourself. Except you forgive and cleanse me I have no righteousness — nor do my children. But I have — and I do confess my sins and such a great need of your grace.

*What personal sins do you want to confess?  
There is no one else you have sinned against more  
than God. Tell him so!*

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

What language shall I borrow  
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,  
For this Thy dying sorrow,  
Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever;  
And should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never  
Outlive my love to Thee.

### HIS WORD

**“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup>For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup>I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one. —John 17:6-11, NIV**

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

In each of these beautiful affirmations I want to agree from my heart. My Lord said he revealed you (your very essential self) to the disciples. What an astounding statement! If I am looking for all the qualities of yourself I need for this life I shall find them by reading the gospel accounts and immersing my total heart in what they say to me of yourself through the Person of your Son. These apostles all came from the common clay of the world. You set them aside as your possession and gave them to Jesus. How was this done? We can read man's perspective of what happened. We can repeat the process today in calling men out of the world to follow you. We can only stand in awe and wonder as to what was (and is) involved in the eternal realm where you live.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How important are "words" as indicated in all four chapters — 14,15,16,17 — of John's good news. Your words were to be obeyed. There was no other medium for communicating your will to them. Their faith or belief came from hearing and obeying your words. In all of this, and more, I want to reemphasize my personal need for reading your words for the fulfillment of your will in my life. Just what requests were made by our Lord for Peter, James, John, Matthew? He knew they would soon all forsake him. And yet he also knew he had no one else to carry out his mission on this earth. What an expression of love are these words of Jesus!

*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 revelation of yourself in the Person and words of Jesus of Nazareth. (2) Thank you for the separation we can have from the world when we become your disciples. (3) Thank you for the example of these men — if they could obey your word, surely we can. (4) Thank you for my Lord's loving, generous definition of just how these men accepted his word — it gives me hope. (5) Thank you that my Lord yet prays for his followers. He knows our needs better than we do.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*"... protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one."* What an unselfish prayer! Jesus knew of the disagreements his disciples had already had. He knew also of the factions and divisions that were to come. What would it be that would protect them from such a catastrophe? *It was his name!* This is tantamount to saying: *his authority*. To us, all we know about him is found in his word the Bible. Why is it

we are, as his followers, more divided than at any point in history? It would be easy to say that it is because we do not accept his authority. But this is only half of the answer. We do not have the attitude of our Lord and of yourself toward each other.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Read this text and lift your heart with me in prayer: (1) Reveal yourself all over again to me as I read and pray. (2) Keep me out of the world and the world out of me. (3) I want to be truly obedient to your word. (4) Help me in the midst of this humanistic society to know there is a divine source of information — even yourself through your Son. (5) I want to share the burden of my Lord for his body the church — most especially its leaders. (6) May you receive glory or honor through me and other members of your body. (7) How I do want to claim the protection promised through your name!

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

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

Say it all over again to me through this text: (1) "You can know all about me — all there is to know about me through the word you have before you." (2) "I require only two things of you: love and obedience." (3) "I claim your intercessory work on my behalf in my need to be one with all others who believe in you."

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*India* — Point for prayer: *Praise God for the past 250 years*. The Holy Spirit has used the labors of countless thousands of preachers, both Indian and expatriate, to change India and plant the Church. Although a minority, Christians are numerous and the Church is growing. Praise for: a) *The great freedom to spread the gospel* despite efforts to limit this. b) *Great people movements* among the Harijan "Untouchables" and tribal peoples which continue to this day. c) *The spiritual awakening since independence*, manifest hunger for peace with God and response to literature and radio evangelism. d) *Revivals* in South India and in 1976 in Nagaland. e) *The new missionary burden* based on prayer that is stirring hundreds of churches.

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

# WEEK THREE

## —Wednesday—

*How pleasant it is to consider this beautiful world as your dwelling place! Your everlasting power and divinity are clearly seen. I worship you!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“ . . . he stretches out the heaven like a sheet and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind. He makes winds (angels) his messengers, flames of fire his servants. He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved”* (Psa. 104:2b-5).

