

WEEK EIGHT

—Sunday—

In all the ways you help and I know it I thank you! For the many more ways you help me and I do not know I praise you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“You who fear him, trust in the Lord — he is their help and shield. The Lord remembers us and will bless us: He will bless the house of Israel, he will bless the house of Aaron, he will bless those who fear the Lord — small and great alike” (Psa. 115:11-13). It should be mentioned that this Psalm was sung every year at the Passover. It would be a blessing for me to now read over again these 18 short verses and remember all the times and places where these words were repeated by your children in the days that are past. I am sure I have no concept of how difficult it must have been to praise you in the midst of a heathen nation — such as Babylon or Persia. Dear Lord, how is it we are hesitant to praise you in this land of freedom?

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

You are my help — my shield. I have said it before — but I want to say it again that the largest help you give me is probably not even known, i.e. it is in the realm of the Spirit and relates to transactions and decisions I shall never know till I am translated into your world of Spirit. I want to praise you for your aid and protection. Your past mercies prove that we are in your heart — you have not forgotten us. How comforting is this thought! All the good things of life come down from your presence and I am glad. Glad to enjoy what you have sent and glad to acknowledge the Giver!

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

“He will have a general blessing for all who fear him, a peculiar blessing for the whole house of Israel, and a double blessing for the sons of Aaron” (Spurgeon).

My sin is ingratitude! It is easy to say I am grateful — it is quite another matter to demonstrate it in life. Your blessings are seen in the ordinary flow of life. So should be my thankfulness. It is in the lives of others — those in need — and those who do not know of it or expect it that my gratitude needs to be seen. Dear Lord, how very far short I fall in these areas. Forgive — but not for continuance in my selfishness!

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, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home:
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied:
Come to God’s own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home.

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

HIS WORD

⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

¹¹While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹²When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ ¹⁴If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵So the

soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day. —Matthew 28:9-15, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The harmony of the appearances of Jesus has posed a problem for students of the text for many years. We believe this appearance occurred after he appeared to Mary Magdalene. The women had told his disciples what they had seen and heard at the sepulcher and had returned to the tomb. It was while they were back in the garden that Jesus “suddenly” appeared to them. What a remarkable greeting our Lord gave to these women. I wish I knew the tone of his voice and the look on his face. *Amazement* would not be an adequate word for the response of these women. Jesus came to them to make an appointment with his “brothers.” “Tell them to meet me in Galilee,” were his words.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I want to examine the amazing disbelief of the chief priests and elders. The guards had no reason to lie. Why wouldn't these religious men believe? It would cost them too much! They would have to admit to crucifying their own Messiah, of being unable to keep his body in the grave, even with all the authority of Rome behind them. They would have to admit, most of all, that their understanding of the sacred scriptures was wrong. What an absurd scheme: “His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.” If so, who told them? How did the disciples do this without awakening them? Ah, the heart of man is deceitful above all things!

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 holy awe that filled the hearts of the women. (2) Thank you for the heavenly joy they felt and expressed. (3) Thank you such awe and joy can be mine today. (4) Thank you that Jesus can greet me every morning — he is alive forever more! (5) Thank you for the honesty of the guards, i.e. with the authorities. (6) Thank you for the futile absurdity of those who tried to “cover up” the resurrection. (7) Thank you for the multiplied assurance found in the record that he is alive!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.” Matthew was an apostle and was there when it happened. He is writing perhaps 30 years after it happened; this seems like a long time for such a story to survive, but then when people do not

want to accept the truth they have real help in believing a lie. How glad we are that the truth has been widely circulated among men of this whole world even to this very day. It is an incredible miracle that we have the record of his life, death and resurrection. Praise his name!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In each of these appearances there are many potential requests: (1) I want my Lord to be the very first one to greet me each day. (2) Move my heart to fall at your feet in glad adoration. (3) Your death for my sins gives me boldness before you — at the same time I need your wisdom in my requests. (4) You have made an appointment with me to meet you around your table on your day — I even now look forward to that time. (5) The guards at the tomb were in an untenable position! —but no more so than many men in America who will stand before you at judgment — dear Lord I want to help them — help me.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What do you say to me from these verses? (1) “Both reverence and joy are appropriate expressions of worship before me.” (2) “You know a little of the meaning of my resurrection — but there is so much more to learn.” (3) “Friends (?) have stolen my body and have lied about me — I speak of my church.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

South Korea — Points for prayer: (1) Praise God for the spiritual awakening in Korea and the evident work of the Holy Spirit. Here is a selection of the superlatives! a) The first Protestant church was planted in 1884. By the centenary in 1984 there were nearly 30,000! About 4,900 of these are in the capital. b) The largest congregation (Full Gospel Central Church), and the largest Presbyterian and Methodist congregations in the world. c) The largest evangelistic campaign (Billy Graham 1973). d) The largest Christian mobilization (CCC Explo '74, World Evangelization Crusade '80). 2,700,000 attended one meeting. e) The largest baptismal service since Pentecost (in the army, which is now 65% Christian). (2) Praise God for a Church founded on sound indigenous principles, blessed with many seasons of revival and refined by years of suffering. Korean Christians are praying that 50% of their nation may be Christian by the end of the century.

