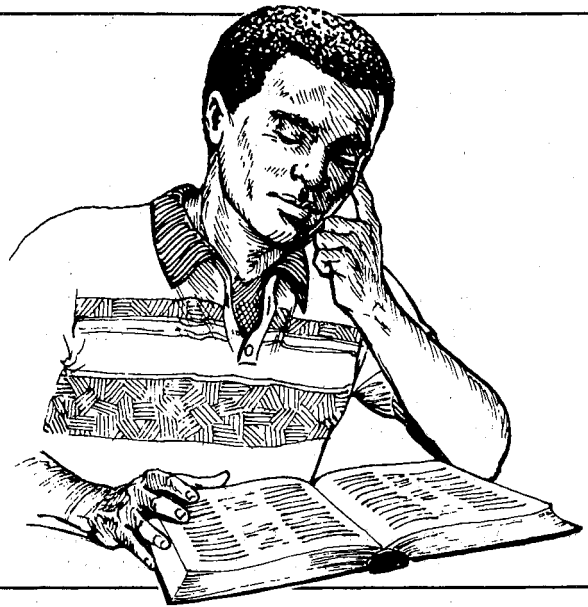


# WEEK SIX

## —Sunday—

*You have healed us — rescued us — your love is truly unfailing! Gladly do we worship you.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.”* (Psa. 107:20-22). Your word is indeed *spirit* and *life*! At your word your Son left your presence and emptied himself and became obedient even to the cross that he might give me life! At your word through Jesus thousands were healed of every disease and the whole world had the power of death broken. Do we have occasion for praise? Hallelujah!

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Indeed I shall! He by the WORD has healed me and delivered me from the grave. In just recent days I have been delivered from a “code blue” heart attack and a bypass surgery operation. I lift my heart in joys of adoration and praise for such a deliverance. I claim your promise: “I will give you back your health again and heal your wounds” (Jer. 30:17). What a blessed word from yourself! (I *know* the context of Jer. 30:17 — but I believe he loves me too.) I do want to draw away from the maelstrom of life and pause before your throne in thanksgiving for your unfailing love — to recount once again your wonderful intervention in my life! Bless your holy name! name!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Too often I have not been close enough to you to be able to hear your word — even if or when you spoke it. How can I be so carried away by lesser matters when you are speaking? Forgive me! How easy it is to attribute your goodness to another source. We could thank the doctors (and we should) for the good work they did on our bodies — but without the constant attention of the Great Physician nothing would have

been done. What sacrifice of “thank offerings” have I ever given to you? The element of sacrifice is almost totally minus in my thanksgiving. Dear Lord, I want to repair this deficiency! In the song I am about to sing may it be to tell of your works in my life — with joy!

*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

Christ has for sin atonement made,  
What a wonderful Savior!  
We are redeemed! the price is paid!  
What a wonderful Savior!  
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Jesus!  
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Lord!

### HIS WORD

**19** Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup>The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe <sup>3</sup>and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, O king of the Jews!” And they struck him in the face.

<sup>4</sup>Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” <sup>5</sup>When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” <sup>6</sup>As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.” <sup>7</sup>The Jews insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

<sup>8</sup>When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, <sup>9</sup>and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>“Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free

you or to crucify you?"

**11**Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

—John 19:1-11, NIV; read also Matt. 27:22-26; Mark 15:12-15; Luke 23:13-25.

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Apart from any help from others who have written so well on these verses I want to read them just as if I had never read them before. In the eight words of verse one the whole life of our Lord could have been in the balance. Men died from the flogging Jesus here received. The severity of this beating has been often described. I can only try to imagine and bow my heart in horror! The mockery of the soldiers was so cruel! The assault on his body was such that had he not been a strong man he would have passed into unconsciousness.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It was on my behalf that he endured such torture. Pilate *did* have a conscience and he *wanted* to free the innocent man. He tried again and again to do it. *Farrar* has so beautifully described the scene that I want to make it mine: "Even now, even yet, Pilate wished, hoped, even strove to save Him. He might represent this frightful scourging, not as the preliminary to crucifixion, but as an inquiry by torture, which had failed to elicit any further confession. And as Jesus came forth — as He stood beside Him . . . on the beautiful mosaic of the tribunal — the spots of blood upon His green wreath of torture —" It was for me he stood there — dear Lord, forgive me!

*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 his sufferings by which all my diseases have been healed. (2) Thank you I can own him as my thorn-crowned king. (3) Thank you he was willing and able to suffer for me! (4) Thank you for the attempts of Pilate — however unsuccessful — to declare him innocent. (5) Thank you for the declaration of manhood made by the governor: "Here is *the man*"! (6) Thank you that my Lord was ready to be declared by all as the Son of God. (7) Thank you for the One who had all power.