I am not at all adequate in expression of praise as found in these wonderful poetic words. But I will try — because I *want* to praise you! Anyone of us who has rested under a tent and looked up at the ceiling of such a structure can see a very real similarity in lying on a grassy hill and looking up into the heavens above. This would be peculiarly true if there was a grey overcast of clouds in the sky.

*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

But what is there above the clouds? The majestic expanse of the space above this little planet are: “the beams of his upper chambers.” We must, of course, receive these words as the beautiful poetry they are. As if the water of the clouds were congealed and you were building a lovely palace for your dwelling the waters would be the foundation for the lofty beams of your heavenly house. In your movement from one place to another the clouds are turned into a chariot. The winds produce the thoroughfare — they are the means of transportation for your chariots. There are messengers to aid in your desires — they are angels.

*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

I must indeed confess that all of this description moves me to amazement! In my confession is the admission of my own earth-born interests. How easy it is to be bound to the horizontal level. How I want my

words for you to be like flames of fire. How often have they been non-flammable. None of us believe the earth is flat or founded on some kind of gigantic pillar. But we do act like we do. The accomplishment of setting a spinning ball in such a position that to those upon it it would appear totally stationary is a real divine accomplishment. But it is tragic to realize that many of us deny the reality we know by living as if this earth were all there is or ever will be. Dear Lord, forgive us.

*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

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>12</sup>“While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

<sup>13</sup>“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup>My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.” —John 17:12-16, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is most interesting to use these verses in retrospect as we review the lives of his apostles. Jesus said: “I

protected them and kept them safe by the name (authority) you gave me." As we consider the many mistakes they made we do wonder what could have happened if they did not have the protection our Lord gave them.

I am reading every word in your presence, seeking your wisdom in the understanding of what you are saying. From time to time I am faced with your foreknowledge as given in prophecy and man's free will as seen in the example of Judas. It is not at all easy to harmonize these thoughts. I know there is no contradiction — any confusion comes from my own limitations.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

My Lord here speaks of "the full measure of my joy within them." What a glorious promise! How was it obtained? The total fulfillment could not come until he had risen from the dead. It was then they *knew* he had everything in this life and the life to come under his control. The strong negative and positive response to your word is in sharp contrast to the anemic attitude people have today. The transfer of protection, or at least the emphasis of such protection is here transferred to the Father.

*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 wonderful security we have in the authority of our Lord. (2) Thank you for the complete harmony existent between your foreknowledge and man's free will — even when I am asked to accept it because you said it. (3) Thank you for the measure of constant joy we can have within ourselves as we trust daily in your authority and love. (4) Thank you that whereas you have left this world you yet know all that happens with every one of your children. (5) Thank you I can claim your protection from the evil one in my life — and for the lives of my loved ones.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"They are not of the world, even as I am not of this world." "This world" is simply anyone who does not know and follow what you have said. Together such persons make up "the world" to which our Lord here refers. The reason the apostles were not of the world is because Jesus produced another world for them. They had been living in his world for the past three years. None of us can escape the tremendous pressure of our environment — but *all* of us can control our world by the choices we make.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Read again these blessed words and come with me to prayer: (1) Keep me safe as I yield to your authority as found in your word. (2) Right now I want to yield to the fact that you talk of the free will of Judas and make him responsible for his actions and yet predict that such an action would happen centuries before it did. Blessed be your omniscience! (3) Give me the full joy of a total trust in your ruling of this world and life. (4) I want to be salty enough that men will taste the flavor of your life in me. (5) Dear Lord, protect me today from the evil one.

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

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

Just as if I had never read these blessed words — speak to me: (1) "My authority is ever your protection — claim it!" (2) "I am even now with the Father to help you — ask me." (3) "If you were not of this world this world would hate you."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*India* — Point for prayer: *The advances are being contested by the enemy of souls.* a) *Militancy among Hindus is on the increase.* Millions of despised Harijans have turned to Buddhism, Christianity and increasingly to Islam to escape the oppressive caste system. This has sparked violence against religious minorities, persecution of Christians, discriminatory legislation in some states and the forcible conversion of tribal people to Hinduism. b) *Communism* has considerable influence in Tripura, West Bengal and Kerala. c) *Nominalism in the churches.* Mass movements to Christ were often inadequately disciplined. Christians have often become but another caste in a Hindu world.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I hear the Savior say,  
 "Thy strength indeed is small!  
 Child of weakness watch and pray,  
 Find in me thine all in all."  
 Jesus paid it all,  
 All to Him I owe;  
 Sin had left a crimson stain—  
 He washed it white as snow.