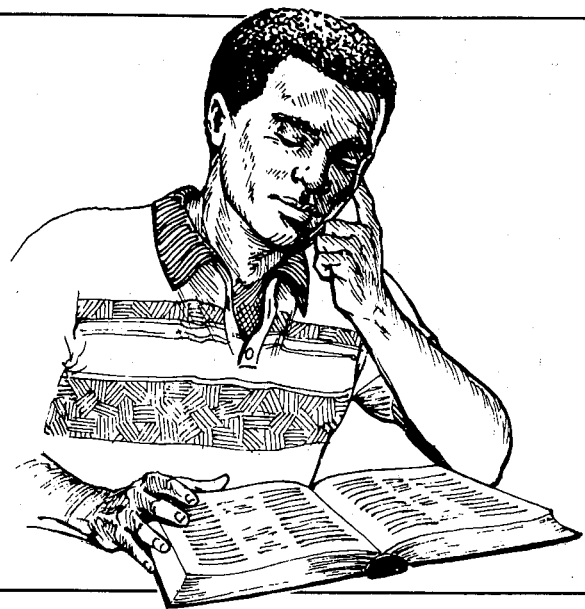
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest.

WEEK EIGHT

—Monday—

In this time with you teach me afresh what it means to worship One who is "full of compassion."



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. The Lord protects the simplehearted; when I was in great need, he saved me. Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to you" (Psa. 116:5-7). What a wealth of good things is found in these three verses: (1) you are gracious; (2) righteous; (3) full of compassion; (4) a protector of the simple hearted; (5) a deliverer and savior of those in need; (6) a constant giver of good to meet our lack. My constant enjoyment of your unearned favor will never cease to amaze me. I want to bask in the sunshine of your love! Since you are absolute righteousness all your actions will express this quality perfectly. Compassion is such a lovely quality — but to know the One who is "full of compassion" is almost more than I can assimilate.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Somehow all these qualities of yourself take on a bright new meaning! If ever there was anyone who qualified as "the simple hearted" it would be myself. This is not necessarily a negative quality. As compared with yourself all of us are indeed "simple hearted" and sorely need your protection. Dear Lord, I come as a child to the Father — guard me from the evil one and my own selfishness. I have lately been very much in need; I am glad to say: "He saved me." I claim your promise that "no good thing will the Lord withhold to those who walk uprightly." My walk is conditioned by your grace or I have no claim on this promise — I rest my soul in your grace.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I live constantly somewhere between my need and your supply: (1) You are gracious but I sometimes assume such a quality is automatic and continue in

my sin. (2) You are righteous — but I set myself up as judge of what is right or wrong — forgive me. (3) You are full of compassion — but I do not believe it and misinterpret your expressions of love. (4) You want to protect the simple hearted — we reject the idea of such a quality — and in such a decision admit our simplemindedness. (5) You stand ready to deliver and save — but at times I won't even admit I need such help. In all these admissions of my sin forgive me and renew my mind.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Thou, my everlasting portion,
More than friend or life to me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Savior, let me walk with Thee.
Close to Thee, close to Thee,
Close to Thee, close to Thee;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Savior, let me walk with Thee.

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

HIS WORD

¹³Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one living in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a

prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²²In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." —*Luke 24:13-24, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How very often have I read these blessed words! But just now for this time I want to see them afresh! We do not know Cleopas, but one day we shall see him and ask about the details we have so long wondered about. As example: "Why did you make the journey?" Somehow in the act of walking it is easier to talk — was this the reason for the trip? How good it is to be able to review in our own minds all the things that had happened in the precious closing days of my Lord's ministry. The question of Jesus (the stranger to them) stopped them in their tracks. He has a way of doing such real often.