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above." Such I believe is true in all of life as related to yourself and your Son. Man is free to choose but not free to assume prerogatives that belong to yourself. *Power* belongs to heaven. We live a "given" life. We have not one more minute than those you give to us. We have no abilities than those you have *given*. What we do with our time and

abilities is also *given* to us. How much better to recognize the source and cooperate willingly with the One who has created us for himself. How absurd it is to pit our power against ALL POWER!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As I look again at your Son and my Lord before Pilate I want to appear before your throne for prayer: (1) Somehow may Jesus be crowned Lord in places in my life where he has not yet reigned. (2) Sin shall NOT have dominion over me since I am not under law but under grace. (3) Since they mocked and ridiculed my Lord may I be ready to be treated in the same way. (4) I want to live in such a manner that the qualities of my Lord might be seen in my character. (5) Give me the courage to stand against the pressure of the crowd.

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

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

There is so much you can say to me from this text: (1) "You will never suffer as my Son did." (2) "Only heaven will show you how much he did for you as he suffered in your place." (3) "All power yet remains with me and to those I choose to give it."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Italy* — Points for prayer: (1) *Evangelism by Evangelicals has been sporadic.* The response of leftists and religious traditionalists has been indifferent or hostile. The task has been made no easier by the tireless efforts of the Jehovah's witnesses and the 600 Mormon missionaries. (2) *The unreached minorities:* a) *Muslims* have rapidly grown in numbers to around 200,000 through an influx of refugees, migrant labor, and immigrants. Only a few workers are committed to this minority. b) *Albanian* communities in Calabria in central and southern Italy number some 260,000 still speaking four archaic dialects of Albanian. No specific outreach to them has been undertaken. c) *The minorities in the northeast* all have their own distinctive cultures and languages, but little direct effort is being made with them. d) *The Greek and Croation minorities* in the south.

### 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 SIX

## —Monday—

*Both your goodness and your severity  
lead me to repentance and worship.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“He turned rivers into a desert, flowing springs into thirsty ground, and fruitful land into a salt waste, because of the wickedness of those who lived there. He turned the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into flowing springs; there he brought the hungry to live, and they founded a city where they could settle”* (Psa. 107:33-36). The attributes of yourself are numerous and of great importance as seen in these four verses: (1) The water of the earth is under your control. (2) You are aware of the condition of every inch of land upon this earth. (3) The productivity — or lack of it — is also in your knowledge.

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

My sin *does* affect my living conditions. A severe problem arises when I decide just what sin calls for what punishment. When shall the rivers be turned into desert and when shall the desert be turned into pools of water? Dear Lord, you know and I do not. At the same time I do not want to ignore your involvement in the affairs of men and the physical world you have created. (4) You are leading us, even when we do not know it or acknowledge it. Many a rich man lived and died and never knew who prospered him. Many a poor man lived and died and never learned the lessons you had to teach him. I want to be neither.

*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

In this day it is a sore temptation to buy Job’s friends’ philosophy, i.e. if you are a Christian you will prosper — if you are not prospering there is something wrong with your relationship with God. Dear Lord, these verses do not touch this — but it is

so easy to forget — forgive me. Remove from my heart all attempts to “second guess” your activity in my life. I already know that every good and perfect gift comes from you — and I praise you for it. In other areas of providence I leave it in your hands to do what I know is good and best for me. I do believe — increase my faith.

*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

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.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>12</sup>From then on Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

<sup>13</sup>When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judge’s seat at a place known as The Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). <sup>14</sup>It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

<sup>15</sup>But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

<sup>16</sup>Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. —John 19:12-16, NIV

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The last efforts of Pilate to release him. What a sad spectacle! "He who had so often prostituted justice, was now unable to achieve the one act of justice which he desired. He who had so often murdered pity, was now forbidden to taste the sweetness of a pity for which he longed. He who had so often abused authority, was now rendered impotent to exercise it, for once on the side of right" (*Farrar*). There seems to be in all this record an inordinate fear of Caesar — and probably not without reason. It was high noon! Jesus was about to be "turned over" to his enemies to be crucified. Can I look at him with such a casual comment? Dear Lord, break my heart!

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I have paused long before this text. Dear Lord, you know I just cannot do an adequate job of applying these words to my heart. I commit it to you! These people were NOT interested in truth. What puppets of the devil! Calm my spirit that I might see myself in them. What authority besides yourself do I fear? Open my memory that I might see myself as you do: there is a high noon in every day! Deliver me from the evil one! To claim him as king is easy on paper — or in prayer — but in every relationship of life?

*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) Dear Lord I am so thankful I can set you free in my life. (2) Thank you that my friendship with you cuts me off from friendship with this world. (3) Thank you that it becomes increasingly clear that I can never, never serve you and money. (4) Thank you that for each day the choice is open as to just who I will serve. (5) Thank you that I can stand before you and the world to be judged — what a large measure of mercy I need from you!

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"'We have no king but Caesar,' the chief priests answered." What a statement for Jewish priests! Didn't they own God as their king? Weren't they even then looking for God's "Anointed One" — God's king in the person of the Messiah? Of course the connotation they put on the word *king* was political. They had no *political* king but Caesar. They must keep this meaning on the term as related to Rome or they would have no case against Jesus. What awful hypocrites they were! When they have Jesus before them they use the term in a religious sense and ask him about his Messiahship — when before Pilate they switch to the political meaning — what hypocrisy!