# WEEK THREE

## —Thursday—

*Your two works: creation and the flood are enough to lead me to wonder and worship in your presence.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“He set the earth on its foundations: it can never be moved. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunders they took to flight; they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them. You set the boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth”* (Psa. 104:5-9). We believe these verses discuss the creation of the world and the flood. In such description of these two great events are qualities of yourself for which we can truly praise 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

When we consider the size of our earth as an infinitesimal speck in the galaxy of the Milky Way we wonder why we are impressed with this earth. It is because you created “the heavens” as well as this earth. You spoke the word for their creation even as you did for the earth upon which we live.

*“The new-born earth was wrapt in aqueous swaddling bands. In the first ages, ere man appeared, the proud waters ruled the whole earth, ‘the waters stood above the mountains,’ no dry land was visible, vapour as from a steaming cauldron covered all”* (C.H. Spurgeon, *ibid.*, Vol V, pp. 3,4). Surely your greatness is here proclaimed!

*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

When we stand back and dispassionately read these words we are moved to exclaim: “Do you really believe that?” The answer is that too often, far too often, we allow our own peanut sized brain to circumscribe what we believe. When we cannot conceive of

such incredible actions it becomes to us just that — not a credible report. Dear Lord, forgive such gross form of disbelief! Since I have accepted the evidence for the truthfulness of your word help me to enter fully into an acceptance of all I read. The waters of the deep all obey him implicitly. How can I do anything in the face of your greatness but obey you too. Forgive me and move me to true worship!

*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

This is my Father’s world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and ’round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father’s world:  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—  
His hand the wonders wrought.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>17</sup>“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

<sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

<sup>20</sup>“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe you have sent me.” —John 17:17-21, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Our holiness or sanctification proceeds from your word. It is our total acceptance of your word that sets us apart from the world in which we live. We believe

your Son was addressing his apostles, and just here was praying for them but the principle is just as powerful in our lives as in theirs. Dear Lord, how I want your word to consecrate me to yourself! John said, "as he was in the world so are you" (I John 4:17b). He must have been listening very closely to our Lord. The example of our Lord is always before us. Jesus set himself apart by being in constant touch with his Father — not for his own sake but for those who followed him.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I am the one mentioned in verse 20. Indeed all Christians are embraced in his prayer in this verse. We are in direct descent from those who believed and told others and they believed and told yet others. I cannot accept for one moment the idea that the request of verse 21 will not be answered. Jesus knew of the dissension present in the association he had with his followers. He knows about such division today. Dear Lord, how can I help you in bringing about an answer to this wonderful prayer? The world is waiting. The world is lost because we are not one. If I could only fully grasp the meaning of these words I know I would be much closer: "just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us. . . ."

*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 your word which is the truth by which I can be sanctified. (2) Thank you for the real creative meaning of being sanctified. (3) Thank you that my Lord has identified my purpose in this world. (4) Thank you for the wonderful example of sanctification I find in Jesus. (5) Thank you that my Lord believed all believers could be one — therefore they can. (6) Thank you for the oneness in spirit we can have with you and each other. (7) Thank you for this method of winning the world to you.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." This sounds like an imperative for world evangelism. How often do we relate the unity of believers with the salvation of the lost? Once in awhile we do. Our Lord made it an imperishable principle. The nearer we are to you and your Son the nearer we are to each other. This sounds like a cliché but it is only because of the hardness of our hearts. Of course we cannot be one in you or with each other without your word. But neither can we be one only through your word. Such a oneness calls for a loss of self.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As my Lord prayed for his apostles and those who would believe through them I want to add my prayers to his: (1) Sanctify me in your truth. (2) I want to spend much more time in your truth that this might happen. (3) Give me the reality of being the body of your Son in the world in which I live. (4) Help me in my desire to follow the example of Jesus as related to sanctification. (5) How tragically have we divided the believers — forgive me for my part in this sin. (6) What can I do today to answer my Lord's prayer for unity? (7) Open the eyes of my heart that I might connect unity and world evangelism.