He has a way of doing such real often.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

What a teacher was my Lord! He drew out of men the expression of their own hearts. Only when the feelings of the heart are framed in words can we know how best to interpret them. Jesus was now to receive their true estimate of himself. I am living in a somewhat similar circumstance: you have most subtle ways of manifesting yourself to me — and I do not at first recognize your presence. I am glad to affirm with your disciples that you are in truth "a prophet, powerful in word and deed before yourself and all the people." You are *my redeemer!*

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 we can today discuss the same wonderful events these men talked about on their journey to Emmaus. (2) Thank you that the wonder and joy of this event has not diminished at all. (3) Thank you for the unobtrusive way my Lord manifested himself — what an example for us! (4) Thank you for the strong emotional response these two men gave to our Lord's answer — it indicates just how much they were involved in what had happened. (5) Thank you my Lord made so many appearances on Sunday — it gives such a new meaning to this day. (6) Thank you for the infinite patience Jesus showed to these two men.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive." How is it that on the day of his resurrection he appeared first to several women before he showed himself alive to these two men? We do not know — but we do like to think about the question. As example: women — not men — were last at the cross — with the exception of John we do not find men at the cross. Women followed him in larger numbers than men — i.e. if the gospel accounts tell of those who followed him — i.e. how many men and how many women. It was women who out of their own substance gave to Jesus and his followers that they might have food on their journeys.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

My heart is moved within me as I consider possible prayer requests from this text: (1) May the thoughts of my heart for this day be on your death and resurrection. (2) I do want to include my Lord in my conversation for today. (3) Help me to think past the obvious as I attempt to draw others out in a conversation about my Lord. (4) I want the power of your words and deeds to be a reality in my life *now!* (5) Awaken my sensibilities to the meaning of your resurrection. (6) May I listen to others as well as I want them to listen to me. (7) Keep me ready to enter your eternal presence.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I am eager to hear what you will say to me from these verses: (1) "I am an unseen companion for every journey — take me with you." (2) "Talking about my death and resurrection will help in every circumstance." (3) "I am yet 'a prophet, powerful in word and deed . . .' hear me!"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Kuwait — Points for prayer: (1) *The shadow of the Gulf War and Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalism has disturbed Kuwaitis.* Pray that the wealthy Kuwaitis may become more receptive to the gospel. Possibly less than 2% have ever handled a Bible or heard the gospel. There may be only one family of Kuwaiti believers. (2) *Kuwaitis travel* as tourists, businessmen and students (2,500 in USA). Pray that they may meet Christians willing to share their faith.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart!

WEEK EIGHT

—Tuesday—

How brief is life — how long is eternity! While it is day lead me to your throne.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of his people” (Psa. 116:12-14). We cannot ignore all the sin and strife about us, but to dwell upon it and be constantly full of complaint and criticism is only self-defeating. How much better it is to turn our hearts up to you and sincerely ask: “How can I repay you for *all your goodness?*” This is a generic word that encompasses *so much* in it. The words: pleasant, satisfying, fulfilling, joy, peace — all these and more are involved. Praise your name!

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

What is in the “cup of salvation”? How much more than when the psalmist first said these words! As I look into the cup and then lift it up to you I see in it forgiveness, sanctification, hope, peace, eternal life, redemption, adoption, justification — and much more. No wonder I am grateful! I call upon your name (or authority) to fulfill all you have promised me in the cup of salvation. Out of grace through my faith. What is my response to such goodness? “I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.”

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 goodness does not lead me to a constant changing of my mind, i.e. in your direction then I have truly played the hypocrite! My repentance must take the form of the fulfillment of my vows — not just in public — i.e. before an audience; they will serve to confirm what I have decided. Dear Lord, I am deciding, help me in the completion of such a

decision. I do need your grace and forgiveness — it is so easy to take advantage (or so we think) of your goodness — forgive me.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall fearless be.

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

HIS WORD

²⁵He said to them, “How foolish you are, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

²⁶Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.

³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³²They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

³³They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

—Luke 24:25-35, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

This is such an exciting section it is difficult to be objective. Dear Lord, speak to me of my foolishness and slowness. I want to read again all the prophets have spoken. Such as: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Zechariah 11:7-14; 13:1-9; Psalm 110:1-7; II Samuel 7:12; Daniel 9:24-27 and Psalm 96:10. Your Son began with Moses — I want to do the same as he did in Deuteronomy 18:18ff and obtain a new look at the types in Genesis and Exodus, and the deliverance in Numbers. If Jesus explained the scriptures — then the scriptures *need* explanation. How is it that Jesus acted as if he were going further than Emmaus? He was always and ever “the Teacher” — he wanted the disciples to respond to him. How we can all learn from him.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