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In our last view of Pilate we have real cause for prayer: (1) I am so glad that we no longer need to think about setting Jesus free — he can set us free — to be free indeed! (2) Since Jesus is indeed king may he reign in my life. (3) The more Jesus is tried the purer he appears — I want to examine his claims afresh for this day. (4) My Passover has been sacrificed and I have total forgiveness — give me grace to claim what you have promised. (5) As I hear the rejection of Jesus by those who should have known him best I wonder about the easy faith we have in America. (6) I want to hand my heart over to him — as much as I can do so, Lord Jesus!

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

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

In these closing hours speak to my conscience: (1) "The words 'Behold your king' are still very appropriate." (2) "I am only king in fact for those who want me to rule their lives." (3) "Obedience is yet the one factor that joins the king and his subjects."

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Ivory Coast* — Points for prayer: (1) *Praise God for the last 25 years of relative tranquility, economic progress and stability of the country.* This could change. Pray for open doors and hearts in this day of abundant reaping. (2) *The preaching of Prophet Harris from Liberia in 1914-15 bought over 120,000 coastal people out of fetishism and darkness.* The initiative was lost as missionary help arrived "too little and too late." Many syncretic indigenous churches multiplied and grew out of that movement. The Methodists arrived in 1924 and were once the largest Protestant community, but liberal theology and nominalism are widespread among the diverse coastal peoples. Pray for a new wave of evangelism and church planting.

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

King of my life I crown Thee now—  
Thine shall the glory be;  
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow,  
Lead me to Calvary.  
Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
Lest I forget Thine agony,  
Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
Lead me to Calvary.

# WEEK SIX

## —Tuesday—

*Thank you for creating in all of us such a strong desire for you. Such desire leads us to bow before you.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. . . . Give us aid against the enemy, for the help of man is worthless. With God we will gain the victory, and he will trample down our enemies”* (Psa. 108:4,12,13). I never tire of reading again of *your love — your faithfulness — your help — your victory*. The greatness of your love cannot truly be measured. I can step outside and look up into the expanse of the blue heavens above — such space seems to stretch out endlessly — so does your love. Your faithfulness is just like your love. *The enemy I fight is spiritual, therefore the help of man is indeed worthless. How fragile is the strength of man. How mighty is the help from above!*

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

How dull at times is my heart toward you. Forgive me — but I thank you that I have no desire to quit — I have no help but your help. I would indeed faint if I did not *know* you are *love — the very essence of love*. You love me! The measureless magnitude of your faithfulness has kept me in the way. I shall never be able to appreciate this quality fully until I awake in your eternal presence. I rest heavily upon the help you give me even when I do not know it. Victory can be given in various ways — and I’m sure you know every one of them. Bless your holy name!

*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

If your love does not move me to love in return have I really understood your love? Love is not an emotion — love is an act of the will — if I can stand beneath the cross of Jesus and know what is happening there and not decide to love in return I am mad or lost —

or both. If I can look back down the long corridor of your faithfulness to me and not decide that I will be faithful to you then I am blind! If I can review all of the multiplied ways you have helped me in this struggle called life, and not be grateful, I then richly deserve hell! Deepen my repentance.

*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

Tell me the story of Jesus,  
Write on my heart every word;  
Tell me the story most precious,  
Sweetest that ever was heard.  
Tell how the angels, in chorus,  
Sang as they welcomed His birth,  
“Glory to God in the highest!  
Peace and good tidings to earth.”

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>26</sup>As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup>A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

<sup>28</sup>Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup>For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ <sup>30</sup>Then ‘they will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’” <sup>31</sup>For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

<sup>32</sup>Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified him, along

with the criminals — one on his right, the other on his left. — *Luke 23:26-33, NIV*; read also *Matt. 27:31-34*; *Mark 15:20-23*; *John 19:16,17*.

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

We need to read again *Matt. 27:27-30* and *Mark 15:16-19* to know what happened to our Lord just before he was led away to be crucified. After all the hours of abuse this final act must have cut like a knife into his sensibilities. The edict was given by Pilate and Jesus was now to be treated as a common criminal. The mocking was related to his crime. If he claimed to be a king they would mockingly — cruelly treat him that way. Dear Lord, there is no way I can imagine the assault such treatment was to your pure heart.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I want to take each step with him to Calvary. It is not easy. Who was this man Simon of Cyrene? Are we to link him up with the words in *Romans 16:13* and associate Rufus and Alexander as his sons? Cyrene is in northern Africa — some then think of him as a black man. The simple answer is we do not know. How I wish I could have seen his face when they led him to take the cross upon his back. He must have been a strong man if indeed the cross weighed between 200 and 300 pounds. In the midst of incredible suffering Jesus said the most incredible thing: “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and your children.” How I want to understand the depth of meaning in these words.

*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 good man who carried my Lord’s cross — oh, how can I help him today? (2) Thank you for the unselfish thoughts of Jesus for the daughters of Jerusalem in the midst of his own agony. (3) Thank you for the confirmation in the destruction of Jerusalem since the warning of Jesus carried this event in it. (4) Thank you Jesus represented himself as a “green tree” — one that lived through his persecution and death. (5) Thank you for the emotional and intellectual control my Lord had in spite of all men did to him. (6) Thank you that Jesus moved in regal splendor toward his cross — he wanted no pity — only understanding.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“. . . do not weep for me.” Was Jesus refusing pity? We do not think so. He was saying that there was a circumstance that called for more tears (he shed some of them himself). It was over Jerusalem that he wept. How wonderfully full of understanding was our Lord!