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

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

In a special way speak to my heart just *now*: (1) "The world is still lost and you are in it as I was." (2) "Without sanctification no one will see me or my Son." (3) "Unity is not an option — it is an imperative."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*India* — Points for prayer: (1) *There is a rapid decline in the number of missionaries.* Most now serving have already given years of service to India. Pray for the wisest and most effective deployment of the missionaries remaining. Pray that visas may be issued, against all present trends, to those whom God is calling. They are needed! (2) *The growth of the churches has slowed since 1971.* In fact, between 1971 and 1981, the census recorded an increase of Christians in only Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura; all in the northeast. In most states the Christians are stagnating or even declining in percentage. Few believers ever witness to non-Christians, and in some churches there may be no first generation converts out of Hinduism or Islam.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Savior, Thy dying love  
Thou gavest me,  
Nothing should I withhold,  
Dear Lord, from Thee;  
In love my soul would bow,  
My heart fulfill its vow,  
Some offering bring Thee now,  
Something for Thee.

# WEEK THREE

## —Friday—

*The uniformity of your laws is a real source of amazement. I gladly acknowledge your greatness!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“The moon marks off the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down. You bring darkness, it becomes night, and all the beasts of the forest prowl. The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God. The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens. Then man goes out to his work, to his labor until evening”* (Psa. 104:19-23). In what happens every twenty four hours; in what happens every month we can see many reasons for praise. Ere the day when the psalmist penned these words the moon has been marking off the seasons without one mistake. The uniformity of your laws is a source of amazement.

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

The world around us is *not* a machine but rather a work of art. Behind every artistic endeavor is the artist. What shall we say of the One who created the sun, moon and stars? What shall we say of the One who has created the beautiful planet called earth? The psalmist wants to create the definite impression that the moon and sun are obedient to you. He wants us to believe that the animals of the earth look to you for all they are and have. *“The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God.”* This is the impression he wishes to create *because it is true!* The habits of the heavens and earth have not changed from David’s day. There will be no change until he comes who will make all things new!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

How easy it is to look up into the heavens and see nothing but a bright sphere in the night — or a blinding light in the day. Forgive me! What presumption

and effrontery it is to watch the animals obey you and then look in the mirror and see one who has the capability of not only pleasing you but bringing pleasure to your heart, and know that he chooses his own way. Essentially I do not choose my own way. The only freedom I have is to choose the one whom I will follow. To refuse you is to accept Satan. It is just that simple. Dear Lord forgive my blindness and stupidity. (I would like to pray this prayer for others — but I can only confess my own sins.)

*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

Be still, my soul! thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future as He has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>22</sup>“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

<sup>24</sup>“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

<sup>25</sup>“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup>I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” — *John 17:22-26, NIV*

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I am almost embarrassed to attempt to express in my words what the great High-priest is saying in his prayer to you. But I must attempt it — for my own spiritual growth. Praise your name you have given us one more insight into the means or method of unity! Our oneness comes from your glory. The word “glory” refers to essential being or character. Our being united with each other is found in being lost in Jesus. When Christ is truly in us we will be united. The word “love” could easily be the theme of this whole chapter. When we truly love you and your Son as you want us to and as we can, unity and evangelism will be the result!

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

This is NOT a pious platitude! It is reality itself. Of all the tender personal expressions of my Lord surely verse 24 of this chapter contains one of the most poignant! Jesus wanted the apostles to see the eternal beauty and power he had in your presence. Such a request has now been fulfilled. Jesus knew from experience what an overwhelming experience of wonder and joy it would be to usher these men into that eternal realm from which he had come. The term “know” as used in these verses is of that intimate experiential knowledge found only by commitment. The result is *love*. Love is a by-product of *knowing*. How I do want to absorb this concept. Lord, open my heart!