You are indeed speaking to me in these words: “*How foolish you are . . .*” — only you can know how well these words apply to my needs. I am also “*slow of heart to believe*” — it is not that I do not understand or consent to the truthfulness of what I read, but I am foolish and slow of heart in making direct appropriation of your word to my life. I do so sorely need a revelation of yourself — I need to see you “*in the breaking of the bread*” — or in some other ordinary activity of life. Perhaps my biggest need would be a fresh opening of the scriptures to 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 that you can read our hearts while we read the scriptures and can make the two one. (2) Thank you that you know all things — you know my deepest need and you are even now moving to meet it. (3) Thank you for the One (even yourself) who said, “Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (4) Thank you for the possibility of a burning heart — set on fire by yourself. (5) Thank you for the excitement of these men — such a good example for me.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.*” A short book could be written over what our Lord said to Simon and what Simon said to Jesus. Peter must have been full of a confession of his failure in his multiple denials of his Lord. The one thing he sought — and found — was forgiveness. Did Jesus at this time restore him to the place of service? We believe it was later on the shores of Galilee. How very much did Peter need this appearance of Jesus — and he needed it apart from and separate from the other disciples. Jesus was so full of personal thoughtfulness!

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I have already found so much for which I can pray in these verses: (1) I am indeed foolish — I ask for your wisdom. (2) Quicken my heart that I might believe all you tell me in your word. (3) I do want to fill up the sufferings of my Lord (even as Paul prayed for himself). (4) Open my eyes to see at least a little of “the glory” that you now share with my Father in heaven. (5) I never tire of reviewing all the prophets have said concerning my Lord — give me occasion to do so. (6) Welcome, Lord Jesus, to every room in this house of mine. (7) In the “little things” of this day I want to see you.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As you spoke to the two on the way — and set their hearts on fire — so speak to me: (1) “I have a worldwide ministry of intercession — it was indeed expedient for me to leave this earth.” (2) “The Holy Spirit through my body continues my ministry on earth.” (3) “My appearances were as much for your benefit as those to whom I appeared.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Laos — Points for prayer: (1) *Only a few areas and ethnic groups have ever been evangelized.* Laos needs to hear the gospel. Now the land is closed to foreign missionary work. There are some foreign Christian relief workers serving in the country. (2) *Persecution refined the Church.* The early years under Communism were hard. Weak Christians fell away, those that remained had to learn to trust in God and not in Western help. Ideological confrontations and restrictions brought a deeper appreciation of the gospel. About two-thirds of the Christians fled to Thailand, yet after the decline the Church has grown and matured.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Years I spent in vanity and pride,
Caring not my Lord was crucified,
Knowing not it was for me He died
On Calvary.

Mercy there was great, and grace was free;
Pardon there was multiplied to me;
There my burdened soul found liberty,
At Calvary.

WEEK EIGHT

—Wednesday—

Death is but a door to a new life — the chains of fear are removed, I thank you! I enter the prayer closet with joy.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant; you have freed me from my chains. I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord” (Psalm 116:15-17). I take the term “precious” as used here to refer to *value* — i.e. this is to remind us that we have been delivered out of some sore sickness by your mercies because we are important to you. As Spurgeon has said: “They shall not die prematurely; they shall be immortal till their work is done; and when their time shall come to die, then their deaths shall be precious. The Lord watches over their dying beds, smooths their pillows, sustains their hearts, and receives their souls.”

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

It is easy enough to mouth pious platitudes — dear Lord, deliver me far from such a practice! I am your servant when I serve you — of course I am your servant at all times — but only when I fulfill the meaning of my name do I truly fulfill your purpose. I am glad to say with David that “I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.” My dear aged mother is indeed your maidservant. There is no freedom at all except in your service — I have been freed from the bondage of sin to be bound in gratitude to yourself.

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 purpose of thanksgiving has been woefully short in times past — and in the very recent present. I call on the name and authority of almost everyone but yourself. Dear Lord, forgive me. Why is the bondage of Satan so attractive? He has an ally in me, i.e. the

strong desires of the flesh, eyes, and pride. But these are also your allies if I want them to be. I can choose to express the desires of the flesh in your service — I *can* present my body a living sacrifice — I *can* present my members as instruments of righteousness. Things can be given in your service — pride in you not in me can become a praise to your name.