He knew these women out of their own tender hearts wept when they saw his suffering. But at best they did not — they could not understand what was happening to him. Here was one last attempt of Jesus to warn not only these women, but the whole nation of the impending disaster of 70 AD. Even in his last hours of horror he did not think of himself!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Every step of this way of sorrows should call forth a prayer: (1) “Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free?” (2) May I see the meaning of his words: “except a man take up his cross daily and follow me he cannot be my disciple.” (3) I want to weep over those things that my Lord counted as important — open my eyes. (4) The dry, dead tree of the Jewish nation was cut down and burned up — when my tears dry up shock me into reality! (5) The whole world walked with Jesus to Golgotha — I want to relive this for me.

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

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

How amazingly brief are all the accounts of this *once in all eternity* event — speak to me: (1) “Until I can see the ‘newness of life’ I wonder if you have ever died with me.” (2) “On the other hand if I am to expect certain character changes I will always be disappointed because I am perfect.” (3) “I must accept your *sincere desire* — this is all you can give.”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Ivory Coast* — Points for prayer: (1) *The Catholic Church* has made a deep impact through an extensive educational system. Many Ivoreans are nominally Catholic as a result. Catholics are 50% of the population in Abidjan, a large minority in the south and among the upper and middle classes. The lack is of a personal relationship with the Savior. (2) *Evangelical groups* had a late and slow start. Since 1973 most churches have grown between 10% and 30% per year. Pray for the spiritual health of believers. The major issues: materialism, growth of syncretistic ideas, breakdown in church-mission relationships and lack of concern for cross-cultural evangelism. (3) *Leadership for churches* is the big bottleneck. Pray for the calling out and training of more leaders of high caliber.

### 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 SIX

## —Wednesday—

*Your love fits perfectly my need —  
your sovereignty reminds me to yield  
my whole self in your presence.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“But you, O Sovereign Lord, deal well with me for your name’s sake; out of the goodness of your love, deliver me. For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me”* (Psa. 109:21,22). It is refreshingly good to return to you each day (and other times during the day) and reiterate the qualities of your very nature. (1) You are *the Sovereign Lord*, there are no questions when you speak (i.e. if we understand what you say). There are no regrets when you decide. There are no problems you cannot solve — if not in this life in the one to come. (2) It is because of your very essential Being that I am emboldened to come to you — i.e. since your name is *Love* I take courage to ask — since your name is *Mercy* I approach your throne with my need.

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

What a struggle I do have with what I consider consistent conduct! I must always cast myself finally upon “the goodness of your love” to deliver me! I really have no other recourse. How strangely poor I am when I could be so rich! I shall never cease to be in need of you. So I shall ever be “poor and needy.” As compared with those who do not know you I have everything and abound. My heart is indeed wounded within me. I have deep hurts that only you can heal because only your omniscience can understand. I guess all of us must finally come to the place where we know that only in your Sovereignty can we find peace and rest. How relaxing to make this discovery!

*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

My response to the attributes of yourself is the absence of worship as well as the real meaning of life. Maintaining the consciousness of your sovereignty — of your goodness, love and mercy — is a real problem! Dear Lord, I have not succeeded — forgive me! The

deep wounds of the heart only you can reach and heal. It has taken one long time to heal the wounds of my physical heart. Patience and fortitude is what I need in one and in the other. Neither one of these qualities are native. They come from you. Forgive my fretting! Cleanse my motivations for genuine humility.

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals — one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

<sup>35</sup>The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.”

<sup>36</sup>The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup>and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

<sup>38</sup>There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

<sup>40</sup>But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup>We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

<sup>42</sup>Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come

into your kingdom.”

<sup>43</sup>Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” — Luke 23:33-43, NIV; read also Matt. 27:35-44; Mark 15:24-32; John 19:18-27.

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I simply refuse to rush into a consideration of these precious words. I do want as much as at all possible to read them in your presence. The first of seven words from the cross is given here. “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” There is a continuing action verb here so what Luke is saying is that Jesus kept asking you — time after time to forgive them. Actually my dear Lord is pleading for time that these Roman soldiers might understand much better than they do as they nail him to the cross.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

The fulfillment of the prophecy in dividing his clothes and casting lots for his garment; the sign that Pilate made to be nailed to his cross; the robbers who were crucified on either side of him; all this and more present an overwhelming scene before my imagination. There were those there on that day who looked on quite passively — but not me! It would appear that both criminals began in derision — but one of them changed his mind. These men could have seen and heard our Lord at some time in his ministry. Evidently they were Jews for one of them spoke of “fearing God.” They represent all men who go to hell — or all men who deserve hell but escape it. In this sense they represent me!