*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 revelation of yourself in the person of your Son — how I want to learn from him. (2) Thank you that Jesus can actually live in me by the person of the Holy Spirit. (3) Thank you for the promise or potential of complete unity for believers. (4) Thank you that love will be communicated through the unity. (5) Thank you that for all believers our Lord’s desire that we see his eternal glory will one day be answered for all his followers.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” You have always loved us, you do now love us, but such love can only be in us as we personally respond to it. Such a concept is not too grandiose for fulfillment. Our Lord would never have prayed this prayer if such were the case. Jesus has taken up residence in us via the person of the Holy Spirit. But once again: we *must* respond to such a presence before any reality of such an indwelling can be ours. This is a continual privilege on our part.

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these last words of teaching to his apostles we have much cause for prayer: (1) May I share in “the glory” your Son has given. (2) I do want to do my part in the unity of the believers. (3) How can I sense fully the meaning of being indwelt by your Son? (4) Not only can we have unity but “complete unity.” How I do want this. (5) What can I do to let the world know of your love? (6) Keep me sensitive to the beauty and wonder of the world to come. (7) Help me to appreciate fully the revelation of yourself in your Son.

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

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

In these last words of my Lord I can hear you speaking to me: (1) “The world is still waiting to see the unity for which my Son prayed.” (2) You can’t do everything but you can do something about this unity.” (3) “You can know me and my Son much more intimately than you do at present.”

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Indonesia* — Point for prayer: *Praise God for the thrilling growth of the Church!* One of the most significant movements to Christianity in history has been accelerating over the past 20 years in this land. God has used many means to bring this about: a) *The communist coup* of 1965 and its bloody aftermath in which maybe 500,000 sympathizers perished, and many became Christian. b) *The fierce Muslim reprisals* on the Communists offended many — especially in Java. Many nominal Muslims turned to Christ. c) *The government recognition* of four religions impelled many animists to consider the claims of the gospel.

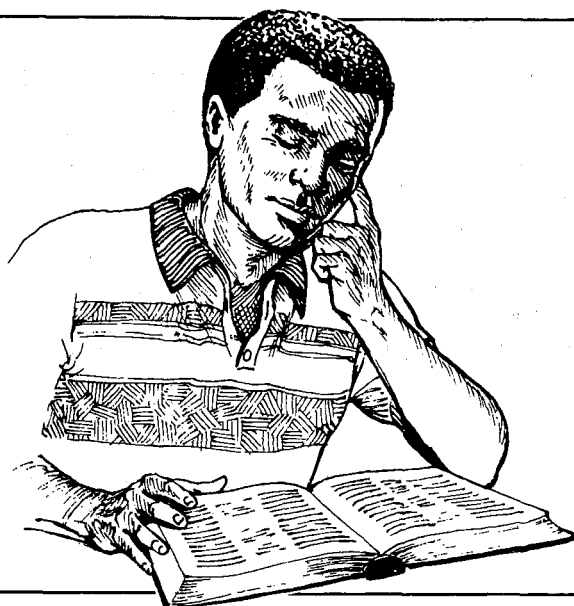
## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O sacred Head, now wounded,  
With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded  
With thorns, Thy only crown,  
How art Thou pale with anguish,  
With sore abuse and scorn!  
How does that visage languish  
Which once was bright as morn!

# WEEK THREE

## —Saturday—

*What a wonder it is to be able to write these words in your presence about yourself! Deepen my awe of yourself!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number — living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time”* (Psa. 104:24-27). In these beautiful verses are several qualities of yourself for which I want to lift my heart in praise: (1) Your wonderful variety of species.

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I want to continue these qualities and relate myself to them in praise: (2) The wisdom shown in all your creation is a true cause for amazement. Just to look at a large shell or butterfly collection is enough to produce speechlessness in the one who stands before what seems like endless beauty and variety. Each creature is created with perfect adaptation to its environment. Oh, praise your name! (3) How many different kinds of insects are there? Each of them different — each of them producing after its kind. Not millions but billions of creatures move upon this earth as a testimony of your wisdom and power.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

There are men today who make the consideration of the sea and its creatures their life work. But you get no credit for what they see. I have been a pawn (at times) to their disbelief. Forgive me. I want to approach all nature with the presupposition that all I see is but an expression of your handiwork. You not only created the creatures of the sea, but more than adequately provided food for each of them. The psalmist

personifies the fish of the sea as if they looked up expectantly to yourself as the source of all they are and all they have. Can I do less? Yes, and I have — forgive me.