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 can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

HIS WORD

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵When the other disciples told him that they had seen the Lord, he declared, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.”
—John 20:19-25, NIV; read also Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I want to remember the real importance you placed upon Sunday. (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1,19,26; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10) As the first day approaches I want to have my heart ready to worship corporately, i.e. with your body, your church. The appearance of my Lord was so sudden and unexpected that the disciples were filled with fear. His greeting was intended to quiet their hearts — it didn't — he needed to repeat it. Why did he show them the nail prints and the wound in his side? He wanted them to know with no doubt it was the same Jesus who had walked and talked with them for the past three years.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

“The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.” There is no joy on this earth to compare with this happiness! What comfort there is in his words: “Peace be with you.” Dear Lord, I want this joy; I want this peace! What did Jesus mean in his words to his apostles: “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you”? I believe it was the first “great commission” i.e. the first time he gave the great commission. In this giving he gives also the equipping means. He does not here give them the Holy Spirit — but in this dramatic manner he reinforces his promise of the coming Comforter. In giving the apostles divine wisdom and knowledge through the Holy Spirit they would be able to forgive sins — those who rejected their message did not have their sins forgiven.

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 each of the twelve apostles — I see myself in them. (2) Thank you for Thomas — his doubts have all been mine — and his faith. (3) Awaken me each first day of the week as if it were the day he first came out of the grave. (4) Thank you for the insistent, continual joy we can have in you. (5) Thank you for the overwhelming evidence of his resurrection. (6) Thank you for the forgiveness of sins I have received through the words of the apostles. (7) Thank you that my Lord is listening to all our conversation.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” Our Lord was the silent listener to the words of Thomas. His words to Thomas perfectly match his request. He said, “Put your fingers here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side.” Jesus did not always grant such a request. Why? Because he knew there are very

few honest doubters. Most doubt has a moral base — but not with Thomas. Luke says Jesus requested a part of the broiled fish they ate that evening for supper. There was no way to deny his being alive.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I do not want to doubt — I want to believe — increase my faith as I make requests through these words: (1) Just how did my Lord get in the locked room? The important fact is he did — open my heart to a deeper appreciation of his power. (2) Give me your peace — I want it to guard my heart and my thoughts. (3) Show me again — as I read this text — your hands and your side. (4) May the vast importance of the words of the apostles penetrate my dull ears. (5) May the enormity of rejecting their word be with me. (6) Give me the daring honesty of Thomas.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

My ears are open — speak to me through these words: (1) “My peace is always available.” (2) “The Holy Spirit has already given the gospel which is my means of forgiving or retaining sins.” (3) “The eternal fact of my resurrection is established.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Lebanon — Points for prayer: (1) *Hatred and revenge have brought death and tragedy to all.* Deep repentance and a forgiving spirit must come before reconciliation is possible. Yet in the sorrow and tensions responsiveness to the gospel has increased. Both Muslims and nominal Christians are seeking the Savior in different parts of the country. Pray that the centuries-old barriers to the understanding of the Truth may be swept away. (2) *The country has been ravaged for 10 years by foreign and community armies, and is, in effect, ungovernable.* Pray for community leaders of all religions, and pray that a national government may emerge that exalts righteousness and justice.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Shall I crucify my Savior,
When for me He bore such loss?
Shall I put to shame my Savior?
Can I nail Him to the cross?
Shall I crucify my Savior?
Crucify my Lord again?
Once, O once again I crucified Him:
Shall I crucify again?

WEEK EIGHT

—Thursday—

*Great love and everlasting faithfulness
are reason enough to bow in your
presence!*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord” (Psa. 117:1,2). We are full of wonder that in the very center of the book of Psalms we find an invitation to the Gentile nations to praise your name. We expect this in the N.T. but to find it here in the song book of the Jewish nation is indeed a wonder. The nationalistic prejudice we observe in the lives of the religious leaders of our Lord’s day is not here. I never tire as a Gentile in fulfilling this invitation. It is good beyond words to praise and extol your name.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

The whole historical record found in the books of Moses tell me of your love — yea, your *great* love toward us. If we began to review specific expressions of such love we would not leave the first chapter of Genesis. Man has been created with the capacity of thought — and you have created more than enough to think about in the physical world — should we live a thousand years we could not exhaust a consideration of the species of butterflies were they all available to us — or the shells of the seashore. Most of all I want to extol your expressions of love directed toward Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Seth, Noah, Abram, Isaac, Jacob — and so many others. Praise the Lord, O my soul!

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 spite of the obvious reasons for praising you I am at times so strangely silent. My capacity of praise has been directed toward a secondary source. Forgive my sad distraction. If I learn anything it is that my capacities can not be directed in two ways at the same time. I cannot praise myself or other men and yourself at the same time. Your faithfulness endures

forever — oh, that mine would last at least longer than it sometimes does. I am glad for the means of grace you give to me — a commitment to personal worship — preaching — teaching — fellowship with other Christians is such a help.