*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 just One who here suffered for the unjust that he might bring us to yourself. (2) Thank you that he who knew no sin was willing here to be made sin that I might be made the righteousness of yourself. (3) Thank you that he was wounded for my transgressions — that he was bruised for my iniquities. (4) Thank you that Christ died for my sins according to fulfillment of prophecy. (5) Thank you that he can and did remember me and make me a citizen of his kingdom by his death in my place. (6) Thank you for this One who tasted of death for every man.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”* Such comforting words! It is easy to talk about death and heaven — but it is quite something else to come face to face with it. The words of Jesus

are so full of meaning as we look death in the face. Since he never lied when he says “I tell you the truth” we have very good reason to believe him. Oh, how we need to believe him, how we want to believe him. He will survive the cross — he will live beyond death — we too can share this victory — this life with him. We have such a promise on the integrity and death of God incarnate — praise his name!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

If I ever prayed it would seem I could pray much better beneath the cross: (1) Somehow sensitize my heart that it may always be tender and open to receive the dying love of your Son. (2) Forgive me for the stupid willful things I do against you and myself. (3) Keep the eyes of my heart open that I might see the cross as you do. (4) He did indeed “save others” — to do that he could not save himself — oh, wondrous love! (5) Jesus, remember me. Forgive me — receive my adoration and praise.

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

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

This text is full of personal impact — speak to me again: (1) “My death is a triumph of love — it was all for you.” (2) “Because I live you shall live also.” (3) “I died that you might not die — he that liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Jamaica* — Points for prayer: (1) *The Caribbean is a paradise gone wrong, and now an ideological war zone.* The potent mix of poverty, overpopulation and limited hopes for future development makes it a breeding ground for revolution for man newly independent, scarcely viable Caribbean states. (2) *The economic and political traumas of the past 15 years have shaken the Caribbean.* The unconverted have become more receptive and Christians more aware of their responsibilities to both evangelize and influence the standards of society. Praise God for this. Violent changes cannot be ruled out. The widening gap between rich and poor in the region could be disastrous.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

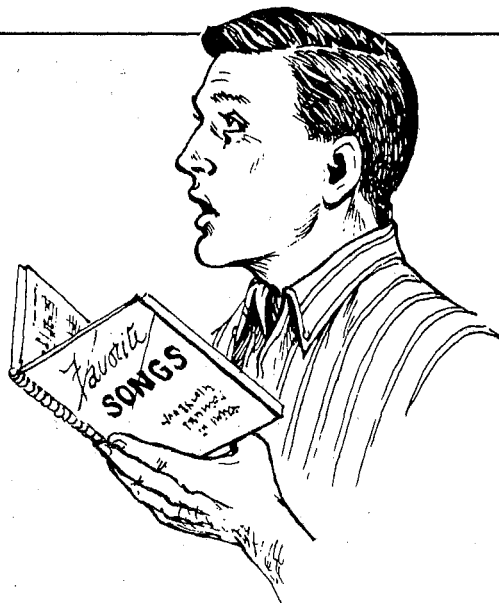
There is a fountain filled with blood  
 Drawn from Emmanuel's veins;  
 And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,  
 Lose all their guilty stains.  
 The dying thief rejoiced to see  
 That fountain in his day;  
 And there may I, though vile as he,  
 Wash all my sins away.



# WEEK SIX

## —Thursday—

*I want to thank the One to whom all thanks belongs. I want to honor the One to whom all honor belongs. I do it just now in worship.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Help me, O Lord my God; save me in accordance with your love. Let them know that it is your hand, that you, O Lord, have done it. They may curse, but you will bless; when they attack they will be put to shame, but your servant will rejoice”* (Psa. 109: 26-28). Our help comes not from our worthiness but out of your love. How very often I need to be reminded of this quality of yourself. Somehow it is so easy to allow people to congratulate us and not give credit where it is really due. In this day give me grace to turn all praise to yourself. *All good things come from you — keep me ever aware of this fact.*

*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 know I am under constant attack by the evil one. I know also that you always lead me in triumph! I am more than a conqueror with you because I can use the very weaknesses that made me vulnerable as a reason for my total dependence upon you. I *know* I cannot make it without your grace. My weakness drives me into your arms. The overcoming is *not* mine — it is yours or there will be no overcoming! I rejoice — but in a most subdued manner; Satan’s defeat is not of my strength — but of your mercy.

*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 would seem terribly monotonous to confess my sins so repeatedly were it not for the fact that I sin so often. The record of the O.T. relating to the nation of Israel is surely typical of our lives right now. The hundreds of years covered in this record says something too. It tells me that if there is going to be an improvement — and there is — it will take a long time. We have ten thousand more reasons all found in

your Son, to live the triumphant life than did any O.T. servant. Most of all we can claim your present total cleansing from our sin. Satan may curse us — and he does — but you will bless — and you do! Thank you.

*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

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.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>25</sup>Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son,” <sup>27</sup>and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. —John 19:25-27, NIV; read also Matt. 27:56; Mark 15:40.