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears,  
All nature sings, and round me rings  
The Music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world,  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—  
His hand the wonders wrought.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>26</sup>When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>32</sup>They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” <sup>33</sup>He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup>“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.”

<sup>35</sup>Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” —Mark 14:26,32-36, NIV (See also Matt. 26:30,36-46; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1.)

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

We want to know every word of each of these men. If ever I hesitated to write a prayer before you it is now.

I wonder what hymn they sang? Probably an appropriate Psalm. Several suggestions have been made. The garden of Gethsemane was very familiar to both Jesus and the apostles. He probably stationed eight of them at the gate of the garden with two or three swords. He then took the three with a sword in Peter's hand into the garden. At a certain place he gave them the command: "Pray that ye enter not into temptation" (Luke 22:40b). He left them to go only as far as one can throw a stone.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

These biographers are so precise in their description of this incident that we are literally there to see and hear all he said and did. All the apostles were to watch and pray, but we would think he expected Peter, James and John to be especially alert and prayerful. Why did Jesus ask the Father to remove "the cup" of the cross from him? The answer is obvious: he was human — tempted and tried in every way we are. If he had approached this ordeal in any other way he would have been no example for us. We honor him for both his deity and humanity. What a wonderful Savior!

*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 just before the trying experience of Gethsemane they were able to sing a hymn. (2) Thank you that prayer was so important to our Lord. (3) Thank you for the total sincerity that characterized the life of our Lord. (4) Thank you for the decision made in the garden that carried him through to the cross. (5) Thank you for the victory won for the whole world here in Gethsemane. (6) Thank you for the humanness of Jesus as he resisted Satan. (7) Thank you for the angel that came to minister to my Lord — how often do I need the same comfort.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"'Abba, Father,' he said, 'everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.'" The term "Abba" is a personal endearing word. There is a redundancy here called forth by his earnestness and the appalling prospect of Calvary. It is like saying "papa" or "daddy" and then: "Father." His love for his Father and his relationship with him overcomes and overshadows all other relationships. His total confidence in the omnipotence and omniscience of his Father is exceeded by his submission to his Father's will. Did God have another way? Nothing is impossible with him. Such an attitude is both a tremendous encouragement and an example for all those who want to follow him.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As my Lord poured out his very heart in the garden there are many requests I can find in his words: (1) Keep me ever aware of how important prayer was to my Lord — can it take any lesser place in my life? (2) Jesus wept over the lostness of the world — what do I do about it? (3) While others slept Jesus prayed — what does this say to me? (4) My Lord did not allow the attitude of others toward you to influence his attitude. How I want to learn this capacity. (5) There are special "hours" for each of us — how I want to learn how to face them from the example of my Lord.

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

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

As he spoke to the disciples in Gethsemane, speak to me: (1) "Watch and pray that you enter not into a trial you cannot handle." (2) "Through watching and praying there will be no trial you cannot handle." (3) "The spirit is just as willing and the flesh is just as weak today as then."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Indonesia* — Points for prayer: (1) *Could Indonesia be on the threshold of an even greater ingathering?* Look at the growth rates of Protestants: 6% per year in 1975 rising to 8% in 1980. So far the greatest gathering of souls into the churches has been confined to certain parts of the country. Pray the complete harvest in! (2) *The influence of Christians is greater than their numbers would indicate.* It must be used wisely. Their high urban population with many well-educated among them means that Christians have a significant impact on the nation's wealth, industry, civil service and military forces. Many recent conversions have been from among the most influential in the country. Pray that the believers may live lives worthy of their Lord.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

'Tis midnight, and on Olive's brow  
The star is dimmed that lately shone;  
'Tis midnight; in the garden, now  
The suffering Savior prays alone.  
'Tis midnight, and from all removed,  
The Savior wrestles lone with fears;  
E'en that disciple whom He loved  
Heeds not his Master's grief and tears.