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

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the Lifegate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

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

HIS WORD

²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. —*John 20:26-31, NIV*; read also I Cor. 15:5.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Once again I am impressed with the time of his appearances — all of them to this point have been on Sunday. We do wonder what the disciples were saying in the seven days that had passed. Of course they must have discussed his resurrection — his death — all the meaning of his life with them. It is interesting that they met together at the same time and the same place one week later. John does not tell us if Jesus simply materialized in their midst — or just how he came. But he was there! The challenge to Thomas is a challenge to us — that is why John wrote it. Dear Lord, I believe!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Since this is written for me — one who has not seen and yet has believed — I do want to read it with as much meaning as possible. I do believe my faith is stronger and much fuller because I can base it on the testimony of credible witnesses. If everyone had to confirm his faith by the five senses we would have utter and total confusion. Suppose all men demanded a sensory perception of George Washington before they would believe he was our first president. We believe because men whom we trust have told us so. The four biographers of my Lord are just such men.

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 constant interest my Lord has in all I say and think. (2) Thank you for the supernatural appearances of Jesus — also for the frequency of them. (3) Thank you for the direct challenge of Jesus to Thomas — so like his challenge to me. (4) Thank you that there are only two options — a lie or faith — truth. (5) Thank you that I can look forward to someday asking John to recite more of the signs that are not written in this book. (6) Thank you for the wonderful blessedness of believing!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“But these are written that you may (continue to) believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” What a wonderful source for our faith! In a meditation over every word written in the four gospels we can arrive at a position of confidence nothing from Satan can assail — i.e. successfully. Our continuing meditation produces a continuing faith. The whole Bible needs to be digested in order to know all we can about our Lord as the Messiah of type and shadow or promise and prophecy. The end result is a confident faith in eternal life for each of us. Praise his name!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these closing words of John’s wonderful gospel I find so much, so many reasons for praying: (1) I am so glad that the locked doors of men mean nothing to you. (2) As you met the particular needs of Thomas I know you will meet mine — I expect your presence with me today! (3) Keep me from the evil one and overbearing temptations for this day. (4) “My Lord and my God!” — indeed you are! May this be a living reality in human relationships. (5) I want the blessing of one who has not seen and yet believes. (6) Open the eyes of my understanding to see the deeper meaning in the signs of Jesus.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these memorable words of Jesus speak to my heart: (1) “Is anything in your life more important than developing and increasing your faith in me?” (2) “Doubts are good when you respond as Thomas.” (3) “My permanent source of faith is what I have said in the Bible — read it and read it again.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Lebanon — Points for prayer: (1) *The hatred and cruelty of Muslim militia on Christian communities has been returned in kind.* The retention of political power, and promotion of denominational interests, have had preeminence over pure Christian living and preaching the gospel. The bewildering variety of Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant bodies is hardly a witness to non-Christians. (2) *The unreached.* The social consequences of personal conversions to Christ are immense, so those coming to Him have been few, but praise God for greater openness now. So pray for: a) *The Druzes.* Well-organized, but close-knit community with a secretive religion. Response to the gospel has been minimal. b) *The Shi’ites* are newly powerful, militant, radical and hostile to any Western influences. Pray that they may discover the emptiness of a religion without Christ. c) *The Kurds:* a despised and ignored but more responsive people. d) *The Palestinians:* a tragic, stateless people. There are Christians among them, some evangelical, but the majority are Muslim and unreached.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide, me O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last!

WEEK EIGHT

—Friday—

Total freedom is mine ONLY in you. You are indeed my helper in a thousand ways. I bow before your throne in thanksgiving.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“In my anguish, I cried to the Lord, and he answered me by setting me free. The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies” (Psa. 118:5-7). It is refreshing to learn of your qualities through your work with man. You are the original source of freedom and liberty. We never truly appreciate our freedom until we are in the anguish of some type of bondage. In our anguish we can cry to you (and where else can we go for help?) in your answer is freedom! In answer to the psalmist’s question, “What can man do to me?” we could point to the terrible inhumanities of man with men — but such is only against the body — and we are not the body.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I have just been through a very severe major operation and I have found that the spirit and the body are almost inseparable — but I say only “almost” — in the deepest anguish I knew I was not the body. Man has not touched my spirit — he has affected it — but not touched it. I am glad to strongly affirm: “The Lord is with me,” was with me and shall be with me. It is in the confidence of this assertion I find strength and peace. My enemies are within. This is to be expected since the real person is within. I want to know much more about the meaning — the application of the little phrase: “the Lord is with me” and “he is my helper.”

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

In my anguish at times I have cried to anyone and everyone but yourself. Forgive me — in my self pity I have cried against you — what a self-defeating attitude! Forgive me. In attempting to decide just how you should act and react I have developed real anguish and cried out stupid accusations — forgive! It

is only in your omniscience and omnipresence I find rest — peace and confidence are only in my rest in your presence. Why must I learn this so repeatedly? You are indeed my helper — help me! I thank you even now for the triumph I know is already on the way.