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, you know I want to stand with these dear women. There were four women and only one man — why was this true? I do not want to make more of it than is present — but it does seem curious that of the twelve apostles only one was here present near the cross in his last hour. I want to designate and appreciate every one of these faithful people: (1) the

mother of Jesus; (2) her sister, who we believe according to Mark was Salome; (3) Mary the mother of Clopas, who we also believe was the mother of James the less and Joses; (4) Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How I want to commend these dear women for their love and courage. I do agree with several other servants of our Lord when they say the use of the term "woman" in place of "mother" was done to hold back a little of the pain of the sword that was already piercing her heart. John knew Jesus perhaps better than any of the other apostles. The one tremendous truth John discovered was that Jesus loved him! This became such a powerful personal fact that John constantly thought of himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." Oh, that your love could be that real to me!

*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 daring of these disciples to come up near the cross. (2) Thank you for the example the mother of my Lord is to all of us. (3) Thank you for the tender love of a mother — seen here in the lives of several women. (4) Thank you for Mary Magdalene — last at the cross and first at the tomb. (5) Thank you for faithful, tenderhearted John, who stayed with him to the end. (6) Thank you for John's love that issued in the practical help of giving a hand to Mary.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"From that time on, this disciple took her into his house." John evidently had a home in Jerusalem, although persecution was soon to cause many to leave the city. The apostles were the last to leave. A whole story could be written of the events after the resurrection and ascension of our Lord, i.e. as relating to the mother of our Lord. Did Jesus appear to his mother and offer the reassurances her heart no doubt longed to hear? We do not know, but somehow we cannot imagine he did not. Who else was in the home of the apostle John? Was there a family there who would now need to adjust to another family member? What a step of compassion it was for John to take this step. He who had no place to lay his head in this dying hour thought about a home for his mother.

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I am anxious to lift my heart in prayer over these three verses: (1) Somehow we always expect our mother to be present whenever we need her — and in many lives this is true — do I think you love me less?

(2) Keep my heart open to the fact that in many ways women offer an example of love and courage unmatched by men. (3) Inscribe on my heart the fact of your love for me — that I might think of myself as "that disciple whom Jesus loved." (4) May I find new ways of honoring my mother. (5) I want the kind of heart that looks on service to others as service for you.

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

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

As my Lord from the cross spoke to John, speak to me now. (1) "My mother is still in need — my mother is found in the lives and needs of my disciples." (2) "I am not on the cross but exalted at the right hand of the majesty on high." (3) "There are widows today who need as much care and concern as my mother did."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Japan* — Point for prayer: *Japan is a mixture of exciting openness and challenging unresponsiveness.* Warfare in the heavenlies is real. Areas of definite concern and contest: a) *The people* are polite, hard-working and sincere, yet are too absorbed in the things of this life to give heed to the gospel. Most see the value of a religion, 30% have a definite religion, but only 20% believe in the existence of God. b) *The period of post-war openness has passed.* Shintoism is once more a growing influence with a resurgence of Japanese nationalism. Pray for a new openness. c) *The growth of Sokka Gakkai* in the 1950s and '60s, and other new religions, as well as the success of aberrant versions of Christianity such as the Moonies, JW's, Mormons and Unitarian Pentecostals, is a challenge. d) *A network of churches and Christians* through the land, but with minimal impact on their surroundings. Personal contacts are essential to get newcomers to a Christian gathering.

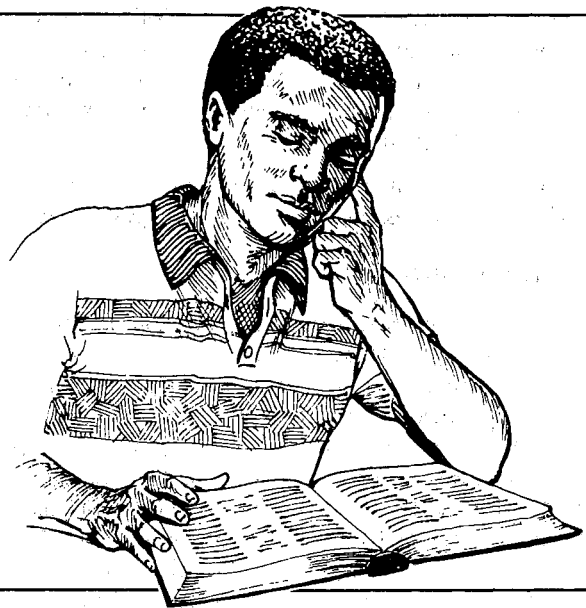
### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I gave my life for thee,  
My precious blood I shed,  
That thou might'st ransomed be,  
And quickened from the dead;  
I gave, I gave My life for thee:  
What hast thou given for Me?  
I gave, I gave My life for thee:  
What hast thou given for Me?

# WEEK SIX

## —Friday—

*How lovely is this description of yourself! How easy it is to become excited before you and praise you from the heart.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’ Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth”* (Psa. 110:1,3). We at once recognize these words as those repeated by our Lord in Matthew 22:43,44 in reference to himself. My purpose is to praise you and worship you in adoration. In these precious verses I can praise you for the co-equal nature of yourself and your Son. In particular for the triumphant rule you have in eternity over this earth. This is an amazing text!