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

I need Thy presence every passing hour:
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me!

HIS WORD

21 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³“I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. ⁶He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. ⁷Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. —*John 21:1-8, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It seems significant to me that John used the term "Sea of Tiberias" which was the Roman designation for the Sea of Galilee. John wanted his gospel to be read and appreciated by us Gentiles. We are glad to respond to his wonderful words. It is not my understanding that Peter was backsliding by going fishing. He was here with the other disciples to meet Jesus. Would the Lord come at night? It wasn't too likely. Peter had a family to feed and here was an opportunity to do so. Perhaps this was also true of the other apostles. Fishing all night and catching nothing is a frustrating experience.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Perhaps I can be one of the "two other disciples" in this boat. People are not very talkative when they have been up all night and have suffered disappointment. It becomes even worse when accompanied by others. Did Peter brag to these men that he knew where they could catch the fish? After all it was his idea that they "go fishing." Be that as it may, in the early morning as they pulled toward the shore no one was saying anything. Then the silhouette of a man on the shore. Across the perfect acoustical sounding board of the surface of the lake came the words: "Friends, haven't you any fish?" There was just a one word answer: "No," they answered.

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 generous attitude of my Lord as he met the needs of these men. (2) Thank you for John's perception and excitement. Did he recall the somewhat similar instructions in the early days of his association with our Lord? (Luke 5:4) (3) Thank you for the abundant evidence of our Lord's deity found in not a few fish or a good catch — but a number they could not even haul into the boat. (4) Thank you that the fish were not medium size but "large." (5) Thank you for the natural eager response of Peter — how I do want to be like him! (6) Thank you for the breakfast Jesus served them — how awesomely thankful they must have been!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"None of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord." Is it significant that Jesus had somehow obtained charcoal for the fire? It was at a charcoal fire Peter had denied his Lord (John 18:18). There is something about the olfactory sense that triggers the memory like nothing else. His appearance was so convincing that questions were unnecessary. At the same time we wonder about the fact that they did not come to the fire to serve themselves but waited around it to be served by our Lord. There was something terribly wonderfully awesome about him. This was one breakfast they would never forget.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How can I put into words the petitions that arise in my heart as I read these words? (1) How often have I fished all night and caught nothing? Dear Lord I do want to learn from this experience. (2) It is interesting how many times Jesus appeared before you in the early morning — is this an example? (3) How often have you come to me and I did not realize it was you? (4) Teach me that it is indeed your will to sometimes withhold the fish. (5) Teach me also that at your word I can act in confident faith. (6) I want the constant eagerness to be near you I see in Peter. (7) It is easier to get someone's attention after they have eaten — may I practice this principle.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I am indeed ready to hear your voice through these blessed verses: (1) "I am always standing on the horizon of your day." (2) "I long to show you just where to fish and catch." (3) "I always know you better than you do yourself — come to me for answers."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Lesotho — Points for prayer: (1) *Lesotho's tragic poverty is both physical and spiritual.* The great work of French missionaries of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society is in decline. The daughter church has only 36 pastors and few candidates for the ministry in the theological school. Nearly all the older churches are very nominal. Since 1960, Protestants have declined from 33% to 22% of the population. (2) *The Roman Catholics have invested vast sums of money and manpower in the country.* The entire cabinet, the Prime Minister and also the King, are Catholic, and most of the schools and hospitals are run by RCs. There is considerable intolerance of Protestant work by some chiefs and officials, and Protestants sometimes suffer discrimination in schools and the health services. Pray for many to turn to a biblical faith.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

One day when heaven was filled with His praises,
 One day when sin was as black as could be,
 Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin,
 Dwelt among men; my example is He!
 One day the grave could conceal Him no longer,
 One day the stone rolled away from the door;
 Then He arose, over death He had conquered;
 Now is ascended, my Lord evermore!
 Living, He loved me; dying, He saved me;
 Buried, He carried my sins far away;
 Rising, He justified freely forever;
 One day He's coming, O glorious day!

WEEK EIGHT

—Saturday—

I enter into your appointment with me in eager anticipation. Comfort my heart!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The Lord’s right hand is lifted high; the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things! I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done. The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death” (Psa. 118:16-18). A reference to your right hand is usually (if not always) associated with triumph or deliverance. I am so glad you are interested in my struggles and defeats. When your right hand is lifted up we are lifted up with it. We can, and should, relate this Psalm to the experience of David — but like David we should exult in your personal interest in our trials.

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

David’s very life was in danger — it is quite possible that word of his death had been sent out as a vicious rumor. It is one thing to thank you for our life — quite another to “proclaim what the Lord has done.” I have come within five minutes of death in recent months — it is now evident that “I shall live and not die” — such life has always been your gift — but never has it been more evident to me. For what purpose? That I might proclaim what you have done. Not only in giving me life — I do that — but in so many other areas of life. Dear Lord, may I fulfill your goodness for me.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

There is a certain finality to these words — your right hand *will* be lifted high — deliverance *will* come no matter what man does or does not do. But there is great blessing for those who cooperate and want to share or serve in this victory. I do not want to be a passive participant. Since you have given me my life I

want to use it for you. Forgive me for my unbelievable selfishness. “The devil tormented Job for his own purposes, but in reality the sorrows of the patriarch were chastisements from the Lord. The gardener prunes his best roses with most care.” Dear Lord, I am a long time learning this lesson.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

O to be like Thee! blessed Redeemer:
This is my constant longing and prayer;
Gladly I’ll forfeit all of earth’s treasures,
Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear.
O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee!
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art;
Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness;
Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.

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

HIS WORD

⁹When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.”

¹¹Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. —*John 21:9-14, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Jesus was not asking for fish when he asked the question. He was reinforcing their inability to catch fish

without him. He already had fish ready for their breakfast — along with some bread (could we say toast? Perhaps not.) If each man had two fish it would be sixteen (i.e. counting two also for our Lord) — there would be 15 pieces of bread. What conversation — could we call it “small talk” — went back and forth as our Lord prepared and served the breakfast? It was important that the large catch of fish not be lost — so Jesus asked them to pull them up on the shore.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Simon seems to be the first to respond to our Lord's questions or suggestions. He climbed into the boat and unfastened the net — with real effort he dragged the net ashore. The fish were many and the fish were large. Because John was an eyewitness and no one was in a hurry they counted them — did they report to our Lord, because he was so interested, that there were 153 of them? They could not believe it as they looked at the weight of the fish and the unbroken mesh in the nets — these were men who had pulled thousands of catches to shore.

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 invitation of Jesus to breakfast — may I eat each meal with him! (2) Thank you for the united agreement of these seven men that “. . . it was the Lord.” (3) Thank you that Jesus is not only present at every meal but actually the host — i.e. the One who provides all we eat. (4) Thank you for the three blessed convincing appearances of my Lord to those who wanted to learn. (5) Thank you for the priceless privilege of being able to review over and over again each of the evidences of his deity.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“This now was the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.” The word “appeared” or “manifested” is a favorite of John — he used it 18 times. It means specifically his sudden physical supernatural appearance — a reference to his real character as the Son of God. If we count all the appearances or manifestations of our Lord this would be the seventh — but since he is referring to his appearance to his apostles we could indeed count this as the third appearance — the other two being in John 20:19-23 and 20:24-29 (the appearances to the 10 and 11 apostles). It ought to be noted that it is Jesus who initiates the action in each of his twelve appearances over the space of forty days. He is never an apparition or a hallucination but a very real person.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How easy it is to pray in the presence of the resurrected Lord: (1) When I land in heaven I expect just as big a surprise at what my Lord has prepared for each of his disciples — Lord keep me expectant and full of joy. (2) Jesus will no doubt ask us to show him all that was full of meaning to us here — may I be involved in that that will survive death. (3) No doubt we will have far more than we thought — i.e. you will show us the real value of what we have caught while in this sea of life — may I believe that today. (4) Somehow we will there be known and know even as today we are fully known — what a wonder to even now anticipate such an experience — increase my wonder.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

How sensitive should our ears be as we stand before One alive from the dead! (1) “You can know that I am alive — I have given you the eternal written word to confirm your faith.” (2) “I am always way ahead of you in anticipating your needs.” (3) “You can relive each of my twelve appearances — do it.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Liberia — Points for prayer: (1) *The first Protestant churches served the needs of the freed slaves who founded Liberia. They were culturally isolated from the inland peoples and had little vision to evangelize them. Nominalism, secularism, immorality and alcoholism have been serious problems in the churches. Pray for revival.* (2) *The effects of the social upheavals since the 1980 revolution have been far-reaching. People are seeking a national identity and showing a renewed interest in both Islam and the gospel, and the power of the secret societies has begun to lessen. Pray for a decisive breakthrough of the Spirit.*

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Come, every soul by sin oppressed,
 There's mercy with the Lord,
 And He will surely give you rest
 By trusting in His word.
 Only trust Him, only trust Him,
 Only trust Him now;
 He will save you, He will save you,
 He will save you now.