*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

As I attempt to express this immense quality of yourself I am helped greatly by my friend *Spurgeon*: “Jesus is placed in the seat of power, dominion, and dignity, and is to sit there by divine appointment while Jehovah fights for him, and lays every rebel beneath his feet. . . . The mediatorial kingdom will last until the last enemy shall be destroyed, and then, according to the inspired word, ‘cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father’ ” (*ibid.*, p. 186). These words are such an encouragement to me in the midst of a sometimes dismal outlook on the battle of life — I am delighted to affirm in praise that we are on the winning side.

*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

We can never raise enough praise before your throne. But what of the troops? We indeed are the troops! In this poignant passage the troops are willing on the day

of battle. They are eager for the fray. Does this characterize our attitude? In speaking of such persons, even ourselves, *Spurgeon* says: “Given to him of old, they are his people, and when his power is revealed, these hasten with cheerfulness to own his sway, appearing at the gospel call as it were spontaneously, even as the dew comes forth in the morning. This metaphor is further enlarged upon, for as the dew has sparkling beauty, so these willing armies of converts have a holy excellence and charm about them; as the dew is the lively emblem of freshness, so are these converts full of vivacity and youthful vigor, and the church is refreshed by them and made to flourish exceedingly” (*ibid.*, 187). How far from the facts of the church in our day are these words — dear Lord, forgive!

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
Sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount — I’m fixed upon it—  
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>33</sup>At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup>And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” — which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

<sup>35</sup>When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

<sup>36</sup>One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Leave him alone now. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

<sup>37</sup>With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. —*Mark 15:33-37, NIV*; read also Matt. 27:45-50; Luke 23:44-46; John 19:28-30.

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is most important that I read all these accounts so I can as fully as possible appreciate what my Lord did on the cross for me and the whole world. There was no eclipse of the sun that just happened to occur on this day. Direct from your throne such a darkness was commanded. It does seem appropriate since all heaven must have been in mourning. Why did your Son address you as "God"? Wasn't it because he was now the creator addressing the offended Creator? Jesus tasted here of eternal death for all men. As the essence of sin he must be separated from your face. Dear Lord, will I ever be able to appreciate fully what this meant?

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

"In that hour He was alone. Sinking from depth to depth of unfathomable suffering, until, at the close approach of a death — which because He was God, and yet had been made man — was more awful to Him than it could ever be to any of the sons of men, it seemed as if even His divine humanity could endure it no more" (*Farrar, ibid*, p. 706). In that hour he cried out these words: "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani." Those at the foot of the cross only caught the first syllable and thought he was calling for Elijah. How typical of man's inability to understand what heaven is trying to communicate. Dear Lord, may I have ears to hear and a heart to understand.

*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 was able to look beyond the darkness to the light of the resurrection morning. (2) Thank you that Jesus was also willing to admit and identify the depth of his isolation on the cross. (3) Thank you my Lord wanted to face his suffering without sedation. (4) Thank you for the amazing control he exercised throughout this ordeal.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit. . . ." It would seem from this text that Jesus knew just when his spirit was to be released from his body, or even had the power to command the release. Was this what he meant when he said, "no man taketh my life"? Was this also what impressed the Roman soldier

that here was a man who could control the moment of his death? Our Lord has now returned to the use of the term "Father." He began and ended on the cross with this word. May this be the closing words of our life: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How shall I pray as I watch him die? (1) Keep me constantly aware that there is *nothing* that can separate us from you. (2) I want to appreciate more fully than ever before the suffering of my Lord in *my place!* (3) Give me the courage to face the results of decisions I have made for you. (4) I want to be able to appreciate more fully than ever before the forgiveness and acceptance my Lord gave me on Calvary. (5) I can see in John the Baptist the Elijah for whom men were looking — I want to be like him.

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

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

As my Lord spoke from the cross men listened — I also want to learn: (1) "I thirst today for all who lack the water of life." (2) "I can and do forgive all who will see what I did for them on the cross." (3) "All the provisions for opening the door of heaven are finished."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Japan* — Point for prayer: *Specific weaknesses in the churches:* a) *Lack of biblical teaching.* Christians need complete renewal in their minds. The pervasive influence of the spirit world, philosophies and superstitions must be replaced by a vibrant theology, and a head and heart knowledge of the greatness and holiness of God. b) *The minority complex.* Christians are a tiny minority in a society where consensus is important. Too few families have come to faith, and individuals feel exposed. c) *Nonactive membership and backsliding are widespread.* Church attendance is low, with only 33% of Protestants regularly going to services; though in evangelical denominations the percentage is much higher. d) *Formality in worship services.* May more life, more joy, and a Japanese hymnology be infused into them!

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

If you are tired of the load of your sin,  
Let Jesus come into your heart;  
If you desire a new life to begin,  
Let Jesus come into your heart.  
Just now, your doubtings give o'er;  
Just now, reject Him no more;  
Just now, throw open the door;  
Let Jesus come into your heart.

# WEEK SIX

## —Saturday—

*When I bow before One who is as glorious as his deeds, who is as majestic as his works, One who is full of compassion and grace, it is easy to worship.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever. He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate”* (Psa. 111:2-4). If we can attribute to yourself what the psalmist has attributed to your works (and we are sure we can) then you are: (1) great; (2) glorious; (3) majestic; (4) righteous; (5) gracious; (6) compassionate. I have found you all this and much more! As an artisan is known by his works so we must say as we contemplate the world in which we live, “you are GREAT!” The qualities of precision — balance — purpose — color — are all seen in what you have made — they indeed are *glorious* — and so are 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

Can anyone stand at the base of one of the Sequoia redwood trees and not be impressed with the majesty of such a creation? Is there anyone who can look through the lense of a giant telescope into the Milky Way and not pause in amazement before such a majestic display of your handiwork? Truly you are majestic in all your creation. It is good to know someone who is always right — and there is no resentment in this fact. By you and your word we can measure all else. We could be terribly intimidated if it were not for your grace! We can relax because you know all about us and still are full of compassion toward us. Praise, adoration and joy are mine!

*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 am indeed faced with a problem: how shall I confess my sin to you? If it were only one time or even ten

times I could do it — how can I express it adequately? I really never can do it like I should — or even as I want to. The failures that intrude themselves in my consciousness I can lift up to you for cleansing — and I do that just now. But there are far more of the subtle kind for which I need a miracle of character change direct from your throne. How can I ever truly appreciate your greatness, glory, majesty, righteousness or your grace and compassion? I shall try, but at best I need your forgiveness!

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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!

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>51</sup>At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. <sup>52</sup>The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

<sup>53</sup>They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

<sup>54</sup>When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that happened, they were terrified, and explained, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

<sup>55</sup>Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. <sup>56</sup>Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary

the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons. — *Matthew 27:51-56, NIV*; read also Mark 15:38-41; Luke 23:45,47-49.

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

These are of all verses in this record perhaps the most unusual. At the very moment of his death the gigantic veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom. Dear Lord, I do want to understand this more fully. The Jewish writer Edersheim says this veil was 60 ft. long (six stories high), 30 ft. wide and of the thickness of a span or 4 or 5 inches. It was a composite of 72 equal squares of material and took scores of priests to manipulate (*P.T. Butler*). I want to stand back shocked as the priests of the temple no doubt did when this happened.

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Matthew records an astounding event: "the earth shook and the rocks split, the tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who died were raised to life." He mentions this last incident occurred after his resurrection — or were only their appearance in the city held until after his resurrection? Evidently these were persons recently dead who were known by those in Jerusalem. What an amazing scene to contemplate! I accept all the miraculous or none of the miraculous. I am glad to say I enjoy trying to identify with the wonder of these words. I exclaim with the army captain: "Surely he was (and is) the Son of God."

*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 vast importance the biographers placed on "the moment" of his death. (2) Thank you for the obvious intimate interest you had in the death of your Son — i.e. as related to the temple veil. (3) Thank you for the way now open into your very presence. (4) Thank you for nature's response as to the importance of what happened on Golgotha. (5) Thank you for the wonder of the resurrection of several people at the time of my Lord's death — I shall never be able to approach its real meaning. (6) Thank you for the honesty of the centurion in his open confession of the deity of Jesus.

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'surely he was the Son of God.'" There was something strange and mysterious about the events surrounding his death. The terror of those who were there that day emanated from ignorance and superstition. The wonder and awe that must have filled the hearts of Mary and the other women, not to mention the apostle John, had all the miracles of his ministry behind them. What is the basis for our affirmation of his deity? Are we dependent on some strange physical sign to confirm our faith? Are not his words and his life enough?

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I want to look through the torn veil — i.e. to say his flesh into the holy of holies — or heaven itself: (1) Blessed high priest, even my Lord at your right hand to speak on my behalf — what glorious encouragement — direct and protect our loved ones who travel this day. (2) Keep me aware that Jesus was no less the Son of God before the rocks split and the tombs were opened — and no more so afterward. He is and always was and will always be your Son and our Lord. (3) Give me patience with all who want to love and serve you.

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

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

In every circumstance of life help me to hear your voice: (1) "There is nothing I can not do except what I have withheld by my own word." (2) "I like to surprise my children — be prepared." (3) "I am alive at this very moment — I am fully aware of all you say, do or think — and I love you."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Japan* — Point for prayer: *Needy people and areas.* a) *Of Japan's eight regions* Kyushu, Chugoku, Chubu and Tohoku have proportionately the fewest churches and most counties with no evangelical congregations. b) *The Burakumin* (3 mill.) are descendants of the former outcasts and still suffer a degree of social ostracism. Many have become followers of Sokka Gakkai. Most live in the central Kinki region. c) *The Ainu*, a non-Mongolian race that first settled in north Japan. They have almost assimilated into Japanese culture, but a resurgence of Ainu culture may mean a specific Christian outreach is required. d) *Koreans* are an unpopular and despised minority that is much discriminated against. Many live in urban slums. They are sharply divided in their allegiance to the two Koreas. There are proportionately fewer Christians than in S. Korea, though more than in the Japanese population as a whole. e) *Chinese in Japan* are predominantly in business in the larger cities. The great majority are still followers of the Chinese traditional religions.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Just as I am! without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!  
Just as I am! Thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!